



## Light at the End of the Tunnel

After a very wet and windy May, it is pleasing to note that we are now approaching half-term with the promise of some brighter days ahead and perhaps of normality returning. It has been quite a frantic term so far, with a constant stream of Year 11 assessments to be completed and marked so that our staff can gather the evidence needed to assign grades in the absence of exams. I am sure you all acknowledge the pressure associated with this task and if our attention to the needs of other year groups has been slightly diminished during this period, we do appreciate your understanding.

Year 11 will be leaving us officially on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June and so after half-term, we expect to be able to devote our time and energy fully to students in Years 7-10. However, I would just like to pay tribute to the resilience and positivity that Year 11 have shown. Their education and their exams have been disrupted in ways that none of us could have envisaged in the last two years, yet they have continued to approach their studies, and school life in general, with admirable acceptance and an impressive resolve to make the best of a regrettable situation. They have been an absolute pleasure to work with over the last 5 years and we all wish them well for the future.

You have already been informed about slight changes to the structure of our day which come into effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June and which will eliminate the split Period 4 with a break in the middle. We hope this will provide a more consistent learning experience with fewer interruptions. One other way in which we will be re-establishing more normal practices is by returning to weekly year group assemblies in the Main Hall. These give us an opportunity to share key messages and remind students about the principles of our school and the qualities we expect them to demonstrate. I am certainly looking forward to standing in front of them all again, rather than just being beamed onto a screen.

Our pathway to freedom is dependent on us all being safe and sensible so do please keep observing the rules and taking regular tests. I should like to extend my best wishes to everyone for a pleasant break.

Mr Lawn (Headteacher)

## Diary Dates



### JUNE

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June: HALF TERM

7<sup>th</sup> June: Return to school

8<sup>th</sup> June: Year 8 HPV2 vaccinations

11<sup>th</sup> June: Year 11 Official Final Day/Leavers' Assembly

14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June: Year 10 Formal Exams

21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> June: Year 5 Taster Days

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June: Year 6 Inductions Days

28<sup>th</sup> June-5<sup>th</sup> July: Year 9 Formal Exams

### JULY

1<sup>st</sup> July: Awards Evening

9<sup>th</sup> July: Sports Day

9<sup>th</sup> July: Year 11 Prom

16<sup>th</sup> July: Skills Day

23<sup>rd</sup> July: End of Term (Close at 1pm)

26<sup>th</sup> July-31<sup>st</sup> August: Summer holidays

*\*Please note all events are subject to current restrictions being lifted*

## Young Writers winners

Congratulations to **Leila Cruddas** in 7R and **Thomas King** in 7R who have been selected to have their short stories published in a national anthology after entering the Young Writers 'Trapped' writing competition. Students were challenged to create their own mini saga and their stories were both thrilling and terrifying. Well done to both budding writers - we hope to see more of your work published in the future!

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**Our final Non-Pupil INSET day of the 2020-2021 term will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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## Year 8 Student of the Month Awards

Congratulations to the following Year 8 students who have each won their tutor group's Student of the Month award. Students are nominated by their form tutor and rewarded with a certificate, cake and a hot chocolate at a special celebration.



The theme of the awards in March was 'Respect' and the winners were: **Abigail B, Libby C, Frankie G-W, Jasmine H, Vural M, Alfie R and Harry S.**



The theme of the awards in December was 'Outstanding contribution to learning and being kind above all else', and the winners were **Constanca K, Alesha H, Courtney B, Eden P, Liam S, Braison C and Jake S.**

## 'Design Your Own Everyday Superhero' - House Competition

Last month's House competition was to create your own everyday superhero and we received an amazing array of imaginative ideas from Years 7, 8 and 9. Common attributes across all the designs were kindness, loyalty, helpfulness and strength. Over 60 students entered, with each year group winner receiving 100 points for their House. Runners up received 80 points and all students who entered received 20 points for their House.

Year 7 winner – **Keira Gray 7U (Curie)**

Year 8 winner – **Ben Collier 8R (Gandhi)**

Year 9 winner – **Natalia-Marta Jednaszewska 9E (Attenborough)**

Year 7 runner-up – **Raine Brazier 7U (Curie)**

Year 8 runner-up – **Kyla Lansdowne 8R (Gandhi)**

Year 9 runner up – **Grace Hardison Taylor 9H (Attenborough)**



Year 9 student  
Natalia-Marta  
Jednaszewska's  
winning entry



**Student Absence:** Please remember to report any student absence via:  
Tel: 01376 559356 / Text: 07598 393348 / Email: [jjackson@alechunter.com](mailto:jjackson@alechunter.com).

