



Brighter Days Ahead

Welcome back to the start of a new term! Sunny days, warmer temperatures and the recent easing of some Covid restrictions nationally have hopefully meant that we are returning to school with a positive perspective and the promise of a gradual return to normality. Of course, it would be foolish for us to compromise on any of our safety measures just yet, and we will continue to adhere to all guidance, but we will do our utmost to reintroduce some aspects of school life that we know students have been missing, such as extra-curricular activities, in a measured way as term progresses.

I should like to remind everyone how important it is to maintain a good routine with regard to lateral flow testing at home. Whilst infection rates locally are now encouragingly low, the return to school could prompt a spike and it is important that we identify cases and isolate contacts swiftly to limit the impact on our school community. Email reminders will continue to be issued by our Test Register platform and it is very helpful if you can log your test results with us as well as with the NHS. Your cooperation and support with this are greatly appreciated.

This is particularly pertinent to Year 11, who face an intensive period of assessments to provide us with the data we need to determine their final examination grades. It is so crucial for these students to be in school every day, to gain full benefit from the time they have left, so it rests with all of us to ensure that there is no further disruption to their education in these vital weeks. I should like to take this opportunity to wish them all well and offer my reassurance that we are here to support them every step of the way as they face these rather unique challenges.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, successful and enjoyable Summer Term!

Mr Lawn (Headteacher)

Diary Dates



APRIL

20th April, Year 9 Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio & Meningitis immunisations

22nd April, Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

MAY

3rd May, Bank Holiday Monday

6th May, Year 9 Target Setting/Review Evening

18th May, Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations

27th May, Year 11 Photos

28th May, Non-Pupil (INSET) Day



Comic Relief 2021

We are delighted to announce that students and staff raised just over £990.00 for Comic Relief this year with a non-uniform day on Friday 19th March. This is a fantastic amount of donations, especially as restrictions meant we were unable to carry out any additional fundraising. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Student Absence: Please remember to report any student absence via:

Tel: 01376 559356 / **Text:** 07598 393348 /

Email: jjackson@alechunter.com.

Headteacher's Surgery: Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the Headteacher's Surgery in its traditional format, however parents are able to make an appointment with Mr Lawn for a Zoom call if they have any issues they may wish to raise. We ask that parents request an appointment by contacting the school office.

KS3 Poetry Competition Winners

In the Autumn term of 2020, the English department set up a poetry competition exclusively for KS3 students. For this competition, students were tasked with writing an original poem based on the theme of 'Hope'. We were inundated with creative, inspiring and incredibly thoughtful entries from students across Y7-Y9; the English department had a tough task of deciding who our winners would be!

But in the end, two entrants stood out to us as hitting the brief and leaving us inspired by their words: **Shaka Sukali** (9N) and **Kyla Lansdowne** (8R). Their poems, while very different, really spoke to us about the true meaning and feeling of 'hope'.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we have named Shaka and Kyla as **Alec Hunter Poet Laureates for 2021**! This new and honourable title means that, much like the UK's current Poet Laureate (Simon Armitage), they will be responsible for writing one poem each, every half term, to mark a special occasion or theme. Since receiving the title, Shaka and Kyla have been tasked to write a poem inspired by *Women's History Month*. So, watch this space!

Hope is

Hope is pure pastures of emerald and gold
Trees, old scars, and tales long told

Hope is oceans whole in its field of blue
of fish and sand
as whispers of wind calm you

Hope is the dew of joyous tears
full brimmed, your smile

Hope is here

so breathe easy, my love

and stay

a

little

while.

By Shaka Sukali 9N

Hope is Everywhere!

Hope knows no fear

It secretly strengthens you without you
knowing

It informs our dreams

Hope is the bright light that shines on our
path

Hope is not a choice it's the soul's purest
thought

There is always one word that keeps you
going and that's HOPE!

Always believe you have HOPE it will help you

By Kyla Lansdowne 8R

Young Writers Winners

Congratulations to **Cairo Ashun 7H** and **Annie Lack 8R** who have been selected to have their short stories published after taking part in the Young Writers 'Unsolved' writing competition. The challenge was to write a 100-word mini saga about an unsolved case or mystery and there were over 6,500 entries. Cairo wrote a story titled: 'He Who Killed' and Annie's story was titled 'Unsolved'. The stories will be published alongside the other winners in a book called 'Unsolved – Criminal Minds', due for publication on the 14th May 2021.

