

December 2023 at The Colne

Key Dates

22 December 2023 - Term ends; finish at 12.25pm; Non-uniform and Christmas jumpers

8 January 2024 - All years return to school

18 January 2024 - Year 11 Parents Evening

15 February 2024 - Year 9 Parents and Options Evening

28 February - 1 March 2024 - The Beauty and the Beast performances

Rubbish Shakespeare Company - Mrs Fry

On Wednesday 8 November, we were fortunate to be able to welcome The Rubbish Shakespeare Company to The Colne who performed their versions of Macbeth for Year 11 and Romeo and Juliet for Year 7. Both plays were condensed into just over an hour and provided students with an insight into how Shakespeare should be enjoyed - live on stage and full of energy.

Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed both performances and Year 7 especially enjoyed the participation of students as well as cameos from Mr Crane and Mr Barber!



Aside from the fun (which there was plenty of), the performances served a great preparation for Year 11 and their upcoming literature mock exam and gave Year 7 an excellent introduction to the play which they will now continue to study in their English lessons.

We are already looking forward to welcoming The Rubbish Shakespeare Company back to The Colne next year!

Some testimonials from our students:



"Funny, very interactive and a fun way to learn about Macbeth"

"Very enjoyable. Wasn't serious or difficult to understand. Easy way to learn the play and key

quotes. It was funny and not boring.
Easy to remember key scenes"

"It was really funny and it was great in teaching the audience the plot without using the tricky language written down in the play. They were very clever in how they performed - they performed in a way that was silly but intelligent"

"Dear Rubbish Shakespeare Company,



I very much loved your performance and found it a funny interpretation of Macbeth.

The parts I like most are the part where you make fun of the play and yourselves! I also liked the parts where the character were still in character but were a bit exaggerated (e.g: where the king asked the boy at the front to kiss his ring and when Lady Macbeth picked up Macbeth then dropped him!)"



"I thought it was really creative, especially the final fight scene where they dropped their weapons, which shows how pointless the battle was in the end"

"I liked the show because it can definitely appeal to audiences that are old or young. It was clear both the teachers and students really enjoyed it and they answered a lot of my questions in a professional manner.

The show was chaotic and unpredictable and a good spin on otherwise quite a bleak and otherwise tragic story. The part after the damned spot scene where he asked us where he was from was also quite funny because I managed to predict Birmingham because he had the same accent as my friend from Birmingham. It was also quite entertaining to have us as trees and it was funny to stand up in front of the crowd and put my hands in the air. Overall, I enjoyed the comedic timing and effects that could be had, and the references to modern pop culture like Dragonball with the "Kamehameha", and I hope to see their take on Antony and Cleopatra when they next put it on."

Colne Christmas Tree

This year, the Art department asked Years 7-10 to create Christmas decorations inspired by the artist Keith Haring for the large Christmas tree in the front reception.

From Haring comes famous dancing figures to dancing dog garlands; each year had a different decoration to make.

With help from our amazing Art Ambassadors, we decorated the tree, which is now proudly standing in the Main Reception area.

Well done and thank you to all students who made decorations and our Art Ambassadors for helping to decorate the tree.





Christmas Card Competition - Miss Mills

This year we ran a Christmas card making competition open to Year 7 and Year 8 students. This year's theme was Christmas at the Colne, and those taking part were asked to incorporate parts of the Colne into their Christmas design. We had entries using a range of media, from digital collage, water colours and glitter pens; all looked fab! Everybody who entered made incredible cards and should be so proud of themselves.

Well done to Lilli-Rose in 7E who won!

Our Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival Entry

This year, the Colne's entry into the Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival was inspired by the colourful glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly. Our Year 7 'Christmas Tree Committee' helped to create the tree in two after school workshops. We made the tree from empty plastic bottles that were painted and cut into spirals, we also used the bottle tops to create the star and the bottle bases to create tree decorations.

We are really pleased to say that our entry was chosen as the winning children's entry into the festival this year.

