Brentwood School







Brentwood School Times 2026

Incipe | Brentwoodian | The Chronicle

Welcome to the Brentwood School Times

It is a pleasure to introduce the 2026 edition of the Brentwood School Times - now in its second year in this unified format. Last year marked the first time we brought three long-standing publications together into one magazine, creating a single space to share stories from across the Brentwood School community.

Within these pages, you will find the creativity of our youngest pupils in Incipe, the achievements of students across the Senior School in the Brentwoodian, and a wide range of news and milestones from our Old Brentwoods in the Chronicle. Bringing these perspectives together allows us to celebrate specific stories and accomplishments, but it also helps demonstrate how cohesive we are as a community, with shared interests, networks, and values.

As you explore the 2026 edition, we hope you gain a sense of the energy, purpose and character which have defined the year - whether in the classroom, on stage, on the sports field, the contributions of our alumni, or the impact of the Foundation. The Brentwood School Times serves both as a record of the past year and a reminder of the optimism we should have as a community when looking to the future.

Wherever you are in your Brentwood journey - as a parent, pupil, member of staff, Old Brentwood or friend of the School - we hope the BST inspires you to get involved. Enjoy this year's magazine, you may be featured in the next!



Published by the Brentwood School Association
Brentwood School, Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood,
Essex, CM15 8EE, United Kingdom

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It's my great pleasure to welcome readers to this year's edition of the Brentwood School Times, which brings together our three annual publications: ***Incipe****,* ***The Brentwoodian****, and* ***The Chronicle****.*

In Maori culture, the concept of Whakapapa translates as 'place in layers' and refers to the belief that we all belong to communities that have their roots in the past, that we help shape in the present, and that continue long after we're gone under the stewardship of those who follow us. The Brentwood School Times encapsulates this by celebrating the whole Brentwood School community, from the achievements of our youngest pupils through to significant milestones in the lives of those who left the School many years ago.

It is also fitting to mention in this context the publication in November 2025 of 'Virtue, Learning Manners: The Life and Times of Brentwood School'. The brainchild of Mr Mike Willis, who taught History and Politics at Brentwood for no fewer than 47 years between 1973-2020, it retells and updates the story (so far) of this special place. Sadly, Mike passed away partway through writing the book, but - in true Brentwood fashion - his good friend and colleague Ian Walton (who himself taught at the School for 33 years) took up the baton, while the project was brought to fruition with the help of three more Old Brentwoods through the editing, publishing, and printing process. You can read more about this wonderful new book in the pages that follow.

I would also like to record my thanks here to the increasing number of friends and alumni who support the School Foundation, the sole purpose of which is to provide transformational bursaries for talented young people whose financial circumstances would otherwise mean a Brentwood education would simply not be possible. In offering these bursaries, we follow the long history of ensuring our School is accessible to children of different backgrounds. Former Headmaster Edwin Bean (1891-1914) envisaged that *'the children of judges and those of mechanics and tradesmen should mix on equal terms'* while many readers who attended Brentwood between the 1940s and 1970s benefited from the Direct Grant. All those who support our Foundation make an immediate and tangible difference to students who make the most of their education and, we are confident, will pay forward the gift they've been given as they move through and beyond Brentwood. If you would like to know more, further details of the Foundation and its work can be found on pages 78-87.



As much as we respect our heritage and take confidence from our deep roots, standing still isn't in the School's DNA, as illustrated by the opening of our 122-bedroom Boarding House and Sixth Form café, both part of the Sir Michael Snyder Building. The official opening in November 2025 took place on the same day as the launch of 'Virtue, Learning Manners: The Life and Times of Brentwood School', a day when the past, present, and future were very much in evidence.

The Brentwood School Association, under whose banner this publication falls, continues its work to bring together all those who are part of, or connected to, our community, and published its first collective annual calendar in September. Whether you're a regular at School/Alumni/Friends/Foundation events or haven't connected for some time, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all those who have worked on or contributed to this publication. I hope you enjoy reading it and - for those who have perhaps been less involved with the School in recent times - that it encourages you to reconnect.



Michael Bond, Headmaster

Brentwood School's Ongoing Investment in Excellence: The Sir Michael Snyder Building and Future Developments

Brentwood School is celebrating a new chapter in student life, marked by the recent official opening of its state-of-the-art boarding facility and a robust plan for future investment, including a dedicated Wellbeing Centre.

The Sir Michael Snyder Building - A new era of boarding
The new, purpose-built boarding house, formally named The Sir Michael Snyder Building, was officially opened on 22nd November 2025, during a special weekend ceremony attended by governors and guests. This significant development reinforces Brentwood School's history of tradition while embracing innovation, securing boarding as an essential part of its community.

The facility was named in recognition of Sir Michael Snyder (OB), honouring his outstanding and lengthy service to the School. Sir Michael served in various capacities, including as Governor from 1992 to 2007, Vice Chairman from 2007 to 2018, and most recently as Chairman of Governors from 2018 to 2024.

The new boarding house is sector-leading, developed through years of planning to offer the highest standard of accommodation and facilities. The primary aim is to function as a true home away from home, ensuring students feel safe, inspired and supported to thrive both academically and personally.

Accommodation and design
The accommodation itself is cutting-edge, featuring 122 single, en-suite bedrooms located on the upper floors, offering a modern, university-style living environment.

The fully-accessible building is thoughtfully designed and subdivided into three main functional sections, separate houses for girls and boys, and a central shared hub.

This central shared hub is the heart of the community, including new dining, communal and recreation areas, along with an outdoor courtyard and a dedicated landscaped social space. Strengthening the whole school community, a Sixth Form Café, operated by the award-winning UK café chain Benugo, is situated at the core of this new development.

Impact on the School community
The new facility significantly enhances the School experience for all students by offering flexibility in boarding options and, critically, strengthening the international dimension of the School. Headmaster Michael Bond emphasised the building's role in welcoming talented young people from countries near and far, stating that this fosters a vibrant, diverse community that enables students to make lifelong, cross-cultural connections.

Speaking at the opening, the current Chairman of Governors, Lord Guy Black of Brentwood, praised the achievement: "This facility is more than just a building; it represents our commitment to providing students with a safe, inspiring, and modern environment where they can thrive both academically and personally... I know it will serve our community for generations to come."

The successful completion of the project was celebrated by many who nurtured it from conception. Guests at the official opening and lunch included Lord Black, Headmaster Michael Bond, Head of

Prep Alice Goodfellow and Bursar Jeremy Blunden. They were joined by representatives from Cottrell & Vermeulen Architecture, Oxbury Chartered Surveyors, and Rooff construction company, who partnered with the school's Estates Team and Houseparents to deliver the vision.

Investing in the future: Upcoming Developments (2026)
The Sir Michael Snyder Building is the latest example of Brentwood School's ongoing commitment to investing in its infrastructure and enriching the student environment. As School Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, Jeremy Blunden CBE LVO, outlined in a previous overview, continuous site enhancements are a priority. Following the opening of the new boarding house and the recent extension to the Queens Building, the School is now focusing on a major new development for 2026.

The new Wellbeing Centre
The next significant project will be the creation of a dedicated Wellbeing Centre, set to open during the Michaelmas Term 2026.

Reflecting an increasing focus on pupil welfare, the centre is designed to bring together the School's key support functions under one roof. This includes the pastoral, counsellor, learning support, and other wellbeing services. The creation of this integrated facility will involve the redevelopment of the area previously occupied by the Maintenance Department on the Senior School site. Work is scheduled to begin in January 2026, promising to create both an attractive, dedicated building and improved landscaping along the main access route to the dining halls.

Further site enhancements
In addition to the Wellbeing Centre, the School will continue its efforts to improve existing buildings and outdoor spaces throughout the year:

- Prep School playground: The Prep School Reception Playground is scheduled for redevelopment during July and August 2026.
- Outdoor spaces: There will be further enhancements of existing outdoor areas, following recent developments such as the creation of garden areas, upgrading playgrounds, adding a new cricket net facility at the Prep School, and developing spaces to support outdoor learning.

These continuous enhancements reflect the School's steadfast commitment to maintaining its existing facilities and enriching the environment for current and future staff and pupils, ensuring Brentwood remains at the forefront of educational excellence.

Inside The Sir Michael Synder Building.





(Left to right) Headmaster Michael Bond, Lord Guy Black, Sir Michael Snyder, and Lady Mary Snyder at the unveiling of the plaque.



Outside The Sir Michael Synder Building.

A Message from the Chairman of Governors

2025 was a challenging year for all independent schools – and Brentwood was certainly not immune to the harsh head winds blowing from Westminster.



© House of Lords/Photography by Roger Harris

The Government's decision to impose VAT on fees half way through the academic year – a calculated act of cruelty – combined with the withdrawal of business rates relief (as part of a wider attack on independent education) and the increase in national insurance contributions has made life tough for many schools. And more importantly it has been very hard for many parents who already sacrifice a great deal to educate their children at schools like ours.

There may be challenging times still ahead, but because of our strong financial position – built up over many years of prudent budgeting and careful control of costs – we are weathering the storm. Indeed we have been able to continue investing in education, as well as in our estate (work is beginning even now on a new Wellbeing Centre), without placing additional burdens on hard working parents.

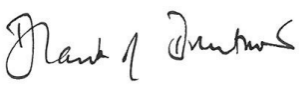
The most visible result of that has been our exceptional new boarding house, which was formally opened in November. Named The Sir Michael Snyder Building, in recognition of the enormous contribution of my predecessor to the School, it is now home to up to 120 boarders in state of the art accommodation, along with a sixth form café. It already feels an integral part of the School, and it safeguards a vital part of Brentwood's history and heritage.

That heritage has been immaculately chronicled in the School's new history, *'Virtue, Learning Manners: The Life and Times of Brentwood School'*, the brainchild of Michael Willis and written by him. Tragically, Mike was never able to complete the book, but his great friend Ian Walton stepped into the breach to do so. The result is a magnificent work outlining fluently and in colourful detail (as you would expect from Mike) our School's story from the 16th century right up to the present day. Please do read it – and, if you want to know more about that story, visit The Willis Museum. You will always be very welcome.

One of the most important aspects of the School's history is the emphasis that we have always placed on access, and in ensuring we attract talented children from across the UK and the globe, regardless of means. It is what makes our School such a rich, vibrant inclusive community. We already invest significantly in life-changing bursaries for students from disadvantaged backgrounds – but we can and must do more. That is why the Brentwood School Foundation is so important to our future. It is already making a real impact with new bursaries funded by individuals and local businesses. In this issue of Brentwood School Times you will read more about its vital work: please get involved if you can.

One of those who was a great champion of the Foundation's work, and an incredible servant of the School over four decades, was Colin Finch, a former Chairman of Governors. We were all incredibly sad to hear of his passing in the summer of last year. I am so pleased we had a number of opportunities to remember him and give thanks for his dedication and commitment to our School.

You are reading this issue of BST because you, too, are committed to our School – cherishing its past and safeguarding its future. Whether you are an OB like me, a parent, a pupil, a teacher or one of our growing band of generous philanthropists, thank you for all your do for our community, and for all who study and work at Brentwood. We appreciate it so much.



Lord Black of Brentwood (OB 1971- 1981)
Chairman of Governors





Incipe



We hope you enjoy this look back at the year's highlights, and we thank everyone – pupils, parents, staff and beyond – for their hard work, dedication and unwavering support. Here's to another fantastic year at the Prep School, and we look forward to all the new adventures the next academic year will bring."

Introduction

Each school year culminates in a number of celebrations. The endeavours of the children, and all the grown-ups involved rightly deserve recognition.

In particular, we spend time with our Year 6 pupils who are at the end of one chapter and at the beginning of something new. This year, we reflected on how their journey has been anything but ordinary. Before they took their next step, we took a moment to look back at how far they had come and the challenges they had already navigated at the young age of 11.

It is becoming easier for adults to compartmentalise a surreal part of our recent history, but school life for these 11 year olds was derailed at the ages of 5, 6 and 7.

Days they should have spent tearing around the playground, learning to write with their peers, and developing the skills to manage complex social interaction were instead spent away from school and friends. This crucial part of their young lives was spent at home with their hardworking parents, who overnight had to become school teachers whilst juggling their jobs and, for many, looking after other siblings too.

But these children did something incredible, and most likely they didn't even realise it at the time. They found a way through, they found a way to thrive. They adapted, they persisted, and they kept learning, even when it was not easy.

That is true resilience.

It is very difficult to teach resilience as a standalone phenomenon. You have to experience difficulty in order to develop resilience, and as educators and parents, we can be the children's guides and motivators on the sidelines.

Learning how to bounce back when things go wrong and trying again when they feel like giving up. Even now, in the way they support each other, the way they help younger pupils, the way they take pride in their learning — the children show that same quiet strength every day.

As you will see over the following pages, 2024-2025 was another brilliant year at the Prep, and the children achieved great things.

We hope you enjoy a glimpse into Prep School life.

Best wishes,



Alice Goodfellow, Head of Prep



Our Community

From our newest 3 year olds to our oldest 11 year olds, our strength lies in our vibrant, connected community. We believe in the power of working, learning, and celebrating together. This page highlights the exciting initiatives, traditions, and projects that bring every pupil, family, and staff member together, ensuring every child feels connected and supported throughout their journey with us.

Scan the QR code to discover our pupils' stories: 'In Our Own Words'.

Reclaiming Narratives: Black History Month 2024

The Prep fully embraced the theme for Black History Month, 'Reclaiming Narratives,' by embarking on a powerful journey to uncover the stories and histories of their own families. Pupils and staff were invited to dive into their own heritage and share those unique experiences with the community. These personal stories and narratives proved to be a lovely addition to the learning about the importance of black history, and the School shared them with the wider community shortly thereafter in our digital flipbook 'In Our Own Words'. This anthology has been crafted to celebrate the voices and stories of our community. It's a heartfelt showcase of who we are and the richness of our shared experiences.

In the KS2 assembly, some of our Year 6 pupils led the proceedings, maintaining the focus on Reclaiming Narratives. With some audience participation, there were personal stories shared, but the pupils also took time to research some key figures in black history, shining a light on their achievements. From Martin Luther King Jr. to Rosa Parks, the pupils shared their findings and knowledge, encouraging everyone to look at their own family narratives.



Cosy for a cause on Pyjamas for the Planet Day.

Pyjamas for the Planet Day - Trinity 2025

Pyjamas for the Planet Day was chosen by our Eco Warriors to raise awareness of the environmental actions we can all take. Dressed in their comfiest pyjamas, the pupils conserved their own energy while actively learning how to reduce their impact on the planet. The children shared thoughtful ideas for protecting our environment, ranging from switching off lights and walking to school to reusing what we already have.

Prep School Marks 80th Anniversary of VE Day - Trinity 2025

The Prep's VE Day celebrations started with special assemblies. Key Stage 1 had their Music Assembly, where songs, including the hopeful 'Peace Is Flowing Like a River', were sung. In the Key Stage 2 Chapel Assembly, Sophia in Year 5 led a reading that explained how every part of the body is important, just like every person, reinforcing the idea of diverse people working together to achieve the peace celebrated on VE Day.



Patriotic chalk drawings to celebrate VE Day.

In their PYP lesson, Year 3 learned about wartime protocol, including what to do when a siren sounded. Pupils led their own learning through Inquiry, gaining an understanding of what life was like then, and how working and supporting each other helped to bring peace.

To end the day, sisters Olivia in Year 2 and Lexi in Year 6 shared stories about their Great-Grandpa, Mr Tom Davidson, a 101-year-old RAF veteran. Mr Davidson, who served as a wireless operator on Halifax bombers and completed 30 missions, celebrated VE Day today with his family. He described the moment of victory as a 'wonderful feeling' and expressed relief that Europe was free, emphasising the importance of remembering the sacrifices made and the joy experienced on that historic day.

Admissions Wednesday

Come and visit us for a bespoke tour designated to your entry point, every Wednesday at 9.30am

Call us to book, 01277 243 291

Virtue, Learning, Manners



Charitable Endeavours



Children in Need 2024.

Harvest Festival at the Prep - Michaelmas 2024

Our Harvest Festival celebration was in support of the Brentwood Foodbank, which is part of the Trussell Trust network and works closely with local churches to combat food poverty. The Revd Dr McConnaughie led an assembly which featured a special guest - Pastor Peter Graham from the Doddinghurst Road Community Church. He shared some hard-hitting facts about food poverty and highlighted the immense, real-world difference the pupils' donations would make to families in need.

Throughout the day, the school collected a vast array of donations for the Foodbank. As the collection concluded, our Year 3 pupils worked alongside the Prep Porters to load up the van.

It was great to see the children smiling and clearly proud of what the School had collected together. Thank you to all families for their incredible generosity and kindness. The spirit of the Prep community truly shone through in this vital harvest appeal.



Charity Afternoon 2025.

Celebrating a SPOTacular Day for Children in Need - Michaelmas 2024

The Prep became a sea of spots, with pupils and staff alike embracing the fundraising theme with incredible enthusiasm. Creativity was everywhere, demonstrated through the brilliant spotty outfits. The fashion included everything from brightly patterned hair accessories and funky ties to dozens of Pudsey ears and even some truly memorable spotty clown shoes.

It was fantastic to see the entire school community get involved and show such vibrant support for this wonderful cause. The day was filled with colour and laughter, proving that fundraising could also be a lot of fun.



Years 2, 3 & 4 Charity Disco 2025.

Making a Splash for Charity - Lent 2025

Fifteen of our determined Year 6 Prep pupils took the plunge in a major charity challenge: the Swimathon, known as the world's biggest fundraising swimming event. Led by Mrs Ombok, Head of Year 6 and our Swim Squad Coach, the team swam an incredible total of 600 lengths between them. This meant that each pupil conquered 40 lengths! This remarkable display of endurance and teamwork took place during an amazing evening where the atmosphere and support were electric.

Their hard work in the pool paid off significantly for two brilliant causes: Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. The Prep team's dedicated efforts resulted in an impressive final standing on the national leaderboard for funds raised.

Annual Charity Disco - Lent & Trinity 2025

The Prep hosted two brilliant Charity Discos, ensuring pupils across the School had a fantastic time while raising an incredible amount for good causes. First, our Year 5 and 6 pupils lit up the dance floor with bubbles, brilliant beats, and some legendary YMCA moves, and even the staff couldn't resist joining in!

Following that success, Years 2, 3, and 4 took to the hall for their own Charity Disco. With DJ James at the ready and the popular bubble machine, the children were treated to another fun-filled evening.

The two discos were a fantastic display of the pupils' enthusiasm and the community's generosity, making both evenings a huge success.

Annual Charity Afternoon - Trinity 2025

With the weather on our side, our annual Charity Afternoon was another roaring success and fun for all.

Year 6 pupils organised a fantastic afternoon full of a wide range of activities for their peers and staff to enjoy. Working in teams, they planned the theme of their stall and their marketing strategy. This year's brilliant creations included fantastic beauty salons, engaging sports games, carnival games, laser tag, and even a pit stop garage.

There was something for everyone to enjoy, showcasing the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our Year 6 students. Thank you to all who participated, who helped create such fantastic stalls, and to those who generously donated.

£3000

raised by Year 6 during the Swimathon

£2800

raised by Years 2-6 during the Charity Discos

£1190

raised by Year 6 during the Charity Afternoon

House Reports

What a great year we have had in Bayman!

In Lent Term, we had our Bayman House Week. In our Assembly, we learnt about our namesake, Percy Bayman, who, in the 1920s, donated land in Crescent Drive for a new hospital to be built. The site was originally part of Middleton Hall, which is now owned by the Prep School. Percy Bayman also donated land to Brentwood School, including Bayman Woods, which is where we have our forest school lessons. We asked the small community to spread some of Percy's kindness with a message to someone written on a blue heart.

We have achieved a huge amount of success over the year, with 'first places' in the following events:

- Cross-country
- Year 3 hockey, netball and swimming
- Year 4 hockey and swimming
- Sports Day
- Race Across the Globe
- EYFS & KS1 Summer Event

And 'second places' in:

- Year 5 swimming
- Maths
- Reading
- Lent Good Conduct Cup - joint second
- Music - joint second

A special mention to how proud we were of our performance in House Music this year. Annabel gave us a beautiful rendition of 'Castle on a Cloud' from 'Les Misérables', and the way the whole House pulled together to sing (with Gracie singing backwards!) was...well...to be honest... supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

With so much success, it is hard to believe we did not win the inaugural House Cup at the end of the year! However, we are proud of our 'third place' and have every ambition of improving next year!

A final 'thank you' to our Year 6 House Captains for all their hard work and to all our Leavers. May you have much success in your future schools, and we hope you keep the spirit of Percy Bayman very much alive.

Mrs Long & Mrs Lee



Sports Day 2025.



Bayman House Assembly.

As this incredible school year draws to a close, it is with the utmost pride and admiration that I reflect on what the children of Brimley House have achieved. What a moment it was to see the House Cup raised in their name! This wasn't just a trophy; it was a symbol of every single child's effort, passion, and unbreakable spirit. It was an honour to be their Head of House.

I remember so clearly the start of the year, gathered in our first assembly, where we explored the theme of bravery. We chose the motto, "Be Brave, Be Bold, Be Brimley," and I can honestly say I have watched the children live that out every day since. It became our ethos. The children showed bravery by trying new things, by stepping out of their comfort zones, and by supporting their friends when they needed it most. This culture of courage was wonderful to see.

We had many highlights throughout the year, including the House Music event. Who could forget the children belting out 'Bare Necessities' with such gusto? It was pure joy and teamwork, a moment that encapsulated the fun and unity of the House. Our Sports Day performance, too, demonstrated our hard work and effort. We may not have won every race, but our incredible effort and unwavering encouragement for one another demonstrated the true meaning of sportsmanship and House spirit. Every runner, and every supporter contributed to that massive team effort.

As we look forward to next year, remember to carry with you the same bravery and boldness that made this year so special. Get ready, because next year we'll be back to defend our title.

Thank you, Brimley, you are all superstars!

Miss Lee & Mrs Crichton



Sports Day 2025.



Pupils dress up for House Reading.



Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimle



Pupils dress up for House Reading.



Sports Day 2025.

What a fantastic year it has been for our House! While there have been many moments of individual brilliance, the real source of pride has been the steady progress and determination shown by every member of the house throughout the year.

We have celebrated some wonderful highlights along the way: going 'under the sea' to secure 2nd place at House Music, with Scarlett's beautiful solo standing out; a brilliant effort at House Cross Country, where our strategy of '100 more meters!' carried us through to great success; and our heroic performance at Sports Day, coming in a well-earned 2nd place. Alongside these achievements, we have led a fantastic outreach scheme, donating books to various schools and causes, thanks to the energy and commitment of our amazing House captains.