**Headteacher's Surgery:** From Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Headteacher's Surgery will be returning to its traditional format. Mr Lawn will be available from 3:30-4:30pm every Thursday to meet with parents and discuss any issues they may wish to raise. No appointment is required, as parents will be seen in the order they arrive, but if you wish to book a specific time, please contact the school office.

## Year 7 and 8 RPE Creative Tasks

As part of their RPE classes, Year 7 and 8 students have been building models of places of worship using a variety of creative resources. Lego bricks, cardboard, and recycled materials, as well as Minecraft and even cakes have been used to create some amazing representations!



**Jack Stares, Michael Viknius, Lochlan Hyslop, Jack Jarrold, Joe Roots, Aidan Trew Annabelle Summers and Kyla Lansdowne** all made fantastic models of places of worship using a variety of creative materials.



## Year 9 Brilliant Club Graduations 2021



The Brilliant Club works with schools to increase the number of students from under-represented backgrounds progressing to highly selective universities. The students attended a virtual launch event of the Brilliant Club in January, where they had an opportunity to explore the Royal Holloway University of London, meet with current students and learn more about university life. During the Spring Term, students attended seven virtual tutorials to emulate current university learning conditions. Students explored the question *'Architecture, Interior Design and Feminism: Can Feminism alert women of patriarchal house design?'* through which they gained an understanding of what feminism is and what it has to do with architecture, interior design and people's homes.

Students developed their research abilities, enhanced their ability to write academic arguments, gained competency in citing bibliography correctly and applied theory to real case studies.

Graduation certificates were presented to the successful students after they enjoyed cake and treats. Congratulations to all students for working so hard on this project and for achieving such impressive results especially during the lockdown period.

### Results

Thomas Waller	2:1
Grace Hardison-Taylor	2:1
Lucia Cammarata	2:2
Madeleine Wilson	2:2
Ellen Richardson	2:2
Ashleigh Todd	2:2
Bella Young	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Caitlin Ryan	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Louisa Phillips	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Stanley Lewin	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Grade

- 1st** - Performing to an excellent standard at A-level
- 2:1** - Performing to a good standard at A-level
- 2:2** - Performing to an excellent standard at GCSE
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Performing to a good standard at GCSE

## Bronze Eco School Award

We are delighted to announce that Alec Hunter Academy has been awarded the Bronze Eco School Award. This means that as a school we are taking steps towards a more sustainable environment. The school Eco Committee members are **Abi Burgess, Callum Hall, Grace Hardison Taylor, Fausta Krankauskaite, Madeline Lamb, Bradley Paxton, Elena Peralta-Simmons, Louisa Phillips, Caitlin Ryan, Halle-Marie Scott** – all in Year 9; and **Sophie Ryan** in Year 7.

Over the course of the year and throughout lockdown, the committee carried out an Environmental Review of the school to identify areas of strength and weaknesses to work on. They completed a crisp packet recycling drive and created lesson resources to teach everyone about 'Sustainable Development Goals'. They also carried out a 'dig' on the school grounds to evaluate the soil and insects that support birdlife. The Committee's most important project at the moment is to tackle litter, however they also want to promote biodiversity by teaming up with the school Gardening Club and organise a fundraiser to sponsor an animal at Colchester Zoo.



## Young Essex Assembly (YEA)

Year 7 student **Joseph Sedgwick** was recently elected as a member of the Young Essex Assembly. The YEA is the elected Youth Council for Essex and gives young people a platform to speak about their views on local issues and implement change. Here Joseph tells us a bit more about the organisation and why being a part of the YEA is so important:

*"The YEA is a Youth Council where young people in our community give students a voice. The YEA spreads across all the districts in Essex including Braintree, Maldon, Colchester, and Chelmsford. Members from across the district meet once a month, and there are also 1 or 2 local meetings. One of the YEA's current projects is called 'Green Spaces'; this is to help make Braintree and Essex a healthier and greener place to live. On our social media pages, we have published something called 'SLAB' (Stress, Low Confidence and Bullying) which lists mental health organizations you can go to if you're feeling low, alongside advice and tips to help with mental health. The Young Essex Assembly is youth in **your** community helping to get **your** voice heard. I signed up to be in the YEA because I believe young people are going to be a big factor in how our world turns out, I hope you believe this too. People who join the YEA are people who want to help you, our community and how we move forward. But of course, we cannot do any of the work without conversations and ideas from you, because you are what makes the YEA the YEA. If there is anything you believe is affecting the youth of Essex and want it to be acted on, please let me know." Visit [www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk](http://www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk) for more information and follow the Young Essex Assembly on Facebook @youngessexassembly*