Many thanks to our Christmas Tree Committee (Esme-Rose, Spencer, Freya, Keira, Tobyn, Louise, James, Miles, Noah, Sophie, Joshua, Skye-Louise, Bethany, Summer and Maisy in Year 7) and to all of the staff members who donated empty plastic bottles.





New Art Exhibition in Brightlingsea Library - Mrs Kelly

Lino prints by our Year 11 art students have gone on display in Brightlingsea Library this December. The exhibition features approximately 30 lino prints that our Year 11s have created inspired by German Expressionism. The prints are based on photographs that the students took themselves and then developed into print ideas using mark making techniques to give a heightened sense of emotion.

If you would like to see their work, it will be on display until the end of December.



Computing Competition - Bebras - Mr Roberts

Recently, students across all year groups have taken part in a computing competition which tests their computational thinking and problem solving skills. This is a national competition where over 400,000 students took part within their age categories.

We are delighted to announce that 36 of our students have achieved the gold award and have been selected to participate in the next stage of the competition, hosted by Oxford University Computing Department and will be tested on their programming skills. All 36 students finished within the top 10% of their age category which is a fantastic achievement.

Special mentions go to the following students who achieved the best score in their age category within our school

Miles - Year 7 - placing 290th out of 117,467 participants

Dylan - Year 8 - placing 2576th out of 209,744 participants

Joshua - Year 11 - placing 188th out of 38,413 participants

Gold award winners

Year 7:

Miles F, Jessica G, Noah F, Erin P, Spencer B, Oshun C, George H, Alano A, Dylan H, Elsie P, Benjamin Y, Gracie T, Joshua L, Milly K, Ethan F, Rocco A, Poppy B

Year 8:

Dylan H, Benjamin J, Alfie B

Year 9:

Azura J, James G, Robert O, Tyler K, Chloe R, Eddie A, Rowan M, Joseph B, Oliver K, Leni L, Abigail W

Year 11:

Joshua P, Kunmi B, Woody W, Zach W, Jacob C



STEM WORKSHOP - The Prosthetic Hand Challenge

Some of our Year 8 students participated in a workshop this week hosted by the Smallpeice Trust. The challenge was to build a **prosthetic hand** which links their science curriculum to applications in **anatomy** and **biomedical engineering**.



Students followed a live streamed tutorial and made some brilliant prosthetics. Our next steps will be to explore their ability to grasp objects and evaluate their designs. Well done Year 8!



Key Words

Prosthesis - an artificial body part

Ligament - a stretch of short elastic tissue that connects a bone to another bone

Tendon - a flexible but inelastic cord of tissue that attaches a muscle to a bone



Year 7 Christmas Ball - Mr Elliott

We would like to thank all of the Year 7s who attended the Christmas Ball on Wednesday, 13 December. We hope you enjoyed yourselves! You have made a great start to the school year and it was great to celebrate your hard work with a Christmas celebration.

We hope you continue to enjoy your time with us here at Colne and you make many more happy memories here.



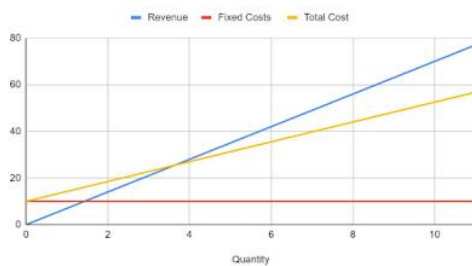
Y11 Business Studies Pitches - Mr Davies

On 23 and 28 November all Year 11 business students formally presented their enterprise pitches to their teachers, Mr Davies and Mrs Wainford. This was part of their coursework and was completed in Dragons' Den style where the teachers quizzed them on aspects of their business ranging from finance to advertising.



They completed this task in the Conference Room and placed their well designed PowerPoints on the large TV screen that resides there. Whilst they were there, even though they were under a bit of pressure and were caught on camera, the students performed admirably and exceeded all expectations. There was some lovely work presented, and whilst the students were subject to

the rigorous confines of the exam board criteria, they still presented ideas that would even impress stalwart entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson and Alan Sugar.



