



## Weekly Newsletter from **the Headmaster**

Dear Parents,

An inspiring address by Mr Edgar Guest held our Sixth Form audience enthralled after school on Thursday as he asked all present to reflect on the importance of “words” in the development of racist beliefs and attitudes. A Hungarian holocaust survivor, whose sons attended Brentwood School, Mr Guest gave a compelling account of his childhood in the Budapest ghetto until liberation by the Russian Army early in 1945. His presentation provoked several questions from a fascinated audience and provided a fitting finale to an excellent “History Week” in the Bean Academic Centre.

Congratulations to all those who took part in a spell-binding and extremely high quality Chamber Concert in the Memorial Hall yesterday evening. The concert featured soloists and chamber ensembles from every year group and showcased the depth and breadth of musical talent and professional showmanship within the School. This was the first of several major musical events this term which are listed in this newsletter.

At the same time, our Intermediate and Senior Public Speaking Teams were engaged in the regional rounds of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition in the Wessex Auditorium. The two Senior Public Speaking Teams came First and Second, despite very strong opposition. Unfortunately, only one team is ever allowed through to the District Final in Chelmsford, and on this occasion it was the team of Victor Sarpong, Anna Boyle and Chani Merrell. Alice Grundy, however, was awarded “Best Speaker”. In the Intermediate Competition, there were only the two Brentwood teams competing, with Thomas Woodcock, Rishal Narayam and Morgan O’Sullivan progressing to the next round.

### Headmaster’s Endeavour Award

I was pleased to award Second Year pupil, Benjamin O’Riordan with the Headmaster’s Academic Endeavour Award, in assembly this week. This was for his outstanding work in History. Benjamin produced an essay of exceptional quality on ‘Why Henry VIII broke from Rome.’ Benjamin researched the question independently and also used an ‘A’ Level textbook to produce an essay which showed a truly excellent understanding of the demands of the question. He selected precise supporting knowledge and reached a fully substantiated judgement. The essay was very well organised and incorporated a wealth of subject specific vocabulary.

### Academic Enrichment Clubs

As part of History week in The Bean Academic Centre, Fourth Year pupil, Ziggy Wamae, presented an engaging debate entitled ‘Who committed the most evil acts, Hitler or Stalin?’ at Junior Colloquium and JSABs. Ziggy’s presentation was very well researched and detailed. The pupils in both groups asked him some searching questions before voting that Stalin deserved the title.

Next week at our Academic Enrichment Clubs, Emma Booth in the Upper Sixth Form, is exploring the connection between Politics and Art. She will present her ideas to the question, ‘Does Politics influence Art?’ This is in connection with Politics Week in the Bean Academic Centre. Junior Colloquium, which is open to all pupils in the First and Second Years, meets on Monday, and JSABs, to which all pupils in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Years are invited, meets on Tuesday. Both meetings are at 1.20pm in the BAC Lecture Theatre.

### 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 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 free 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 on 'Letters Home' 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 McConnaughie: [awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

## Old Brentwood Achieves Masters Merit

Old Brentwood and Brentwood School History Teacher, Harry Williams, has achieved a Merit for his Masters paper titled, 'British Axillary Forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899 – 1902'. The examiner described his work as: "A very original and most useful contribution to the historiography of the Boer War". Well done Harry!

## Choral Evensong

This term marks the start of an exciting new Choral tradition at Brentwood School with the introduction of Choral Evensong in the School Chapel. Choral Evensong is a traditional, sung service which takes place every day in most Cathedrals and is often led by an experienced choir of men, boys and girls. The service offers an important moment as we draw to the close of the day to be uplifted through an act of worship which combines singing, scripture reading and prayer.

This term, we have three Choral Evensong services and we would be delighted if you could attend. The services all begin at 5pm in the Chapel. The dates are 1<sup>st</sup> February (Senior Chapel Choir), 22<sup>nd</sup> February (Junior Chapel Choirs) and 15<sup>th</sup> March (Senior Chamber Choir). There will be refreshments after the service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February which marks the launch of our Junior Chapel Choirs and therefore it would help with catering if you contacted the Chaplain directly if you are attending this service. Revd. Dr. Adrian McConnaughe: [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.

- **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.

### An Evening of Jazz and Spoken Word

Following the huge success of our Evening of Jazz and Spoken Word last year, please come and join us for another evening entertainment of Words and Music as we go on a ‘Winter’s Journey’ with the theme of the poetry readings on this occasion being the romance and poetry of cold weather.

