



## Weekly Newsletter from **the Headmaster**

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Dear Parents,

The results of Fifth Year Mock Examinations, which have been published throughout last week, always provide a ripple of uncertainty, and in some cases, a dip in confidence. Our teachers, who are well-accustomed to the learning cycle, will be working hard to put in place appropriate support to build confidence, in the sure knowledge that, if used correctly, there is more than enough time to ensure that all gaps in learning are filled and understanding deepened.

Students themselves will need to commit wholeheartedly to the process of consolidation of learning and revision, and for some, for the next six months, this means that attendance at additional School support sessions becomes obligatory, even at the expense of other activities. I know I can rely on the support of all parents in the pursuit of the very best possible GCSE grades this summer.

On a different note, we experienced one of the disadvantages of our location as one of the highest points in Essex when we endured more than our fair share of snow just before Christmas. However, one of the many advantages of our lofty position is the freshness of air; sometimes you can almost see the pollution draining away down the slope to London. However, we all have a responsibility for keeping the air as clean as possible and the adverse effects of car fumes have been well publicised recently; in particular vehicles that are parked but keep their engines running. This practice adds to the amount of pollutants in the air which, depending on the weather conditions, can quickly build up in areas like car parks. Parents are kindly requested to switch off their engines when waiting in the School car parks to help reduce unnecessary pollution.

Further to the successful transition into the second round of both Intermediate Public Speaking Teams last week, it is a particular pleasure to report similar success for our Senior Teams on Thursday evening in the Wessex Auditorium when eight teams entered the first stage of the competition. Our 'red' team consisted of Alice Grundy as Speaker, Abi Chapman as Chairperson and Jai Anilkumar, who proposed the vote of thanks. The team delivered a thought provoking and surprising presentation entitled 'My dog doesn't know it's ugly!' Our 'blue' team consisted of Victor Sarpong as Speaker, Anna Boyle as Chairperson and Chani Merrell, who delivered the vote of thanks. Their insightful and clever presentation on 'Assessment for failing' was awarded first prize on the night. Flawless speeches by Alice Grundy and Victor Sarpong (who was also declared 'Best Speaker' of the night) saw both teams ease through into the area final on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Wessex Auditorium. Much credit must go to Mr Murley for his guidance and knowledge of the competition and of course to the teams themselves for their hours of painstaking preparation and commitment.

### Headmaster's Endeavour Award

I am delighted to announce that this week's winner of the Headmaster's Academic Endeavour Award was Abigail Rice in the Second Year. Abigail was nominated for her exceptional work in Latin. She translated a story of 14 lines from English into Latin. This was of a GCSE standard and she completed it with 95% accuracy. This is an outstanding and remarkable achievement for a Second Year student which is far above and beyond what is expected at her level.

### Inspire Project

Thank you to those parents for supporting the NHS Public Health project mentioned in last week's newsletter. This is a voluntary project not run by the School, and so we ask parents to please follow the usual absence reporting process at the School, by calling the School or contacting your child's tutor.

### Academic Enrichment Clubs

This week at Junior Colloquium and JSABs, Sixth Form student, Tara Bartell, spoke eloquently about her concerns surrounding the decline nationally in music education in secondary schools. Whilst thankfully, this is not an issue at Brentwood School, Tara explained the reasons why it is the national picture. The younger students expressed their ideas about the value of a music education and shared Tara's concerns about its

decline. Next week, in connection with History BAC week, Fourth Year student, Ziggy Wamae, is presenting his ideas on 'Who committed the most evil acts: Hitler or Stalin?' All First and Second Years are invited to attend Ziggy's presentation on Monday at Junior Colloquium and all Third, Fourth and Fifth Year students are invited to attend JSABs on Tuesday. Both meetings take place in the BAC Lecture Theatre and start at 1.20pm.

### The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

I was delighted to learn that Jack Adams (OB) was at St James's Palace earlier this week to receive his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Earl of Wessex spoke to Jack and his award was presented by the TV personality, Adam Hills. Congratulations are also due to Isabella Farquhar, Valentin Ivanov, Jade Jordan, Ben Long, Amiee Mayhew, Cassie Peacock and Emma Roper who have all successfully completed their Silver Awards.

May I also remind you of the forthcoming kit evening for DofE participants needing to purchase any items of kit which will take place on Thursday 1st February from 6pm-8pm at Ultimate Outdoors (previously Blacks) at their store in Chelmsford which is located at the Meadows Shopping Centre, CM2 6FD. (There is ample parking near the store). As in previous years, the store will arrange staff specifically to look after our pupils, they will also provide a generous discount on items purchased. School staff will also be present in the store to provide additional advice.