The cohort holistically found the experience to be a positive one and in some cases demonstrated skills that they never knew they had. They spoke passionately about their ideas and schemes, often directly addressing the teacher audience rather than falling into the trap of reading off slides or a script and showing excellent preparation, demonstrating that they had kept their audience in mind throughout.

In the end, it was an absolute pleasure to watch these students perform and it was clear that many may well have bright futures in the world of business and entrepreneurship.

Termly Rewards - P.E.

Boys	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Achievement	Jack Scotcher	James Brennen	Alfie Kemp	Tom Brakenbury	Cahn Williamson
Commitment	Marshall Doherty	Maxx London	Nojus Vitas	George Cooper	Alex Hill
Effort	Tobyn Connolly	Eddie Auld	Dean Edwards	Henry Owen	Alex Blaber
Girls	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Achievement	Jessica Jones	Bonnie Keeling	Meredith Davey	Eva Maguire	Annalese Massey
Commitment	Daisy-Mai Tomes	Amelia Jeffreys	Jessica Thornton	Ella Woodger	Maisy Smart
Effort	Sophie Gorham	Riley Fry	Chloe Taylor	Isabel Skinner	Grace Cowling- Newell

Eliza - BBC 500 Word Story Competition

We are delighted to share that Eliza has beaten thousands of others and has made it through to the next round of the BBC 500 Words Competition. Well done Eliza! Her story is below:

The Battle

The tension had been building for days, so when I awoke with a feeling of dread and anticipation on that hot Tuesday morning, I knew something would happen. Sweat dripped off my head; heat and hostility. I crawled out of bed, staying low to the ground in case of an enemy attack. These last few years had taught me to be ready for anything, and ready for anything I was.

Before leaving the safety of my territory, I surveyed the surrounding areas. I peeped round the corner. Good. The coast was clear, my nemesis wasn't around. Not yet at least.

I crept stealthily to the lower deck; the winding blind corridor made me feel uneasy. Would I make it? What would wait for me around the corner? Would I make it through the day? These thoughts spun around in my head, but if I was to succeed and recoup some much needed supplies, I needed to push them aside. Final destination in sight then SMACK! Out of nowhere an ambush. I thought I could make it, but I was wrong. The battle had commenced.

She may have started this war, but I would be the one to finish it. We both wanted the same thing and sharing wasn't an option. I looked her in the eye trying to catch a glimpse of kindness, but she attacked me anyway - hopes of reconciliation long gone.

How we fought that morning! The conflict would go down in history: 1066 Battle of Hastings, 1815 Battle of Waterloo, 2023 Battle of Brightlingsea! I'm told that our shouts could be heard for miles and the screams broke a decibel metre. Whatever she did I could do ten times better and stronger, but somehow she still seemed more powerful. There is nothing like hunger to spur on inner glory.

Without thinking, I picked up the closest object - perfect. She was charging blindly towards me. I slowly pulled back my hand and before I recognised what the precious object was it had slipped from my fingers. I didn't mean to drop it, honestly.

The smash of it woke up my masters - the battle was now on two fronts. I could hear their heavy footsteps plod down the corridor. I was cornered, no escape. The shouting exploded like a bomb - their angry words tore through my veins like daggers. I was sent to my room - grounded for a week. Who cares? Mum and Dad always take her side anyway.



Careers Convention - Ms Weaver and Miss Brett

On Friday 15 December we welcomed over 30 volunteers from the community to share information about their careers with all 1260 of our students. Each year group spent half an hour discussing the various requirements and demands of a range of job roles, the sorts of qualifications required for them and the pros and cons associated with the industry.

The jobs included a diverse range of roles including scuba divers, police and border force officers, medical personnel, scientists, architects, artists, managers, social workers and many more.

Students also shared their career plans with our volunteers, gaining some valuable advice for their own futures. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers profusely as without them we would not have been able to run such an interactive convention for our students.

