

## January 2024 at The Colne

### Key Dates

**15 February** - Year 9 Parents and Options Evening

**19 - 23 February** - Half Term

**26 February** - Non Pupil Day

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

**13 - 14 March** - Year 9 DTP & Meningitis Vaccinations

**19 April & 1 May** - Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

### Brightlingsea Food Bank

On Wednesday 20 December the Brightlingsea Food Bank Hub collected our donation to take to Colchester.

We were told how they would divide up the donations and place it in parcels per family unit.

As a school, we managed to collect 165kg of donations for our local food bank service in Brightlingsea just before the Christmas break. This is 15kg more than the total last year!

Colchester Food Bank sorts all items into packages to be used back here in Brightlingsea.

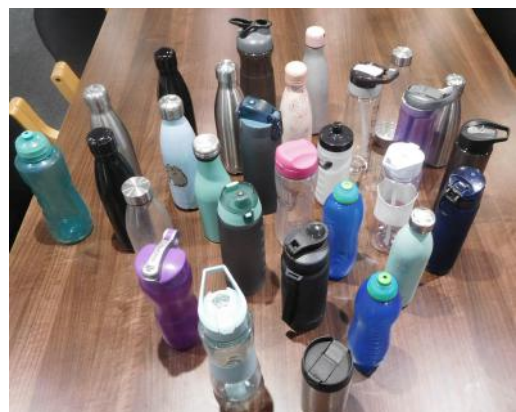


They said 'We are extremely grateful for this donation. Please pass on our thanks to all the members of the school and those who were involved in collecting the donation'.

As a school, we would like to thank everyone who brought in an item for our collection to help the local community.

### Water Bottles in Lost Property

The main office has had a number of bottles handed into lost property over the last few months. We would like to reunite the bottles with their owners. If you or your child recognise a lost bottle, we would ask that it is collected from student reception as soon as possible.



### **Sparx Reader - Years 7 and 8 - Miss Reuben**

Congratulations to Lilli-Rose in Year 7 and Laci in Year 8 for winning the Sparx Reader Champion in the Autumn term!

Each student read for over 20 hours from November to December, winning them nearly 4000 ARK points each!

Currently, Mr Roberts' form is at the top in Year 7, and Miss Bielecka's form is at the top in Year 8! These forms have had the most students complete their Sparx Reader points each week.



We look forward to seeing who will be our Spring Sparx Reader Champions. Don't forget, you can access our Library during break and lunch time, and before and after school.

### **Vesta - Karate**

Since the age of 11, Vesta has taken up the hobby of Karate. She has excelled in her determination, commitment and skill, and has recently been awarded the Best Newcomer 2023 at Links Karate. She currently trains between 8-10 hours per week, completing competitions in Essex, Suffolk, and Kent and from each of these competitions has come away with medals or trophies!

Due to her commitment despite being later in joining Karate, Vesta was selected to go to the largest English National Karate Competition in Sheffield at the beginning of February and we wish her the best of luck!



## Poetry Live - Year 10 English Trip

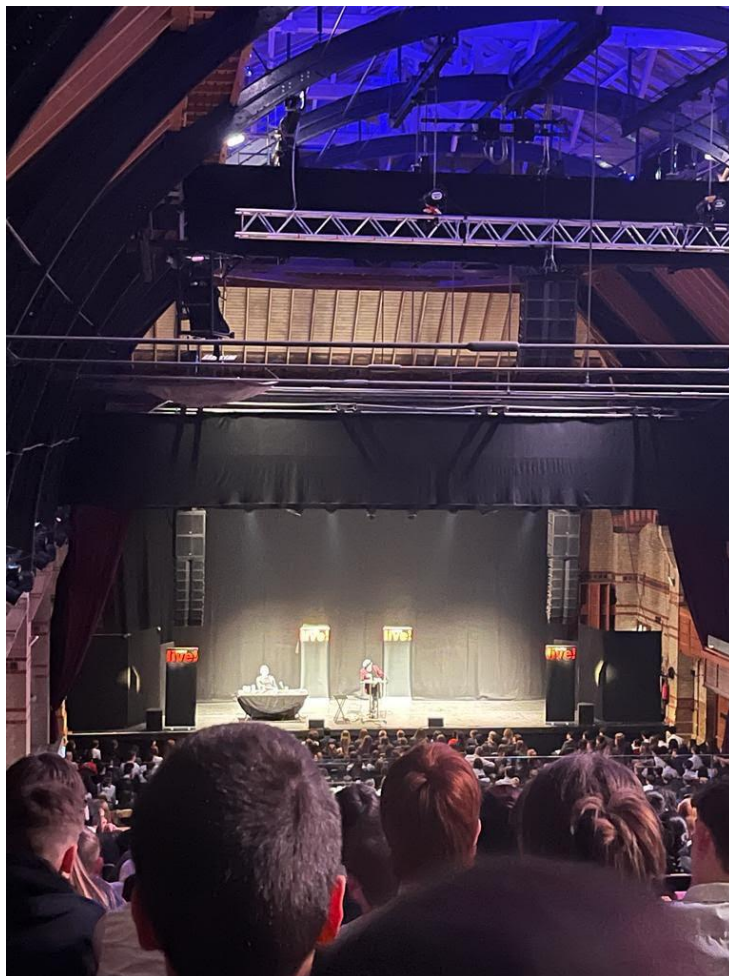
On Friday 26 January, 105 Year 10 students travelled to Cambridge's Corn Exchange to attend Poetry Live. This is an annual event where poets that are featured in the GCSE poetry anthology perform the GCSE power and conflict poems along with others from their collections.

