

November 2023 at The Colne

Key Dates

Year 11 Mocks - Please check emails for your individual mock timetable and seats.

13 December - Year 7 Christmas Ball 4:30pm-6pm

15 December - Careers Exploration Day

22 December - Term ends; finish at 12.25pm

Mr Beezy - Year 11

We were once again extremely fortunate to welcome Mr Beezy back to our school. His motivational assembly to Year 11 students, ahead of their mock season starting, was very inspiring. His message was very clear - if you put in the hard work now, you will reap the benefits later in life.

With regards to mock exams, students should now have received their individual exam timetables. All examination details can also be found on the Year 11 noticeboard situated outside pastoral.



On that note, we all wish Year 11 students every success ahead of their mock exams and in the words of Mr Beezy, remember - 'No Grind No Glory'

Remembrance Day

On Friday 10 November, Mr Crane and three of our Year 7 students: Abi, Elsie, and Mason visited the war memorial in Brightlingsea in order to lay a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day is always a special event in the calendar each year and although 11 November did not fall on a school day this year,



the school still paid their respects by laying the wreath.

Mr Barber also gave assemblies throughout the week to Years 7, 8 and 10 about the significance of the day and the topic of sacrifice.



Basketball - Dougie

Dougie recently went to Wrexham to take part in an under 14s wheelchair basketball tournament. He teamed up with the Cardiff Archers, and together they ended up winning the tournament, having won 3 of their 4 games over the day. Well done, Dougie!

Gymnastics - Serenity

In September, Serenity competed in the silver classic challenge competition. She was the County Champion and was also 1st on all pieces and qualified for regional finals.

Serenity competed in her regional finals on the 29 October and also was the Regional Champion. Serenity was also 1st on bars, 1st on beam, 2nd on vault and 4th on floor and will compete as part of the East Team at the National Finals in December. We wish you the best of luck, Serenity!



Duke of Edinburgh - Miss Joyce

We now have 25 students signed up to do their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award at the Colne, thirteen in Year 10 and twelve in Year 9. We are hoping to begin expeditions in May 2024 and in terms of the environment, and the ethos of the award, recycling and reusing things would be much better than buying brand new. We are fully aware of the cost of living crisis and do not want to limit any student being able to participate in this great opportunity.

Therefore, we are asking parents/carers, staff and the local community for suitable donations of preloved items for the Duke Of Edinburgh expedition.

We are asking for items such as plastic/camping cooking utensils, dry bags, waterproof trousers, rain jackets, fleeces, 65L rucksacks, base layers, head torches, sleeping bags and water bottles/bladders. More information on what Duke of Edinburgh students will need is [here](#).

If you would like to purchase a hoodie, please speak to Miss Joyce for more information.

KS3 Flag competition - Miss Bird



Our Year 7 geographers have taken part in the UK Polar Network's annual flag competition for Antarctica Day (1 December 2023). Our year 7s have learnt about the 1959 Antarctic Treaty to use Antarctica for peaceful and research purposes only.

We would like to say well done to all students who participated in this exciting competition, the entries were fantastic and it was very difficult to find our top 10 students! Our runners up this year are: Abi, Ellis, Niesje, Amneh, Lily, Noah, Milly, Georgia and Lillie.

A special congratulations to Danny Fielding who is the winner of this year's flag competition! Danny's design was well thought out, eye-catching and had a wonderful supporting paragraph for his design. Danny's flag has been sent to Antarctica where he will receive a certificate from UK Polar Network as well as a photograph of his flag in Antarctica being held by a Polar Explorer!



Danny's explanation for his flag:

The penguin is floating on an iceberg adrift in the sea, this symbolises global warming's

impact on Antarctica and the local wildlife. The red and blue is for the sea and a setting sun in the distance for a dramatic contribution of colours. The peace symbols represent the long fight over who owns Antarctica and how it is better to live in harmony. The stars represent the constellation that hangs over Antarctica, it is called the southern cross.

Look out for the photo in a future newsletter!

The Colne Community School Christmas Card Competition 2023 - Miss Mills

Theme: Christmas at the Colne School.

All students in Years 7 and 8 are eligible to enter our Christmas Card Competition this year. Your design theme should incorporate Christmas as well as something symbolic about the Colne School. You could include the Colne School logo, the uniform or ARK into your design with a christmas twist. The winner of the competition will have their card design used as the school's official Christmas card this year.