In order to assist the store, we have been asked to provide an estimate of numbers attending. There is both a letter and a kit list on the "Letters Home" area on Google Drive and, if your son/daughter is planning to attend, please ensure that they return the attached slip on the letter to the Headmaster's Reception by 23rd January.

### First World War Battlefields Trip for Third Year Pupils

A reminder to the majority of Third Year pupils who are visiting the First World War Battlefields in March with the History Department that letters have been issued to all pupils attending the trip. A letter can also be found on the 'Letters Home' area on Google Drive asking for the prompt return of the medical form and details of passports. There will also be a Parents' Information Evening for this trip on Monday 26th February at 6pm in the Wessex Auditorium.

### Life Skills

First Year pupils had a day of Life Skills on 15th January and have focused on the following topics: First Year Exam Preparation; Consequences of Cyber-bullying; Friends and Responsibilities; Emotional Resilience, Before Money; Smoking and Exercise.

Second Year pupils had a day of Life Skills on 18th January and focused on the following topics: Second Year Exam Preparation; Money – Understanding debit and credit cards; Forming Positive Relationships; Sexting and the Law; Drugs on Trial; Cliques and Tribes and Introduction to Parliament.

As published, Third Year pupils will be having Life Skills on 23rd January. However, they will have Life Skills Period 1 to 4 only and will have their normal taught lessons for Periods 5 and 6. They will have the Period 5 and P6 sessions on 27th February, when a theatre company has been asked to come in and present a play to them.

Fourth Year parents in the UK will have received information from Imperial College London. This is a follow up to the SCAMP study that their child(ren) took part in last year.

If you have any concerns or would like further information, on any of the above, then please contact Mrs Rajani via email at [kdr@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kdr@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

## Brentwood School Learning Community

Please find below a reminder of upcoming events. All events take place in the BAC Tuck Shop and begin at 6.45pm with tea and coffee unless stated otherwise. If you have any questions regarding the content please do not hesitate to contact Ms Dina Porovic, Director of Teaching and Learning ([dnp@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:dnp@brentwood.essex.sch.uk))

Date	Event	Booking Details
Mon 22nd January 2018	Human Universe Lecture 3 - Parasites (Dr Paredes)	Email Miss Butterfield <a href="mailto:ButterfieldF@brentwood.essex.sch.uk">ButterfieldF@brentwood.essex.sch.uk</a>
Mon 29th January 2018	Motivation and Resilience workshop (Supporting Links)	SOLD OUT
Mon 5th February 2018	Motivation and Resilience workshop (Supporting Links)	SOLD OUT
Thurs 8th Feb 2018	Digital Showcase (Mr Dean & Digital Leaders)	Email Miss Butterfield <a href="mailto:ButterfieldF@brentwood.essex.sch.uk">ButterfieldF@brentwood.essex.sch.uk</a>

## Digital Safety – Parent support

Just a reminder that we have subscribed to [www.parentzone.org.uk](http://www.parentzone.org.uk). This website contains a wealth of resources to support parents and their children in understanding and navigating the online world safely. Notably, they provide for free a set of online courses for parents of subscribing schools. You will find a letter giving instructions on how to sign up in the General folder in the Letters Home area on Google Drive.

## The Wilderness Foundation trip to South Africa 2019

We are delighted to announce that our biannual trip to South Africa will run in July 2019. Pupils will travel to South Africa for three weeks, during which they will trek trails based in the Umfolozi Game Reserve and the Drakensberg Mountains, and work in the community of a Zulu village. Pupils will carry everything they need in their backpacks and will foster a sense of independence and a close relationship with nature. There will be an important introductory meeting for all interested pupils and their parents on Tuesday, 20th February at 7pm in Old Big School, where Mrs Jo Roberts, Director of the Wilderness Trust UK, will make a presentation and answer questions. If you wish to come to the meeting, please complete the slip attached to the information letter in the 'Letters Home' folder on Google Drive and return it to the Headmaster's Reception.

## Confirmation in Chapel

Each year a number of our students are prepared for Confirmation in the Church of England here in School. Confirmation marks an important moment in our Christian lives where we make a public declaration of our faith and renew the promises made at our baptism.

This year the service will be held on Sunday 24th June at 3pm and will be led by the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Revd. Roger Morris. There will be a series of preparation classes for those who wish to be confirmed and they will begin in the summer term and will take place in School and will be led by the Chaplain. As part of the Confirmation service, there is also the provision for those who have not been baptised to be baptised prior to being confirmed.

