



A New Beginning

It has been a real pleasure to welcome all youngsters in Years 8-11 back to Alec Hunter after the summer break and to see so many enthusiastic new faces in Year 7, our largest intake for many a year, with over 220 students. With the removal of staggered arrangements, we are all adjusting to how busy the school buildings seem at movement and social times, but it certainly is feeling a lot closer to the vibrant normality of life before Covid.

As if to emphasise this fact, two landmark events in the school calendar have been able to take place in the past fortnight, deferred from the Summer Term. On Friday 10th September, we were delighted to host the School Prom for our 2021 Year 11 Leavers. In a departure from previous occasions, we held the event on our own school site, with the Main Hall given a very special, glittery makeover. We saw some spectacular arrivals in an array of classy vehicles and all those in attendance had a memorable evening, complete with mirror photo booth and chocolate fountain! A lovely send-off for a really delightful year group.

Last Friday, we were also finally able to enjoy a very competitive Sports Day. The weather was fine, the vocal support from all houses was enthusiastic and we witnessed some outstanding individual performances, most notably from **Cara Duncan (11E)** and **Graham Kokovin (8R)**, both of whom broke Alec Hunter Sports Day records. The results have now been calculated and we will be announcing the year group and overall winners to the students next week.

Of course, we all have to be mindful that we are far from out of the woods with Covid, and it is so important that we are vigilant and cautious, sticking to our regular testing regime and other control measures to reduce the risk of an outbreak. However, we can only be encouraged by the sight of so many young people attending after-school clubs again, auditioning for our school production and preparing to fulfil our first Essex Cup football fixture for many months. Let's hope that this augurs well for a safe, enjoyable and somewhat more familiar Autumn Term!

Mr Lawn (Headteacher)

Diary Dates



SEPTEMBER 2021

29th Sept - Year 11 Braintree Careers Fair
30th Sept - Year 9 Target Setting Evening

OCTOBER 2021

7th Oct - Year 8 Target Setting Evening
8th Oct - Young Minds Non-Uniform Day
9th Oct - Parent Tours
11th-22nd Oct - Year 11 Formal Exams
11th-22nd Oct - After-School Parent Tours
25th-29th Oct - HALF TERM



Dancing to the top!

Congratulations to Faye Wood in 7R who qualified to represent England in Ballet, Tap and Modern, in the Dance World Cup 2020 & 2021. Faye worked extremely hard to compete at this level and we are all very proud of her determination and skill. Well done, Faye!

Year 8 Student of the Month Awards

Congratulations to last year's Year 8 students who won their tutor group **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. Due to restrictions, the presentations were held at the end of last term.



The theme of the awards in **April** was 'Gratitude' and the winners were: **Ben Davey, Poppy Keeble, Grace Leigh, Madeleine Mackrill, Tegan Mortier and Hayley Thorogood.**



The theme of the awards in **June** was 'Positivity' and the winners were: **Finley Brown, Gabriela Rusu, Flynn Brignull, Maddison Farrow, Kyla Lansdowne and Jay Curl.**



The theme of the awards in **May** was 'Responsibility' and the winners were: **Harley Brand, Charley Marriott, Jessica Pigeon, Aimee Malas, Alexis Lane, Ben Collier and Joshua Baxter.**



The theme of the awards in **July** was 'Perseverance' and the winners were: **Brooke Martin, Annabelle Summers, Harvey Asplin, Barash Basharan, Bella Ghosh and Robbie Carr.**

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

Tel: 01376 559356 / **Text:** 07598 393348 / **Email:** jjackson@alechunter.com.

Headteacher's Surgery: 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.

Meet the leaders of our RAAP Group

The RAAP (Raising Awareness Against Prejudice) group is a student-led group designed to make sure that Alec Hunter is an inclusive, educated, supportive community, where everyone is seen and heard.