The House captains have been exemplary this year, supporting House staff, inspiring their peers, and helping to drive the house forward with dedication and spirit. Their contributions have truly made a difference and set a brilliant example for everyone.

We are also incredibly fortunate to have the wonderful Miss Treadway, the most dedicated and supportive Deputy Head of House. Her tireless work behind the scenes and infectious enthusiasm in front of the camera make her a true hero of our House community.

As we say goodbye to our Year 6s, we wish them every success as they move into Senior School. At the same time, we look forward with excitement to welcoming a new group of 'Heseltinies', ready to raise the yellow flag high and continue the house's proud tradition.

Mr Blom & Ms Treadway

What a fantastic year it's been for Lawrence House! One of our proudest achievements this year was coming first in House Maths. Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 played a pivotal role in this victory, taking part in a range of activities from fast-paced quiz questions to TTRS competitions - teamwork and enthusiasm really shone through!

Sports Day brought more success, with standout performances from Ruby, Frankie, Uriah, and Freddie. They all brought home trophies, demonstrating speed, determination, sportsmanship, and true Lawrence House pride.

One of the most meaningful moments from this year was Lawrence House Week. Focusing on 'Paying It Forward', we teamed up with East and Weald House at the Senior School to take part in a 'Global Pay It Forward' initiative. Together, we collected and sent over 70 boxes of donations — clothing, books, and stationery — to the Danso School in Gambia. The gratitude from the school was overwhelming, and reminded us of our House namesake, James Lawrence, and his dedication to making a positive difference in the community.

A huge thanks to our House Captains — Grayson, Kiara, Nate, Millie, Elliot, and Ruby — whose commitment and enthusiasm have been outstanding all year.

What truly makes Lawrence House special is our unwavering spirit. We always show up, support one another, and give every event our all. This was especially clear during House Music, where we performed Let It Go from Frozen — and we really did let it go! A special shout-out must go to Camille for her superb solo performance!

Mrs Weafer & Mr Sealey







Sports Day 2025.

A note from Mrs Weafer:

As my Head of House role comes to an end and I move into the position of Head of Prep Houses, I want to say a huge thank you to every one of you — I couldn't be prouder if I tried! It has been an absolute privilege to get to know you all and support you, whilst watching you grow, compete and come together as a team at every House event and assembly!

I leave Lawrence House in the most capable hands of Mrs Munro and Mr Sealey. Here's to another incredible year ahead!

Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrenc

As we reflect on another incredible year for Quennell, I am filled with pride and admiration for all that we have achieved together. This year marked the beginning of a new chapter as we welcomed Miss Ritchie to the Quennell team. Her energy and enthusiasm have been a wonderful addition to the House, and I know she will continue to inspire our pupils in the years to come.

Quennell shone brightly across a wide range of events and challenges throughout the academic year. One of the standout moments was our House Assembly, where we led the School with a powerful and engaging presentation on 'School Superheroes'. The pupils shared how everyone can be a superhero in their own way, whilst also highlighting the important work of the NSPCC.

A particularly special highlight was our triumph in House Music, where we were crowned House Music Champions! Our performance of "A Whole New World" enchanted the audience, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of our House. Mark also performed a beautiful solo piano piece as part of the competition, adding an extra touch of magic and helping to secure our well-deserved win.



Performing 'A Whole New World' for House Music.

In House Reading, Edward, Kaylah, Victor, and Olivia represented us with confidence and clarity. Their expressive performances demonstrated both their passion for reading and their pride in representing Quennell.

As the year drew to a close, we were thrilled to be awarded the House Good Conduct Cup, a fitting recognition of the kindness, respect, and support our pupils show one another every day. And to top it all off, Quennell finished the year in second place overall – a fantastic achievement that reflects the consistent effort and determination shown by all our pupils.

To every member of Quennell – thank you. Your enthusiasm, teamwork, and support for one another have made this year so special. You have represented your House with pride and integrity, and I could not be prouder of each and every one of you.

A huge thank you goes to all our House Captains throughout the year: Lockie, Megan, Jaelyn, Krishan, Federico, and Dara. You have been fantastic role models and enthusiastic leaders, and your contributions have helped make this year so successful for Quennell.

On a personal note, as I begin my maternity leave, I want to say what a joy and privilege it has been to lead Quennell for the past three years. I will miss you all dearly, but I leave knowing the House is in excellent hands. Miss Ritchie will take over as Head of House, and Mrs Elwood will be stepping in as Deputy. With their passion and commitment, I know Quennell will continue to thrive.

Here's to another year of success, friendship, and unforgettable memories. Go Quennell!

Miss Hossack (Mrs Blom)
& Miss Ritchie



Pupils dress up for House Maths.

Reflecting back on an amazing year, it's been a pleasure to celebrate the successes and unforgettable moments that shaped Tasker House.

Tasker has enjoyed another successful year in sports, securing numerous victories such as the Year 6 cross country, Year 3 House rugby and both Year 5 and Year 6 smashed the swimming gala.

The standout achievement for Tasker this year came during Michaelmas Term, when the House won the 'Code of Conduct' award, demonstrating outstanding learning, virtue and manners.

At the close of Trinity term, we held our House Assembly centred around the theme 'The Power of Being Healthy.' The assembly highlighted the four key pillars of health: emotional well-being, good nutrition, quality sleep and exercise. We challenged the children to commit to staying healthy by choosing a healthy snack, spending time outdoors being active, or simply reaching out and talking to a friend.

We were incredibly proud of the children on Sports Day, as they demonstrated kindness and support for one another throughout the event. Year 6, in particular, showed fantastic teamwork, coming together to secure second place in the tug of war.

At the end of a truly memorable and eventful year we are incredibly proud of all that the pupils of Tasker House have accomplished. Their enthusiasm and commitment have been inspiring and we look forward to seeing Tasker go from strength to strength.

Mrs Alexander & Mr Simpson-Crick

Sports Day 2025.





Sports Day 2025.



Performing as 'Moana' for House Music.

Tasker Tasker Tasker Tasker Tasker Tasker Tasker Tasker

Classroom Chronicles



Foundation Teddy Bear Picnic.

“The **Foundation** children have had a wonderful first year with us at Brentwood. It’s been a joy to watch them confidently settle into school routines and enthusiastically engage in a diverse range of activities. Throughout the year, they have particularly enjoyed their sessions in Forest School, Dance, French, Music and Yoga. Our Foundation children are now wonderfully prepared and excited to embark on the next stage of their learning journey as they move into Reception!”

Mrs Playfair-Moss, Head of Foundation



On stage for the Nativity play.

EYFS Performs ‘My First Nativity’ - Michaelmas 2024

The Prep School’s first Christmassy performances began with the EYFS, Foundation and Reception, children staging their production of ‘My First Nativity’. It was a delight to see the youngest members of the Prep community take to the stage with such enthusiasm. Across all performances, the pupils did us all incredibly proud and showed how much they had grown in confidence and character.

Celebrating Our Annual Foundation Teddy Bears’ Picnic! - Trinity 2025

What a truly magical time we had at our annual Foundation Teddy Bears’ Picnic! This year was a spectacular success, and the atmosphere was simply bursting with joy. The children arrived with their most cherished friends in tow. From classic brown bears to colourful, fantastical creatures, the field was quickly filled with a charming collection of furry attendees. Parents outdid themselves, packing delicious picnics of sandwiches, fruit, crisps, and all sorts of tasty treats to share. You could see smiles everywhere as the children settled down on their blankets, tucking into their snacks and enjoying the magical Disney playlist.



It is always wonderful to see the progress our **Reception** children make from September to July, especially as they become budding and enthusiastic readers and writers.

There are many busy and exciting times in Reception, and the past year was no exception from taking a dive into weekly swimming lessons to visiting the sharks at the Sea-life Aquarium. The learning was evident and the memories plenty.

The children left this year feeling full of excitement for their next step on their learning journey."

Mrs Roberts, Head of Reception

Reception Spring Plant Up.



Exploring Big Bright Feelings in Reception - Michaelmas 2024

Reception began their term with a fascinating new theme, 'All About Me', diving straight into a brilliant literary exploration of emotions. The children focused on the 'Big Bright Feelings' book series by author Tom Percival. Each beautifully illustrated book in the series explores complex emotions through an engaging story, which the children truly enjoyed.

They started by looking at the wonderful story, 'Perfectly Norman'. This imaginative tale is about a boy who unexpectedly grows wings. The story encouraged the children to embrace everything that makes them unique and special.

To celebrate this theme, the class created a spectacular Perfectly Norman display. Each child wrote or drew something unique about themselves and then contributed to the wings by making individual 'feathers' using paint handprints. It was truly wonderful to see and hear all of the children celebrating themselves and their differences with such confidence and pride.

These stories will undoubtedly help the children to articulate their feelings and understand the big emotions they encounter every day.

Baking delicious treats during Enrichment Week.







Year 1's 'Once Upon A Time' Adventure! - Michaelmas 2024

Year 1 started their exciting new topic, 'Once Upon A Time', and it swiftly proved to be an absolute adventure. The excitement began with a mysterious and intriguing letter that arrived in the classroom from a friendly, if somewhat clumsy, witch. The letter explained that while she was flying her broomstick high over the School, she had accidentally dropped some of her most precious things.

Our tremendously kind Year 1 pupils immediately offered to help the witch retrieve her lost belongings. They searched high and low in the Walled Garden, meticulously hunting for every dropped treasure. It was a wonderful activity that combined literacy with real-life problem-solving and helped the children immerse themselves fully in their new fairy tale theme.

As a heartfelt thank you for their fantastic help and kindness, the witch gave them something truly magical. When they returned to their classroom, a special book had appeared on their reading table: 'Room On The Broom'. What a charming and memorable way to launch their new topic and celebrate their brilliant teamwork.



Year 1 Spring Plant Up.

Year 1 Celebrates Chinese New Year - Lent 2025

The pupils discovered the fascinating tradition of the Chinese zodiac, finding out how each year is named after a different animal. This exploration led to great excitement as they even found out which animal represented the year they were born.

To finish off their celebrations, the children got creative and made their very own snake decorations to take home. This hands-on activity provided a wonderful way for the pupils to engage with the cultural festivities and knowledge they had gained.

Working with Lego during Enrichment Week.



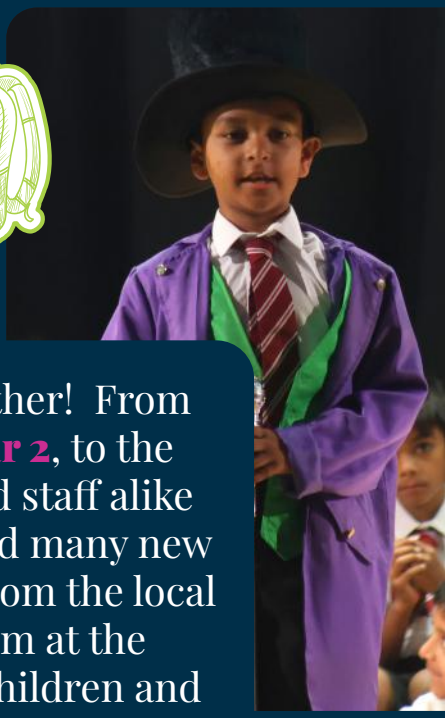
"What an exciting year it was in **Year 1**! We began with the topic 'Once Upon a Time', diving into the magical worlds of Julia Donaldson's picture books. In the Lent Term, things turned 'Very Chilly' as we compared the Arctic and Antarctica. In the Trinity Term, we concluded the year by looking carefully at how we can look after our planet in 'Our Wonderful World'. It has been a wonderful year of learning, adventure and new experiences, we are very proud of all that Year 1 has achieved."

Mrs Johnson, Head of Year 1



Bob the Minion visits the Prep.





Willy Wonka-themed Celebration Assembly.



"What an exciting year of learning we have enjoyed together! From the arrival of the Minions during the early weeks of **Year 2**, to the 'Great Fire of Brentwood' on the playground, pupils and staff alike have embraced opportunities for hands-on learning and many new experiences. Our learning has taken us far and wide, from the local geography of Essex, to an exploration of the Solar System at the Royal Observatory in London. The enthusiasm of the children and their joy of learning has certainly made it a memorable year!"

Mrs Marchington, Head of Year 2

Banana Mayhem! A Mysterious Minion Visit to the Prep - Michaelmas 2024

What an utterly exciting discovery Year 2 had! It all began when our keen pupils decided to put pen to paper, writing persuasive letters to our Head of Prep, Mrs Goodfellow. Their mission? To secure a special visit from everyone's favourite yellow mischief-makers: the Minions!

Soon after the permission was granted, strange things started to appear around the Walled Garden: we began to find lost shoes, goggles, and bananas scattered everywhere. Our pupils worked together brilliantly to pair the misplaced belongings with their proper Minion friends, teaching them an important lesson about how to look after their things. It was a wonderful exercise in teamwork and responsibility.

The thrilling hunt then led our Year 2 class right into the playground, where an odd knocking could be heard coming from our PE shed. Brave Mrs Marchington took a peek inside, and who did she find? Bob the Minion! He was a little nervous but clearly excited to see all the children and say a big hello!

To help their new little yellow friend, Year 2 had been busy writing and learning how to follow recipes to create the perfect Minion lunch. This fun, real-world task was a brilliant way to practise literacy and sequential instructions.

Year 2's Celebration Assembly - Trinity 2025

On the penultimate day of the Trinity Term, Year 2 took to the stage for their annual Celebration Assembly.

Inspired by Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, the pupils shared the story of their journey through the Prep School, reflecting fondly on their memories from Foundation to Year 2 and looking ahead with excitement. We were incredibly proud of how much the class had grown, both in confidence and character.



Litter picking for Year 3's unit of inquiry.

Year 3 had a wonderful year, thanks to a super cohort of pupils and their families. We are so proud of how all the pupils worked hard and progressed both academically and socially. Highlights included our terrific Christmas Celebration to parents and our exciting Enrichment Week with visits to Ninja Warrior in Chelmsford and Hopefield Animal Sanctuary.

Our pupils were trailblazers and had the privilege of being the first ever Brentwood Prep pupils to follow a PYP approach through their Inquiry lessons. We hope they enjoy the rest of their PYP journey at the Prep. Good luck in Year 4!"

Mrs Bleakley & Mrs Long, Heads of Year 3



Enrichment Week 2025.

Year 3 Takes Action to Shape Our Community – Michaelmas 2024

Year 3 worked throughout Michaelmas on their unit of inquiry, 'Who We Are', as part of the Primary Years Programme (PYP). This insightful unit encouraged pupils to reflect deeply on identity, relationships, and responsibilities.

The unit concluded with the class discussing the nature of our School community and how every person's actions can have either positive or sometimes negative impacts. Through thoughtful conversation and reflection, they realised that the atmosphere of the School was something they all had a hand in creating.

Year 3 then put the insights from their Unit of Inquiry into further action by taking practical steps to improve their immediate environment. They spent time picking up litter around the School grounds and diligently organising lost property. These simple, conscientious acts showcased a clear understanding of their role within the wider community.

Year 3 Visits The Willis Museum – Lent 2025

Year 3 had a fantastic visit to The Willis Museum at the Senior School as part of their PYP Unit of Inquiry. The pupils had been investigating how humans, the environment, and materials shape building design, so this trip was the perfect opportunity to see the School's own history in action!

The visit provided invaluable real-world context for their studies, showing how the School's physical structures have evolved over time.

Year 4 Celebrates St Martin's Day with an Illuminating Tradition - Michaelmas 2024

Our Year 4 German class celebrated St Martin's Day, immersing themselves in a cherished Northern European tradition.

The feast of St Martin is marked in much of Northern Europe with beautiful lantern parades, a wonderful custom designed to brighten up the darkening winter evenings.

To embrace this celebration, the pupils spent time creating colourful paper lanterns in their German lesson. They also learned to sing a traditional German song associated with the holiday, 'Laterne, Laterne'. This hands-on, cultural activity gave the children a memorable way to connect with the German language and its traditions.



Exploring bilateral drawing during artist Sue Mills' workshop.

Year 4 Takes Part in the Brentwood Art Trail - Trinity 2025

We were delighted to be a part of the Brentwood Art Trail, an initiative by Brentwood Connected. As part of this exciting collaboration, our Year 4 pupils attended a Zoom workshop with artist Sue Mills from Curly Cloud.

The focus of the workshop was bilateral drawing, which involves the challenging skill of drawing with both hands simultaneously. Pupils followed along, learning how to create complex patterns within simple shapes, such as butterflies. The activity required significant concentration to successfully complete the works of art.

Paper lanterns to celebrate St Martin's Day.



"**Year 4** had a very busy year, beginning with settling into new routines and concluding with a spectacular concert showcasing their many musical talents. Particular highlights included enrichment week, especially the trip to Nuclear Races and Thriftwood. The children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, and although we came back with fewer shoes than we started with, fun was had by all. Throughout the year, Year 4 have enthusiastically taken part in House events, fixtures, and earned a huge amount of virtue, learning and manners stickers.

Thank you, Year 4, for your hard work and sense of fun."

Ms Knight, Head of Year 4



Performing for the Shakespeare Workshop.

"The 2024-2025 academic year was a truly fantastic learning experience for **Year 5**. A highlight was their magnificent performance at Young Voices in January, where they proudly represented the School. Their 'out of this world' trip to Space Camp in Belgium provided an incredible opportunity for scientific discovery. During Enrichment Week, the three-day residential to Bradwell was a huge hit, with sailing and crabbing being two firm favourites. The year concluded with a stunning performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', showcasing their creativity and teamwork."

Mrs Miles, Head of Year 5

Year 5 Takes on the Euro Space Center in Belgium - Lent 2025

Our Year 5 'space cadets' set off, their faces full of excitement as they began their journey to the Euro Space Center in Belgium. The pupils stopped at the P&J Chocolate Factory, which was a real treat. With hair nets on, aprons tied, and eager hands, the pupils got ready to craft delicious chocolate bars. The best part? Stocking up on goodies for the long coach ride ahead.

Following a well-earned rest, the Year 5 'space cadets' were ready for an action-packed day 2 at the Euro Space Center, full of unique experiences, including zero-gravity thrills, a 5D space adventure, and the ultimate astronaut training.

The afternoon took pupils on a journey through the cosmos, as they experienced what it might be like walking on Mars and the Moon. But the adventure wasn't over yet: the day concluded with a night-time visit to Bouillon Castle (Château fort de Bouillon), complete with torchlight storytelling.

The last day for the Year 5 'space cadets' was set to be just as fun as the first. The pupils headed outside to launch the rockets they had made the day before, an epic send-off to an unforgettable trip.



Rocket-making at the Euro Space Center.

Year 5 Shakespeare Workshop - Lent 2025

Our Year 5 pupils took to the stage for a fantastic performance of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. They quickly captivated an audience that included Year 4 pupils, staff, and even A Level Drama students from the Senior School.

The young actors gave a great demonstration of confidence and skill as they brought Shakespeare's famous comedy to life. Mastering the play's wit and timing was no small feat, and to achieve such a polished performance after only a single day to rehearse fully was truly remarkable. The entire Prep School community was incredibly proud of their theatrical achievement.



Year 6, the class of 2025. A wonderful year filled with hard work, laughter and lasting memories. Under the expert guidance of Miss Hossack and Mrs Romhany, the children dazzled audiences in their production of Bugsy Malone, a performance that perfectly showcased their energy, humour and talent. As the curtain closed on their years at Brentwood Prep, the words from Bugsy Malone rang true: 'If you give a little love, it all comes back to you'."

Mrs Ombok, Head of Year 6

Kart-testing during Goblin Racers.



Year 6 Goblin Racers - Trinity 2025

The Goblin Racers ACES co-curricular club proved to be a major highlight for our Year 6 pupils, focusing on teamwork, engineering, and, of course, speed.

Inside their new workshop, the Year 6 team worked together on technical tasks, often with the helpful guidance of some Senior School enthusiasts. Some pupils focused on hooking up the batteries and meticulously checking all the components to ensure the karts were safe to drive. Others spent time working on the aerodynamics of the karts, making sure they were ready for optimal performance before taking them for a thrilling spin.

This club is a brilliant example of the wider co-curricular programme, which offers a wide range of activities that nurture passions, build confidence, and develop essential life skills.

Year 6 Celebration of Achievement - Trinity 2025

We held our annual Year 6 Celebration of Achievement Evening, marking a significant milestone for the departing pupils. The evening was a wonderful blend of formal and festive to honour their journey through the Prep.

Each pupil took to the stage as their form teacher shared memories and anecdotes that had the audience laughing one moment and reaching for tissues the next. Our remarkable Year 6 pupils were ready for their next big step into Senior School, and they did us all proud.

Following the formal celebration, Year 6 pupils took their parents on a tour of their PYP Exhibition. Topics ranged from clean water access around the globe to space exploration and animal welfare. Pupils presented their research with confidence, as they explained their findings to parents and staff alike.

The evening came to a joyful close with our much-loved annual disco. With bubble machines, a lively conga line, and all their favourite tunes, pupils and even some staff danced the night away, the perfect end to a wonderful evening.

Presenting to parents during the PYP Exhibition.



Tree Week: Renaming the KS2 Classes

The Prep had an exciting announcement for the KS2 pupils, perfectly timed to coincide with the beginning of National Tree Week.

Previously, all classes in EYFS and KS1 had a British bird name alongside the Class Teacher's code. Now, in a similar fashion, the KS2 pupils were going to be adopting British tree names. This new identity symbolised the growth and guardianship of the older students: as little birds shelter in the branches of trees, so could the youngest pupils expect to be encouraged and championed by the KS2 pupils.

Year 3

The festive spirit was certainly alive in Oak Class. The class made an array of imaginative items, including quirky festive monsters, decorated tree stumps, and sparkly oak leaves, perfectly matching their new class name. Some inventive pupils even designed more ambitious pieces, such as a 3D tree trunk, glittering stars, and some beautifully wrapped Christmas presents.

Fir Class celebrated their new class name with an exciting hunt to find fir trees, successfully discovering some near the Year 3 gate, and others nestled within the Walled Garden. This hands-on activity helped them connect their new identity directly to nature. Back in the classroom, the children used the leaves and inspiration from their outdoor adventure to create fantastic leaf monster artwork.



Festive crafting in Oak Class.

Year 4

Acer Class had an amazing writing their very own rap inspired by their new tree name, Acer. The pupils dove into facts about the acer tree, discovering its vibrant colours, unique heart-shaped leaves, and the fascinating reason why it's named the 'Welcoming Tree' in Japan. The final song was a fantastic display of how they blended science, culture, and self-reflection into a catchy, original piece.

The pupils of Palm Class had a fantastic time celebrating their new class name. The day began with a spot of exploration around the School, where the children discovered a few real palm trees. Following their findings, the pupils used tree materials gathered on their walk, to create tree-inspired drawings, and wrote acrostic poems based on the word 'palm'.