- Size should be maximum A4
- Submissions should be given to Miss Mills, Miss Notman or Mrs Kelly from the Art department or can be submitted via Google classroom
- Your design should include this year's theme
- Cards must be submitted before the deadline on the **4 December**

NHS Careers Trip - Ms Weaver

On Wednesday 22 November, 35 Year 9 and 10 students attended the NHS Careers Fair at Colchester Football Stadium. The students visited a range of stands with various interactive activities. Our pupils learnt how to ventilate an adult, perform CPR to babies, draw blood, conduct keyhole surgery, and the way radiotherapy works using a simulation. Furthermore, they were able to try on a HASMAT suit to see how difficult it is to work in hazardous environments.



They spoke to speech therapists and physiotherapists to learn more about these roles and they experienced some of the challenges of pregnancy (wearing a pregnancy body-wrap). The students seemed to enjoy the opportunities on offer and we, as staff, enjoyed seeing the young medics-in-the-making flourish in such an exciting environment.



Ypres Trip - Mrs Smith

On a very wet morning on the last day of the half term, 128 students and 14 staff headed off to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient and the Somme to learn more about the First World War.

After a very early start, our arrival on the Ypres Salient began with a visit to the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Lijssenthoek was a casualty clearing station and is the burial place of nearly 11,000 commonwealth soldiers, one grave belongs to nurse Nellie Spindler and we took the opportunity to visit her grave and to hear a little about the difficulties nursing in the war.



Next we visited the Langemark German cemetery which is very different from the commonwealth ones. We laid a wreath here on behalf of the school. Later we moved to Hooze Crater museum, we looked at the many exhibits, walked around the recreated trenches and learned about the soldiers' uniforms in the war. One of our students from each group was even able to dress up in the uniform.

In the evening we went chocolate shopping in Ypres and had dinner in a local restaurant before heading to the Menin gate ceremony for 8pm where 2 of our students laid a wreath to commemorate the war dead.

Finally we arrived at our accommodation, an ex-army barracks which is now a youth hostel, for the night we were all exhausted after a long day.

On the second day after breakfast we headed to the Somme region of France to focus on the biggest battle of 1916. We stopped at 'Sunken Lane' where we learned about the army advance on the first of July 1916 before heading to the Newfoundland memorial for the Canadian troops and where Mr Shanks, our





Facilities Manager and former officer in the army, found a headstone from his regiment. At Newfoundland you can still see the outline of the allied trenches.

Our final stop for the trip was the Thiepval Memorial where Lily was able to find the name of a relative who had fought in the battle. As a whole group we were able to lay a wreath here too.

We had learned heaps in those 2 days which supports our in class learning so after a quick trip to McDonalds we headed for the ferry home.



Year 7 Christmas Ball - Mr Elliott

On Wednesday 13 December we are once again holding our Christmas Ball for Year 7 students from 4:30-6pm!

Tickets for the Ball can be purchased for £1 from Year 7 tutors or our Student Leadership Team. If your child will be attending, you will also need to complete this [Google Form](#).

We are very excited to invite our Year 7s to this event and can't wait for the Christmas fun to ensue!

Dance Exam - Miss Sargent

On Thursday 16 November 2023 the Colne Dance Department hosted a BTEC sharing for the Year 10 and 11 assessments.

The site staff had the epic job of rotating all the lights and forming the stage in the other direction.

The students were prepared and had been working phenomenally hard to produce epic performances.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the audience for their attendance and support. Many of the students achieved above their expected outcome. Well done to all students involved. You worked hard, showed such strength and determination. You are all a pleasure to work with. Thank you.

Rosie Warren Davis (spectator) said "It was really well choreographed and the outfits were really good "

Tristan (participant) said "I think the experience was really good, the energy was excellent as we were all in it together"





Freya (participant) said "I really enjoyed both of the dances that we did. The costumes were really cool. I liked the bit when we used talc powder to represent dust"

Holly (participant) said "It was great and I feel we all worked as a team and I have made new friends "

Ava (participant) said "It was great team work. The dances were well thought out and the duets were fun to choreograph"



Chief of Police Visit - Mrs Parker

I am delighted to say that we had the pleasure of the Essex Chief of Police, Ben-Julian Harrington along with Sgt Charlotte Bailey and PC Nikki Heath visit the school on Monday 13 November to provide more insight into the topics the students are writing and researching about for their work in their citizenship project.