Please contact the chaplain directly by the end of this term if you would like more details or if you would like your son or daughter to be confirmed this year: Revd. Dr. Adrian McConaughie, [awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk).

## Senior School Production – 'Change Please'

How do YOU feel about the subject of homelessness? Sympathetic, understanding, critical, hostile?

You are invited to promenade into the twilight world of the homeless. Dress warmly and be prepared to be both moved and challenged by what you see. This challenging performance aims to raise awareness of a very relevant problem and provide the participants with some insight into what it is like to live rough. You will be escorted on your journey around the School to various locations where you will experience for yourselves the highs and lows of living on the streets. This unique theatrical experience has been devised by the Senior pupils who combine a variety of play texts, original material and live music.

One pound from each ticket sold will go to Chess, a homeless charity and source of inspiration for the work. There will also be a retiring collection.

The production takes place on the 6th, 7th and 8th February and will start in the Memorial Hall at 7pm. We have a limited number of tickets available, which are priced at £7 per adult and £5 per student. [For tickets please click here.](#)

### Musical Events this Term

We have an exciting and varied programme of musical events this term, which are listed below.

- **Thursday 25th January:** Chamber Concert, Memorial Hall at 7pm.
- **Saturday 3rd February:** Battle of the Big Bands Concert, Wessex Auditorium at 7pm.
- **Thursday 22nd February:** Jazz and Poetry Recital Evening, Memorial Hall at 7pm.
- **Wednesday 7th March:** Lent Concert, Wessex Auditorium at 7pm.
- **Saturday 17th March:** Big Band Concert, St. Luke's Church, Cranham, at 7.30pm to raise money for Diabetes UK and Above Us Only Sky (a charity for the homeless)
- **Tuesday 20th March:** Choral/Symphonic Concert, Brentwood Cathedral at 7pm.

Further details and the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Chamber Concert and the Battle of the Big Bands Concert are below.

### Chamber Concert

The Lent Chamber Concert takes place on Thursday 25th January in the Memorial Hall. The evening will include solo and ensemble performances showcasing Chamber Music from a variety of genres and featuring a range of vocal and instrumental talents.

The concert starts at 7pm, and refreshments will be served in the interval. The concert will finish by 9pm. Tickets are priced at £5 per adult and there is no charge for students or accompanying children. Please click [here](#) for tickets. We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to this exciting evening of music in the Memorial Hall.

### Battle of the Big Bands Concert

Following another sell-out and sensational performance last year, London-based and professional Big Band, The Seven Steps Big Band return to Brentwood School to battle it out with the Brentwood School Big Band. The Wessex Auditorium promises to be treated to an evening of high energy and exciting swing, funk, latin and vocal numbers. This is a highlight of our musical calendar and is simply not to be missed.

The concert takes place on Saturday 3rd February at 7pm (doors open at 6.45 pm). Tickets for this amazing concert are priced at £10 per adult and £5 per child. Please click [here](#) for tickets. Refreshments will be served in the interval. We look forward to seeing you there!

Looking further ahead to our Promenade Concert, please note that this year it takes place on Friday 29th June at 7pm in the Courage Hall. We look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming musical events. Letters for parents are located in the Letters Home area on Google Drive.

### Sing with the Brentwood School Choral Society - Tuesday 20th March, 7pm

On Tuesday 20th March, Brentwood School Choral Society (BSCS) will perform "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer in a very exciting choral and orchestral concert at Brentwood Cathedral. Conducted by Assistant Director of Music, Mr Revels, and accompanied by our Organist in Residence, Mr Barber, the concert will feature Old Brentwood soloists Benjamin Clark and Chris Moore. In a unique opportunity, parents and OBs are invited to participate in this special performance. You will be coached by Mr Revels in two dedicated rehearsals, before joining with the BSCS for the concert. There will be no auditions and all are welcome. We ask for a small contribution of £10 as a contribution towards rehearsal refreshments, the hire of the scores etc.

Numbers are limited so to secure your place [please register here](#). Your place in the BSCS Adult Chorus will be confirmed in advance of the first rehearsal. Please forward this information to other parents or OBs who you think might be interested. If you would like to attend the concert as a guest, tickets for non-singing supporters are £10 for adults and £5 for children, [and are available here](#). We look forward to seeing you at this inaugural concert.