Lime Class had great fun embracing their new identity, which started by creatively decorating a tree stump with a variety of lime-related images. This hands-on activity helped them connect visually with their new name. The learning continued as the pupils researched facts about lime trees to use in an acrostic poem. Many pupils also began the clever task of linking their class values and qualities directly to the verses of their poem.



Tree stump drawings in Lime Class.



Leaf letter art in Year 5.

Year 5

Year 5 pupils made their own collecting bags and went on a brilliant hunt in the winter sunshine to find natural resources. They then used these gathered materials, such as sticks, leaves, and stones, to cleverly create their own names right there on the School grounds. Following this activity, the pupils went on to take part in even more tree art activities, all to celebrate their new class names: Alder, Beech, Cedar, and Maple.

Nature-based artwork in Year 6.



Year 6

Year 6 ventured outside to participate in the Tree Week activities. The pupils first located their various named trees around the School grounds, connecting their class names, Laurel and Poplar, with the actual flora. Following their discovery mission, they then took part in a highly creative exercise: creating imagery from leaves. Laurel and Poplar classes took to the playground to transform the natural materials they had gathered into fantastic and creative images, showcasing both imagination and teamwork.

Spruce Class took their inspiration from the renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy and his stunning nature-based art. The pupils created their own interpretations using natural materials found around the grounds, with some truly fantastic results. The activity encouraged them to see the beauty and potential in everyday outdoor elements.

Willow Class researched their tree name and found an existing Willow tree in the Walled Garden. Further research revealed that Mrs Ombok had a Twisted Willow in her garden, sparking an idea. The class were hoping to take some cuttings and grow their own Twisted Willow on the School grounds.

National Tree Week took place from November to December 2024, marking the start of the winter tree planting season in the UK. This annual event is organised by The Tree Council and encourages all to participate in planting, attend events, and appreciate trees through various activities and resources.

Reading Round Up

The Big Chill Reading Competition 2024
The theme for the Summer Reading Competition was 'The Big Chill', which truly got creative juices flowing. The competition saw some wonderfully inventive entries that took the phrase quite literally. Pupils were photographed reading in extraordinary locations: some braved ice baths, others found an ice cave, and one particularly creative young lady was snapped reading inside the freezer aisle of the shop Iceland!

A huge thank you went out to everyone who participated in the competition. The staff loved looking at the entries, and it was great to see pupils from Foundation to Year 6 enjoying reading throughout their break.

There were also a lot of readers who opted for a more relaxed version of 'chill', sipping a mocktail by the pool. Many of the photos included brilliant teamwork, with brothers and sisters delivering drinks and ice creams and even fanning their reading siblings. Others simply read whilst taking a quick break from a sporting activity or while out and about on their holiday adventures.

The children's creativity truly shone through; well done to all who took part.



Participating in the Summer Reading Competition.



Accepting the House Cup for the Public Speaking Competition.

Public Speaking Competition 2025
The Prep School celebrated the fantastic Year 6 finalists in this year's Public Speaking Competition. Every pupil worked incredibly hard preparing and delivering their speeches at the end of the Lent Term, making it no easy task for the teachers to select the finalists.

The final performances were nothing short of brilliant. Our finalists spoke with passion and confidence on topics close to their hearts, which ranged from the climate crisis and banning homework to the power of learning, social media's role, the value of video games, and even whether pupils should be paid to attend school. The creativity and conviction shown truly captivated the audience of pupils, staff, and parents, making for a fantastic morning.

The judges had a tricky task on their hands. After much deliberation, the top prize was awarded to Billy, who delivered a powerful and engaging speech on how our everyday choices impact the environment. As the winner, Billy spoke at the Year 6 Celebration of Achievement event in July.

World Book Day 2025
What a fantastic day the Prep School had celebrating World Book Day. The day was a double dose of excitement, combining the national celebration with our annual House Reading event.

Our Prep pupils brought their favourite stories to life with wonderful animal character costumes. The hall was filled with everything from mischievous cats to roaring lions. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and got creative, keeping us all inspired to remember to 'Read Your Way'!

Alongside the costumes, the Prep hosted its annual House Reading event. It was a joy to see our talented pupils from Years 1 to 6 take the stage and showcase their reading skills.

The younger pupils delighted us with charming animal-themed poems as they competed for their Houses. Meanwhile, our KS2 readers impressed both the audience and the judging panel by exploring a wonderful variety of writing styles, from prose to poetry. Every participant deserved a huge round of applause for their effort and performance.

The competition was fierce, with amazing readings and performances from all Houses. However, only one House could walk away with the House Reading Winner title.

A massive congratulations went to Heseltine, who now get to keep the shield for another year.

Dressing up for World Book Day.



Our Annual Reading Week 2024
The annual Prep Reading Week was a resounding success, packed with a fantastic range of activities designed to celebrate the magic of reading across the whole school.

The week kicked off with excitement, particularly for our youngest children. In Foundation, children shared their favourite books and stories from home with their friends.

Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 were invited to attend school in their pyjamas for a truly cosy experience. With the theme 'Bedtime Stories,' children got comfortable reading and sharing. Year 2 even had the chance to record their stories to share. A brilliant KS1 Story Carousel was held at the end of each day, where children heard stories from different teachers. What a great way to wind down.

A particularly positive experience was the collaboration between our younger and older students. Year 2 visited the Senior School for their Library Lessons and read with some Year 9 students. These older students helped the Year 2 pupils with essential reading skills like phonics decoding, prediction, and talking about the plot and characters.

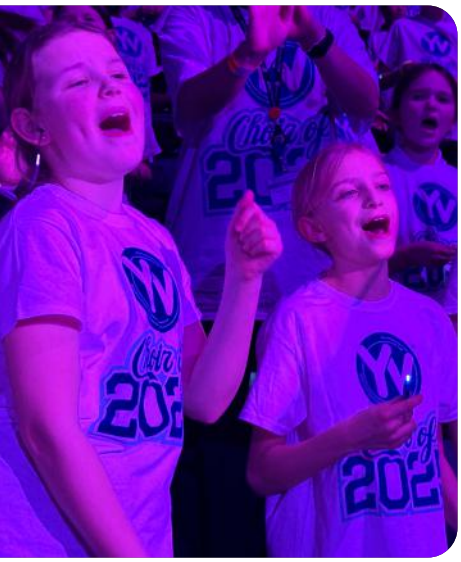
We also hosted a variety of special activities throughout the week. The week started on the right foot with a KS2 assembly led by Year 6 pupils, who focused on how to develop important inference skills. As always, the Reading Cafés proved to be very popular. Pupils relaxed with a great book, along with snacks, drinks, and extra creature comforts like blankets and pillows.

Lunchtime activities included looking at comics, newspapers, and magazines in the Library, as well as the brand new pop-up books, which proved particularly popular. And of course, the KS2 book swaps were a great success and introduced the children to books they would not normally choose to read, broadening their literary horizons.

The week truly highlighted the Prep community's love for books. Keep on reading!



Singing Christmas carols at the Brentwood Cathedral.



Performing at the O2.



Prep Music Showcase 2025.

Music & Drama

Joyful Voices at the Brentwood Cathedral Carol Service - Michaelmas 2024

Pupils from Years 4, 5, and 6 visited the Brentwood Cathedral for their annual Christmas Carol Service.

Led by Revd Dr McConnaughie and Mrs Romhany, the service was bigger and more grand this year, befitting the stunning setting of the Cathedral. The pupils played a significant role, taking turns to read and sing carols, with some even performing beautiful solos. Our Prep Orchestra also joined to play the music, adding to the majesty of the occasion. It was a wonderful service in such a beautiful setting.

A huge thank you went to all the parents who came to support the children and to the Specialist Music Programme students from the Senior School, who lent their considerable talents to the service. The entire service was a memorable and heartfelt way to mark the start of the Christmas season.

Year 5 Takes the Stage at Young Voices - Lent 2025

After weeks of dedicated rehearsals, the big day finally arrived, and an excited group of Year 5 pupils set off on the coach to the O2 Arena in London. They were ready to join an astonishing 8,233 voices in the biggest choir they had ever been part of, the Young Voices concert.

The experience was truly unforgettable, starting with the thrill of the journey and the buzz of stepping into the iconic O2. The pupils enjoyed the final rehearsals, performing alongside a live band and watching special guest performers.

But nothing could prepare them for that magical moment when the lights dimmed, the music began, and they became part of something truly spectacular. The energy of performing in such a massive venue was palpable and electric.

Year 3's Endangered Instruments Party - Lent 2025

After just one term of learning their instruments, our talented Year 3 pupils gathered in the hall for their Endangered Instruments Party. The event celebrated their progress and the joy of ensemble playing.

The pupils put on a lively jazz performance. Playing through the occasional squeak and off-tune note, they kept the rhythm strong and expertly carried each other through the pieces, all while sporting wonderful smiles.

“We are incredibly proud of the musical achievements across Brentwood Prep over the past year. Our pupils’ talent, enthusiasm and dedication have truly shone through in every lesson, performance, ensemble and choir rehearsal. Music continues to go from strength to strength here, enriching our school community and inspiring every child to explore their creativity and passion.”

Mrs Romhany, Director of Music (Prep)

Year 6 and Ensembles Concert - Lent 2025

The Year 6 and Ensembles Concert was filled with stunning performances from our Junior Band, Orchestra, Choirs, and more. The concert showcased the impressive musical abilities and hard work of the entire year group.

The evening featured several unforgettable moments. These included brilliant jazz improvisations, beautiful solo pieces, and a truly show-stopping performance of ‘This Is Me’ from The Greatest Showman. This particular piece was accompanied by expertly led sign language from Ms Treadway, adding a powerful visual element to the music.

The concert was an unforgettable evening full of talent and creativity, marking a significant milestone in the pupils’ musical journey.

Year 6 Production of Bugsy Malone - Trinity 2025

The Prep School celebrated two spectacular performances of Bugsy Malone, put on by the incredible Year 6 pupils. The production proved to be an unforgettable couple of nights, leaving the entire school community with memories to treasure for a lifetime.

Cast 1 took their moment in the spotlight, bringing their energy, flair, and heart to the stage, resulting in a performance that was nothing short of amazing. Following this, Cast 2 embraced their time on stage, showcasing their enthusiasm, style, and passion with every scene, delivering a truly unforgettable and impressive performance.

Looking back, the shows were about so much more than just singing and acting. These performances were a celebration of teamwork, creativity, and determination, qualities shown by every single child and staff member throughout the months of rehearsals and preparation.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved. Whether performing on stage, working tirelessly behind the scenes, changing microphones in the wings, or helping bring the production to life in any way, their hard work paid off in the most magical way.

Year 6 and Ensembles Concert.



Performing ‘Bugsy Malone’.



Successes in Sport



House Cross Country 2024.

Celebrating House Cross Country - Michaelmas 2024

In Michaelmas, the Prep held its annual House Cross Country event, which featured pupils from Years 1 to 6 and marked the first House event of the academic year.

The morning was a wonderful display of amazing resilience and determination from all who took part, and the staff were so proud of every pupil. Crossing that finishing line was a huge achievement for each child, not to mention that every step helped their House inch closer to victory.

With such strong performances from all pupils across Years 1 to 6, the competition was incredibly close. The achievements of each child and their smiling faces as they crossed the finish line were a sight to behold.

In the end, only one House could walk away with the coveted Cross Country shield. A huge congratulations went to Bayman for winning the shield.

"From winning the IAPS **Rugby** Festival and the U11 boys and girls qualifying for the ISFA Nationals at St George's Park, to hosting the IAPS **Netball** and securing 3rd place at IAPS **Hockey**, just one place away from Nationals, our pupils have continued to shine on and off the field.

Our **cricket** programme has gone from strength to strength, with our girls competing at two IAPS events and the U11 boys crowned Essex County Champions, while our **Tennis** Academy is thriving offering our pupils high quality private coaching, and proudly celebrating the U9 Essex Independent Schools title.

Swimming continues to be a key foundation of our PE curriculum, with every pupil from Reception to Year 6 swimming weekly, KS2 showcasing their skills in galas, and representing the School at Nationals. This year also saw the exciting launch of our **cheerleading** squad, adding another dynamic avenue for expression and teamwork. Across all physical activities, our 'Know, Show, Grow' approach ensures every child develops physical literacy and a lifelong love of movement."

Miss Le Blancq, Director of Sport (Prep)

Year 5 and 6 Dance Team Secures First Place - Lent 2025

During the Lent Term, our talented Year 5 and 6 Dance team headed to Ursuline Prep School to compete in the District School Dance Competition, and they absolutely dazzled.

The team's hard work and dedication truly paid off as they delivered an unforgettable performance on the day. Their passion and skill were evident on the stage, which resulted in them securing 1st place in their division.

This incredible win was a testament to their commitment to their craft. A massive congratulations went to the entire team, as they made the School community so proud.

Hosting the Brentwood Junior Chess Tournament - Lent 2025

The Prep School recently, and proudly, hosted and co-organised the 9th Brentwood Junior Chess Tournament with the Essex Junior Chess Association (EJCA) and British Chess.

The event was a massive success, becoming Essex's biggest junior chess tournament! It featured over 130 players, who played more than 500 games across five competitive sections. The tournament showcased incredible talent, welcoming everyone from seasoned National Champions to enthusiastic first-time players.

The School's own talent was well represented, with 25 Brentwood students taking part, ranging from Year 2 all the way up to Upper Sixth.

Congratulations went to our own brilliant players: Year 10 student Max for successfully retaining the Senior School Championship, and Year 6 pupil Nikith, who was crowned Prep School Champion. The event highlighted the strong and growing passion for chess across the whole school community.

Year 5 Sports Tournament - Lent 2025

During Lent, we welcomed 14 schools to the annual Year 5 Sports Tournament. The morning was action-packed, as the visiting pupils showed great enthusiasm and teamwork while competing in football, netball, and chess.

Our Sports Scholars were also in attendance. They helped to run the tournament and took the time to chat with the Year 5 children about their sporting future, offering inspiration and advice.

Medals were awarded to the runners-up and winners, and the top teams in each tournament proudly took home a trophy.

A special mention goes to our own Year 5 Chess team, who took part in the tournament's chess section. They reached second place, which was a huge achievement after a nail-biter of a tiebreaker! Congratulations went to the team for their focus and skill.

A big thank you goes to all the schools that took part and gave their best effort, making the tournament a huge success.



Brentwood Prep's new cheerleading squad performs at Sports Day 2025.



Egg and Spoon Race at the EYFS & Key Stage 1 Summer Event.



Primary Team Chess Challenge 2025.

House Events

Sport plays a huge part in our annual House events, from Year 1 to Year 6.

Congratulations to the following Houses for winning the events:

Hockey
Heseltine

Rugby
Tasker

Cross Country
Bayman

Swimming
Bayman

Football
Brimley

Netball
Brimley

KS2 Sports Day
Bayman

Race Across the Globe
Bayman

EYFS & KS1 Summer Event
Quennell

U11 Netball Team Dazzles at IAPS Qualifier - Lent 2025

In the Lent Term, the Prep proudly hosted the IAPS Netball Qualifier, which provided a fantastic showcase of talent and teamwork. Our U11 team played with tremendous skill, determination, and resilience, giving their absolute all on the courts.

Throughout the competition, the team's performance was truly commendable. They embraced every moment of the intense competition, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and tenacity.

Though they narrowly missed out on qualification for the next stage, their effort and dedication were evident to all who watched. Well done, team.

U11 Boys Win the Langhelt Cup - Lent 2025

The sun shone down on us as we hosted the Brentwood District Football Finals on the last day of the Lent Term. Our U11 Boys' team played against Shenfield St Mary's in a highly competitive and exciting match.

Brentwood quickly took the lead despite strong defence from the opposition. Although our opponents scored a goal, a couple more from the Brentwood team secured the win, earning them the coveted Langhelt Cup for the second year in a row.

It was a fantastic end to the term, showcasing the boys' talent and determination. Huge thanks went out to everyone who came out to support the team.



Brentwood Prep's U11 Boys' team celebrate their win.

Hosting the Essex Independent Schools Tennis Championships - Trinity 2025

The sun shone brightly as we hosted the Essex Independent Schools Tennis Championships for the second year running. The tournament served as a fantastic platform to showcase the high level of tennis talent from across the county.

Both the Prep School and the Senior School took part, ensuring a wide range of skill and age groups were represented. The day was a superb display of competitive spirit and sportsmanship from all the participating schools.

EYFS and KS1 Summer Event - Trinity 2025

Our EYFS and KS1 pupils had a fantastic time at our annual Summer Event during the Trinity Term.

With the field full of enthusiastic supporters, the children took part in a variety of races, from fun runs to sprints. Cheers rang out across the field as each child crossed the finish line, with smiles beaming all around.

The event was a wonderful celebration of effort and excitement. Not to forget, the toddler race was very well-attended, and it's safe to say we spotted a few future athletes in the making.



U11 Netball team at IAPS Qualifier.



EIS Tennis Championships.



Competing in the relay on Sports Day..

Sports Day - Trinity 2025

The Prep came alive with energy, enthusiasm, and House spirit on a very sunny Wednesday for its action-packed Sports Day. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 came together for a true celebration of athleticism, resilience, and teamwork.

The day featured thrilling sprints, demanding obstacle courses, and exciting relays, ensuring every pupil had the chance to shine. Whether they were chasing personal bests or collaborating in team events, the competitive atmosphere was palpable. Families, peers, and teachers filled the sidelines with cheers of encouragement, creating a buzz that lasted from start to finish.

Miss Le Blancq, our Director of Sport, captured the spirit perfectly: "Sports Day is always a highlight of the School calendar. It brings our whole community together and celebrates effort, perseverance, and fun."

The day also included the brilliant staff and parent races. Equal parts competitive and comical, these races had everyone in stitches, complete with surprise sprinters, dramatic finishes, and lots of laughter.

With records smashed and outstanding participation from Year 1 through to Year 6, the overall winner was anyone's game right until the end. A huge congratulations went to the champions in blue, Bayman, who made waves on the track and field to secure the coveted House Sports Day Shield.

Academic Enrichment



This year, Year 6 enjoyed a split residential experience, with some pupils travelling to Spain for a week of cultural immersion, while others headed to Croft Farm to take part in outdoor challenges and exciting water sports. Other year groups also had memorable adventures: Year 4 camped at Thriftwood, developing independence and resilience, while Year 5 embarked on a two-night residential focused on team building and collaboration. In addition, our Aim Higher days proved extremely successful once again, providing stretch and challenge for pupils and inspiring them to push themselves further."

Mrs Barke, Head of Academic Enrichment

Enrichment Week 2025

The Prep School kicked off its annual Enrichment Week, a time of the academic year that is consistently classed as the most exciting! The week was filled with a busy, brilliant schedule of activities and residential trips for all the pupils, ensuring that every child had the opportunity to explore new interests, build confidence, and create lasting memories outside of the regular classroom setting.

AIM Higher Workshops

This year, we hosted several enriching AIM Higher Workshop for our Prep pupils and children from local schools.

For writing, Year 4 had an AIM High Writing Day with author Colin Parsons, who focused on teaching pupils to weave their own lives and personal experiences into imaginative narratives of magic and adventure. Year 5 participated in their own AIM Higher Writing Day led by author Margaret Bateson-Hill, where the entire focus was on creating and writing detailed stories and poems about their very own dragon characters.

In addition to literary workshops, some pupils from Years 3 and 4 participated in an engaging AIM Higher Maths Workshop. This event was led by mathematician Andrew Jeffrey, who utilised fun mathematical games to challenge pupils on concepts like square numbers and to explore number sequences and patterns, providing an inspiring and skills-testing day for all involved.









Foundation pupils learning about critters big and small.



Rock climbing adventures at the Year 4 Thriftwood Residential.



Year 6 meeting feathery friends in Cantabria, Spain.

Foundation
We had a thrilling, educational day when ZooLab visited, transforming the classroom into an animal hunt. They met fascinating creatures, including Pudding the silky snake and Hank the glow-in-the-dark scorpion, for a hands-on, multi-sensory experience that brought science and nature to life.

Reception
The Reception class had a fun and delicious introduction to their Enrichment Week by baking jungle biscuits. This activity taught the young pupils the importance of following instructions and gave them a basic understanding of ingredients, resulting in a room filled with the smell of freshly baked treats.

Year 1
It was Year 1's turn to participate in an engaging Lego workshop run by Creative Builders Workshops, where they focused on creating strong structures. The pupils showed great creativity and applied design thinking and technical skills by building magnificent houses, complete with roofs, windows, and doors, and decorating them on their own plots of land.

Year 2
As part of their 'Out of This World' topic, Year 2 pupils visited the Royal Museums Greenwich to learn about Earth's axial tilt through an interactive workshop. Their learning continued back at school with a space-themed workshop led by Mike Culley from Science Horizons, which included activities like exploring with stereoscopes, dressing up as astronauts, and learning to operate a telescope.

Year 3
Year 3 pupils became Ninja Warrior champions during a trip to the Ninja Warrior UK adventure park in Chelmsford. They tackled challenging obstacle courses and attempted to 'Beat the Wall,' showing great agility, strength, determination, and confidence throughout the exciting, skill-building day.

Year 4
Year 4 enjoyed an amazing and memorable couple of days at Thriftwood Scout Camp Site for their first residential Prep trip. Activities included rock climbing, water sports, canoeing, obstacle courses, and a trip on the Cavebus, all while practicing valuable team-building skills.

Year 5
Our Year 5 pupils went on a three-day residential adventure to Essex Outdoors Bradwell. Showing great bravery, they participated in climbing, sailing, high ropes, slacklining, crabbing, and various team-building exercises, resulting in a successful trip that built confidence and developed essential skills outside of the classroom.

Year 6
The Year 6 Team Spain pupils began their adventure with a smooth journey from Gatwick, where they were praised by fellow passengers for their exceptional behaviour. Their trip was packed with activities, including intensive Spanish lessons with native speakers and an exploration of the city complete with ice cream. On their final day, they practiced Spanish animal names while spotting elephants, bears, and zebras from cable cars over a wildlife park, concluding the unforgettable, culturally immersive experience with a stunning birds of prey show.

Being part of the Friends at Brentwood School PTA is more than just attending meetings – it's about shaping the experience of our children and helping to build a vibrant, connected school community.



Students perform at The Friends of Brentwood School Ball.



Santa visits the Prep for the Annual Christmas Fayre.



Dressing up for the 'Dare to be Different' Day.

The Friends of Brentwood School Ball - Michaelmas 2024

The annual Friends of Brentwood School Ball was a fabulous success. The night featured a delicious three-course meal followed by a host of spectacular entertainment. Guests enjoyed a thrilling raffle and a competitive auction, which added to the excitement.

