

New Beginnings

Spring is a time to celebrate new life and to enjoy the renewal of the natural world around us after the dark months of winter. The glorious sunny days over the Easter weekend have heralded the start of this summer term with feelings of hope and positivity for the months ahead, which I think we all feel we really need. There is no doubt that, during the last half-term, there were some moments that seemed particularly dark, as we faced the highest levels of staff and student absence at any point in the pandemic, against a backdrop of conflict in Europe on a scale none of us had expected and we all hoped had been consigned to history.

The ripples of anxiety that understandably accompany such events were felt through our school community, but I continue to be impressed by the resilience and kindness shown by our young people, many examples of which you will read about in this issue of the *Herald*. I must also pay tribute to our staff, who were called upon to go the extra mile on many occasions to keep the school functioning and maintain our provision yet did so without hesitation or complaint. I am hugely grateful for this and I'm sure our parent community would echo my thanks.

With this in mind, and in a shameless attempt to attract positive recognition for Alec Hunter Academy, I should like to draw your attention to National 'Thank a Teacher' Day on 26th May. You can express your desire to praise the efforts of anyone working in a UK school (not just teachers!) by following this link: <u>https://thankateacher.co.uk/register-your-</u> <u>interest-for-national-thank-a-teacher-day-2022/</u> Such acknowledgement really does make our day and would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to everyone for the half-term ahead.

Diary Dates



27th April - Year 11 Ready, Steady Cook 27th April - Year 9 Virtual Options Release 28th April - 11th May - Year 10 Formal Exams 29th April - Year 10 Ready, Steady Cook

May 2022

2nd May - BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 11th - 13th May - Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams 16th - 20th May - Year 8 In-Class Exam week 26th May - Thank a Teacher Day 31st May - World Challenge Training Day 30th - 3rd June - HALF TERM

June 2022

6th-10th June - Year 7 In-Class Exam week 10th June - Year 10 Battlefields Trip to Ypres 14th June - Year 10 Women in Engineering & Construction Event (AHA) 15th June - District Athletics 20th June - Year 8 HPV 1 vaccinations 23rd June - Awards Evening 24th June - Year 11 Catch up vaccinations

Comic Relief and Disaster Emergency Committee

We are delighted to announce that our recent non-uniform day and bake sale raised an amazing **£1,092.87** for charity. This money will be split between **Comic Relief** and the **Disasters Emergency Committee (Ukraine Humanitarian**

Appeal). Thank you to all the students and community for their kind donations to these very worthy charities.





Mr Lawn (Headteacher)

Chef of the Month

Congratulations to Year 7 student **Martyna** Jankowska, who has been awarded Chef of the Month for February. Martyna worked independently, calmly and was very well organised with her cooking of Chicken Fajitas. Her dish turned out well and she had an excellent presentation.



Artist of the Month

Well done to **Evelyn Pope** in Year 11, who has been awarded Artist of the Month for February. Evelyn's teacher Miss Riches said that Evelyn has worked incredibly hard this year and has created some fantastic pieces of artwork.



Multi School Council

On Tuesday 8th March, students from Alec Hunter took part in the Mid Essex Multi School Council held at Columbus School in Chelmsford. Student issues such as racism, the effects of Covid-19, awards and improving communication skills were all discussed. School Council representatives from Alec Hunter, Columbus, Chelmer Valley and Beaulieu Park School all took part in raising concerns and developing ideas to help Essex students. The Alec Hunter students were an absolute credit to our school and spoke passionately about the issues affecting young people today. Our School Council Representatives who attended were: Nathan Clarke, Esmee Reeve, Tim Garnett, Katie Nyemba, Charley Marriott and Bree Nelson.



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

Essex County Rugby Sevens Tournament

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On Tuesday 8th March, Alec Hunter entered their first Essex County Rugby 7's tournament. Our first game was against Hedingham School and it took the team a few minutes to get into the swing of things. Sadly, we were beaten by one converted try. The second game against Brentwood School didn't start well but a spirited fight back had us within one try and pushing for a third. Brentwood started to struggle but a lucky bounce meant they scored their fourth and sealed the top spot in the group. Our final game against New Hall School saw us take the lead and it would have been a tie had it not been for an unfortunate slip.

Well done to all the boys who played – they showed great resolve and heart. They didn't give up and played better with each game. We will have another go next year! Team: Ethan Scherer, Thomas Waller, Jaden Gasa, Lewis Duong, Charlie Booty, Theo Nicholson, Razvan Bulancea, Harry Haymer, Logan Green, Calum Digby, Dylan Brown and Bailey Crane.