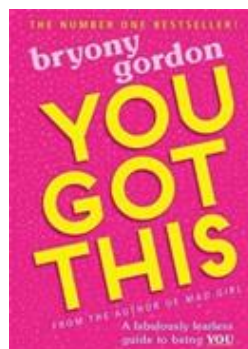
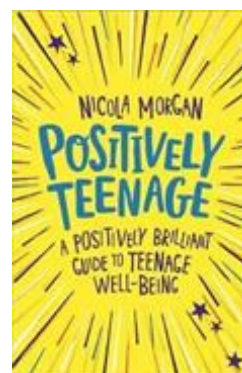
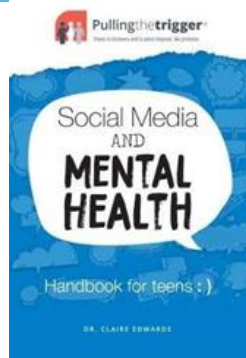
Our final Non-Pupil INSET day of the 2020-2021 term has been confirmed as Friday 28th May 2021. Staff will be using this day to moderate Year 11 grading judgements before submitting to the exam board. No students will be in school on this day.



PROUD Awards

All PROUD certificates and rewards were given out by tutors during the final week of Spring Term. This includes the certificates that were awarded via email throughout lockdown when students were not in school. Proud points are awarded to students to recognise their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to all students who received their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum certificates, badges and rewards.

New books in the library to support your mental wellbeing



World Book Day 'Book-Themed Bakes' Competition

Congratulations to **Freia Holmes** in 8T who came 1st in our World Book Day 'Book-Themed Bakes' House competition with her Harry Potter Snitch cake. **Ella Weston** in 8E, was 2nd with her David Walliams' 'Code Name Bananas' book cake; and **Maddie Knight** in 7T took 3rd place with her Harry Potter-inspired cake. All winners will receive points for their House and a World Book Day book. In the Staff category, 1st place went to **Mrs Palmer**, with a special mention to **Ms Way**.

Well done to everyone that entered: **Annabelle Summers, Ashleigh Spragge, Luke Tuttlebury, Poppy Keeble, Alana Taylor, Emma Parizek** and **Weronika Oles**. All entrants receive an Easter egg for their fantastic bakes.

World Book Day Bake Competition

1st



Congratulations to **Freia Holmes** in Year 8 who won 1st Place with her Harry Potter Snitch cake

2nd

Ella Weston in Year 8 came 2nd with her David Walliams' *Code Name Bananas* book bake



3rd

Maddie Knight in Year 7 came 3rd with her Harry Potter inspired cake

Winners of the Jack Petchey Award



The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards are presented to young people who have gone above and beyond to achieve. They are not solely for academic achievement; sometimes recognising a personal triumph, someone who has faced a challenge pushing themselves outside their comfort zone or an outstanding effort of a team player. We are delighted that 9 of our students were recently nominated and honoured with this award. Each student receives a certificate, medal and £250.00 to spend on a school project. Well done to all our winners!

Mason Dixon 7H

Mason is someone who works incredibly hard every day. Although he is in constant pain, he is always polite and kind to his peers and teachers and always has a huge smile on his face. He wrote a beautiful piece of creative writing on the topic of Black Lives Matter in English just before half term - it was very thoughtful and emotive.



Hollie Heighes and Zoe Eldridge 8U

Holly and Zoe's friend underwent a serious operation prior to lockdown and missed some school. During this time Holly and Zoe kept in constant contact with her, updating her with events in school and taking chocolates and presents to keep her motivated and to let her know that she was dearly missed.



Ellis Twydell 9N

Throughout lockdown Ellis ran the Gardening Club online for the SEN students. He led this on a weekly basis, creating quizzes and the resources required to get the other students outside, whether it was in their gardens or on a walk with other family members to ensure their mental health was being addressed.



Bradley Paxton 9U

Bradley is always doing whatever he can to help the people around him. He frequently donates things to charity and will jump at the chance to do anything for anyone. He is an extremely hardworking student who is always eager to learn. He can put a smile on anyone's face and is a highly valued member of our school community.



Ethan Scherer 9N

The quality of Ethan's maths work through lockdown was second to none. He always asked for support and made corrections where needed to so he could improve. His PE work was also maintained to a high level as he sent videos to Mr Edwards and Mr Jones showing what activities he had done and how to develop his training.



Morgan Beard 10E

Morgan is not someone who finds English particularly easy, but during lockdown, he worked exceptionally hard. Morgan always submitted his work on time, and it was always of fantastic quality. Well done, Morgan, for showing such dedication and commitment in challenging circumstances.



Ross Creak 11U

Ross is an extremely helpful and well-mannered young man. He always goes above and beyond to help others, often assisting other students with their learning, or checking to make sure his peers are okay. He has a very calm manner in his approach, and it is clear others find this a comfort.



Amber Skingle 11U

Amber is very kind and an excellent role model. She is always happy to help anyone in need and always tries her best to excel in everything she does. She also offers great support to her Nan by helping her with her shopping and taking it to her house.





Due to Government Funding in the Adult Education Budget, the AIM Group have several FREE online Accredited Courses available to both Parents and Staff members to help better understand some key issues around young people's mental health and wellbeing.