We're extremely grateful for this opportunity as it has benefitted the students' coursework immensely and we're incredibly proud of Matthew, Theo and Jack who initially contacted the police to ask for their assistance. These three students had a separate meeting with the chief of Police and his colleagues in the boardroom and were able to discuss their chosen topic and ask direct questions before we went to the hall where we were joined by the other students.

All students had prepared questions relating to their chosen topic beforehand and were given the opportunity to ask both the Chief of Police and Sgt Bailey direct questions.

This experience also provided an insight into one of the many jobs accessible through GCSE Citizenship and provided information about the roles someone might do in the police force. This was a great benefit for the Year 11 students who expressed interest in this career path as it also gave them the opportunity to question and engage with professionals.

Mathew was also awarded the Jack Petchey Award for his letter to the Chief of Essex Police - well done Mathew!

Students have also been completing fundraising events around the school and have planned and executed their fundraising extremely well. This has ranged from sweet sales in the refectory to football activities on the astroturf. Some students are still to complete their fundraising event.

The charities the students have chosen are:

- The Ben Kinsella Trust for our knife crime charity, and
- Beacon House in Colchester for the homelessness charity.

Once our fundraising is completed the monies raised will be presented to both charities by the students.

Update on Marc's House in the Congo - Mrs Parker and Mr Mwanyo

Firstly I would like to introduce you to Danny. Danny was found abandoned wearing very little at the side of a river amongst the rubbish surrounding him. We are unsure of his age but he is thought to have been around 4 months old when he was found. Danny has a safe and secure home now at Marc's house but we are hoping that someone will come forward from his family and take him home but if not he has his forever home with us.



Moza and Balbina are the two youngest females currently staying at Marc's house. Neither child has parents to come and take them home. Marc's house is their forever home. These are just 3 of the hundreds of children that we help. Some children live with us on a permanent basis, others come to us for food and shelter as a place of safety at night.

Some of you may remember that before the summer holidays we sent a large quantity of donations in a container to the Congo in support of Marc's House charity.

Due to issues at the port our container of donations took nearly 3 months to arrive at its final destination. Thankfully the donations have now been distributed and are being enjoyed by the children. The children now have toys to play with, clothes to cover them and despite all they have to endure they have a smile on their face.



On behalf of those children we would like to say thank you to all those who supported and donated to Marc's House.

We would like to say thank you again to Colne School for the donations of computers when they replaced the older ones around the school. These computers will provide an income for Marc's house for a long time to come as some have gone to form an internet type cafe which will provide a steady income. Some of the computers are being used by children at Marc's house and some we have donated to the local school in exchange for our children being able to access a basic education.

We would like to start collecting again after Christmas in readiness for sending another container over to the Congo but we do have a problem and need your help. Sadly we have lost our storage area so are asking if anyone has a dry garage or lock up they are not using so that we can store our donations in until we ship them. All items will be boxed so we are not in need of hanging space, just somewhere dry. It seems a shame to turn away much needed donations if alternative storage can be found. If you do, please contact Lynne Parker or Ali Mwanyo via mail@colne.school.

Thank you again from the volunteers and children from Marc's House.

P.E. - Mrs Pulford

Football & Netball Leagues

After the first few weeks of the term training and preparing, our school football and netball teams have been competing in the Coastal Schools League. In these competitions each year group plays against five local secondary schools - Clacton Coastal Academy, Clacton County High, Harwich & Dovercourt High School, Manningtree and Tendring Technology College.



In the boys football leagues, our teams were particularly successful. The Year 7 team finished as runners up, only losing one game which is a fantastic start for this team. Both our Year 8 and 9 team remained undefeated, with both teams also drawing one game. This gave our Year 8 team a one point advantage against their nearest competitor to see them finish the league in first place. For the Year 9s it was even closer with final placings being decided on goal difference. Fortunately, we had a greater goal difference so finished the league in first place. It was also another successful season for the Year 10 team. Again the league table was close and went to goal difference with two teams losing just one match. Some convincing victories helped our team to have the greater goal difference and to finish the season at the top of the league. Congratulations to all students that have represented our school football teams. We look forward to presenting many of you with your medals after Christmas.