Year 8 Boys' Tag Rugby Tournament

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On Wednesday 23rd February, a team of Year 8 boys had the opportunity to compete in a Tag Rugby competition at Tabor School. The purpose of the tournament was to give students who haven't played much rugby a chance to experience games against other schools. The atmosphere was brilliant as the three other schools all put in 100% effort and showed great sportsmanship. The Alec boys beat Forest Hall and New Rickstones Academy quite comfortably. Their final game was the decider against Maltings. It was a tight affair, but Maltings scored in the dying seconds and snatched the victory.

Well done to all the boys who took part: Cameron Blanche, Joshua Cochrane-Irvine, Alex McWilliams, Callum Inskip, Liam Hart, Liam Price, Michael Viknius, James Price and Logan Rogers.



One of the key concerns raised at the recent School Council meeting was the amount of litter in the school grounds and the members of the Council discussed ways in which this could be reduced. Some of our Year 7 students spent their tutor time using litter pickers to collect rubbish and made a real difference to the school environment.

Headteacher's Commendations



Headteacher's Commendations are awarded to students who consistently meet our expectations and adhere to the Core Principles of the school. They are a way to reward students who approach their school life with positivity, are very well presented, and are naturally cooperative and compliant. We feel these students, nominated by their teachers, are a great example to others and are worthy of recognition. Mr Lawn met with the winners earlier this month and presented them with their certificates whilst they enjoyed a hot chocolate and cookie. Well done to all the winners:

Year 7: Nathan Clarke, Leland Osborne, Keaton Leonard and Olivia Priestland. Year 8: Jack Stares, Gracie Hogan, Tia Stockley, Roksana Slomion, Marley Darch and Darcy Hales. Year 9: Vural Mustafa, Finley Brown, Dylan Morgan, Madeleine Mackrill, Jasmine Heath and Charley Marriott. Year 10: Megan Woodman, Harry Root, Shaka Sukali, Esmee Chudasama, George Mansell and Stanley Lewin. Year 11: Cara Duncan, Eleanor Bass, Lucy Camp, Ellie Frisby and Megan Frisby. 

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# **District Netball Tournament**



On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 and 8 girls played netball against Hedingham, Helena Romanes, Honywood and Tabor schools in the District Netball Tournament. Both year groups had squads rather than just 7 players and did well to swap on and off ensuring all had a fair number of games.

Congratulations to the Year 7 squad who won 2 games, drew one and lost one, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Year 7 squad: **Poppy Wark, Molly** Lawrence, Megan Selsby, Lola Bell, Amelia Giba, Amber Guilder, Olivia Priestland, Lucia Roberts, Isabelle Woodward, Isabelle Mitchell, Holly Ashley and Becky Thompson.

Congratulations also to the Year 8 squad who won 3 of their games and lost one, also finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Year 8 squad: Xanthe Hopkins, Holly Taylor-Murfet, Lacie Thompson, Amelie Miles, Tegan Whittaker, Faye Wood, Sophia De Bastos, Holly Underdown.

The Year 9 and 10 girls played their tournament on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The Year 9s didn't have any reserves available for this tournament and so did very well to cope with 4 games of 12 minutes one after the other with only a short break in between. They played well but the goals just weren't going in! The team had a couple of narrow defeats which meant that they finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place, despite having played some great netball.

### Year 9 team: Poppy Keeble, Francesca Hall, Ava Bell, Alesha Hamblion, Brooke Martin, Isla Mitchell, Harmony West.

The Year 10's had a squad rather than a team, so were able to play with fresh legs each half. This was a help to them especially as the rain started to fall! They finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Squad: **Sofia Ashby, Esmee Chudasama, Fern Wager, Grace Hardison Taylor, Poppy Charles, Kathryn Weston, Jesica Downer, Elena Peralta-Simmons, Lexi Old, Alannah Power, Aimee Phillips, Ellie Phillips.** 

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# **GSUS Live Experience – KS3**

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GSUS Live is an interactive, multi-media learning experience that helps secondary school students explore the themes of fear, forgiveness and rejection through the teachings of Jesus as part of their RPE classes. On March 31st, students in Key Stage 3 were able to take part in these lessons and were shown bible story animations, contemporary songs and short films on historical and famous public figures such as Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafzai. They were asked to look at real-life issues and make decisions and offer advice about thought-provoking scenarios. All the topics covered complement the teachings of RE, Ethics and Citizenship and are in line with the statutory provision of Religious Education. The students really enjoyed discussing their responses to the questions and were all thoroughly engaged in the activities.