**gcse poetry**  
**live!**

Students were treated to readings from current poet laureate Simon Armitage, former poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Daljit Nagra, Owen Sheers, Imtiaz Dharker and legendary John Agard.

As well as this, one of the chief poetry examiners hosted a session on answering the unseen poetry question.

All students were engaged in the event and demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout. They were a pleasure to spend the day with. We hope that they found the day both entertaining and informative and we are already looking forward to next year's event.





### High Sheriff Award

Congratulations to Sophie who received an Award this week. UTurn was very proud to welcome the High Sheriff of Essex who came to present Sophie with a High Sheriff Award.

These awards are designed to reward the volunteers, charities and community groups who devote their time and energy to improve the communities in which they live and work.

Well Done Sophie for all your hard-work, positive attitude and contribution as a role of UTurn Youth Ambassador.



### GCSE History Workshop - Mrs Smith

On 29 January our Year 10 GCSE history students took part in a Medieval Health workshop.

Helen Brown, resident historian from St Osyth Priory, worked with students to create a scented pomander to ward off bad smells- these were used throughout the medieval period in order to prevent illness. The pomander used rose petals, cinnamon, lavender, marigold and fennel amongst herbs and spices, ground together in a pestle and mortar then combined with a gum made from roots of a shrub grown in the middle east. Then using

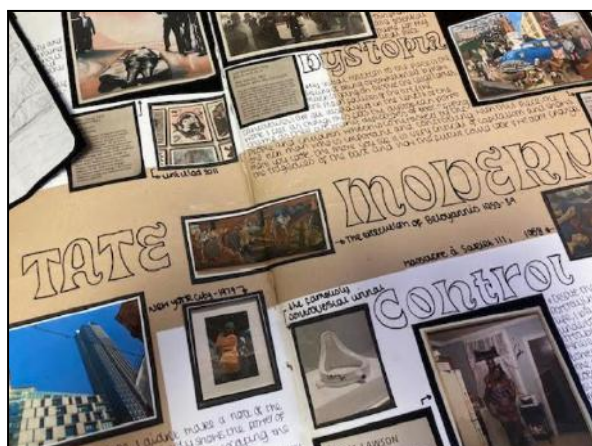
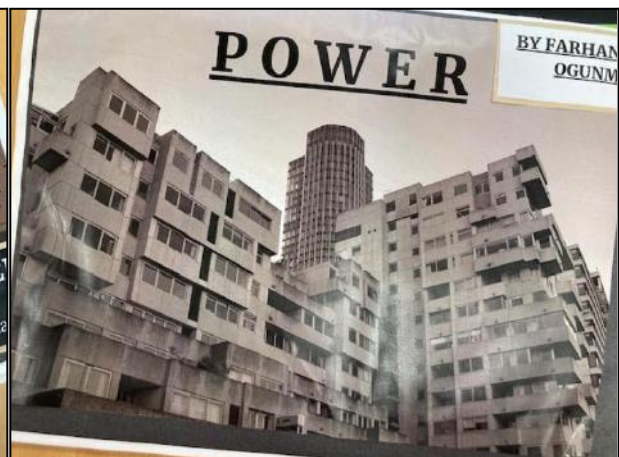
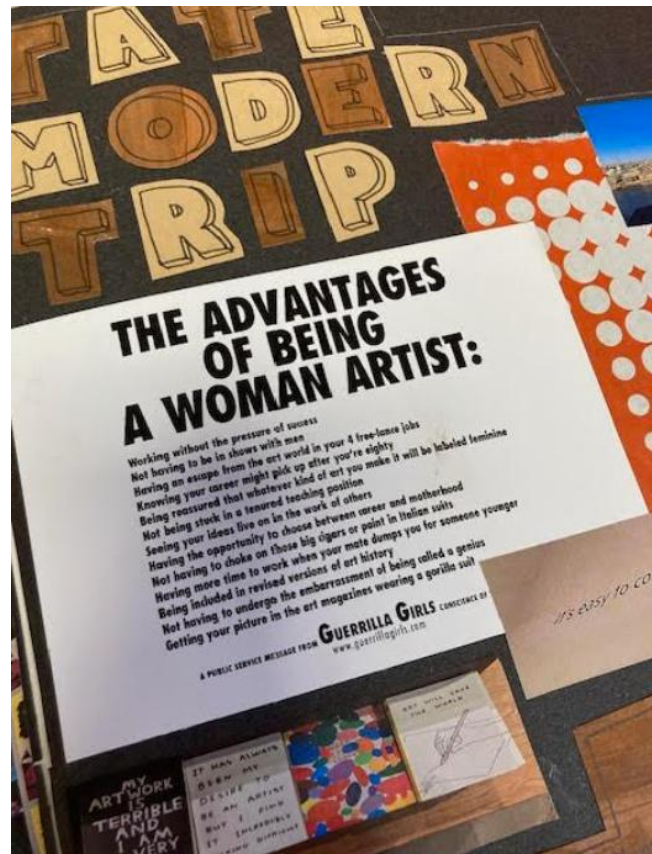
their fingers to form a ball, which when dried will serve to ward off the bad smells. Students also learned about the use of various herbs such as clove to heal toothache, spider webs to heal cuts, and a dead toad to heal a broken limb!