This will take place on Thursday 22nd February in the Memorial Hall at 7pm. A collaboration between the English and Music Departments of Brentwood School, this evening will feature a selection of fun and serious poetry interspersed with small ensemble jazz performances. Poetry will be read by a number of staff and pupils and the jazz performed by our senior and junior jazz ensembles, both under the tutelage of Head of Jazz, Mr. Matthew Sulzmann. Come and relax with sultry blues, thought-provoking poetry and a glass of wine in the interval.

Tickets are priced at £5 per adult, (students do not have to pay for tickets). For tickets, [please click here](#). We look forward to seeing you in the audience.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 which will go 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

#### Orienteering

The team took part in snowy, cold and muddy conditions on Sunday in an event at Hartswood, Brentwood. Although a compact area, the terrain was challenging, and tested everyone to their limits. Despite this, Emma Bowie-Britton achieved second place in the 3.4km Light Green course, with her sister Kate achieving fastest girl position on the 2.9km Orange course. In third girls' place on Orange was Jessica Mills, with Sarah Prior fourth and Heather Trevelyan fifth. On the 2.1 km Yellow course, Joshua Elsworth was second fastest boy in 33 minutes, although his running partner Jenson Martell achieved the same time but mis-punched at control 3. Pranita Arun Prasadh achieved second fastest girl place at 39 minutes, an excellent achievement, with Janie Horton third, Evie Jarman fourth and Jemima Mamelok fifth. Sam Lee achieved a time of 51 minutes, and Matthew Trevelyan and Ayush Jain worked well as a pair to find the final controls, although getting rather lost in the middle! Jake Horton from the Prep School ran a cracking 1.6km White course to achieve second place.

All the scores contribute to the local league, with all our pupils jostling at the top. Currently Janie Horton tops the Yellow girls' league, and Kate Bowie-Britton tops the Orange league. The team is in action again this coming Sunday at Baddow Ridge, Danbury.

### Badminton

Last Friday, the Under 16 boys competed in the third round of the National Schools' Badminton Championships in Colchester. The team of Jake Clough, Adrian Li, Leo Li, Ed Scott and Max Scourfield, played against the best seven schools in Essex. They were placed into a pool with Davenant, Fitzwimarc and Alec Hunter. The team made a slow start in the first match, losing all games. In the second match against Alec Hunter it came down to the last game to determine who would win the overall match. In the end, Alec Hunter clinched the match by winning the final game by a solitary point. In the final match against Davenant School, there were some very closely-fought games with Leo Li pushing his opponent all the way and missing out on winning on game point. The experience gained from our students playing at the county round was invaluable.

### Cross Country

Elliot Cordery and Sarah Blockley finished in 4th and 13th place respectively in the Essex Championships to qualify to run for the Essex team who will compete at the Nationals in Berkshire in February.

### Equestrian

We are delighted to report that Eloise Squibb competed in the qualifiers for the Royal International, Hickstead, enjoying an incredibly successful weekend! Eloise won the 138cm qualifier on her pony Drumacian Flight and secured a second ticket on Thelmers Gift. We very much look forward to reporting on Eloise's future endeavours.

### Fencing

Ian Ho competed at the National Leon Paul Junior Sabre tournament in Stratford upon Avon on Sunday, in the Under 15 Boys' Sabre. He cruised through both preliminary rounds earning him the second seed placing. He narrowly lost his fourth elimination round to earn a 6th place finish out of 35 competitors.

### Football

On Friday, the Under 12 teams faced Westcliff in another set of excellent fixtures. The Under 12A team won 4-1 against a very committed Westcliff team. The team is still learning but can be incredibly pleased with its early performances. Goals from Thomas Arnold, Harry Douris, Michael Olubodun-Niyi and Stanley Skipper sealed the win. The Under 12B team also played extremely well winning 5-2 in a very dominant performance. Coach Mr Murley gave a number of new players an opportunity and these players can be incredibly proud, with Declan Toth in particular playing very well complementing another outstanding performance from Pierce Mosley who controlled the game extremely well from the centre of midfield. The Under 12C team continued its excellent form under Mr Lewis and Mr McConnaughie with a 6-0 win. Brentwood controlled the game from the outset with a number of great individual performances.

The Under 12D drew 2-2 in a game which the boys really should have won but were left to rue a number of missed chances as a very energetic Westcliff managed to secure a draw. Goals came from Alex Kelsey and George Mortlock with debutant Lennon Nagle playing extremely well with a very determined performance. Other notable performances came from Jackson Booth and the impressive George Mortlock. On Tuesday, the Under 13 teams played Highgate in some extremely entertaining fixtures. The Under 13A team won 8-3 with an outstanding show of attacking football. Having been 4-2 up at half-time Brentwood excelled in the second half to finish with a highly impressive result. Goals came from Kolade Alabi, Fiz Jaiyesimi (2), Henry Smith and Ovie Jeyibo (4).