We have recently appointed five Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from each of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. These students applied for the position and demonstrated that they are passionate young people who want to stand up to bullying behaviour and change things for the better. The students are undertaking training to learn how to deal with challenging situations and ways to support their peers. We look forward to these students supporting their peers, recognising and challenging any bullying behaviour and becoming a strong voice for the school community. Year 7: **Demi Digby, Priya Kurapati, Molly Lawrence, Keaton Leonard** and **Leland Osborne**. Year 8: **Whitney Asa, Hallie Birch, Arran Dilworth, Ashleigh Spragge** and **Rylie Stock**. Year 9: **Abigail Brown, Ruby Hallett, Poppy Keeble, Alfie Knowles** and **Harry Stiff**. Year 10: **Isabelle Cobbold, Grace Hardison Taylor, Ollie Higgins, Theo Nicholson** and **Bradley Paxton.**





House Easter Cake Competition

On Thursday 24th March, we held a House Easter Cake Competition which was open to Years 7-9. Students were asked to bring in a ready-made cake and had one hour to decorate it in school. The competition was judged by members of the School Council along with Head Boy, Alfie Amos, and Head Girl, Lillymay Dick. All the judges were very impressed with the standard of the cakes and found it a difficult competition to judge. Congratulations to **Holly Spragge** in Year 7 (Curie House) who was awarded 1st Place. The judges were particularly impressed with the little chicks that Holly had made from scratch using different coloured fondant icing. 2nd place was awarded to **Jasmine Heath** in Year 9 (Curie House) who made Easter Bunnies out of fondant and Maltesers; and 3rd place was awarded to **Ruby Canning** in Year 7 (Attenborough House) who made a beautiful chocolate cake with a wall of Cadbury's Fingers, topped with three chocolate rabbits. Well done also to all the participants who were 'Highly Commended' and will receive points for their respective Houses.



World Book Day – 'Decorate Your Door' Competition

On Thursday 3rd March it was World Book Day, and our House Competition was to decorate a classroom door in the theme of a book. Doors could be decorated with the theme of a well-known book, character, or author and each tutor group entry was awarded points for their House. Congratulations to everyone who entered - the amazing creativity displayed certainly brightened up our corridors!



1st Place was awarded to 9A, Mrs Baird's tutor group, with their 'Alice in Wonderland' themed door (Hawking House). 2nd Place was awarded to 8H, Miss Thomson's tutor group, with their 'Secret Garden' themed door (Attenborough House). 3rd Place was awarded to 10T, Miss Schunmann's tutor group, for their 'Wizard of Oz' themed door (Gandhi House). Some of the other fabulous entries are shown below.



Winners of the Jack Petchey Award

The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards are presented to young people who have gone above and beyond to achieve success. They are not solely for academic attainment, sometimes they are awarded to recognise a personal triumph, someone who has faced a challenge pushing themselves outside their comfort zone, or an outstanding effort from a team player. We are delighted that 8 of our

students were recently nominated and honoured with this award. Each student receives a certificate, a medal and £250 to spend on a school project. Well done to all our winners!

Emma Pirie 11U

During half term, Emma participated in an online work experience project by joining the Tesco Property Virtual Store of the Future Challenge. This included creating a plan for a store and presenting her ideas back to a panel of judges. Emma also had the opportunity to improve her employability skills with CV and interview skills workshops. Emma has been recognised for her fantastic work, dedication, and enthusiasm during the experience.

Henry Gould 10T

Henry was elected to the position of Year Rep on the Student Council and has since been taking great strides to improve the school and the student experiences within it. He is very approachable and always takes people's ideas on board and works hard to be the best version of himself. Henry is a delight to have in the classroom, and follows instructions carefully and considerately, always treating others with the care they deserve.

Grace Rice 8H

Grace has been dealing with a family bereavement but was consistently present and online for every single remote lesson through lockdown and continued to submit work of an excellent quality. She also replied to posts in the tutor group Teams channel and helped her peers to access specific documents, answered queries and supported other members of her form. She has set an excellent example to her peers and remained positive and friendly throughout this period.

Caitlyn Ryan 10E

For Caitlyn's campaign to raise awareness of Breast Cancer in the recent 'Wear it Pink Day' she made lots of pink ribbons and made a huge effort to sell these to our staff and school adult community. She actively promoted the event on our school Facebook page and raised money for this worthy cause.