### Sport

#### Equestrian

We are delighted to report that Claudia Moore enjoyed a super showing at the Pony Premier last weekend. Riding Elando, she won the Charles Britton Winter final qualifier on Saturday. Then on Sunday, she won the Winter JC qualifier for the Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead riding Deflip and then went on to gain qualification for the Charles Britton Winter Final at the Charles Stanley International in July with a very creditable 2nd place atop of Shamrock. Claudia has now qualified on both Elando and Shamrock for the Charles Stanley International which is a trial event for selection for this year's Pony European Championship Team. We wish her well.

#### Football

On Friday, the First Year cohort played an excellent set of fixtures against the traditionally strong Wilson's Grammar School. Brentwood played extremely well across the board and managed to win four and draw one. The Under 12A team managed to win 2-0 with goals coming from Evan Ackerman and Luke Nash. Max Porteus continued his excellent start to the season – composed in possession and committed in defence. The Under 12B team won 5-3 in an end-to-end game with the pick of the goals coming from Zach Puchakayala. Pierce Mosley controlled the game extremely well from the centre of the pitch. The Under 12C team drew 3-3 in a very close game that could have gone either way. Brentwood did however have a number of chances that it couldn't capitalise on. The Under 12D team won 5-3 to continue its good start to the season. Goals came from Nathan Udall (3), Jackson Booth and Liam McNeilly. A particularly standout performance came from Alexander Kelsey. The Under 12E team played superbly to beat Wilsons 4-2. Goals from Ibrahim Amin, Josh Kudhail and a brace from Lennon Nagle ensured an excellent victory. Lennon and goalkeeper, Lucas Wright, shared the Man of the Match accolade after their sterling performances.

On Saturday, the Under 13A team put in an outstanding performance to comprehensively beat Wilson's 7-1. A hat-trick from Henry Smith was one of many superb contributions, but the united team performance was the most pleasing factor for manager Mr Giles. The U13B team suffered a 4-0 loss against a well-drilled Wilson's side. Despite good work on shape and organisation during the week, the B team did not manage to replicate that in the match situation, struggling to hold onto possession and lacking patience with the ball.

Having said this, the team certainly grew into the game and will feel hard done by to not have scored at least one. The Under 13C team won 2-0 following a very convincing performance. Goals from Archie Flashman and an unfortunate own goal secured victory. The Under 13D team won 7-1 with another very good performance. The pick of the goals was a Charlie Hurley free kick.

The Under 14A team dropped its first points of the season drawing 0-0 with Wilson's in a disappointing performance. Brentwood lacked its usual intensity and without the influential Harrison Clayden found it difficult to create clear cut chances. A convincing Under 14B team performance meant it won 5-0 against a good Wilson's team. Brentwood was able to control the game from start to finish with some excellent goals scored. The pick of the goals came from Gene Watts who scored from nearly 30 yards. In the fourth fixture of the season, the Under 14C team won 4-3 with Max Bee scoring two good goals and receiving the Man of the Match award. Lukas Philiou also played well in an excellent team performance. In a highly entertaining ESFA Sixth Round on Saturday, the Under 15 A team succumbed to the lottery of penalties as Finchley Catholic High School progressed to the quarter finals. Man of the Match performances from Brooklyn Kabongolo and John Sasere could not thwart the endeavours of the North London opponents. All of the team can be incredibly proud of their efforts and could simply reflect 'so close, yet so far'.

On Monday, the Under 14A team played in the ESFA Sixth Round fixture against London Nautical School. The game was set at a frantic pace and London Nautical scored early on with a well worked goal. Brentwood battled hard and scored a deserved equaliser following an outstanding free kick from Theo Newton. Brentwood went into the second half on the up and following some dogged defending managed to counter attack superbly and score an excellent goal through Freddie Topel. They will be delighted to be through to the last sixteen of the English Schools' Cup following a well-deserved 2-1 win. On Wednesday, the senior football teams played Saffron Walden County High School with the highlight being another excellent win for the Third XI who beat a very strong Saffron Walden team 3-2 following notable performances from Oliver Scott and Tom Adams.