In a frustrating afternoon the Under 13B team lost 3-0 against a strong Highgate side. The Under 13C team won 5-0 in another good team performance. Luca Bassett continued to impress with his direct running and excellent ball control. Samuel Walsh picked up Man of the Match with a great performance from the centre of midfield. Brentwood goal scorers were Luca Bassett, Samuel Walsh (3) and Angus Hampson. The Under 13D team unfortunately lost to a very athletic Highgate team. Rory Hopkins worked hard throughout the game but, unfortunately, Brentwood didn't quite have enough firepower to overturn Highgate.

The Under 13E team lost 5-4 but can be proud of an excellent second half performance having been 5-1 down at half-time. Excellent performances came from Joe Butler, Ciaran O'Hare, Will Langford, Toby McBurney and Olly Mayes.

### Hockey

The Under 12A hockey team competed against Coopers' Coborn School for the second time this season. Against strong opposition, Brentwood struggled to keep up with Coopers' fast-paced counter attacks which led to them taking the lead in the first half. Brentwood was able to remain focused and motivated in the second half which saw Amelia Horton score the equaliser. The girls were unlucky to see two further goals conceded in the second half resulting in a 1-3 loss. The Under 12B team drew 2-2 in a competitive match, they showed great enthusiasm throughout and were unlucky to miss out on another victory. The Under 16 hockey team were reunited in their Essex Cup match against Joyce Frankland. In high spirits, the girls started the match very positively and worked well together. Brentwood were soon 1-0 down resulting from a very strong reverse hit short corner. However, Brentwood's determination and excellent counter attacks from Ella Hawes and Calista Odendaal saw Brentwood score two goals to ensure a pleasing 2-1 win.

### Netball

At the beginning of the week, the Under 12B team played its toughest match of the year so far against Southend High School in the Essex Cup, losing 6-34. Brentwood tried its best to keep up with the very swift A team opposition. Credit goes to Maddie Austin (Players' Player) for dashing around the court to make skilful interceptions. Later in the week, the team was crowned winners of the Under 12B district rally, winning convincingly against Ursuline School, Brentwood County High and Shenfield High School. All players performed exceptionally well with fantastic team work and skill.

On Saturday, the Under 12 and Under 13 squads travelled away to New Hall School. A successful morning saw all four Brentwood teams win convincingly with the Under 12A winning 15-8, Under 12B 20-8, Under 13A 23-14 and Under 13B 20-3. The First VII had a tough game against New Hall in the Essex Cup earlier this week. A nasty injury 30 seconds into the game saw key player Lucy Patchett unable to continue, however after the stoppage in play, Brentwood fought on. Once again, the defensive pressure was excellent and Brentwood created multiple turnovers. The attacking circle was equally impressive; Anna Reeves and Daisy Oliphant worked together superbly. Player of the Match went to Captain, Daisy Oliphant, for her strong hold and accurate shooting but she was unable to steer Brentwood to victory. The 3rd VII played against West Hatch in the Essex Cup and lost 27-11. The score line did not reflect the game and the team made excellent progress throughout the match and kept their spirits high. Player of the Match was Shalini Sahni who remained consistent and dominant in the defending circle.

All three Senior Netball teams played in a friendly fixture against Chigwell on Wednesday afternoon. After a string of Cup games, it gave the opportunity for Brentwood to try out new combinations. The fixture finished in an 18-19 loss, although with girls playing out of position and new combinations being tested, this was certainly not a reflection of the team's ability. Player of the Match went to Rebecca Ashford who has successfully improved on aspects of her defensive game. The Second VII won 19-7 with a fantastic team effort in wet and windy conditions. Zara Smalley made some excellent interceptions and accurate shooting from Evie McKnight ensured an excellent win. Similarly, the Third VII played with great determination and was a

credit to the School. The game was very close throughout but with some solid shooting from Lucy Twyford and tight defence from Abigail Coe and Beth Sullivan, the team managed a solid 10-6 win.

Swimming

We are thrilled to report that Amelia Moule competed at the Essex County Age Group Championships and won gold in 100m backstroke, silver in 400m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 200m breaststroke. Well done, Amelia.

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



**Brentwood School**  
SENIOR SCHOOL

Middleton Hall Lane Brentwood Essex CM15 8EE  
telephone: 01277 243243 email: headmaster@brentwood.essex.sch.uk  
[www.brentwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodschool.co.uk)