Fern Wager oversees our work with the LGBTQ+ community. **Sofia Ashby** oversees our work on spreading awareness about mental health and ableism. **Esme Chudasama** oversees our work on racial, cultural and gender equality. **Bradley Paxton** runs the 'Good To Be Me' club – a club designed to celebrate differences, support mental health and help with strategies for coping with the day-to-day issues of school life. If you have any suggestions about how we can improve our approach to any of the above areas at Alec Hunter, please see these amazing student representatives!

Celebration Assemblies



Due to restrictions, we were unable to hold our end of term Celebration Assemblies in their traditional format; however, all certificates were awarded by the Head of Year and Student Support Leader in the last week of term. Students were nominated by their teachers for fantastic effort and contribution in each subject. Congratulations to all the students who received a certificate.

Year 11 Student Support will now be shared by Mr Cleevely (11H and 11R), Mrs Porter (11U and 11T) and Mrs Johnson (11N and 11E).

Website news

There is now a dedicated page on the school website for the parents and carers of the new Year 7 students, containing information to help you navigate your child's first term at Alec Hunter. The page contains User Guides to Microsoft Teams and Go4Schools, timings of the school day, the AH Café menu and copies of letters sent out to Year 7 parents. You can find the Year 6/7 Transition page under the 'Parents' tab at the top of the Home page.

Staff News

We bid a sad farewell to a number of colleagues at the end of last term. We wish them all the very best of luck for the future and thank them for their invaluable contribution to the school:

- Ms S McInerney – Student Support Leader
- Mrs L Palmer – KS3 Coordinator and Teacher of English
- Mrs Z Cornell – Teacher of Art
- Miss C Bright – Therapeutic Interventions Assistant
- Miss C Bye – Receptionist

Thanks also to Mrs L Warnock and Mrs S Murray for providing short-term maternity cover in Dance and Science respectively.

We are delighted to welcome the following new colleagues to the school and wish them every success as they join the Alec Hunter team:

- Mrs S Chapman – Deputy Science Lead
- Miss A Bol – Teacher of Drama/English
- Miss N Gipps – Teacher of PE
- Miss C Riches – Teacher of Art
- Miss R White – Teacher of History
- Miss G Williams – Teacher of Geography
- Mr B Cook – Teacher of Maths
- Mr M Bonnaud – Teacher of Chemistry
- Ms R Baker – Therapeutic Interventions Coordinator
- Miss L Biggs – Student Support Leader
- Mrs P Elson – Student Development Assistant
- Miss A Jenkins – Student Development Assistant
- Mrs C Wager – Receptionist

Year 7 Wall Hangings

Last year's Year 7 students produced some fantastic Wall Hangings in their Technology class during Summer Term. They used Hand and Machine Appliqué with embellishments and were inspired by different countries around the world. Students designed their own project and used the CAM Embroidery machine to add detail to their work.



Year 11 Textiles Art Batik Material work

The Year 11 GCSE Textiles Art group produced some beautiful work in their 5-hour formal exam last term, when they were in Year 10. Inspired by artist Amiria Gale, they designed and made repeat patterns on fabric using the technique of Batik. This is a traditional Asian technique and involves using wax and then applying batik dyes onto fabric. Below are some examples of the work the students produced, which look amazing.



ParentMail

To ensure you receive all the communications that the school sends out, we recommend you save all @alechunter.com email addresses into your contacts so they do not go into your Junk Folder. Most of our school letters are sent via a SIMS Management System which will show up in your inbox as: 8814010@sims-communications.co.uk

If you have any changes to your own contact information, please call the office on 01376 321813 to ensure we keep the most up to date details on our files.

Essex Championships

Congratulations to two of our students who attended the Essex Championships in the Summer Term. **Elena Peralta-Simmons** ran 100m in 13:61 (Personal Best) and came fourth. **Cara Duncan** ran 200m in 26:38 (Personal Best) and is the **Essex Champion**. This is an excellent achievement for both girls, especially with the restrictions that were in place for training over the past 16 months. Well done!



Alec Hunter Academy Poet Laureate

One of our Alec Hunter Poet Laureates, Shaka Sukali, has written another poem, inspired by the topic 'Women'.