### Hockey

Despite losing 4-0 the Under 14 Bs thoroughly enjoyed the first fixture this term against King John's A team. From the start the team worked incredibly hard. Amy McGonigle made some outstanding saves in goal, well supported in defence by Captain Elorm Setsoafia. Katie Heywood also made some excellent tackles, winning the ball and making some great passes to Yasmine Puchakayala. Players' Player went to Yasmine Puchakayala for her skilful attacking play and Coach's Player was shared between Amy and Abbie Thompson, who was playing in her first ever hockey game for Brentwood School and was a most welcome addition to the team. The Under 14A team played Alec Hunter on Wednesday evening and won 5-0. The girls played exceptionally well, moving the ball with confidence and maintaining possession. Rubyann Ireson-Hughes was sharp upfront scoring a hat-trick and Freya Killilea and Josie Whiskerd also found themselves on the score sheet. The girls were ambitious with their tactics and implemented a half pitch press during the second half which led to some fast paced breakaway play. The girls look forward to their forthcoming Essex Cup matches versus King John and Fitzwimarc.

### Netball

The First VII enjoyed a convincing 33-4 win against KEGS in the MESSA league. Throughout the game, Brentwood built on its performance and managed to maintain a strong level of play across the four quarters. Each member of the squad took to court for at least half a game; a representation of the strength in depth of the team. Player of the Match went to Isabelle Wigmore who injected pace as well as putting in some impressive feeds when coming on at WA. The Under 15s faced Talbot Heath in the last 16 of the ISNC competition in Bournemouth last week. Talbot Heath was 4 goals ahead after the first quarter and after a frank team talk, Brentwood came out with determination; but a few mistakes and turn overs meant Brentwood was down by 6 at half-time. The team put up a gallant fight but was unable to catch the opposition and lost 47-33.

Mrs Juniper was very proud of the performance and particularly proud of how they dealt with the loss. Lauren Burgin was named Player of the Match by the opposition.

On Saturday, super league netball player Mikki Austin of Surrey Storm came to Brentwood and ran a series of netball masterclasses for the Under 12-Under 15 netball teams. The sessions focused on attacking and defending strategies where all players were able to receive one-to-one feedback from an inspiring netball player. It was a fantastic morning of netball and an exciting way to start the New Year. Brentwood's netball players will be looking to implement these tactics into their matches in forthcoming weeks. Mikki added: "Having worked with netballers from Brentwood School before, I knew my sessions needed to be challenging to give the girls plenty to think about. All of the athletes across all three age groups were fantastic, worked hard and, I hope, learned a lot. I look forward to seeing you all come and support Surrey Storm on Monday 19th February when the vitality netball super league gets underway, live on Sky Sports".

Both the Under 14B and 15B teams played against Chelmer Valley in their respective MESSA leagues. Unfortunately, the Under 14B team lost 10-16 in a closely-fought battle. Player of the Match was awarded to Millie Stacey, who always managed to break free of her defender. The Under 15B team had an excellent match, with all members of the team playing brilliantly. The first quarter was the strongest quarter with 8 goals scored. Annabel Eastwood and Issy Nelson combined brilliantly in the D. Subsequently, the opposition chose Issy Nelson as 'Best Player'. Issy Blackwell and Serena Smalley were chosen as Player's Player and Issy also received the Coach's Player accolade.

The Under 14A and 15A teams both had their Essex Cup games this week. The Under 14A team won a fantastic game against Thurstable, 46-8 and the Under 15A team also won comfortably 37-1 against St Angela's, gaining a place in the next round. Emma Philpott dominated as WD, winning interceptions and feeding the ball with precision. Lucy Holloway distributed the ball well in mid court and Anneliese Gennings had a solid game throughout. The Under 12A and 13A both played St John Payne in their MESSA league competition. The Under 12A team played exceptionally well with strong performances throughout. All players were able to put into practice everything that had been learnt from Mikki Austin's masterclass and as a result, were able to take a convincing win 31-6. Player of the Match was jointly awarded to Erin Young and Annabel Simmons for their consistent and solid performances in mid-court. The Under 13A team also won convincingly, 22-9, with strong performances from Claudia Moore and Olivia Copeland. This result was indicative of how hard the girls have worked this year and how much they have progressed.

### Swimming

On Thursday 11th and 18th January, the Junior and Senior Swimming Teams enjoyed a range of successes at the MESSA Relays held at William De Ferrers School. The teams secured some outstanding results with each year group securing a top three spot resulting in Brentwood School being crowned overall Champions once again! We are delighted to report that ten students have qualified for the Essex County Championships. We wish Priya Dhillon, Jacob Stephen, Josh White, Hannah Collett, Olivia Dowman, Emma Willy, Matthew Prince, Amelia Moule, Frankie Collins and James Rowell every success in future weeks.

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/0Bx56Kfjsy8PFOHR1YV9Jc183NzA>

Yours sincerely



Ian Davies, Headmaster



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SENIOR SCHOOL

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