The funds raised at the event contributed to exciting projects across both the Prep and Senior Schools, directly benefiting the pupils.

Our Annual Christmas Fayre - Michaelmas 2024

The Christmas Fayre, held at the Prep School, was an opportunity for the wider community to enjoy a morning brimming with festive fun.

The grounds were filled with exciting game stalls and tables laden with tempting festive treats. The day's highlight for many was a very special visit from Father Christmas, who met with excited children and spread holiday cheer.

Adding beautifully to the atmosphere, our Junior Choir took to the stage to sing some well-loved carols. Pupils sang with big smiles on their faces and did so well, not missing a beat or a clap.

Celebrating Our 'Dare to be Different' Day - Lent 2025

For one day only, pupils had the fun opportunity to mix things up and stand out from the crowd! They could choose up to five fun differences to showcase their creativity and individuality. This included everything from wearing crazy socks or coloured nail varnish to sporting different hairstyles or choosing a cool hat.

New Chess Tables - Lent 2025

New chess tables at the Prep, donated by the Friends of Brentwood School, proved to be incredibly popular with pupils. It was wonderful to see so many pupils actively engaging with the game during their break and lunchtime. Playing chess helps children develop key skills like critical thinking, patience, and problem-solving.





Brentwoodian

Brentwood School

Investing in your child's future

brentwoodschool.co.uk

The Brentwoodian was first published in 1891 as a termly magazine to serve as an update on school life, results, and community. Looking at Social Archive - the Brentwood School digital archive - one can look back at these fascinating insights to school life, and wider society, over 100 years ago.

For example, here are some snippets from the Brentwoodian, No. 61, June 1910, priced at a very reasonable 4d:

- Opening with - *"Though this number of the Brentwoodian appears a month after the sad event, we cannot pass over in silence the death of his late Majesty King Edward the Seventh"*.
- Moving on to the glowing 'Football Criticisms' of the 1st XI - *"A. H. Causton (right-back). A useful back if not outpaced, but too slow for most of our opponents"*
- Reviewing the winter musical - *"F. Parmentor, as Maria, quite made us forget his thirteen year old stature in the vivacity of his speech and action"*

Fast forward to 116 years, we may only be five Monarchs beyond Edward VII, but so much of how society operates and how we communicate has changed beyond recognition. In the case of Brentwood School, now being a co-educational institution, having a broad and high quality provision; undoubted progress. In other ways, it may be considered by some that 1910 was a more innocent and straightforward time.

What has remained consistent is the community around Brentwood School, and this Brentwoodian magazine continues the tradition of engaging, informing and involving the reader with all aspects of School life.

In these pages, you will read about academic achievements, but also the impressive musical, sporting and co-curricular activities at Brentwood. Further, you will see through updates on the CCF, VSA, Careers and community, a recognition of the bigger picture beyond Brentwood. Nothing exemplifies better our school community than the School Foundation and our bursaries programme, you will see here the growth and impact being made.

From 1891 to 2026 - Photos have been added along with colour and design. Social norms and writing styles have changed. However, the Brentwoodian has adapted and endured. Enjoy.

Academic Achievements

Brentwood School offers three Sixth Form academic pathways, consistent with our philosophy of asking 'how a child is intelligent' rather than 'how intelligent is a child?' We get the best out of each student by teaching them in a way that is tailored to their strengths through the International Baccalaureate, A Levels or the more vocational BTEC qualifications.

In 2025, with all Sixth Form results converted into A Level equivalent scores, the overall outcome for Brentwood School students was as follows:

	2025	2024	England Grades (2025)
A* - A	57.8%	54.2%	28.2%
A* - B	87%	80.5%	55%

Brentwood School Results 2025

International Baccalaureate
Results

35% of all IB students achieved 40 or more points

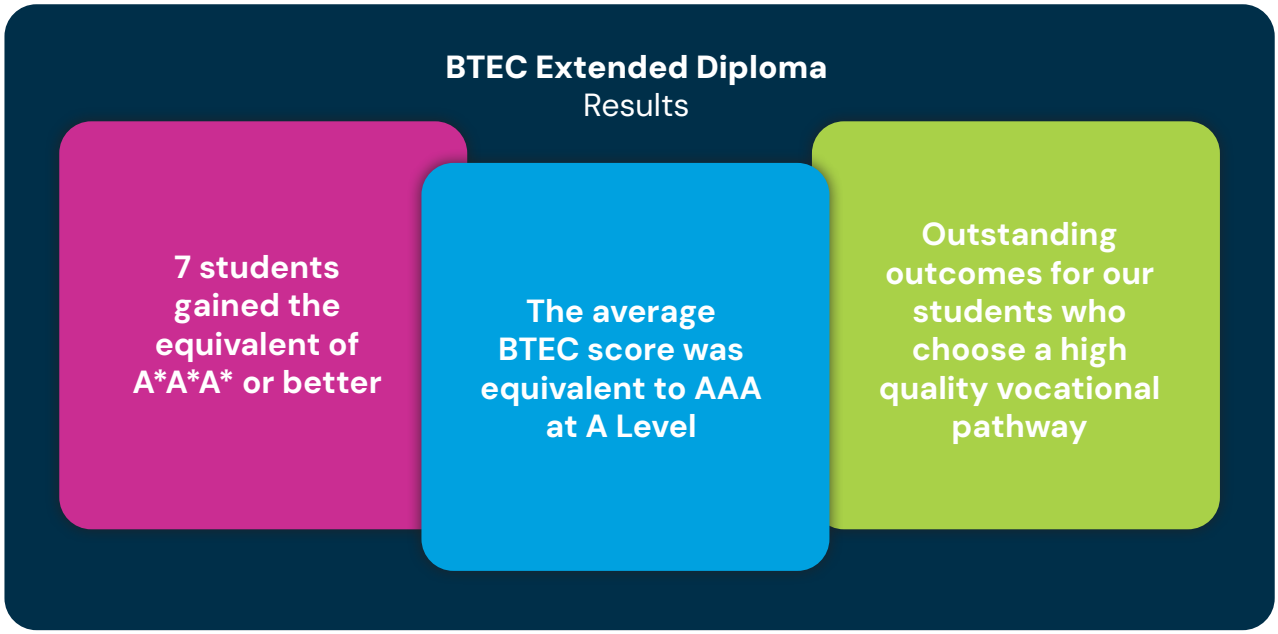
The average IB score was 38 points (equivalent to A*AA)

Brentwood School is one of the top 15 IB schools in the UK

A Level
Results

	A*	A* - A	A* - B
A Level Results	13.7%	44.7%	82.2%

AAB average A Level profile



Beyond Brentwood 2025

82%
of leavers were offered places at their first choice destination

88%
of those going to university were accepted at Russell Group/Top 20 universities

13
students were offered high quality apprentice pathways

8
attained places at top overseas universities

Specialist Pathways

- 7 students started degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary
- 66 in Business, Economics, Finance
- 12 in Law
- 12 in Engineering
- 12 in History, Politics
- 9 in Sports Science

Bursary Student Success

All 13 Upper Sixth bursary students gained places at Russell Group/Top 20 or overseas universities.

Felicity B-Q and family.





Lionel M.

> This year group has demonstrated maturity, perseverance, and a strong sense of community. They should be proud of the effort, determination and resilience they have shown throughout their GCSE courses."

Adam Clarke, Head of Year

Students Celebrate Remarkable GCSE Success

Brentwood School students have once again achieved excellent GCSE results, continuing the trend of individual success and personal growth. Seventeen students achieved 70 or more points, with an impressive total of 139 grade 9s and 30 grade 8s. These results reflect the dedication of both students and teaching staff.

Alongside their academic success, pupils have immersed themselves in the wider life of the School, excelling in Music, Drama, Debating, Sport, and community initiatives. This balance between academic and co-curricular achievement remains a hallmark of a Brentwood education.

Among the top performers was Lionel M, who achieved nine grade 9s and one grade 8 while representing the UK Youth Parliament and contributing to Model United Nations, Rugby, Fencing, and Performing Arts. He plans to study Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and Further Maths at A Level with the goal of pursuing Medicine. Another standout student, Music Scholar Felicity B-Q, achieved six grade 9s and four grade 8s, leading the School's Big Band and participating widely in choral and instrumental groups.

Excellence in Every Pathway – A Level, BTEC, and IB!

Brentwood School students achieved outstanding A Level, International Baccalaureate (IB), and BTEC results this year, continuing the School's tradition of academic excellence and individual success.

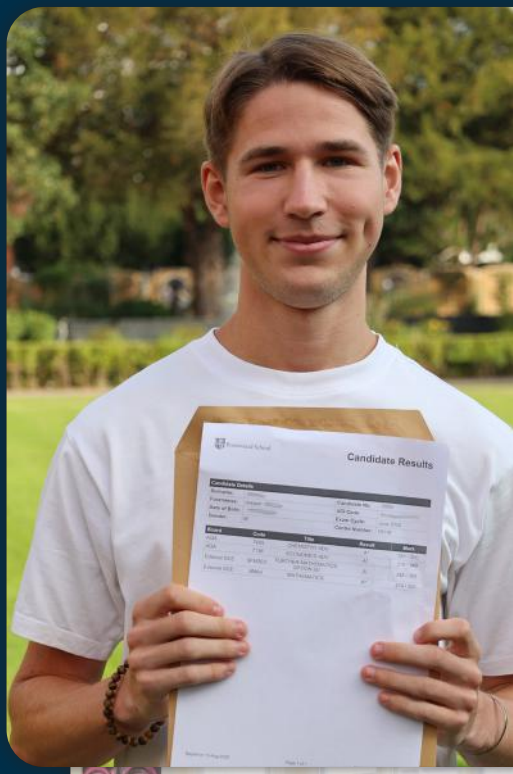
The Sixth Form offers three pathways - A Levels, the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP), and BTEC Extended Diplomas in Sport and Business - enabling students to follow the courses best suited to their strengths and ambitions.

The IB Diploma Class of 2025 achieved an impressive average of 38 points, with 28% scoring 40 points or above and three students attaining the maximum 45 - a feat achieved by only around 0.3% of candidates worldwide. One of these top achievers, Achinta Kundra, served as Secretary General of the School's Model United Nations Society and completed the London Marathon before securing a place at Imperial College London to study Economics, Finance and Data Science.

At A Level, 133 students sat exams, with 43.3% of grades at A*–A, 81.7% at A*–B, and a 100% pass rate. Head of School, Joe Payne, achieved 3 A*s and 1 A, earning a place at the London School of Economics to study Accounting and Finance.

BTEC Extended Diploma students also excelled, with every one of the 37 students achieving their first-choice destination. Eleven attained the equivalent of A*A*A* and ten achieved A*A*A, with an average of 155 UCAS points (A*AA equivalent).

Joe Payne, Head of School.





Achinta Kundra and family.

> It is fantastic to see the achievements of all our outgoing Upper Sixth students as they look to their future 'Beyond Brentwood'. It is always so exciting to see the range of pathways our students take, such as entering universities in the UK and across the world, or taking up apprenticeships and employment roles."

Tim Sellers, Director of Sixth Form



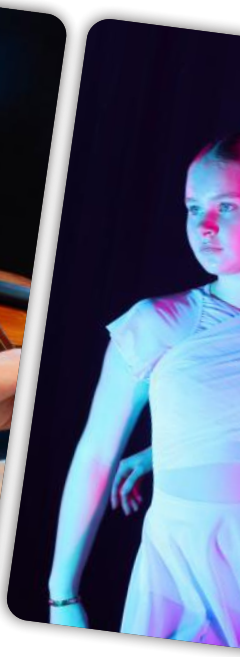
Legally Blonde.



Prom Concert.



House Music.



Performing Arts Takes a Bow After Another Fantastic Year

The 2024 calendar season came to a close with a monumental set of performances. The Senior Drama production of *small* by Holly Robinson took audiences on a rollercoaster journey of emotions in the intimate setting of Brentwood Theatre. Our musicians wowed at multiple chamber concerts, demonstrating virtuosic soloistic ability across the year groups, whilst our dancers worked with a range of professionals, culminating in a highly congested competition of solo choreography.

As Christmas approached, and in keeping with tradition, the Faculty came together in a whole-school performance of the much-loved musical *Legally Blonde*. The Wessex Auditorium, resplendent in pink, housed a five-night, sold-out run of this incredible musical where every facet of the show, on and off the stage, was performed and produced by our student body. Over 150 students were involved in this mammoth undertaking and, in true Brentwood style, the result was an unadulterated success, with standing ovations every night. Of course, amidst this, members of our acclaimed Chamber Choir were busy preparing for three services of Nine Lessons and Carols, held in Brentwood Cathedral. Macmillan's *O Radiant Dawn*, Will Todd's *My Lord has Come*, and many others, provided the perfect underscore to this crucial moment in the liturgy and led us into the Christmas break, tired but fulfilled.

In 2024, we launched our innovative Specialist Music Programme, with 7 highly talented young musicians from the School gaining coveted places. The programme is designed to nurture exceptional talent, fostering the next generation of professional musicians through world-class training and partnerships with prestigious institutions such as the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Steinway and Sons.

Students enrolled on the Specialist Music Programme receive individually tailored programmes of reduced academic study to facilitate time for supervised practice, masterclasses, musicianship training, chamber music coaching, and performance opportunities on a regular basis. The SMP has had an impactful first year, growing to 13 students in its second year and allowing those young musicians, for whom music is clearly going to be their career, the time, support, and artistic environment in which to truly reach their potential.



Dance Showcase.

Prom Concert.

Chamber Concert.

Dance Showcase.

This mission, to educate the very best young musicians in the world, led to the launch of a new, trail-blazing initiative: the Brentwood International Music Competition. The competition positions Brentwood School as a global hub for musical excellence, drawing aspiring musicians from around the world to experience the School's first-rate facilities, state-of-the-art boarding house, outstanding teaching, and dynamic artistic community. With a range of prestigious awards, including scholarships, bursaries, and monetary prizes, the competition boasts a Grand Prize of a life-changing full boarding bursary and automatic enrolment on the School's Specialist Music Programme.

We received 30 applications from over 14 different countries, eventually inviting 7 highly talented young musicians to Brentwood School to perform at a Grand Final in May, adjudicated by a host of world-renowned adjudicators. Following this incredible evening, three violinists from Bolivia, Hong Kong, and the UK joined the School to continue their musical journeys with us, and the competition is now an annual coveted event in our school calendar.

Amidst the backdrop of International Competition planning, the Faculty at large continued with its usual fervour, with concerts, evensongs, and masterclasses coming thick and fast. The mighty Brentwood School Big Band stole the show in January with the annual battle with the professional London-based Big Band, the Seven Steps Big Band. A true evening of fun ensued, with the School band easily holding their own against their professional adversaries; bombast, virtuosity, and spirit were in abundance. Valentine's Day was celebrated by our musicians with a double engagement at Chelmsford Cathedral. The Big Band performed a lunchtime concert to a large and enthusiastic audience numbering over 500. This was then followed by our Chamber Choir singing evensong in this beautiful space and strengthening a growing relationship between the Cathedral and the School.

The second half of Lent Term is perhaps the busiest in our annual calendar, and this year was no different. Performances began with an evening of Jazz and Poetry, where our Jazz collectives performed interspersed with reflective poetry by Senior English students. We then moved to the Wessex Auditorium for our highly anticipated annual dance show this year, appropriately titled 'Into the Spotlight'. Sell-out audiences were treated to a spectacle of ensemble and solo dance performances from over 100 students across the School. From Bollywood to Ballroom and everything in between, this proved a phenomenal showcase of all things Dance at Brentwood School, and the standard was impeccable throughout, paying tribute to the hundreds of hours our dancers and teachers spent rehearsing and perfecting this awe-inspiring show.

Three days later (and with huge thanks to our technical team), the Memorial Hall was converted into the savage world of Golding's iconic *Lord of the Flies*. A team of extremely talented Year 9 and 10 students delivered this iconic work with mature understanding, thought-provoking delivery, and a refreshing modern take on this much-loved classic, which left all in the audience with much to consider over an interval glass of wine! Once again, the depth and breadth of talent at the School was obvious, with many students taking their first leading roles and doing so with confidence and humility.

With only two weeks of the term left, our musicians took to the stage once more for two large-scale concert performances. Firstly, our Lent Concert in the Wessex Auditorium gave a platform for many of our junior musicians, which then led into our Symphonic and Choral Concert in Brentwood Cathedral. One of the highest quality nights in Music Department history, this beautiful acoustic was filled with a fierce performance of Borodin's Symphony No.2 in B minor, performed by our Symphony Orchestra. That a student orchestra can perform a work of this scale and complexity is nothing short of sensational and is the result of collectively thousands of hours of hard work.

The concert came to a close with our combined Choral Society, which proudly includes students, Old Brentwoods, Staff, Parents, and members of Becket Keys School, performing Durufle's utterly exquisite *Requiem* mass, accompanied by chamber orchestra. For those who were not able to attend this concert (or indeed many others), the opportunity to relive them on the School's YouTube channel is one very worth exploring.

The summer term, which offers the joy of public examinations for many of our older students, is a time for us to devote energy to our wonderful junior students at the School. Junior Chamber Concerts, Drama Club performances, and Junior Dance Shows were very well received and paid tribute to the future success of the Faculty. Our Chamber Choir provided the musical accompaniment for the celebratory evensong held at St Peter's Church South Weald, commemorating our benefactor Sir Antony Browne, in a moving and reflective service.

Our Junior Play this year, which involved over 100 Year 7 and 8 students, was a moment of pure magic as we took a three-night run of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* to the Memorial Hall Stage. A much-loved modern masterpiece, the play demands extremely high levels of production, acting, and ensemble skills, and our younger students rose to the immense challenges with true character.



Legally Blonde.



Chamber Concert.



Lent Concert.



The Performing Arts Faculty at Brentwood School proudly sits at the top of the Independent School sector with a programme of performance and opportunity that rivals any school in the world."

Florian Cooper, Head of Brentwood School of Music

The school year, as is tradition, came to a close with the Promenade Concert in the Courage Hall. A swan-song for our departing Upper Sixth Musicians, who have given so much over the years to the School, the performances were entirely personal to them, and much of the music was written and performed for one night only. Accompanied by School ensembles and choirs, these remarkably talented individuals took to the stage for one final time in a series of virtuosic, moving, and simply awe-inspiring performances, all washed down by hearty servings of strawberries, cream, and fizz!

Whilst the summer months are a time of rest for some, our young students continue to perform, with many representing the School at the Dance World Cup, at a variety of National Youth Theatre productions, and even in the Royal Albert Hall with the National Youth Orchestra. A group of 60 talented musicians embarked on a memorable tour to Belgium. They captivated audiences with their Big Band and Choral performances, receiving standing ovations and calls for multiple encores.

We are all excited to be embarking on another year of Performing Arts at Brentwood School and look forward to welcoming you at a concert, play, show or service in the near future.



Harry Potter.

Legally Blonde.

Dance Showcase.

International Music Competition.

Brentwood School

Specialist Music Programme







The Specialist Music Programme will rigorously train, assess and inspire auditioned musicians in individually-tailored pathways, as part of the wider school curriculum, and is aimed at those who are seriously considering a career or future in music.

To find out more visit brentwoodschool.co.uk

Sporting Excellence

It has been another exceptional year on the sporting front at Brentwood School, with a number of teams and individuals excelling across a range of activities. The Michaelmas Term began with the annual ISFA Sixes National Football Tournament, a competition that Brentwood has rich history in. After previously winning the Plate Competition, the team excelled by reaching the later stages of the Cup Competition, which included a memorable quarter-final win against Forest School. In the semi-final, the team were drawn against defending champions Shrewsbury School. With the stakes being so high, both teams proceeded with caution, resulting in a final score of 0-0. This meant a place in the final would be decided on penalties. Unfortunately, we fell short in the shoot-out, however the team should be proud of being in the top four schools in the country on the day.

Between September and October, there are numerous cup competitions that take place. It is a notoriously busy period for certain sports, no more so than netball, where our U19 team qualified for the regional finals by placing well in the County Round. In hockey, a number of our teams won their respective County Rounds, meaning there would be plenty of regional finals to look forward to later in the term.

As we moved into November, the success of the previous tennis term meant that we had two teams playing in the regional finals. Both our U13 and U15 girls' teams reached this stage for the first time, placing both in the top 16 schools in the country. With the South East region featuring the strongest tennis schools in the country, the girls acquitted themselves well throughout the day. By maintaining high levels of performance and effort, they eventually placed 4th in both competitions.

The term finished with individual successes, with Joe Payne (U6), Josh Harkins and Joe Poyton (both Year 11) being picked for the ISFA National U18 and U16 squads respectively. Additionally, Henry Pratt (Year 10) was selected to ski for Great Britain's U16 team, joining Sam and Max Kingsley (both L6), who continued to ski internationally throughout the year. In hockey, our U12 team were crowned Regional Champions for the first time, where they defeated a number of County Champions across the region to end the year on a high.

The Lent Term began with some school sporting history, as our U18B golf team won the regional round to qualify for the ISGA National Finals (where our 'A' team had automatically qualified as defending champions), becoming the first school 'B' team in the history of the competition to qualify for a national final. January also saw a number of our squash teams qualify for the National Plate Finals, with our U14, U16 and U19 mixed teams all succeeding in reaching the season finale in Birmingham later in the term. There were also impressive results for our swimming teams, who retained their district and MESSA team titles with a string of strong performances. The month ended with our U19 netball team playing in the regional tournament, where they agonisingly missed out on a place in the semi-final due to goal difference.

There was also fencing success, with a number of students performing well to qualify for the national finals later in the year. Highlights were the bronze medals for William Mollison (Year 8) in the U14 Boys' Epee and Max Young (Year 9) in the U14 Boys' Foil, and the silver medal for Chloe Leslie (U6) in the U18 Girls' Foil. Further individual success came in athletics, where Sean Atafo (Year 11) picked up a bronze medal in the U17 National Indoor Triple Jump Final.



William Mollison (Year 8) won the bronze medal in the U14 Boys Epee fencing event

Joe Payne (U6) was chosen to play tennis for the ISFA National U18 Team

Saxon Minto (Year 11) claimed bronze in the 100m breaststroke at the GB Aquatic Championships

Sean Atafo (Year 11) was awarded the bronze medal in the U17 National Indoor Triple Jump Final





The second half of the Lent Term is unofficially named 'March Madness', where the busier you are, the more it highlights how successful the previous terms have been. In what was an incredible period for the School's football programme, our U15 boys' football team reached the final of the U15 ISFA National Trophy. By defeating Lingfield College 3-0 in the final, we marked our first ISFA trophy win for a number of years. Our U13 boys' team were also impressive in reaching their respective ISFA Trophy Final, performing admirably in defeat to KCS, Wimbledon. There was more success from our U14 boys' team, who were crowned Elgin League Champions after defeating Bradfield College in the final - a victory that was even sweeter after spending a number of years not playing in the Elgin League at that particular age group. A special mention for our 2nd XI boys' team, who reached their respective Elgin Final, coming up short against a very strong Hampton School team. The girls' teams also continue to impress, with our U13 team reaching the last 16 of the ISFA Cup, losing narrowly to James Allen Girls' School, while our U12 team continued their progress by reaching the semi-final of the County Cup.