### Year 11 Tate Modern Trip

On 15 January our Year 11 Fine Art, Photography and 3D Design students had the opportunity to visit the Tate Modern gallery in London. The trip was to help them to explore the theme of this year's exam, 'Power'.

Students enjoyed being inspired by a range of modern artworks, sculptures and photography in the gallery and going up to the viewing platform and taking in the views of London. Photography students also had the opportunity to be taken for a walk along the Southbank to capture photographs of the buildings and streets.





## Beauty and the Beast - Drama Department

Don't miss out on seeing our fantastic production of Beauty and the Beast Jr! Follow this [link](#) to order tickets!

Between you and I, we are

Excited to have your

Attendance for an

Utterly amazing show.

This year students have worked phenomenally hard

Yet never giving up

and

This is turning into a fantastic show.

Happy memories have been shared

Excellent directing

By Miss K, with her

Eye for precision

And

Strong determination.

Tickets are on SALE Now.



# What is Essex ActivAte?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.

## Who is the programme for?

Clubs are suitable for children aged 4-16 years old who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from 'low income' working families who benefit from this extra support. Some clubs may offer paid spaces that run alongside Essex ActivAte, however these can be limited.



## What do the clubs offer?

Essex ActivAte clubs offer mainstream primary and secondary provision across the county, also dedicated mental wellbeing and SEND clubs. Each club delivers a variety of physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Family support is also available alongside the programme.

## How can I book my child onto a club?

To book onto a club during February, May/June or October half term, head over to the Essex ActivAte booking page on our website, then select the area you live in or the category you require and follow the steps.

To book onto a club during the easter, summer or winter holidays, use the link on your WONDE e-Voucher to find a club and book on, or contact a club directly.

## What is considered 'low income'?

We understand that all families circumstances are different, therefore if you are in employment or on an income which means you are unable to attend a holiday club without our support — you can book on.








# Half-Term & Holidays explained...



## Easter, Summer & Winter School Holidays


 The HAF programme runs in the easter, summer and winter holidays and is funded by the Department for Education. This is aimed solely at school children who receive benefits based free school meals during term time.

 Limited spaces are available for low income working families and other vulnerable groups who would otherwise not be able to afford holiday clubs. You can book onto our programme self-certifying.

 WONDE e-Voucher codes are sent by schools to all families eligible for benefits based free school meals. This code allows you to book onto local clubs and verify you are eligible for our programme.





## Spring & Autumn Half Terms

 Funded by Essex County Council, Essex ActivAte run clubs during February, May/June and October half term for children on benefit based free school meals or from 'low income' working families.

 The half term programme is funded to provide spaces to those areas most in need across Essex.



 You will not receive a WONDE e-Voucher code to book onto our clubs during half term.

 You will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the Essex ActivAte website — simply find what clubs are available in your area then book onto a club using the link provided or by contacting the club directly.



Scan the QR code to find out more!