They currently have the following subjects available:

- **Understanding Autism** (learn how individuals process sensory information, understand characteristics, understand conditions, learn how speech, language and communication differ in people with Autism)
- **Understanding Children and Young Peoples Mental Health** (Understand factors which may affect Young Peoples mental health, the impact that they have and how to support them with these issues)
- **Understanding Behaviour That Challenges** (supporting positive behaviour, effective communication & how to manage challenging behaviour)
- **Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties** (understand characteristics of ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia & Dyscalculia, importance of early diagnosis, assessment methods available to diagnose learning difficulties)

On average the courses take between **20-30 hours** to complete within in a **6-week window** and are completed on a laptop or computer at the learner's home.

The only criteria the learner must meet to be eligible, is the following:

- Aged 19 or over on or before 31st August 2020
- Have lived in the UK/EU for 3+ years
- Not already on a Government funded course (Apprenticeship for example)

The course is completely **free**, but the learning provider reserves the right to charge a drop out fee in the event that someone enrolls, but then makes **no attempt to complete the course without a valid reason**. That said, the college will grant extensions if the learner has a genuine reason as to why they feel they won't be able to complete it within the 6 weeks.

If you are interested in undertaking one of these Free Online courses, then please complete the following link ASAP. This will then allow you to complete a quick Registration on the AIM website. Enrolment details will then be sent out to you.

https://formstack.io/TyZSjXRWndR4L6rW7HXEpqL8_drGsA9XWS0F15Xgj56D1utKVODIduJM61p1nhSsTRQnM6Eih6EbTbYcBrrQ

TAKE ONE OF OUR BRAND NEW COURSES:

Mental Health Awareness

Children & Young People's Mental Health

www.theaimgroup.co.uk/behind-the-mask

T - 0203 900 3091 E - qualifications@theaimgroup.co.uk



THINKING ABOUT TRAINING TO BECOME A TEACHER?

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INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Working in
partnership with
14 secondary
schools across
Essex

Spaces still available for September 2021



Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1WY

T: 01376 556 398 / E: admin@midsexteachertraining.com / W: www.midsexteachertraining.com

LINE MANAGEMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 2020

Please find below our line management arrangements for students. The first point of contact for enquiries should be your child's tutor and then their Student Support Leader or Head of Year depending on the nature of your query.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Attendance / Wellbeing / Behaviour /Safeguarding				
Form Tutor				
Mrs Porter (7H/7U) Mrs Johnson (7N/7T) Miss McInerney (7E/7R) Mr Cleevely (7A/7L) Student Support Leader	Mr Cleevely Student Support Leader	Mrs Porter Student Support Leader	Miss McInerney Student Support Leader	Mrs Johnson Student Support Leader
Mr Booth Assistant Headteacher			Mrs Watson Assistant Headteacher	
Learning / Behaviour / Academic Progress / Standards				
Class Teacher				
Head of Curriculum Area *(see below)				
Mr Holland Head of Year	Mr Moreno Head of Year	Mr Lee Head of Year	Mr Spooner Head of Year	Miss Jones Head of Year
Mr Birley (Deputy Headteacher) – Learning & Progress				
Mr Booth - Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Standards			Mrs Watson - Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Standards	
Mrs Gillett			SENCO	
Mr Booth / Mrs Watson			Child Protection / Safeguarding	
Mrs Jackson / Mrs Brydges			Attendance Officers	

*** Should you have a subject-related query, for example, regarding homework etc., the first point of contact should be the class teacher. Listed below are the Heads of each Curriculum Area, along with the member of the Leadership Group responsible for each Curriculum Area, to help parents in knowing who to approach for assistance.**

	Head of Subject/Curriculum Area	Senior Leader
English	Mr Doolan	Mr Birley
Mathematics	Mrs Baird	Mrs Watson
Science	Mr Fernandez	Mr Lawn
Geography	Mr Birch	Mr Doolan
History	Miss Depper	Ms Woolnough
RPE	Mrs McEvoy	Mr Fox
Technology/Art/Child Development	Mr Todd	Ms Woolnough
Computer Science/ICT	Mr Butler	Mr Fox
French/German/Spanish	Mrs Steward	Ms Woolnough
PE/Drama/Music	Mr Edwards	Mr Fox
Special Educational Needs	Mrs Gillett	Mr Birley
Learning for Life	Mrs Hewes	Ms Woolnough
Vocational Education/Business Studies	Mr Jones	Mr Fox

Academic Year 2020-2021

September 2020							October 2020							November 2020							December 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
														30													
January 2021							February 2021							March 2021							April 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May 2021							June 2021							July 2021							August 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

= Schooldays / Weekends

= Bank Holidays

= School Holidays

= Non Pupil (INSET) Days

Autumn Term:	Thursday 3 September 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020 <i>Half Term 26 October – 30 October</i>	72 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021 <i>Half Term 15 February – 19 February</i>	59 days
Summer Term:	Monday 19 April 2021 – Friday 23 July 2021 <i>Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday, 3 May</i>	64 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note: The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies. You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.