## Library Donation

We were lucky enough to receive a large book donation last week from Mushems Entertainment, a leading UK literary agency that represents a diverse range of authors. Titles include *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton, *The Potion Diaries* by Amy McCulloch, *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, *Witchsign* and *Stormtide* by Den Patrick and *The Magpie Society* by Zoe Sugg & Amy McCulloch.

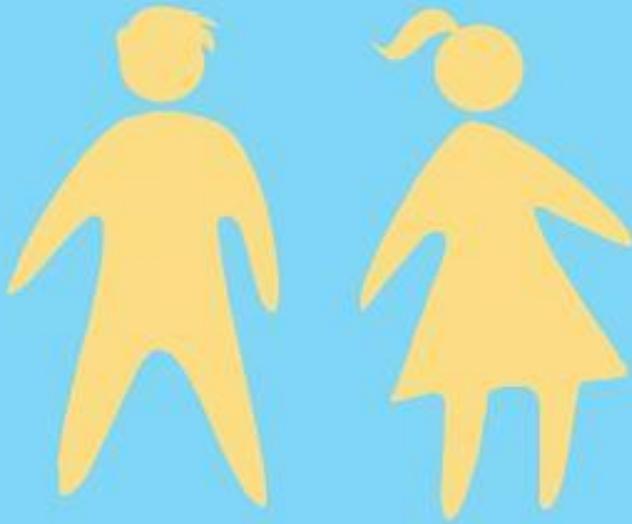
## Healthy Bites

This month the AH Café has launched a new range of fresh salads, including ham, cheese, egg and tuna. There will also be cheese and tomato pasta salads available, all priced at £1.50.



## Young Carers

A Young Carer is someone who regularly helps to look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol. As a school we understand the impact being a Young Carer can potentially have on a young person's education and look to support Young Carers by making staff aware of students' specific needs. If you are a Young Carer and are looking for advice, support, or just want to get something off your chest, get in touch by emailing [youngcarers@alechunter.com](mailto:youngcarers@alechunter.com) and Mr Doolan will arrange to meet you for a chat. For further information and guidance please visit the Young Carers page on our website under the School Life tab.



“If you look after someone at home you should have someone at school to talk to.”

A pupil

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## Lots of children look after someone at home who is ill or disabled

They often learn lots of skills because they look after someone.

But sometimes they:

- Feel tired, sad or worried.
- Want a break or some fun.
- Miss school.
- Find school difficult.

If you help look after someone at home, don't miss out.

Talk to:

Mr Doolan  
C2/English Staffroom  
Come at any break or lunch.



LOTTERY FUNDED

## 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
<b>Attendance / Wellbeing / Behaviour / Safeguarding</b>				
<b>Form Tutor</b>				
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	
<b>Learning / Behaviour / Academic Progress / Standards</b>				
<b>Class Teacher</b>				
<b>Head of Curriculum Area *(see below)</b>				
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.**

	<b>Head of Subject/Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Senior Leader</b>
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
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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
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January 2021							February 2021							March 2021							April 2021						
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May 2021							June 2021							July 2021							August 2021						
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31																					30	31					

	= Schooldays / Weekends		= Bank Holidays
	= School Holidays		= Non Pupil (INSET) Days

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Thursday 3 September 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020 <i>Half Term 26 October – 30 October</i>	72 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 4 January 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021 <i>Half Term 15 February - 19 February</i>	59 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	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.

## Academic Year 2021-2022

September 2021							October 2021							November 2021							December 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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January 2022							February 2022							March 2022							April 2022						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
31																											
May 2022							June 2022							July 2022							August 2022						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
30	31																										

	= Schooldays / Weekends		= Bank Holidays
	= School Holidays		= Non Pupil (INSET) Days (There is one further date to be confirmed)

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Wednesday 1 September 2021 – Friday 17 December 2021 <i>Half Term 25 October – 29 October</i>	73 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022 <i>Half Term 14 February - 18 February</i>	59 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022 <i>Half Term 31 May – 3 June, and May Bank Holiday, 2 May</i>	63 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.