March also includes the annual Public Schools' Fencing Championships, which takes place across three days at Lea Valley Sports Centre. Brentwood placed 3rd overall (narrowly missing out on 2nd place by a few points). There were a number of strong individual performances, including Max Young (Year 9), who managed to secure the best overall Mount-Haes Boys for the second year in a row. This is an outstanding achievement as defending a title is often far more difficult than winning one.

There was more national success from our squash teams, with our U14, U16 and U19 mixed teams, as well as our U14 boys' team, all reaching the National Plate Finals in Birmingham. The U14 and U19 mixed teams performed well to achieve silver medals, while our U16 mixed team had an even better day in winning the competition, defeating Yorkshire champions South Hunsley School. We also had a number of rugby teams playing in the National Rosslyn Park 7s Tournament, the largest school rugby tournament for boys in the world. Our U16 team had a successful day in their tournament with victories against Bristol Grammar School, something for the players to be proud of. The term ended with the County Netball Finals, where both our U16 and U19 teams had reached the final two in the county after successful seasons. Our U16s were crowned champions in the Plate Final, while our U19s were worthy runners-up in the main final against a very strong Barking Abbey School.



Eloise Minto (Year 9) won the bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke at the English Summer Nationals

Tobi Ogundeko (Year 11) set a new County Athletics Record in the 200m and is currently ranked 2nd in the UK

Max Young (Year 9) claimed bronze in the U14 Boys Foil fencing event

Sophia Mitchell and Ossie Elliot (both U6) were chosen to play cricket for the Senior Essex 2nd XI Sides Team

Mayr Brown-Devall (Year 8) reached the 'Road to Wimbledon' National Tennis Finals



The Trinity term began with a Regional Indoor Cricket Final for our U13 girls' team, achieved by winning the Indoor County Cup earlier in the year. The tennis season also proved to be hugely successful, with both the U13 and U15 boys performing consistently well to win their respective Country Cups, leading them to play regional knockout games in September.

In terms of sporting excellence, golf continues to set the standard on the national stage, with two of our U18 teams taking part in the ISGA National Finals at Slaley Hall in Northumberland. The 'A' team of Edward Linley (U6), Henry Linley and Blake Read (both L6) placed a magnificent 2nd in the overall standings to win consecutive national medals, while our 'B' team of Will Clark, Ben Rowbury (both U6) and Jacob Wagner (Year 11) placed an impressive 17th overall, becoming the first 'B' team in history to qualify for a national final.

In athletics, both our teams and individuals continued to excel. Our inter girls' team reached the Regional 'A' Final, demonstrating a high level of consistency to continually reach this stage of the competition. We also had students who were picked to represent Essex in the English Schools' Athletics Championships, following impressive performances at the County Championships. Tobi Ogundeko (Year 11) broke the long-standing country 200m record in the process, running a blistering 21.6 seconds to set himself up nicely for nationals later in the year.

There were more successes after half-term, including another first for Brentwood, where our U18 girls' tennis team qualified for the national finals for the first time in the School's history. This was preceded by an impressive cup run, which included a regional knockout win against The Perse to qualify for the national finals. The team travelled to Nottingham for four intense days of competition, acquitting themselves well against the top players in the country and placing a commendable 16th overall. The U16 boys' team also had a strong season, reaching the regional final before losing narrowly to Whitgift School.

It was another outstanding year for the School's cricket programme, with both boys' and girls' teams excelling on the county, regional and national stage. The 1st XI girls' team reached the last 16 of the U18 National Cup, losing to previous champions Ipswich School, while the U17 girls' team was crowned Country Champions.

The U14 and U15 boys' teams were crowned County Champions, with the U15 team then progressing to the Regional T20 Finals Day - the fourth time in five years that we have reached this stage of the competition. Our U17 boys' team also had an excellent run in the National Plate Competition, where an excellent quarter-final win over Winchester College, followed by a semi-final win against Seaford College, saw the team reach another national final for the School. We also had a number of students representing Essex in various age groups, with Sophia Mitchell and Ossie Elliot (both U6) playing for the Senior Essex 2nd XI Sides.

As the School broke up for the summer holidays, there were still a number of individual successes to mention, including Saxon Minto (Year 11), who picked up a fantastic bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke in the GB Aquatic Championships. In the English Summer Nationals, Eloise Minto (Year 9) picked up a well deserved bronze in the 100m breaststroke. In athletics, Tobi Ogundeko (Year 11) placed 2nd in the English Schools' 200m Final before then going on to win the international match when representing England. His time of 21.21 seconds currently ranks him 2nd in the UK. In the triple jump, Sean Atafo (Year 11) placed third in the English Schools' Championships with an outstanding jump of 15m 15cm. In tennis, Mayr Brown-Devall (Year 8) reached the 'Road to Wimbledon' National Finals, competing against some of the strongest players in the country. Mayr performed exceptionally well to win the overall tournament, showing fantastic consistency as he had to play a number of qualifying tournaments to reach (and then win) this final stage.

It has been a pleasure to share this review of the School's sporting year, and it is a privilege to work with so many talented students and staff.

Neil Gamester

Director of Sport (Whole School, 3-18)

Josh Harkins & Joe Poyton (both Year 11) were selected to play in the ISFA U16 tennis squad

Tobi Ogundeko (Year 11) placed 2nd in the English Schools' 200m Final and won an international match while representing England

Max Young (Year 9) was the top Mount-Haes Boys fencer for the second year running

Chloe Leslie (U6) earned the silver medal in the U18 Girls' Foil fencing event

Henry Pratt (Year 10) was selected to ski for Great Britain's U16 Team





A Sporting Year Like No Other



Max Dowman with his Brentwood School teammates.

When it comes to sporting excellence, no one has encapsulated this more than Max Dowman. In Year 10, he became the youngest scorer in the history of the U19 Champions League competition when scoring for Arsenal against Italian side Atalanta FC. There were further outings for Arsenal's U18 and U21 sides before being selected to represent England U17 in the European Championships in Albania. He achieved all this while also helping the School win the U15 ISFA Trophy Football Final, as well as being crowned District Champion over 200m.

Max reached further heights in the summer of 2025, where he made his senior Arsenal FC debut in a pre-season game against AC Milan, before significantly impressing in a further pre-season appearance against Newcastle United, where he won a penalty to help Arsenal win the game.

These impressive performances led Max to uncharted territory, when on Saturday 23rd August 2025 he made his Premier League debut for Arsenal against Leeds United, becoming the second-youngest player in history to make a league appearance. Coming on in the 64th minute, a fantastic cameo resulted in him winning a penalty to help Arsenal win the match 5-0.

A further Premier League appearance awaited him a week later, where he played against Liverpool FC at Anfield, while he also played in the League Cup Competition against Port Vale FC. As the season progressed, Max became Arsenal's youngest-ever starter when he played against Brighton and Hove Albion in the League Cup, and the first 15 year old to play in the Champions League when playing against Sparta Prague.

In addition to his Arsenal success, Max was called up to play for England's U19 team. He broke yet another record by becoming the youngest ever goalscorer for an England U19 side by scoring against Wales in a 7-0 victory.

It is difficult to comprehend how someone so young can compete against the very best players in the world, and it is remarkable how he has handled the pressure that comes with playing for a Premier League team. Max has had to make more sacrifices than any school student to achieve these accomplishments, all while continuing his education in his GCSE year at Brentwood School. The whole School community are incredibly proud of Max, and we are sure that his continued dedication will ensure he reaches new heights in the coming months and years.

Quest for the House Cup!

House Music

North and Hartswood (Northwood!) were crowned winners of House Music, with the enthusiasm and hard work of the musicians very much rewarded. Bessie Taggart led the ensemble with her exceptional musical skills and a natural flair for creativity, resulting in a masterful performance. Lizzie Dixon led the part song, delivering a rendition that was both deeply moving and exceptionally accomplished.

There was some individual recognition for Juliette Toms and Elsie Playle, who were both praised for their outstanding performances. To crown the evening, Bessie Taggart was awarded the Ensemble Cup in recognition of her remarkable contribution. The Unison performance, led by Sophie Cooke and Sahara Dhir, brought the House together for the finale.







Victory for School and South House at House Music 2024.



House Chess

After 5 rounds and over 1000 games, Merrymeade retained the House Chess Championship. South were runners-up while North (who won the last two rounds) came third. The whole competition was played in a beautiful spirit of friendly competition.

Games were played on iPads at www.lichess.org on Tuesday lunchtimes. Students could either play in Lower Bean with their friends (and cheer on their House) or from wherever they happened to be on campus.

Twelve Year 6 pupils from the Prep came across for each round and played for a guest House. It was a nice way to showcase the Senior School (and the Senior School lunches) for them and they showed that age - or the lack of it - is no barrier in chess.

Thank you to the staff as well as the students who took part. Roll on 2025/2026.



House Reading

House Reading is now firmly established in our House events, with 1,606 book reviews submitted in total for the academic year 24/25. North was top of the Reader-board for Michaelmas and Trinity, with Thorndon victorious in Lent, but it should be noted that Merrymeade were never far behind. Overall for the year, North had our most avid readers, submitting a magnificent 294 reviews. Six prizes were awarded to students for their individual contributions for their Houses, which recognised readers from East, Merrymeade, North, Thorndon and Weald. We are all enjoying what we read with 95% of students and staff rating their books as four or five stars out of five!

There were 222 entries in the Parents' House Reading 2024/25 competition with Hartswood winning the House points every term! Competition was hotting up in Trinity when North narrowly missed ending Hartswood's domination.



Students competing for House points in the House Chess Championship.



West take home the Track and Field trophy.



Danso School, Gambia.



Track and Field 2024.

House Sport

West was victorious at Track and Field once again, due to a fantastic team effort from students across all years. A particular shout out must go to Mr Turnbull, who, despite being close to his professional relay retirement, yet again gave of his all in front of the students for the fourth and final leg of the staff relay. Despite this victory, West placed 2nd overall in the House cup for the third time in four years! West will be back with a vengeance in the 25/26 academic year, and will be looking to secure another sports day victory. Over the course of the year, different Houses showed their sporting strengths across a variety of sports including Football, Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Rounders. South and Merrymeade dominated the standings in the Michaelmas Term, being in the top five Houses across every year group in House hockey and rugby. In the Lent Term, East came out on top, closely followed by Hampden by two points. A noticeable highlight was the Senior Netball House competition, where over 100 Senior Girls were representing their Houses.

Charity

May saw East and Weald's House Week with the biggest charity initiative the House System has ever seen...to fill a van load of donated books, clothes and supplies for Danso School in Gambia. On 2nd May the shipment of 74 boxes, along with handwritten letters from our Brentwood students, was loaded and after a journey across to Gambia, it arrived on 9th July. The teachers stayed late to organise all of the items and the Headteacher (Mr Nije) said it was such an exciting day as families were invited to come and choose items they needed the most. We are sure this is the start of a special relationship with Danso School.

North supported the Marillac Neurological Centre and organised a toiletry drive for the residents' hardship fund. The response was overwhelming and the residents were so grateful for the generous donations of our school community.

Other Events

As the Headline Event for East and Weald House Week, we saw students take to the stage in our first ever Lip Sync competition. This was held in Wessex with a full audience! Highlights included some renditions of songs trending on TikTok, including East's 'I'm Just Ken' and North's 'Espresso'. Hampden, Hartswood and Merrymeade went for some more blast from the past style songs with 'Mr Brightside', 'Wannabe' and 'Murder on the Dancefloor' respectively. However, in the end School and Weald were victorious, winning joint first place. School performed a meticulously choreographed and flawlessly performed take on 'Call Me Maybe', and Weald House reenacted a 'riff off' from the Pitch Perfect film.

2025 also saw The Chase House Special where pupils took on Chasers in the form of Mrs Gray, Mr Hitchings and Mr Bowley in the Lecture Theatre. Lower Sixth pupil James was Brentwood's own Bradley Walsh and the competition was fierce with questions requiring knowledge about both TikTok and World War 2! South, Weald, Thorndon, West, Hampden and East all managed to beat the Chaser.

Art competitions have always been part of the House System and this year we ran a very special competition to design a Brentwood mug to be sold at the School Shop. Elisa Huen in East and Hallie Attfield in Hartswood were joint winners and their designs are now available from the School Shop.



East performing 'I'm Just Ken' at the Lip Sync competition.

Winners

After a year's battle it was Merrymeade who retained their title as House Cup Winners! Mr Fisher was overjoyed to be leaving Brentwood on such a wonderful note. It was another year of new events, new challenges, and more money raised than ever for charity, with our first Race Across the Globe under our belt (more to come on that later in the magazine!). What a success. Bring on next year!



House spirit on the track for Race Across the Globe.



House Music 2024.

Brentwood Goes Global



Cologne Cathedral.

What an incredible year of exploration it's been for Brentwood students. From bracing the cold of Dartmoor for Geography fieldwork to chasing the Spanish sunshine on the Netball tour, 2024/2025 was packed with enriching residential trips across the globe.

Our sporty students had a fantastic time, with the U14 Netball Team winning their tournament in Spain and the Football Tour experiencing the vibrant culture and professional sports scene in Atlanta, Georgia. For our more musically inclined, the Music tour to Belgium was a highlight, giving 51 young musicians the chance to perform six major concerts, including a beautiful performance of Durufle's Requiem in Lille Cathedral.

Academically, the trips brought lessons to life. Politics and History students toured the US Capitol and debated with US students in Washington D.C. Language students explored culture and history in Berlin, tasting Ritter Sport chocolate and learning about the Berlin Wall. Classics students climbed Mount Vesuvius after visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum in Sorrento.

And the adventure didn't stop there! Students achieved PADI qualifications on a Scuba diving trip to Mexico , while others took on the peaks of Snowdonia for the CCF Adventure Training and Gold DofE expeditions. Whether you were admiring the colourful houses of Murano on the Art trip to Venice or taking 96,229 steps on the New York trip, every residential created unforgettable memories.

Brandenburg Gate, Berlin.



Community Spirit

The VSA Programme

This past academic year, our School Volunteer Service Programme has made remarkable strides in fostering community spirit and encouraging students to engage in meaningful service. We have proudly established collaborations with Manna Meals, Remus Horse Sanctuary, Brentwood Connected and the Local Council helping us to continually broaden our community engagement. We are very much looking forward to working with the local council to redesign and care for the tree pits in the High Street.

This year, our students dedicated over 2,400 hours to volunteering both inside and outside school time. This commitment reflects our school's strong culture of service and the willingness of students to contribute positively to our community.

Our students have had the privilege of participating in a wide range of volunteer activities, partnering with local organisations such as Hutton View Care Home, Remus Horse Sanctuary, and Brentwood Theatre, Brentwood Connected and Manna Meals. Nine students achieved their British Sign Language Level 101 qualification and a further nine earning their First Aid certification through St John's Ambulance.

Besides their regular activities, students engaged in full-day service experiences throughout the year. This has included helping at the Brentwood Art Trail, Christmas fairs, the Hutton View Carehome Christmas fair as well as hosting our own community events. These hands-on activities have been instrumental in fostering a sense of responsibility and care for both the community and the environment.

One highlight of the year was our annual Christmas party in December, where we hosted over 40 guests from local care homes including Leonard Lodge Care Home, Hutton View, Anisha Grange and the Shenfield almshouses. This year we made this a whole school event by getting our Year 7s to make Christmas cards as well as getting the Senior and Prep School choirs to sing and talk to guests. Feedback from attendees emphasised how much they appreciated the students' efforts, creating memorable moments for all involved.

Our students also hosted a community afternoon tea in June, in order to say thank you to those in the community that we support. Our students planned the event, decorated the tables, prepared thank you speeches and then hosted the event. This was a fantastic end to the summer term. Guest included St Thomas of Canterbury School, Brentwood Theatre, SNAP, Manna Meals, Hutton View Care Home and Brentwood Connected.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue building on the past year's successes. Our goals include expanding our partnerships further and creating additional community roles for our students.



Delivering gifts via the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal.



Singing carols at the VSA Christmas Party.

SABS: Voices of Influence



Retired Olympian, Fatima Whitbread, talks about resilience.

September 2024 marked the start of our second year of the SABS Guest Speaker Programme. The aim of the programme is to acquaint Sixth Form students with speakers who talk on a wide range of topics, experiences and careers.

Our 2024-2025 programme was very well attended, with almost half of the entire Sixth Form attending sessions. The programme was packed full of interesting speakers, and we were fortunate to have motivational speaker Andy Ramage as our opening speaker for the year. His inspirational talk set the tone for the year, blending stoicism with positive thinking and self-belief to achieve unbelievable results.

We also hosted John Volanthem, who shared the incredible story of his key role in the Thailand cave rescue, recently portrayed in the film 'Thirteen Lives' by Ron Howard. In addition, we were fortunate to hear from an ex-NASA engineer giving us an insight into the issues surrounding the development and launch of the Hubble Space Telescope.

We also heard from a Liberal Democrat councillor, the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, professionals within the Banking, Legal and Investment professions, a surgeon, a naval commander, a paediatrician, Olympian Fatima Whitbread and more! All of their stories and those from the remaining speakers were delivered on-site, mainly within the hallowed confines of Old Big School, or as we think of it - the spiritual home of SABS.



Lee McGinty speaks to students after his SABS talk.

Giving Back

Our school fundraising efforts continued to expand in the academic year 2024-2025, focusing on a wider range of charities (both nationally and internationally), forming partnerships with new organisations and raising over £18,000 in the process.

Particular highlights in the Michaelmas Term were the ever-popular Macmillan Coffee Morning which, thanks to the efforts of teaching and operational staff, raised £350. We were also incredibly proud to represent the charity Masicorp, with six of our Sixth Form students taking part in the Royal Parks half marathon in October, and raising £15,000 in the process. Our House Christmas Fair and Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform day raised £784 for Havens Hospice and £3010 for Plan International respectively. In addition to monetary fundraising, we also sent 78 shoeboxes to Eastern Europe with the charity Link to Hope, and ran a Harvest collection for Brentwood Foodbank (as well as an Easter collection in the following term).

In the Lent Term, House charity weeks continued to raise funds for a range of local charities, including Hearing Help Essex and the Marillac Neurological Centre. The Houses also donated a range of toiletries to the centre, which were greatly appreciated by the staff and residents. One of the biggest charity events of this term was the donation drive for Danso School in Gambia. The students and their families all worked together to fill a shipping container with clothes, toys and school supplies, and the donations were warmly received, with a letter of thanks from the school being sent a few weeks later. It is partnerships such as these, and the work with Masicorp, which is particularly rewarding, and enables us to build on our charity work each year, with visible outcomes for the School community and the people they help. The impact our charity work has on our students could not have been made clearer than when three Upper Sixth students ran an Easter egg hunt for Year 7, and sold Easter chocolates to other year groups, culminating in £3320 being raised for Accomplish Trust UK, when added to our non-uniform day total.



East's stall at the House Christmas Fair.

The year group teams also worked hard to raise funds for their chosen charities; Year 10 ran a Valentine's Day card delivery service, which raised £108 for Radiotherapy UK and Year 9 raised over £500 for Cancer Research UK by wearing 'anything but school shoes' on their feet for a day. There have been some very imaginative events to aid fundraising engagement in the past year, and this definitely took the top spot! Finally, our fundraising efforts culminated in two sporting events in the Trinity Term. The inaugural Race Across the Globe raised vital funds to support our ongoing Brentwood School Foundation Bursary initiative, and the ever-popular Track and Field day raised £3615 for the John Killilea Foundation for Young Athletes.

Serving treats at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.



The Great Outdoors

Our Outdoor Education programme provides students with a broad range of experiences that combine personal growth, leadership, and environmental stewardship.

Year 7 students continue the journey many of them started at Prep School with learning in sustainability and ecology, outdoor adventure, forest school, and community projects, all of which develop teamwork and resilience from the outset. In Year 8, they continue their learning through activities taking place at Thriftwood Scout Camp as well as in eco activities, gardening, and STEAM projects, experiencing practical problem-solving alongside using their creativity.

In Years 9 to 11, students have the opportunity to choose their activities, many students decide to work towards the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award. Between expeditions, they take part in sessions designed to enhance both technical outdoor skills, such as navigation, firelighting and shelter building, alongside soft skills, including teamwork and leadership. Sixth Form students adopt a mentoring role, leading younger pupils in outdoor sessions while continuing to develop their own abilities in bushcraft, archery, self-defence, and the newly-created mountain biking activities, utilising our new onsite mountain bike skills track.

The new Newnum Garden area is now complete and fully operational, providing raised beds for gardening, student research spaces, and outdoor classrooms now ready for use. There are now 4 table tennis tables that are in constant use, by pupils throughout the School at every break and lunch time. Alongside this there are now 6 bookable outdoor classroom spaces for all subjects to use. Student input was used in these designs, allowing for a very versatile collection of spaces to be created. The Water Garden continues to offer a peaceful wellbeing area, and there have been continued developments and improvements to the Forest School areas for the Prep and for the Senior School.



Plants grown by students in the new Newman Garden.

Together, the curriculum and facility developments reflect our enduring commitment to providing every student with an engaging, exciting and hands-on learning programme, giving every pupil a holistic learning experience.



Snowdon Horseshoe.



Gold DofE expedition in Snowdon.



Bronze DofE expedition in Roxwell.

DofE Explores New Heights

Over the past year, Brentwood School students have embraced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with energy, curiosity and determination. From local countryside adventures to challenging multi-day expeditions, the programme has pushed students to explore new skills and test their limits.

Bronze participants, 46 in total, tackled the landscapes of Danbury and Roxwell. These expeditions offered more than walking routes, they encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and self-reliance as students navigated trails and camped overnight.

Silver students ventured further, with 32 students completing expeditions in Ashdown Forest and the South Downs. Facing varied terrain and longer journeys, they honed their navigation skills, supported each other and built confidence that will stay with them well beyond the award. Many of these students had previously achieved Bronze, continuing their progression through the programme.

Gold level presented the ultimate test: 29 Sixth Form students, including 20 who had previously earned Bronze and Silver, took on the Chilterns and Dartmoor. Over several days of walking and camping, these students demonstrated resilience, leadership and commitment.

Equally impressive are the contributions outside expeditions. Collectively, DofE students completed 3,042 volunteering hours, representing a social value of £19,467. This reflects a culture of giving back and making a difference in the wider community.