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Gracie-Mai is a great student who always has a smile on her face. She is always willing to help and do what she can for anyone. She is a House Captain and has been part of numerous school teams throughout her 5 years at Alec Hunter. Outside of school, she has been selected to attend the Essex Rugby trials which is a great achievement.

JJ Hemmings 11H

JJ has been awarded the Jack Petchey Award for getting into the County Football Team. The Essex team have been the national champions for the past two years, so to break into this team is an amazing achievement.



Leigh Barkaway 10N

Leigh is incredibly dedicated to his studies and is working exceptionally hard in English this term. He enjoys reading aloud, analysing texts, and offering his opinions. Leigh is a pleasure to have in the classroom and he should be very proud of his progress this year.

Cara Duncan 11E

Cara is a model student, always very polite, mature and conscientious. Cara is also a very talented athlete and competes regularly. Throughout lockdown she continued to train where and how she could and sent regular updates of her progress - as well as keeping up to date with her schoolwork in other subjects. Cara has recently competed in the Essex Schools Championships where she beat her personal best and won the 200m race. She is now hoping this will be enough for her to qualify for a place at the English Schools Championships in Manchester in July.

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The Leadership Group spent time in lessons over the past few weeks seeing how hard the students were working in their lessons. The following students stood out for giving their best:

- Luca Holland 9N in French
- Callum Wishart 8U in Art
- Sophie Ryan 8U in Art
- Oliver Bull 10T in French
- Harvey Waud 8R in Science
- Sayim Rashid 7H in Geography
- Olly Graham 7A in Science
- Callum Tritton 9N in English
- Spencer Aslett 7U in Science
- Thomas Allen 11N in Geography
- Matthew Savill 9T in PE
- Max Komor 7U in RPE
- Poppy Charles 10R in Chemistry
- Kai Hodgman 11H in English
- Samuel Gunda 10R in Health & Fitness
- Sid Jaggard 10U in Health & Fitness
- Katie Nyemba 9E in German
- Ryan Tredwell 9R in Music
- Taylor Brook 9A in Music
- Braison Cauchi 9R in Drama

- Billy McKee 7H in Computer Science
- Keaton Leonard 7H in English
- Thomas King 8R in German
- Max Tritton 8R in Food Technology
- Chad Yildirim 8R in German
- Brendan Stevens 8A in French
- Jazac Malek 10T in PE
- Arran Dilworth 8R in German
- Jodie Mears 10E in PE
- Jake Simons 8N in Science
- Brooke Costall 10U in Child Development
- Holly Taylor-Murfet 8L in English
- Tayden Marsh 7E in Computer Science.
- Ashton McKinlay 9U in PE Theory
- Annabelle Summers 9U in History
- Ben Thompson 10R in Engineering
- Annie Lack 9R in Drama

Giving our best. every minute of every lesson. every day!

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PE SUMMER CLUBS

Monday - Rounders Wednesday - Athletics (Track & Field) Thursday - Tennis & Athletics (Track)



Academic Year 2021-2022

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	Spring Term:Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022 Half Term 14 February - 18 FebruarySummer Term:Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022									59 days 62 days																	
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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 2022-2023

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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										
				Mr Cleevely (11H/11R)						
Miss Biggs	Mrs Johnson	Mr Cleevely	Mrs Porter	Mrs Porter (11U/11T)						
Student Support	Student Support	Student Support	Student Support	Mrs Johnson (11N/11E)						
Leader	Leader	Leader	Leader	Student Support						
				Leaders						
Mr Booth (Assistant Headteacher) - Designated Safeguarding & Mental Health Lead										
Mrs Watson (Assistant Headteacher) - Deputy Safeguarding Lead										
Learning / Behaviour / Academic Progress / Standards										
Learning / Denaviour / Academic Progress / Standards										
Class Teacher										
Head of Curriculum Area *(see below)										
Miss Jones	Mr Holland	Mr Moreno	Mr Lee	Mr Speeper						
Head of Year	Head of Year	Head of Year	Head of Year	Mr Spooner Head of Year						
Head of Year	neau or fear	Head of fear	Head of fear	Head of fear						
Mr Fox (Associate										
Deputy Headteacher)/										
Mr Doolan (Associate	Mrs Watson (Assis	tant Headteacher)	Mr Birley (Deputy Headteacher)							
Assistant Headteacher)	Behaviour	& Progress	Behavic	our & Progress						
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

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