"For my inspiration behind the poem, I encountered semi-haphazardly upon the subject of infanticide, more specifically the act of female babies being drowned because the parents had wanted a boy. I think it goes without saying that any killing of a child is wrong, but to kill a child on the basis of their sex or any other identity is, in my eyes, completely shocking and immoral. It was this, then, that had struck a chord and inspired me to write about it."

- *Shaka*

"For Want of Loving Son" - a poem by Shaka Sukali

*I'm full!
I scream
My mouth can't take anymore!*

*Choking on drowned cries
I gargle saline spores*

*Asbestos cracks as petite limbs are dropped into me
Moonlight creeping in as muted souls beg to fly, flee*

*What have they done? I ask for days
Why discard them, not keep their tears at bay?*

*They didn't choose to be this sex, they're born this way just like you said
Yet as soon as they were born, they were torn from Mother's breast*

*I filled the lungs of future sighs, longing to see the moon
Now in my water maw, they lie, stirred by ignorance's spoon*

*Man is great, I hear them say
Is this the tale that sealed their fate?*

How could one dare to sleep with all the lives we take?

*Years gone by, my use lessened
But grief does haunt my heart, confessions could not outweigh the harm that we have done*

To kill a loving daughter, for want of loving son.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL AWARD

DOFE IS A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR ANYONE AGES 13-25. A FUN TIME WITH FRIENDS. AN OPPURTUNITY TO DISCOVER NEW INTERESTS AND TALENTS. A TOOL TO DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK AND A RECOGNISED MARK OF ACHIEVEMENT RESPECTED BY EMPLOYERS.

ONLINE INFORMATION EVENINGS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS:
TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER | TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER

DOFE AWARD CENTRES:

COLCHESTER
BRAINTREE
CHELMSFORD
BRENTWOOD
HARLOW
HADLEIGH
LOUGHTON



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT OUR FIELD
OFFICER LESLEY WEST AT LESLEY.WEST@ESSEX.GOV.UK
OR YOUTH.MEDIA@ESSEX.GOV.UK



LINE MANAGEMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 2021

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				
Miss Biggs Student Support Leader	Mrs Johnson Student Support Leader	Mr Cleevely Student Support Leader	Mrs Porter Student Support Leader	Mr Cleevely (11H/11R) Mrs Porter (11U/11T) Mrs Johnson (11N/11E) Student Support Leaders
Mr Booth (Assistant Headteacher) - Designated Safeguarding & Mental Health Lead Mrs Watson (Assistant Headteacher) - Deputy Safeguarding Lead				
Learning / Behaviour / Academic Progress / Standards				
Class Teacher				
Head of Curriculum Area *(see below)				
Miss Jones Head of Year	Mr Holland Head of Year	Mr Moreno Head of Year	Mr Lee Head of Year	Mr Spooner Head of Year
Mr Fox (Associate Deputy Headteacher)/ Mr Doolan (Associate Assistant Headteacher) Behaviour & Progress	Mrs Watson (Assistant Headteacher) Behaviour & Progress		Mr Birley (Deputy Headteacher) Behaviour & Progress	
Mrs Gillett			SENCO	
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	Mrs C Fennelly	Mr Doolan
Mathematics	Mrs Baird	Mrs Watson
Science	Mr Fernandez	Mr Lawn
Geography	Mr Birch	Mr Doolan
History	Miss Depper	Ms Woolnough
RPE	Mrs McEvoy	Mr Doolan
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	Mr Booth
Vocational Education/Business Studies	Mr Jones	Mr Fox

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
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3										1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
														29	30												
January 2022							February 2022							March 2022							April 2022						
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	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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						
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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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
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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)

Autumn Term:	Wednesday 1 September 2021 – Friday 17 December 2021 <i>Half Term 25 October – 29 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022 <i>Half Term 14 February - 18 February</i>	59 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Thursday 21 July 2022 <i>Half Term 30 May – 3 June, and May Bank Holiday, 2 May</i>	62 days
		<u>194 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.