Through DofE, Brentwood students gain far more than awards - they gain skills, friendships and memories that shape who they are and who they aspire to become. Each step of the journey, whether on local trails or rugged hills, highlights the spirit, dedication and growth that the programme fosters.

This past year four students have also been selected and trained to be our new DofE Young Leaders; Arya Nassa and Benji Versey in Year 11 and Archie Crone and Anaya Shankar in Year 10. This responsibility has allowed them to support and mentor their peers completing the programme and contribute to the general running of the DofE here at Brentwood. Their commitment to and subsequent advancement of the DofE programme we offer demonstrates the fantastic avenues and experiences young people can have while completing their awards.

CCF: A Year of Service and Success



Remembrance Day 2024.

The CCF year started with a Summer Camp for RAF Cadets at RAF Valley in Anglesey. They spent the week speaking to future fast jet pilots from both the RAF and the Royal Navy about their training routine, and experiencing life on a working RAF base. Whilst they were in Wales, RSM Hunter took 15 cadets to the Royal Navy's Damage Repair Unit simulator in Portsmouth. The cadets were tasked with plugging holes in a simulated sinking ship to stop the ingress of water, certainly not something for the faint-hearted!



RAF Formal Parade.

The start of the year saw the introduction of a new senior position in the CCF, the Contingent Commander Cadet. This was awarded to Cadet Warrant Officer Elsie Playle. The Royal Navy Section was led by Warrant Officer Emma Burgess, the Army Section by Cadet RSM Toby Elliston, and the RAF Section by Cadet Warrant Officer Jonathan Dedman. A formidable team, well-skilled and knowledgeable in their areas, to drive forward the high standards in the CCF.

The first major successes of the year came from Field Days. The Royal Navy section completed their afloat training at Fairlop waters, where their teamwork and resilience were put under pressure with the rain and cold! Whilst some of the Sixth Form cadets visited the Historic Dockyard in Chatham for an overnight, the Army section cadets honed their military skills with an overnight exercise in Colchester, a positive and impactful trip for all who attended. Meanwhile, the RAF section prepared for a parade inspected by Air Vice Marshal Ranald Munro, with a mess dinner in the evening. In November, the School took part in the Town Remembrance Parade with over 150 cadets participating.



Remembrance Day 2024.

Christmas was soon upon us as we saw a change of Contingent Commanders. After five years, Major Haron was leaving the School; however, her association with the cadets would continue in her new role as Team Commander for the Cadet Training Team in our area. The baton was passed to Squadron Leader Singh RAFAC, who was promoted to Wing Commander by the Regional Commandant, Group Captain Boreham, during his visit to the School in February.

Participation in courses, including the newly-formed 'Champions Platoon', flying for the RAF Section, and the Cadet Vocational College BTEC Level 2 in Leadership and Personal Development, was the highest it has been in recent years.

Remembrance Day 2024.



Remembrance Day 2024.





In May, no less than 52 cadets had completed their Level 2 award, which invited them to reflect on their leadership and personal development through the challenges and opportunities provided in the CCF.

The CCF continued to grow in numbers with the new Year 9s joining the tri-service programme. Over 12 weeks, they took part in a progressive schedule of activities culminating in two field days designed to test their resilience, teamwork, leadership and communication skills. These included Nuclear Races, virtual reality drone flying, and team building and communication tasks. The Royal Navy headed to Portsmouth for their overnight as the Army Section went back to Colchester, while the RAF Section completed the Battle of Britain Memorial Walk in London. A varied and fitting end to another very busy and successful year. This was topped off with the news that Cadet Warrant Officer Jonathan Dedman had been selected to represent the UK on the International Air Cadet Exchange to Belgium, as well as progressing through to the next round of the Westminster Award.

With the CCF as the second largest co-curricular activity, second only to sport, its success is reliant on the dedication and hard work of the senior cadets and their teams. Thank you to all the Upper Sixth who dedicated so much of their time in support of the younger cadets and the programme; the CCF could simply not operate without them.

All of the above is only achievable with the help of a small group of dedicated, experienced and supportive Officers and RSM and Quartermaster, who are ably supported by no less than 40 members of staff, both teaching and operational. Thank you to RSM Hunter, Capt Wells, Lt (RN) Clark, Flt Lt Chan and Capt Tipler for their support. We say goodbye to Capt Tipler after five years in the CCF and wish her well for the future. It was great to have C/Sgt Sell back as maternity cover for Capt Wells. We wish her well for the future and look forward to welcoming her back.

This short report is only the tip of the iceberg of the events during the CCF year but the stage is set for the CCF to continue to develop in future years.

Wg Cdr S Singh RAFAC (OB)

Beyond the Classroom: Careers & Pathways

The 2024/25 academic year has been a particularly significant and rewarding one for Careers provision at our school, marked by key achievements, exciting new initiatives, and a continued commitment to providing all students with a broad, meaningful programme of careers education and guidance.

The careers roadmap helps students to see how careers education fits into their classroom learning, and gives them a clear idea of the guidance they will receive as they move through school. It encourages them to ensure that they explore different interests, understand what skills are needed for different careers, and make informed subject choices. As they get older, the roadmap supports them with post-16 options, university applications, apprenticeships, and future careers, helping every student feel confident and prepared for the next step.



Careers Convention 2025.

This year also saw the launch of an exciting new initiative for Year 7. Students spent time at Chelmsford Theatre, Norris Farm, and the Museum of Power as part of a unique trip on a sunny day in June. This diverse programme gave them the opportunity to visit three very different employers in one day, allowing an early insight into the variety of opportunities available in the world of work, ranging from the creative industries and performing arts to agriculture, heritage, and engineering.



Year 8 enjoyed hearing from guest speakers in a timetable during exam week. Three external contributors kindly gave up their time to provide students with engaging and inspiring sessions. An Old Brentwood who now runs Razzmataz Theatre Schools spoke about being an entrepreneur, sharing insights into building a business within the performing arts sector and encouraging students to think creatively about their own potential pathways. A STEM Ambassador delivered an interactive talk and demonstration, designed to spark curiosity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and to highlight the many exciting careers available in these fields. Finally, an Old Brentwood from Palmers Law, now a trainee solicitor, returned to share her own journey into the legal profession, offering practical advice, relatable experiences, and encouragement for students considering careers in law. These encounters not only gave students an understanding of the diversity of career opportunities but also reinforced the importance of resilience, aspiration, and transferable skills.

Year 7 exploring agriculture at Norris Farm.



We continue to ensure that all Year 11 students receive a 45-minute careers guidance session, allowing them to discuss their choices for the Sixth Form, whether that's the International Baccalaureate (IB), A Levels, or a BTEC pathway, and the suitability of different subjects. Year 11 students also take on a week long work experience placement after their GCSE exams. This is an opportunity for them to test out a potential career or industry whilst developing key transferable skills such as communication, professionalism, responsibility and time management.

A highlight of the year was the successful reaccreditation of the Quality in Careers Standard Award. This nationally recognised award provides external validation of the strength of our programme. Achieving reaccreditation reflects the ongoing commitment of staff, the leadership team, and our wider community partners to ensuring that students receive the very best preparation for life Beyond Brentwood. It also demonstrates that our Careers programme continues to be of a consistently high standard, meeting rigorous external benchmarks while creating a safe environment for students to explore ideas about their future.

Looking ahead, the Careers Department is excited to continue building on this year's successes, further broadening the range of encounters and experiences on offer, and maintaining our strong focus on quality, inclusivity, and student outcomes. The careers programme remains a vital part of school life, helping every young person to see the possibilities ahead and to develop the confidence and skills they will need to achieve their ambitions.



Careers Convention 2025.

Partnering with Our Community

You will have seen across the Brentwood School Times that the School is consciously and purposefully an active part of the community. As part of that we have been proactively building our partnerships; these vary from a charitable focus, where we try to 'give back', to partnerships with a mutual / commercial benefit. In common with all of them is our ambition to be an integral part of the local and wider community, because with our students, staff and facilities, we can add huge value when we form the right partnerships.

Below are just a few examples of organisation we partner with, all with great stories of collaboration and how we can achieve more together:

Foundation Wine Club

Open to all our community

November 2025 saw the launch of the Foundation Wine Club. There are many wine clubs, but the Foundation Wine Club is founded on three core principles:

1. Bringing our school community together socially to enjoy great wines
2. Supporting local and connected wine business, giving you unique access to wines
3. Raising awareness and funds for the School Foundation; drinking is giving!

Keep an eye on the Association calendar (page 124) for upcoming events.

brentwoodschool.co.uk

Brentwood School

Boarding at Brentwood

- State-of-the-art Boarding House
- Sixth Form Café & Social Area
- Single, En-suite Bedrooms









Fond Farewells & New Horizons



Dave Bugg

Porter – 11 Years

One of the School's outstanding Porters, Mr Bugg was part of the team at the heart of the School working tirelessly to ensure that classrooms and events are ready each day and, as a member of the security team, that pupils, staff and buildings are secure each day. Often unnoticed, the porter team are always there behind the scenes making things happen and Mr Bugg always did so with a smile and good humour.



John Day

Gardener – 19 Years

Mr Day was one of the members of the Operational Staff who have made such a difference to the appearance of the School and the wellbeing of staff and pupils over such a long period. One of a very small team of gardeners, Mr Day was seen all over the School tending flower beds, trimming bushes and mowing grass. He had a particular love for good lawns and his immaculately cut lawns with their clear cut stripes were admired by one and all. Away from school Mr Day loved to travel and was amazingly well travelled with fascinating tales to tell from all over the world.



Elizabeth Dedman

Prep Teacher – 30 Years

After an incredible journey spanning three decades, we bid a fond farewell to the wonderful Liz. She primarily taught in Key Stage 2, but her versatility also saw her work with pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Her significant contributions to Religious Education have earned her the well-deserved title of 'RE guru' among staff, a testament to her profound knowledge and passion for the subject.

Beyond her professional capabilities, Liz is a deeply valued colleague known for her kindness and caring nature. She consistently sees the best in every pupil and is renowned as a fantastic listener who always offers encouragement to others.

We also extend our gratitude and good wishes to invigilators Linda Evans-Hendrick and Roz Sleet, who leave us after 10 years and 4 months, and 14 years and 7 months of committed service, respectively.



Wendy Juniper

Teacher of PE & Games – 28 Years

Mrs Juniper joined Brentwood in September 1997 and was initially given a target of improving the standard of netball and athletics within the School. It is fair to say that she has exceeded this target quite dramatically, with Brentwood now being seen as one of the leading athletics and netball schools in the country.

While the multiple national finals that Mrs Juniper has reached will always steal the headlines, her passion for teaching and building relationships with the students has always been her biggest priority.

28 years of service, under 4 Headmasters and 5 Directors of Sport, winning too many trophies to count, however, there is only 1 Mrs Juniper.



Jennie Shaw

Reprographics Assistant – 24 Years

From her very first day, Jennie could not have imagined how deeply this community would shape her. Throughout the years, Jennie has collaborated with wonderful colleagues in a variety of roles - many of whom became dear friends - making her time here both fulfilling and joyful. Retirement opens the door to new adventures and cherished moments with Ian, Bob the dog, and family.



Lorraine Walland

Payroll/Purchase Ledger Officer – 25 Years

A wonderful colleague who will be greatly missed. Lorraine is looking forward to spending her retirement travelling with her husband. Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the School and we wish you well with your future endeavours.



Ian Walton

Teacher of German – 32 Years

Mr Walton has taught German, French, English and History at Brentwood for 31 years and for some of you, he will have also taught your parents! He has performed many roles within the School, including leading the languages faculty, being Head of German, Exams Officer, Assistant Head of Weald House, editor of the Brentwoodian and a middle school tutor.

Mr Walton has a true passion for travel, as he has led or accompanied more than 70 residential visits during his time at the School. He was always happy to take part in school shows and events, and once fell off the stage by mistake in a school show when he was dressed as a Teletubby!

Brentwood School
FOUNDATION

Brentwood School Foundation: Funding Bursaries to Change Young Lives



Bursary Prospect Morning.

Our Foundation and shared ambition

The Brentwood School Foundation exists solely to grow our capability to fund life-changing education.

Throughout our community we would like to engage people with the efforts of the Foundation, and to take on a shared mission: 'to widen opportunity and investment in the future of young people'. Without this philanthropic endeavour we would not be able to create merit based access to Brentwood School that ensures we have a balanced school community with the most talented and worthy young people.

Brentwood has long championed the principle that potential should never be limited by circumstance, and our bursary programme continues to open doors. These transformational opportunities are only made possible by the generosity of donors. Those supporting the Foundation are directly funding social mobility by enabling the greatest and most empowering gift; education.



Race Across the Globe.

How you can make a difference

Our focus this year has been to spread the word of the Foundation's work, so people across the School community understand the need and how they can make a difference.

Events have proved a powerful way to engage new people, or deepen understanding of the Foundation. You will read more in these pages about the inaugural ***Race Across the Globe*** (Jun-25), a challenge that engaged pupils, staff, parents, and alumni in a collective effort to accumulate miles together to raise awareness and funds. The ***Brentwood Bursary Classic*** (May-25) Foundation golf day - now in its second year - saw golfers meet at the Heron Country Club, one of our 1622 Corporate partners, for a great day. Thanks to the generosity of Russell Bartlett (OB) and his team, all proceeds went directly to the Foundation. The first ***Foundation Wine Club*** (Nov-25) evening welcomed guests to taste wine from our partner businesses / growers, and received wonderful feedback. We look forward to expanding this offering as a regular fixture in the 2026 calendar.

As well as events, we have looked to provide a wide range of options for how people may choose to support the Foundation:

- 1622 Club – An opportunity to either form a club or become part of one. A club that directly and collectively funds a full transformational bursary.
- 1622 Corporate – We are very proud and grateful to our corporate sponsors who use their success in business to pay it forward to the next generation.
- 1557 Society – Established to recognise those that consider the School in their legacy. This year we have partnered with adeus to make that process easier, you can read more in the following pages. Making a legacy gift is a tax efficient and impactful way to donate because it promises to create access for generations to come.
- President's Bursary Fund – It is becoming an annual tradition that the OB President launches a campaign for their year. This year Sarb Singh is asking people to follow his example and do what they can in setting up a modest Direct Debit and being part of a group that will fund a full Sixth Form place at Brentwood. Read more in his Chronicle article.

The Foundation and the future
As we look ahead, the Foundation remains committed to deepening its reach and increasing the number of bursary places we are able to offer. Thanks to our supporters, we are very proud to share that we have five fully funded Foundation places as of September 2025. This means that five students are being awarded a life-changing opportunity of a Brentwood education because of the Foundation and its supporters!

Please enjoy reading the stories from our wonderful Bursary Ambassadors, and seeing the impact our bursary programme has had on former students and indeed the families of bursary award holders. They are why we know we need a thriving Foundation, why bursaries are at the core of Brentwood values, and why we need everyone in our community to be part of this effort.

We warmly invite all members of our community to join us at Foundation events, to meet with the team, and consider how you might support. Together we can help open the door for more young people to access their potential, because these will be the people that go on to improve the world around them.

Sam Mason
Director of Development

Our Bursary Ambassadors

Each year, we invite Sixth Form students who have benefitted from a bursary to serve as Bursary Ambassadors - champions of the programme who help share its impact across the School community. Their voices and stories play a vital role in raising awareness of the Foundation's work and the life-changing difference bursaries make. The Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to last year's Bursary Ambassadors for their outstanding commitment, and we wish them every success in the exciting journeys ahead.

Featured below are some of our 2025 Bursary Ambassadors, whose achievements trace back to the opportunities made possible by a bursary.



Emily Latham (OB 2018-2025)

Geography, University of Southampton

"What has been your favourite thing about being a Bursary Ambassador and why would you encourage others to become one when they're in Sixth Form?"

Having the opportunity to meet supporters of the Foundation has been amazing, alongside the different events I have been able to attend. My confidence in networking has certainly improved! Being able to give back to the bursary community in some small way has been hugely rewarding, be it through attending events and networking, or filming videos to promote bursaries at Brentwood. It is undoubtedly one of the experiences that I am most proud to have taken part in during my time at school, and I could think of no better way to have shown my thanks to those who have made my time at Brentwood possible.

"What would you like to say to supporters of the Foundation?"

Simply, thank you. Your contribution towards our education is life-changing; it goes way beyond a weekday lesson in the classroom, it's the opportunities made possible only through your support, the confidence and experiences we've been fortunate enough to gain through an education at Brentwood. My future has been shaped in ways I never thought possible.

"Please summarise your 'Brentwood School experience' in three words..."

Memorable, Rewarding, Enriching.



David Akingbehin (OB 2018-2025)

Politics, University of Liverpool

"What has been your favourite thing about being a Bursary Ambassador and why would you encourage others to become one when they're in Sixth Form?"

I enjoyed giving tours to people around the School, showing them the wonderful facilities we have and I would encourage other students to do the same because you can help others whilst also improving your own personal skills like communication and working with others.

"What would you like to say to supporters of the Foundation?"

I want to say a huge thank you to the supporters of the Foundation for their support. It has helped us a lot and I hope you can continue your amazing support and donations for future students. It has been a pleasure attending this school, and thank you.

"Please summarise your 'Brentwood School experience' in three words..."

Exciting, Joyful, Challenging.



Jack Webster (OB 2018-2025)

Computer Science, University of Sheffield

"What has been your favourite thing about being a Bursary Ambassador and why would you encourage others to become one when they're in Sixth Form?"

I enjoyed being able to see the Old Brentwood events; being able to connect with all generations through a common factor has brought a new light to the impact the School has had for so many people. Furthermore, meeting my fellow bursary students has been equally as insightful, as I've really been able to connect with my peers.

"What would you like to say to supporters of the Foundation?"

My time at Brentwood School has helped me grow as a person in ways that cannot be directly put into words. I am leaving the School a much different person than who I was when I first joined, but I couldn't be prouder of the journey I have been through, and wholeheartedly thank everybody who has supported me on this journey.

"Please summarise your 'Brentwood School experience' in three words..."

Support, Growth, Balance.

We wish all our students the very best as they embark on post school life. Now Old Brentwoods, we look forward to staying in touch and hearing their life news in life beyond Brentwood.

Yes, I will donate to support a promising student to access a Brentwood School education.

Scan the QR code to complete a donation form and help shape the next generation's educational journey.

Alternatively, you can use your banking app or online/telephone banking to donate, using the details provided adjacent.

Please use Reference: 'BSF/[Your Surname]' and advise the Development Office of your donation.

Natwest Brentwood
Account Name: Brentwood School CIO
Account Number: 20622597
Sort Code: 60-03-25
IBAN: GB07NWBK 600325 20622597
Swift/BIC: NWBKGB2L

Bursaries are an Investment in Potential - See Below the Impact of Those Who Benefitted

“I honestly believe I would never have had as many musical opportunities anywhere else other than Brentwood. The bursary didn’t just give me an education, it gave me a stage. I play violin and sing in the School Choir, and now I’m the lead in our Winter Musical, Company. The rehearsals, the sheer scale of the productions - it’s professional-level experience that’s shaping not just my skills, but my confidence. It is truly transformative, allowing me to fully pursue my passions.”

Anna R (Upper Sixth)







Studying Biomedical Sciences at Birmingham is challenging, but my extensive involvement in Brentwood's Performing Arts gave me essential transferable skills. The performance confidence and teamwork are crucial for public speaking and presentations. It meant a lot to return recently and speak on the panel at the 'Fatima Whitbread: Power of Resilience' event - it felt like a full-circle moment. The bursary provided the foundation, and the continued connection proves the school keeps supporting us long after we leave."

Joe Zinyemba (OB 2017-2024)



Brentwood taught me the value of leadership, service and responsibility. My time as Deputy Head of School equipped me with the confidence and communication skills that have been vital in building my career in a highly competitive field of law. Having graduated from Durham University, I am now studying part time for a master's degree in law alongside working full time as a litigation paralegal. I attribute my academic successes and work ethic to the incredible education I received at the School, which would have been impossible without the bursary. I'm very vocal about how much Brentwood helped me – it fundamentally changed my life's trajectory."

Ellen Fasham (OB 2013-2020)

Your Legacy, Their Future

For over 400 years, Brentwood School has stood as a place of opportunity in which talent, ambition and character are nurtured in equal measure. From our earliest statutes in 1622, which promised that education here would be offered "in virtue, learning and manners...freely"

As Dr Edwin Bean (Headmaster 1891-1913) put it:

"The children of judges and those of mechanics and tradesman should mix on equal terms"

With unprecedented social and economic challenges, this principle is more important now than ever, with the majority of talented young students not having the means to consider a Brentwood education.

It feels poetic that our shared school legacy should be supported by the legacies we hope our community may consider making in their wills. Indeed, leaving a gift in your will is a powerful and efficient way to support bursaries and it costs nothing in your lifetime.

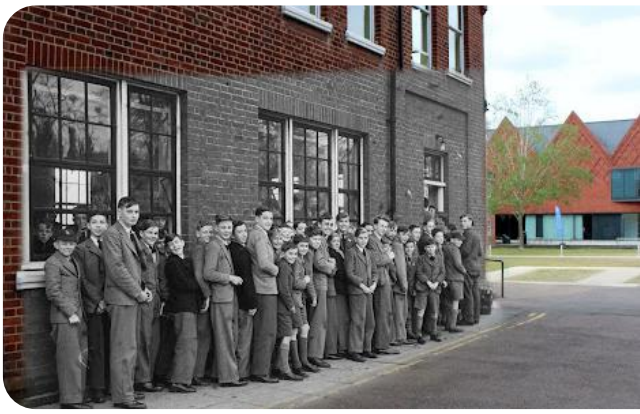
Ultimately it gives a significant Inheritance Tax benefit, allowing you to make a sizable financial impact for a fraction of that cost to your estate.

To make the process simple and accessible, Brentwood has partnered with adeus, a secure online will-writing platform. This partnership allows our community to create a legally valid will free of charge, with the School covering the cost for those considering a legacy gift to Brentwood. adeus provides clear step-by-step guidance, so you can include a bequest with confidence and peace of mind.

Every legacy, whatever its size, is a statement of belief in Brentwood and that bursaries can transform young lives for the better. It is also a gift that endures, because all legacy gifts go to fund an endowment fund for bursaries. So in perpetuity your legacy will benefit a Brentwood School pupil, your legacy living on through their education and everything they go on to do in making their own mark on the world.

To learn more about leaving a legacy or our partnership with adeus, please contact Sam Mason, Director of Development at 01277 243 329 or masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk - for a confidential discussion on your legacy.

adeus
your life, organised





Brentwood School: Past & Present.

Scan the QR code to view the 'Legacy Booklet' and learn about the impact your donation can have.