Attendance at netball club has been fantastic so far this year, making team selection difficult in many year groups. Our Year 10 and 11 teams used their experience from previous years to ensure they had a successful season. Both teams only lost one match and as a result finished the league in the runners up position.

For our Year 7 team it was a tough start as many players had not played a competitive match before, however, after the first couple of games their knowledge of the game improved considerably resulting in a third place finish in the league.

For our Year 8 and 9 teams it was great to involve so many different players even though results did not always go our way.

Both teams finished in fourth place in their leagues, which gives us a target to improve on next year. Congratulations to all students that represented our school teams.



District Cross Country

After a few years of wet and windy weather, for once this year the weather was on our side as our school teams headed to the District Cross Country competition at Colchester Sports Park. With races for each year group staggered throughout the afternoon, our students waited eagerly for their chance to test their endurance.

The Year 7 teams started the event with our greatest success - congratulations to Cosmo for becoming the District Champion with a clear gap to the runner up in the race. Charlie also did extremely well to finish in 6th place and help our team to finish in 4th place overall. The Year 7 girls followed this up by also finishing in 4th place, with Jessica finishing 7th and Eliza finishing in 10th place.

In the junior boys competition we had our best team finish of the event with this group of Year 8 and 9 boys finishing in 3rd place. Alfie finished as the runner up in the race. He was supported by Ethan in 7th place and then Tamer and James in 16th and 17th place. It was a tough competition for the junior girls, with Ava our best runner in 18th place and Meredith in 37th place.

The event finished with the intermediate boys who also finished in 3rd place overall. With 3 runners in the top 12 places it was a shame we did not have one more runner to give us an even better team total. Well done to Rhodri (8th), Jacob (10th) and Lewis (12th). In the intermediate girls race our team finished in 5th place. Polly was our highest finisher in 6th place. She was supported by Estelle (27th), Wanwisa (33rd) and Ava (34th).

Congratulations to all students that competed in this event, we hope you enjoyed the experience and look forward to further competitions on the track during the summer term.



Race for the Kids - Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

Every year Great Ormond Street Hospital's Charity organises a 5km fun run and this year schools were invited to take part. The money raised this year is to support the building of a new Children's Cancer Centre.

On Wednesday 4 October, over 60 students and several members of staff made their way to the off-site field where some chose to jog, others chose to walk and some pushed themselves to complete the 5km in the fastest time possible!

We are absolutely thrilled with the amount that we have been able to raise and a particular mention must go to Darci in Year 8. Darci set up her own JustGiving page and has raised over £600 for the charity. In total we have been able to raise **£783** for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The PE Faculty would like to extend their thanks to all students and members of staff that supported this fantastic event.





Cricket Coaching Masterclass

Our school was selected to take part in a cricket coaching morning to celebrate the current Cricket World Cup being played in India. Students learnt about the countries taking part in the World Cup and then experienced some batting, bowling and fielding drills before playing some indoor cricket rapid fire games.

We would like to thank Mr Digby (from Essex Cricket) for running these sessions for our students and hope it will encourage more students to think about taking up the sport.



BOOK ONTO OUR FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto our FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations and brought to you by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education!



IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Clubs offer spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years) who are eligible for benefit based free school meals. Limited spaces are available for young people who are also from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will be running across Essex in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford!



WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal! We also offer specialist youth, SEND and mental wellbeing clubs.



HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

If you have received a Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link on the voucher to book your child/ren onto a club. If you're still awaiting a voucher code, please contact your school. If you aren't eligible for a Holiday Activities voucher as your child/ren do not receive benefits based free school meals, please contact a local club directly to book on by heading to our website below.



A Christmas Carol

-live performance by candlelight-

At Colne Yacht Club
Sunday 3rd December

Doors open at 2pm

Performance starts at 2.45pm

Colchester Arts Centre Director Anthony Roberts' traditional rendition of the Dickens classic, with musical accompaniment by Jamie Cunliffe.



Mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies!



Tickets available on the door (pay what you can afford). All proceeds to Cancer Research and Brightlingsea Winterfest Wellbeing Fund

For access queries please contact nickysheales@gmail.com

07736 413532