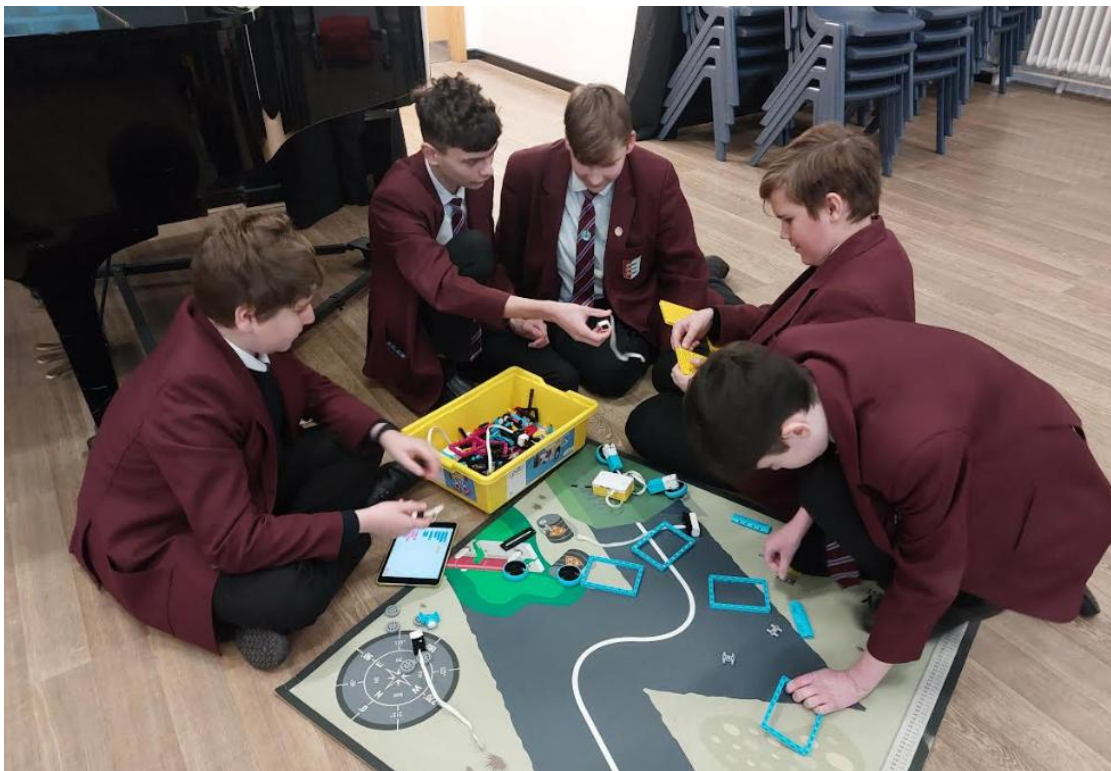


British Army with Years 7 and 9 - Miss Elliott

This month, our Year 7 and 9 students participated in an enriching disaster relief workshop conducted by the British Army. This engaging session tasked our pupils with the design, creation, and coding of a robot dedicated to gathering essential supplies within a simulated disaster relief zone.

It was an incredible opportunity for our students to delve into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as they enjoyed an interactive experience that not only fostered their creativity but also honed their practical skills.

The workshop proved to be both educational and enjoyable, providing our students with a hands-on platform to explore and enhance their STEM capabilities.



Essex Police

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.

#StaySafe

The Big Ambition Survey



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to
take part



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



Beauty and the Beast

Need a last minute Christmas present for someone...?

Get your tickets early for our show before they sell out! Don't miss out on seeing our fantastic production of Beauty and the Beast JR!



Wed 28 Feb
4.30pm

Thu 29 Feb
6.45pm

Fri 1 Mar
6.45pm

Disney
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST
© Disney

JR.

The Colne Community School

£10 Adult, £5 Concession, £25 Family (2+2) **ticket source**
Tickets available via the school website and www.ticketsource.com

Music by **Alan Menken**, Lyrics by **Howard Ashman and Tim Rice**, Book by **Linda Woolverton**
Disney's *Beauty and the Beast JR.* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019