Race Across the Globe: A United Brentwood for Bursaries

Whether you are superstitious about Friday 13th or not, in June 2025 the date was an unreserved success for the School community and the School Foundation. Race Across the Globe - the School's biggest-ever fundraising initiative - saw pupils, staff, parents and Old Brentwoods run, swim and cycle in a collective effort to raise money to support the Foundation and bursaries at Brentwood.

Over the course of the campaign, more than 1,500 participants logged an astonishing 13,049 miles, raising nearly £20k for the Brentwood School Foundation. Every distance counted, and every donation made a difference - helping to ensure that more talented young people can access a Brentwood education, regardless of background.

We had sunrise circuits, sunset sprints; the whole School community was contributing miles in every way imaginable. Some members of staff, including Mr Kiff, Mr Bond and Mrs Roast, undertook a 100-mile bike ride around Essex, and Sonny Clifford in the Upper Sixth even took an all-day swim, from 6am to 6pm!

"I loved when all of the Prep School children joined in for a run around the track" said Brooke Skinner, part of our Lower Sixth Charity Committee. "It was great to see students of all ages taking part together, from the youngest pupils to Sixth Formers."

Our Lower Sixth Charity Committee really helped to bring the initiative to life. The event took months of planning, which included merchandise design, fundraising stalls to communications and social media content.

Diadem O, committee member and Bursary Ambassador, reflected "It was the most fulfilling thing to see the event come to life after months of planning, meetings and conversations. The support we received from staff, families and Old Brentwoods was incredible."

Throughout the day, the School was alive with activity, including bake sales, merchandise stalls and face glitter, while different year groups took to the track. “Being part of the lively atmosphere and giving those taking part something to look forward to at the bake sale was brilliant” said Deema Nader. “It showed how truly kind and friendly the Brentwood community is.”

Adding to the excitement, Race Across the Globe was also a House competition, with every mile swum, cycled or run earning valuable points. A huge thanks to Leah Chapman, as Head of House she was instrumental in the smooth running and mass participation of The Race. After all the efforts were tallied and weighted, North took first place with 2,071 points, followed by Weald with 1,787 and Thorndon in third with 1,657. Whilst we celebrated individual athletic achievements, every House played a crucial role in the overall success of the day, making the fundraising challenge a true all-school effort.

Race Across the Globe was not only about miles but making a tangible difference.

“Supporting bursaries at Brentwood is so important because it opens up the incredible opportunities the School offers to students who might not otherwise be able to experience them” said Brooke. “It helps make the community more inclusive and gives others the chance to benefit from everything that makes Brentwood so special.”

Ishneet Battu, member of the Lower Sixth Charity Committee, added, “As a community we have access to stellar experiences, opportunities and connections. Having a strong bursary system ensures that those experiences can be shared with as many people as possible.”

The success of Race Across the Globe showcased Brentwood School from 3-18 years old, but also everybody else under the Brentwood School umbrella, from Prep to Old Brentwoods. Collectively working towards one shared goal of accumulating miles and money for a powerful cause.

Nura Aboubakari, 1622 Corporate bursary award holder, summed it up perfectly: “This event showed how everyone can work together to raise money and how much fun we can have doing it.”

Ultimately, this event allowed us to award an extra Foundation place at Brentwood, an astonishing achievement in the first year, and a reflection of the huge participation. As importantly, it raised awareness to thousands of people in our community.

Next year we have exciting plans to make Race Across the Globe 2026 even bigger and more impactful. So mark Friday 12th June 2026 and look out for details to get involved - we will be adding more options to participate, we will be adding a functional fitness challenge, and the festival’s music, food, drink and entertainment will be scaled up - so no excuses. There will be something for everyone!



Students logging miles on the spin bikes.



Sibling bursary recipients Diadem and Peculiar O.



Prep pupils supporting the School-wide event.

After Sixth Form

It has been another exciting year for our students who have now left us at the end of the Upper Sixth. The range of opportunities that our students have embarked upon has been fantastic and as a Sixth Form Team and a school as a whole we are always searching to find new and innovative ways to help them think and consider their options surrounding their future lives and careers 'Beyond Brentwood'. This past year has been no different as we are determined to help support the students as they take their next steps.

What we have found is that what truly makes a difference is when students forge links with Old Brentwoods at a range of different stages in their careers and lives and they can see what someone in their shoes, maybe just a few years earlier, has gone on to do. The experience our community can offer is second to none and I am (and I know the students are) incredibly grateful for the generosity of time that has willingly been given up to help them. We launched our inaugural Beyond Brentwood Careers Week in March this year, where we welcomed recent leavers and other Old Brentwoods, as well as parents to speak to our students on a range of careers including Medicine, Law, Entrepreneurship as well as apprenticeships and university life. We had busy venues throughout the week and it helped to ensure our students are increasingly aware of the range of opportunities they could move into. We have also continued to welcome OBs and parents to speak at our Sir Antony Browne Visiting Speakers Society- again giving their insights into their own specialisms and professional careers. Our annual Careers Convention has also been a great success welcoming in an array of employers and universities.

We have continued to see students moving into the apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and the world of work; with 23 students (over 10%) of our outgoing Upper Sixth year group taking pathways other than going directly into university in September 2025. We were delighted to welcome back recent leavers who have taken routes into Law and Insurance via degree apprenticeships to speak to our students last year. We have seen our students thrive in these routes and the fact that companies are creating bespoke opportunities for individuals really highlights the qualities Brentwood students can offer the workplace. We would love to welcome more recent leavers this year and in the future to share their experiences and welcome them back to Brentwood.



Sixth Form Leavers' Celebration.

This is just a little insight into what goes on in school, but departments, clubs and societies continue to forge links between current and former students and it is a real highlight to see those connections being maintained.

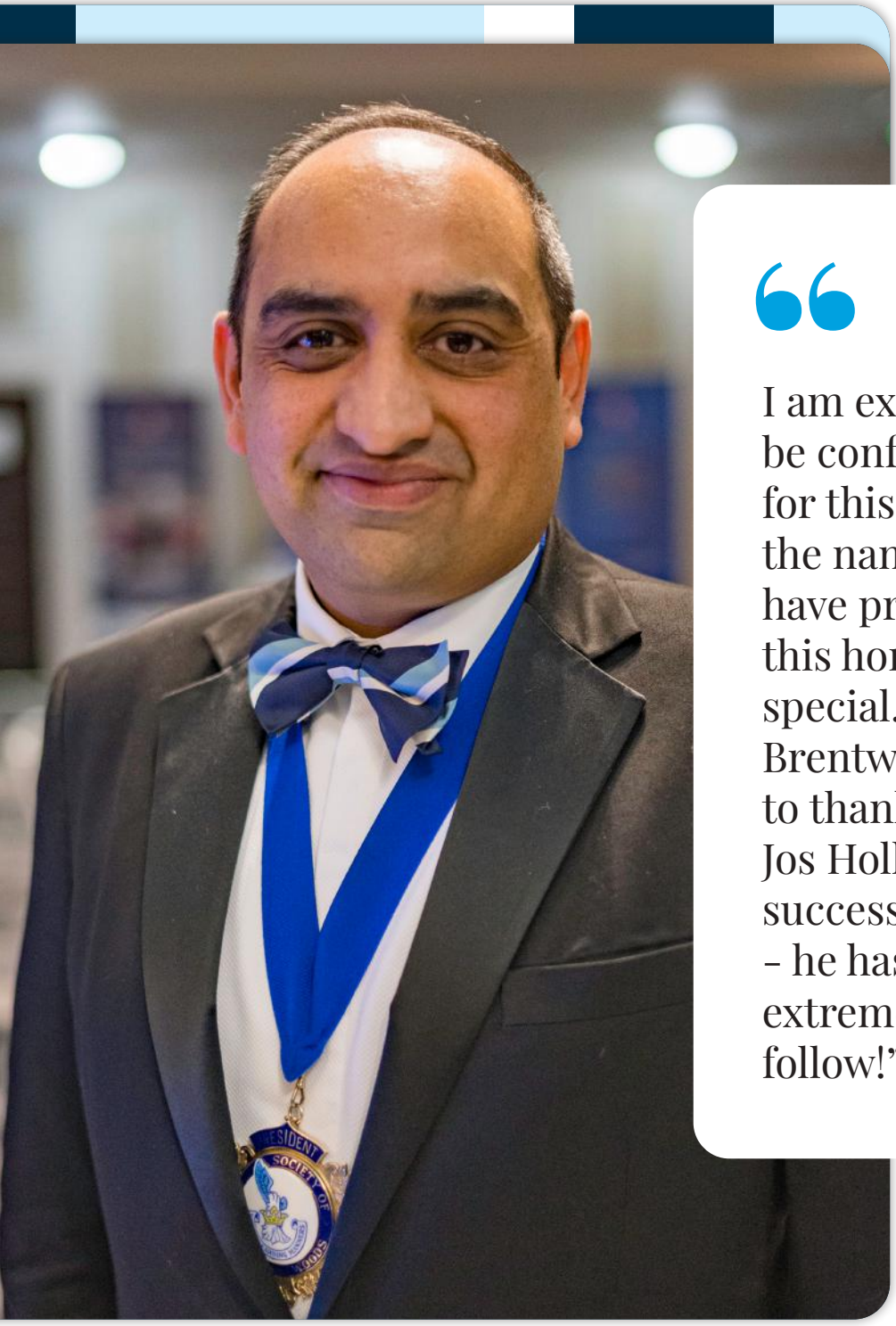
We are always delighted to hear from members of our wider Old Brentwood community who feel that they can help give extra support to our current students. If you feel that this is something you would like to do or know someone who would be interested in helping then please do sign up to the Association page and we hope that you can be part of our mentoring or advising programme or come to speak to students at our Beyond Brentwood Careers Week in March.





The Chronicle

OB President's Welcome



> I am extremely honoured to be conferred as President for this year. Looking at the names of those who have preceded me makes this honour even more special. On behalf of all Old Brentwoods, I would like to thank my predecessor, Jos Hollington for his successful year in office - he has certainly set an extremely high bar to follow!"

OB President, Sarbjeet Singh.

After leaving school, my association with the Old Brentwoods started when I joined the Old Brentwoods Masonic Lodge, the values of which align with the School values of Virtue, Learning and Manners and this has shaped my interest and engagement with charitable activities. Some 18 years ago, a young Tim Faiers twisted my arm over a glass of wine to join the General Committee of the Society of Old Brentwoods. The Society has been through many changes; however, nothing as big as the current restructuring project, which I am proud to have been involved with, as the future looks bright for both the Society and the Clubhouse.

Some say I have never left school, having worked there for 19 years. This may be the case, but why leave a job where you feel as though you are making a positive impact and working in a friendly and challenging environment. As one of 22 Old Brentwoods working at the School, I can truly say that the School continues to provide positive experiences both in and beyond the classroom. Particularly in the CCF, which is still one of the largest in the country. I became Contingent Commander in January 2025, and 2026 marks the 165th Anniversary of the School's CCF.

I am proud to continue with the work that Jos has done by creating a 'President's Bursary' and by ensuring he was able to meet as many people as possible during his year through the launch of regional drinks. This is something I am looking forward to continuing in conjunction with Sam Mason, Director of Development at the School.

I am looking forward to my year in office and look forward to meeting as many OBs as possible, and I am particularly keen to increase the engagement of our younger OBs.

Sarbjeet Singh (OB 1990 - 2001)
President

President's Bursary 2025 / 2026

I have already mentioned the CCF and the 165th Anniversary, next year, by combining my role as Contingent Commander and President, I want to use this as the main driver for the President's Bursary.

The target is to get 165 people to set up a direct debit of a minimum of £20 per month, this modest figure, plus gift aid, will help to fund a Sixth Form Place at the School. However, it does not have to be a regular direct debit; one-off donations of any amount will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

There are so many of you who give so much to charity and to Brentwood School already, you may not be personally in the position to give - this is entirely understandable. I ask that you share the information with others. Take a photo of this page, share it in whichever way you can, and speak about our community, our school, and the opportunities it provides. With your help, I am sure we can reach this target and give a transformational opportunity to a deserving young person.

To donate, simply scan the QR code and select 'President's Bursary Fund' from the list of options. You can also make your donation by visiting https://www.oldbrentwoods.com/fundraising/donation.

Read the full story on the Brentwood School Association website



The Society of Old Brentwoods raising a glass to toast the 100 strong unanimous vote on 12th February 2025.

Update on the Restructuring of the Society of Old Brentwoods

I am pleased to be able to report that since the last BST publication the Society has made tremendous progress regarding the proposed restructuring. All will recall that under the Constitution of the Society it was necessary to consult with the whole membership and formally approve the proposals at two Extraordinary General Meetings. These were held on 22nd January 2025 and 12th February 2025. For such important meetings it seemed only right to hold them in Old Big School. The second meeting was particularly well attended with 100 Society members voting unanimously to implement the restructuring proposals.

Since then, and under the careful guidance of city law firm Bates Wells, a substantive 'boiler-plating' exercise has been undertaken. In the period between February and October following has taken place:

- Old Brentwoods Society Ltd was incorporated, 03/03/35 (Comp. No.16288814).
- (Founder Society Trustees are Christian Cooper, Sarb Singh and Jos Hollington).
- Old Brentwoods Club Ltd was incorporated, 10/03/35 (Comp. No.16303367).
- (Founder Club Trustees are Richard Owers, Dom Searle and Rob Jupp).
- Charity Commission applications for both the above entities were submitted in October.
- Draft subsidiary trading company documents are under review.
- Draft lease and transfer documents are under review.
- Draft club-level founder club – OBC SLAs are under review.

It is hoped and expected that the formal charitable status of the two charities will be granted by the end of February 2026, following which the land transfer will take place, enabling the new corporate structure to be fully implemented and ready for the next financial year.

Driving through these seismic changes could have not have taken place without the unstinting time and energy of a small number of dedicated individuals. These include Richard Owers, Sarb Singh, Dom Searle, Jos Hollington and Rob Jupp. The continued support and assistance of Lord Guy Black and Jeremy Blunden has also been highly valued.

The Future of the Society, a New Era Beckons

The vision for the future is to grow Society membership, and to retain Ashwells as the Society's home and heartland, ultimately owned, operated, and controlled by the Society. The vision is also to ensure that the Society remains relevant, and an important part of the School Community.

Officers of the new society and club-level entities have been working in close harmony to lay those foundation blocks that it is hoped will serve our future generations of Brentwood School boys and girls, in addition to providing sporting and social opportunities for the broader local community. The proposed Society and Club Charities will each share the same charitable objectives:

- To promote for the public benefit community participation in healthy recreation, in particular for the inhabitants of Brentwood and surrounding areas.
- The advancement of education for the public benefit.
- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Brentwood and surrounding areas the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their condition of life; and
- To advance such other purposes as are charitable in English law from time to time.

Update on Town Planning Initiatives & Vale Enhancement

The Triangle Project

After a 4 year process and with the benefit of National Planning Policy tilting in favour of 'Grey Belt' land in the Green Belt, it was considered optimum timing to formally submit a fully detailed planning application for the erection of a three bedroom 'barn-style' dwelling, with garage and associated landscaping. We are delighted to report planning consent was granted in August 2025. In due course a decision will have to be made as to what to do with the valuable planning consent. At this stage, advice from selling agents suggest that the building has a value of circa £360,000-£400,000.



CGI view of the new dwelling frontage.

The Huddle Project

Led by the Old Brentwoods Rugby Club and Rob Jupp, planning permission has also been receive for 'The Huddle'. Supported by the Football Foundation, this exciting catering unit will be installed in between the 1st X1 Cricket square and the main Rugby pitch. It will supply basic catering services, wcs and essential storage facilities.



CGI view of the Huddle.

The Changing Room Project

Led by Pat Stroud, a full pre-application planning enquiry has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for a major extension to the rear of the clubhouse. This will create four new state-of-the-art changing rooms, a new meeting / function room with secondary bar area, an extended and modernised kitchen with additional storage, and a substantial terrace overlooking the playing fields. An exceptionally positive response has been received from technical officers and it is intended to submit a full planning application in February 2026.

Brentwood School



A story that shaped generations

Own the legacy

Scan the QR code to visit the Brentwood School Association website, where you can purchase a copy of the School History Book and proudly own the legacy.

A Unique Take on Our School's History



Co-author Ian Walton signs a copy of the School History Book for former staff and OB Jim Brown.

Virtue, Learning, Manners: The Life and Times of Brentwood School was launched in the Memorial Hall on November 22nd. This updated history was the brainchild of Mike Willis, who taught at Brentwood from 1973 to 2020. His aim was to "tell the story of Brentwood School in a new way - to explore questions around key themes and offer an acceptable analysis. This would create an impressionistic account that would reflect the individuals, the buildings and the everyday ephemera of four and a half centuries of teaching."

When Mike died suddenly in 2021, the work was incomplete. Fortunately, his housemate and good friend Ian Walton took up the baton and finished the job. Having taught at Brentwood School for 33 years, he was well placed to do so.

The book owes its arrival to a great deal of input from many people - information from OBs, staff, school and university archives; and shaped by the editorial, design and printing skills of OBs. Chairman of Governors Lord Black of Brentwood said the result was "a magnificent publication, comprehensive and thoroughly researched, highly engaging and beautifully illustrated."

Virtue Learning and Manners: The Life and Times of Brentwood School provokes active engagement and tells the story of a community that survived some difficult periods and thrived in many others. Mike laid down the approach of posing provocative questions about the School as the decades and centuries unfolded.

Head teachers in the frame
The book has four major sections covering the School's history from the very start to 2019. Most chapters are headed by challenging questions.

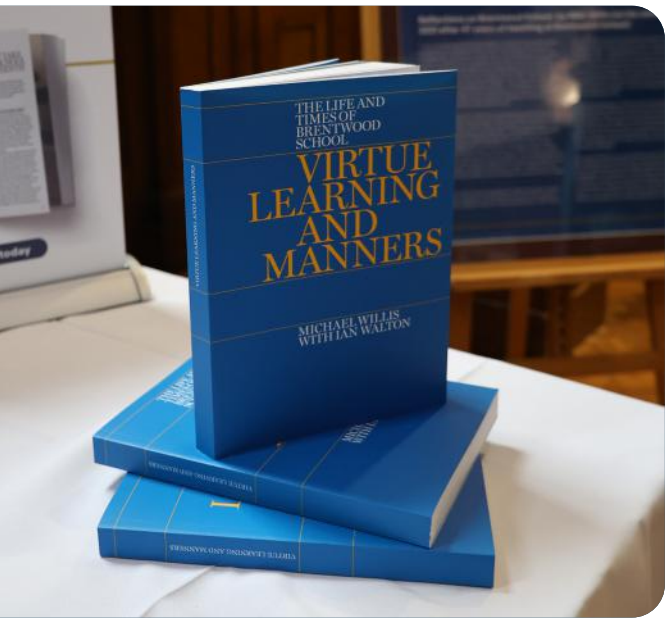
Were Brentwood's first two schoolmasters any good? How bad was the School in the 17th and 18th centuries? Was the nineteenth century school characterised by the children of local shopkeepers and affluent boarders or run for the private benefit of its patrons?

The seven most recent headmasters come under the Willis-Walton microscope. Was Edwin Bean a democrat, traditionalist or mythmaker? What was the formula which made Jimmy Hough so revered? Did Ralph Allison's tenure coincide with a golden age? Was Richard Sale left blowing in the wind by changing times? Was John Evans the right man to move the School with the times?

Gowned and unforgettable
Mike Willis made quite an impression on Headmaster Michael Bond and on Chairman of Governors Guy Black at their respective initial encounters.

At the Brentwood School Association dinner in November, Michael Bond described Mike Willis as "pretty unforgettable." He had visited him in Queen's Hospital, Romford, just a few weeks after starting at Brentwood.

School History Book launch event, November 2025.



The patient had picked up an infection in his arm while taking part in the Nuclear Races at Kelvedon Hatch. "This was not the behaviour of your average septuagenarian. But then again, there was nothing average about Mike.

"We talked about his plan to write an updated history. He wanted to sound me out about his plan, trying to ascertain my threshold for intellectual risk-taking. One of Mike's enduring qualities was his determination to challenge lazy thinking and provoke healthy discussion. He wanted to write a book that would draw the reader into a series of debates related to each era the School had been through.

"These helped me to better understand our school, particularly Brentwood's periodic attempts to challenge the norms of different ages; our history of educating the children of tradespeople as well as those of more affluent pupils; and of the ups and downs Brentwood School has endured over the centuries."

Lord Black reflected on the genesis of the book, key developments at the School and some of the people who had made things happen. Approaching formal retirement in 2020, Mike decided it was high time for its history to be written. It had been done before in R.R. Lewis' History of Brentwood School in 1981 and in The Best of Days? in 2000 - the recollections and observations of former pupils and staff.

To better understand

However, for his project, Mike deployed a more searching approach - "a creative story setting the chronicle of our school in a broad and colourful historical context - and challenging the reader to better understand the past through a series of questions, related to changing times."

From humble beginnings, Brentwood had become one of the biggest and most successful independent schools in the country. Recent times had encompassed the development of the Prep school and the culture of boarding, now manifested in the newly opened state-of-the-art building; the change from boys only to full co-education.

Many remarkable people had dedicated their lives to the education of the young, their names - Bean, Ashton, Hough, Otway - immortalised in the School's buildings.

"We bring them back to life in these vivid pages, learning how, in Longfellow's words, they left their own 'footprints on the sands of time' here at Brentwood.

"Headmasters, governors and staff have come and gone and thousands of pupils have passed through our gates, their lives transformed by their time here. We continue to live by our steadfast commitment to Virtue, Learning and Manners."

The book concludes with an extended interview with Michael Bond by communications consultant Tom Lynham. It focuses on the Headmaster's views about the School's culture and its main components. Not surprisingly, the history teacher lays great emphasis on how the past moulds the present.

OB Club

Founded at Ashwells Road in 1976, the Old Brentwoods Club will soon mark 50 years as a home for community, sport and friendship. With more than 600 members, the club supported 11 different sports this year alone, hosting regular fixtures and the much-loved Old Brentwoods Day events. Set across 20 acres of sports grounds and featuring a welcoming clubhouse with a bar, social space, and plenty of on-site parking, it's a place for everyone to enjoy. The clubhouse is also available for private hire - visit the club's website to find out more and get involved.



To find out more, scan the QR code or visit the Brentwood School Association's website at www.oldbrentwoods.com/pages/ob-clubhouse

OB Sport

Rugby

Old Brentwoods Rugby Club continues to thrive, driven by a dedicated team of coaches, volunteers, and executives who are leading the club through an exciting period of growth and modernisation. With a forward-thinking programme and numerous developments in the pipeline, the future of Old Brentwoods Rugby looks brighter than ever.

The club welcomes everyone - current and former members of the School, as well as anyone from the wider community who wants to enjoy rugby, whether by playing, volunteering, or simply taking part in the club's vibrant social scene. It's the perfect place for you, your family and your friends to enjoy rugby together. Whether you're an experienced player, a newcomer, or a supporter, the club offers a friendly, inclusive environment for all. The ever-expanding youth section now boasts multiple teams covering all school ages, from Under-12s to Under-16s. Several players have already gone on to represent Essex and even Premiership youth teams - a testament to the outstanding standard of coaching available at Old Brentwoods.



Senior 1st XV Team.



Girls' Rugby at Old Brentwoods Club.

Our Taggers (ages 4–5) and Mini-Midis (ages 6–11) play mixed tag rugby before progressing to contact, while players aged 11–18 move into boys' and girls' teams, advancing to full XV-a-side rugby. The focus within the Old Brentwoods Acorns, our youth section, is clear: "Striving to nurture the best out of every player - not just nurturing the best."

The club is also proud of its thriving girls' section, which continues to grow in numbers from U12 through U16, with several players representing both the club and Essex, special thanks to Simon 'PC' Peace.

The Senior 1st XV continues their charge up the league following their Essex Presidents Shield victory in May. Under the guidance of Director of Rugby, Jordan Wigham, and Head Coach, Jake Jottman, the team plays an exciting, high-tempo style of rugby. The 2nd XV competes regularly in the Merit League - a fantastic opportunity for adult players looking to return to rugby or enjoy the more social side of the game. Meanwhile, the OBRFC Vets play occasionally but remain as competitive as ever, especially when 'on tour'.

Club President Rob Jupp, Chairman Gary Christopher, and a team of dedicated volunteers continue to drive the club forward. New volunteers are always warmly welcomed, and the club can arrange any necessary training - an excellent opportunity for those wishing to develop new skills, enhance their CVs, or simply get more involved in the sport they love.

OBRFC is also immensely proud to support the Niall Stringer Foundation, raising awareness of suicide prevention among young adults - a truly worthy cause (#NS10).

Cricket

2025 was a mixed season for the OB Cricket Club in terms of performance by our three Saturday sides, although all the sides enjoyed the stunning weather.

The 1s struggled during the first half of the season but an improved performance later in the year enabled the side to retain their League position. During a fixture at Chalkwell Park in June, the team and fellow clubs were involved in responding to an unforeseen and tragic incident in the grounds. Their immediate assistance to those affected was recognised with the Essex Premier League Spirit of Cricket Award 2025.

The 2s had an excellent season under new leadership and gained promotion while the 3s, for a second season, just missed out on promotion.



OB Cricket Club.

Croquet

With its first year completed, OB Croquet Club is the 'zero to hero' success story of 2025. The club entered a regional season long competition and faced Colchester and Newport Croquet Clubs, sadly losing both their matches. However, neither of the other two clubs could put forward a team, so we didn't just 'show up', we 'stepped up'! The team brought home the trophy from the region's final, which is now proudly displayed behind the bar at the Old Brentwoods Clubhouse.

Now with a membership of 23 including two junior members, alongside being proud holders of The Chairman's Cup, our top female player won the Women's Open Championship and is currently ranked #1 woman in England.

We were also delighted to see our fellow club member Gabrielle Higgins compete in the Association Croquet World Championship in Florida in October.



Alison Maugham (left) wins the Women's Open Championship.



Old Boys Senior Cup Winners 2024/25.

Football

What a season for Old Brentwoods Football Club. The 1s enjoyed a truly historic year, completing an incredible double by winning the 1st Division title and securing promotion straight back to the Premier Division at the first time of asking. The title was wrapped up with three games to spare, thanks in large part to a rock-solid defence that proved the foundation for success. To cap it all off, the lads lifted the Old Boys Cup, beating Old Bradfieldians 2-0 in the final. A brilliant achievement and a fitting reward for the hard work throughout the season.

The club continues to thrive, with four sides competing every Saturday in the Arthurian League. This season, the 1s are back in the Premier Division, testing themselves against the very best in Old Boys football. The 2s play in Division Two, where they've made an impressive start to life at that level. The 3s compete in Division Four, continuing to build a strong, consistent side, while the 4s play in Division Five and have quickly developed a reputation for goals and entertainment.

Squash

The OB Squash Club has enjoyed a steady and productive season, with weekly fixtures and good participation across all levels. We continue to compete in the Essex League, maintaining a consistent presence and putting in solid performances throughout the year. Over the summer, we also took part in the Essex Cup competition, which provided a welcome change of pace and some enjoyable matches.

Our annual fixture against the School was once again a success, with four teams taking part. The event was well supported and offered a good opportunity for players of different ages and experience to come together in a friendly but competitive setting.

We're pleased to note that several recent school leavers have joined the club, contributing to a healthy mix of players and helping to strengthen our membership. Their involvement has been a positive addition and bodes well for the future.

As ever, we welcome new members of all standards. Whether you're looking to play competitively or simply enjoy the game socially, do feel free to get in touch - we'd be glad to hear from you.

Elliot Selby Swings into Padel Success



Elliot at the FIP Senior Euro Padel Cup.

It was a privilege to represent and captain Team GB at the recent European Senior Padel Championships in Valencia. I was lucky enough to be part of the GB team at last year's World Championships in Spain, but it was even more special this year being asked to be captain.

The level of padel around the world is growing rapidly and the competition is getting tougher with every year. We were seeded 10th this year and after a number of battles, we finished 11th, losing a tough 3-2 to Norway. There were lots of positives to take from the experience, as well as an eagerness for everyone to continue to improve.

We were lucky enough to have one of the best coaches in the country travel with us this year, as well as physio, however, the trip is entirely self-funded for all the players. We set up a fundraising page to help cover the travel, accommodation and transport costs. We are hopeful that in future years, LTA will cover the expenses for players, in order to give everyone the same opportunity regardless of their financial situation.



I grew up playing squash, playing professionally for a number of years, alongside my older brother and sister (Daryl, Commonwealth medallist and former no.9 in the world & Lauren, former world no.34 and current England Junior National Coach). If you had asked when I was younger which sport I might have represented my country at, it would have been squash, so to represent Great Britain is an achievement I am very proud of. I started playing padel in 2018 in Maldon, when there were very few clubs in the country. Now, the sport has exploded in the UK, with clubs & courts appearing everywhere. It is a sport for all levels of ability; it's fun, keeps you fit & only being able to play doubles makes it very social.

I left Brentwood School 19 years ago (I feel very old!) and I still reflect on how lucky we were to have such fantastic sporting facilities available to us. It is clear when you look at the number of Old Brentwoods who went onto play professionally or represent their country in many different sports, what a sporting legacy the School has and continues to have.



Jonathan accepts the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword.

Brentwood School Celebrates Historic National Cadet Achievement

Brentwood School is proud to announce that, for the very first time, one of its cadets has won the prestigious Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword, awarded annually to the very best CCF (RAF) cadet in the country. Cadet Warrant Officer Jonathan Dedman, was selected earlier this year as the East Area Representative, securing his place among the top five cadets nationwide. Following intense questioning and assessment, Jonathan was announced as the winner and presented with the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword at a special ceremony at RAF College Cranwell, the historic home of the Royal Air Force.

A delighted Jonathan said he was 'truly honoured' to have received such a distinguished award: "I am so grateful to the Brentwood School CCF RAF Section, which has given me so many unique opportunities – from learning to fly, taking part in events such as the International Air Cadet Exchange, the finals of the CVC Westminster Award and teaching me leadership skills through Cadre courses and ACLC. It has been a fantastic experience, and one which I will always treasure."

My Final Cadet Summer

This summer has truly been the culmination of my cadet career! From representing the organisation and the country, internationally through IACE, to reaching the finals of the CVC Westminster Award, as one of just 12 finalists, to staffing NASC as a QAI, and finally ending at the House of Lords for the Westminster Award lunch, it has been action-packed from start to finish.

The summer began in July with the International Air Cadet Exchange. Highlights included trips to the Bastogne and Passchendaele war museums, Commonwealth war graves, kayaking and getting to spend two days in Luxembourg. The standout experience, however, was an hour-long flight in a Belgian Air Force NH90 helicopter. These stays allowed me to learn far more about Belgian culture, and of course, to enjoy even more delicious food.

Soon after returning from Belgium, I travelled to Calshot in Southampton for the final expedition of the CVC Westminster Award. The next few days brought more activities - from windsurfing and velodrome cycling to charity and environmental engagement. The journey culminated on 11 September at the House of Lords.

The very next day, I travelled to Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham for NASC 2025. The highlight of the week was Industry Day at RAF Syerston. We were kept busy, but even so, we still found time to talk to all the partners and of course, enjoy the airshow.

As I move on to the next stage of my life, I can only look back with gratitude for everything the Air Cadets has given me.

-Jonathan Dedman (OB 2013-2025).

Welcome Change

The majority of Brentwood School history saw only boys being taught at the School; you only have to go back to 1988 for the first full intake of girls into the School, though for nearly a decade prior the Sixth Form had accepted girls, albeit they were vastly outnumbered!

Perhaps the best insight to the culture and viewpoints at the time - and how much they have thankfully 'modernised' - is an interview from the Brentwoodian in 1981. Mark Philpott conducted an interview with the then retiring headmaster, Richard Sale ('The Brentwoodian' - Number 266- lent/trinity 1981 p.9). At this time, girls were only in Sixth Form at the School.

When asked about the most important changes he made:
"I think the introduction of girls was equally important, in that it formed a launching pad from which further developments in this direction may come. I think that the girls in the School are good for the boys. Whether it's good for the girls to be in such a conspicuous minority, I've yet to decide."

Then asked if he thinks there will come the day when Brentwood ever becomes fully co-educational:
"I think it would be a very great pity if girls and boys came in equal numbers at the age of eleven. Why? Because the standard of the games would decline as has happened at Alleyns School, for one example. And one of the reasons I think parents want their children to come to Brentwood is because of the all round standards which we offer."

Richard Sale's responses were from a period of social change, and read now seem very old fashioned indeed. It does however give an insight to the institutionalised bias, particularly evident in the latter quote from Sale when he completely ignores the great value girls would add to sport in their own right.

"I was one of only 10 girls joining a school of about 800 boys, to say that first day remains a marker for life is not an understatement. But there were 10 of us and right from day one we all knew that solidarity, support and a positive attitude were going to be the keys to us not only integrating into this very male community, but also turning it into something very different through our contribution to it."

-Luisa Riddiford (OB 1980-1982), daughter of the late great Dennis Riddiford (former staff 1951-1988).



Brentwood School's first cohort of girls, 1988-89.

We now have nearly 50 years of history of women at Brentwood School, so that means we have Brentwood girls and women spanning from current students to those retired after full careers. It has long felt we need an occasion to celebrate the stories of Brentwood School women (like Luisa), and we are now planning that event. It will be open to all via the Association, and will focus on celebrating milestones, successes, nuances and all stories of Brentwood School women.

Watch out for details, and please share any thoughts or register interest at association@brentwood.essex.sch.uk



Exeter Meet Up 2025.

A Two-Year Triumph: Exeter and Nottingham Lead Leavers' Destinations

The future looks bright for Brentwood School's Class of 2025, with an excellent set of university destinations that confirm a powerful two-year trend. For the second consecutive year, the University of Exeter and the University of Nottingham have proven to be the most popular destinations for outgoing leavers, showcasing a consistent and compelling appeal among the students.

The Enduring Top Two

While the top spot shifted slightly in 2025, the dominance of these two institutions is undeniable. The University of Nottingham edged out as the most popular destination with 22 leavers, while the University of Exeter was a very close second with 21 leavers.

This follows the strong performance in 2024, where Exeter was the most popular choice with 21 leavers, and Nottingham was the next most favoured destination with 18 leavers. The fact that these two universities consistently occupy the top ranks of the Leavers' Destination Board speaks volumes about their academic reputations and the fantastic opportunities they offer.

The South West Shines

Exeter's enduring popularity, drawing 21 students in both 2024 and 2025, is a testament to its status as a consistently top-tier choice. The university's strong academic reputation and vibrant student life continue to attract a wide range of students. A wide range of courses are being pursued by Brentwood alumni at Exeter, including highly competitive degrees such as Medicine, Finance, Law with Business, and Computer Science.

Nottingham's Rising Popularity

The University of Nottingham continues its upward trajectory in popularity. The rise from 18 leavers in 2024 to 22 in 2025 shows the institution's growing appeal. Students in both years were drawn to Nottingham for its strengths across multiple faculties, with courses including Accounting, Finance and Management, Mechanical Engineering, Biology, and Criminology and Sociology, reflecting the university's broad academic offer.

Connecting Leavers: The Exeter Meet-Up

The consistent appeal of the south west city is also evident in the alumni community's activities. Due to its continued popularity, the School has proudly hosted a regional meet-up in Exeter for the second year in a row. This successful event is a fantastic opportunity for students and recent leavers to connect, share their university experiences, and network. It highlights the strong bonds forged at Brentwood and the School's commitment to supporting its students long after they have left the gates.

We wish the Class of 2025 all the very best as they embark on their exciting next steps, building on their incredible achievements at Brentwood School.

Graduate Reflections

Three years may not seem like a long time, but for the Class of 2022, life after Brentwood has already taken them on wide-ranging journeys.

Here, several Old Brentwoods share, in their own words, where life has taken them - and what they've learned along the way.



Lily Allmark

After leaving Brentwood, Lily Allmark went straight to the Met Film School to study BA Practical Filmmaking. Since then, she has carved out a space for herself in the film world.

"I'm doing freelance producing work while preparing to set up my own production company," she says. A standout moment came when she hosted a premiere of her first short film at the Ealing Picturehouse cinema.

A proud early milestone for an emerging filmmaker, and one that hints at a bright creative future.



Joel Winter

Joel Winter took a different route after Sixth Form, joining PwC's apprenticeship scheme rather than going to university.

"I am still working for PwC as an Associate in Management Consulting," he explains, adding that a personal highlight has been "completing my apprenticeship with the highest grade possible."

Reflecting on the transition to full-time work, Joel feels Brentwood played a key role:

"I feel Brentwood gave me both the academic and social skills to apply myself effectively in the working world, building strong relationships along the way."

And his advice to current Sixth Formers? "Stay connected with your friends and join the Old Brentwoods community - it is great to speak to people who went to the School before you."



Christian Jeronimo

After heading to university, Christian Jeronimo began studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Kent, where he is now in his final year. Alongside his degree, he has pursued opportunities to bring students together.

"I have managed to organise and host multiple gaming events, even running events which had participants from universities all over the UK," he shares - a highlight of his time at university so far.

He credits Brentwood with helping him develop the relationships that still matter most: "I think it prepared me well by giving me an environment to create close connections with people I still talk to to this day."

His advice is simple and heartfelt:

"Keep in touch with the friends you made in Brentwood. It's nice to have people to update about life when you go back home, away from your university friends."



Lazar Markovic

For Lazar Markovic, university came first: Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Nottingham. Since graduating, he has taken his career in a new direction and now works as an Associate Recruitment Consultant at Hyper Recruitment Solutions.

A particularly proud achievement since leaving school has been personal as well as professional: "I've become a DJ on top of everything that I've achieved."

Lazar reflects that "Sixth Form really shaped me into the hardworking person I am today, both professionally and personally."

For current students preparing for the next step, his advice is to "keep in touch with people and remember, everything that happens was meant to happen."



Josh Argent

Josh Argent headed to the University of Bath to study Economics with a placement year, where he remains in his final stages of study after a busy and impressive two years.

"I am still at university," he explains, having completed a placement at TSB Bank followed by a summer internship at Millennium Management. He adds that securing the internship and converting it into a full-time graduate role on the analyst programme has been a major highlight - along with making it into the second XI football team at Bath.

Josh feels Brentwood set him up strongly for the transition to university life:
"I feel it prepared me very well, providing me with the confidence to give anything a go, as well as the strong academics and sporting ability which has served me well so far."

His advice for today's Sixth Formers is full of enthusiasm:
"Throw yourself into everything - you don't know who you will meet and how much you will enjoy giving something a try."

Nicole Fergus

One of the most heartwarming journeys from the Class of 2022 is that of Nicole Fergus, who has already found her way back to Brentwood.



After leaving school, Nicole studied BA Drama, Applied Theatre and Education at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - a path inspired, she says, by "my years at Brentwood, supported especially by the Drama Department, which helped to grow my love of performing and inspiring others."

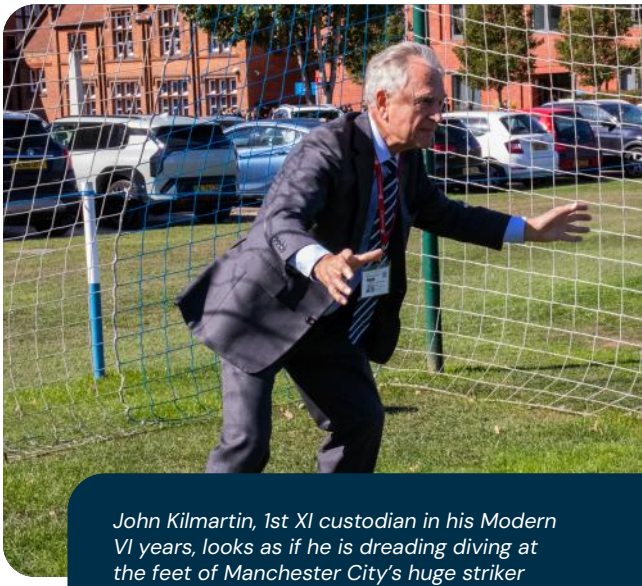
Now working towards her PGCE at Brentwood, Nicole reflects on the experience warmly:
"Returning to the School has been a joyful experience; the community is as supportive and engaging as ever. I've learned so much about the art of teaching. No two days are the same and I feel very lucky to help the next generation of students discover their own passion and potential."

She adds that she values "the Brentwood School community and what it can give to students" and is grateful for "their unwavering support towards my future career."

64 Years on, it's Marvellous to See Educators Taking Education Forward - What a Privilege for the Students

When four octogenarians descended on Brentwood School in September, they did so with two currents of thought. One was nostalgic about life at an institution they had experienced a very long time ago. The other was an expectation of being awed by the buildings and facilities and the information they would be given about the 2025 establishment. At the outset, they were looking for contrasts. It soon became apparent that the scale of development in recent times rendered comparisons with the past largely illusory.

John Kilmartin and Martin Rowland began their Brentwood careers in the Prep in 1951. Michael Thomas and Chris Littmoden entered the Senior School in 1954 and 1955 respectively. Their fellowship had been fostered particularly by School and House football, sharpened by their membership of the Modern Sixth from 1959 to 1961 and continued ever since via informal social contact and Old Brentwoods activities. It was the first time in 64 years that the four had been together at Brentwood.



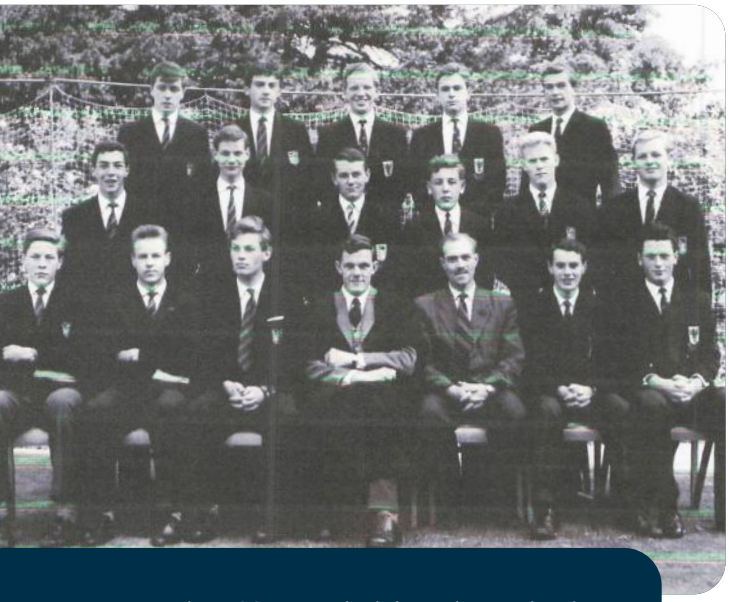
John Kilmartin, 1st XI custodian in his Modern VI years, looks as if he is dreading diving at the feet of Manchester City's huge striker Erling Haaland. The immediate reality was less demanding - a penalty by Martin Rowland.

In their day, the passage between the Shenfield Road and Priest's Lane, known as the Chase, was completely clear. The most notable building was the (then) new cricket pavilion. Directly opposite were the Powley's buildings, reminiscent of airfields and military camps, comprising four classrooms, one of them occupied by the Modern Sixth scholars of 1959-61. Around 20 scholars imbibed geography from Dennis Tarrant and Mr Corfield, modern history from Joe Hodgson and economic history from Jim Rennie.

While the Powley's are long gone, the four were unsure exactly where they had stood. The consensus was on the site of the Cunliffe building. The ghosts of anabatic and katabatic winds and the commercial significance of Mr Hargreaves' spinning jenny had long been superseded by the Classics and Learning Support Departments, the sanatorium and the Information Technology Support Service. The term 'Information Technology' had not even been coined in the Powley years.



Four former members of the Modern VIth outside the Cunliffe building which now occupies the site of the former Powley's buildings. From the left: Michael Thomas, Chris Littmoden, John Kilmartin and Martin Rowland.



Upper VI Modern 1961. From the left. Back row: Elcock, Thomas, Littmoden, Kilmartin, Hayward. Middle row: Barnard, Tyndale-Biscoe, Wasem, Howard, Webb, Warrilow. Front row: Helm, Hughes, Atkinson, Mr Tarrant, Mr Corfield, Collier, Mayes. Absent: Lambourne, Beglan, the other Howard, Rowland.

The chapel had not changed, except for the big screen. Littmoden noted that his sixth form School House study was now part of the Headmaster's study. Perhaps the empty beer cans stuffed behind a partition wall had been exposed during the transition.

The visitors saw or were told about the 400-seat Wessex Auditorium, the Hardy Amies Centre, the Bean Academic Centre and the cavernous sports hall. Design technology, art, computer science, food and nutrition, recording, dance and music suites (all the pianos are Steinways); a 25-metre pool, a fencing salle, glass-backed squash courts and more. The Upper Bean was largely as it had been back then. Voices dropped to whispers, possibly because of an ineradicable Pavlovian fear of being punished for talking.

They were more comfortable in the museum, named after long serving teacher the late Mike Willis. It was replete with uniforms, regalia, documents and photographs. Cue "that was me!" and "whatever happened to him." From Year 7, students are equipped with iPads. Quite an improvement on nibs and inkwells.

There are far more Sixth Form study options than before. Between them, the four could only think of 15 Advanced level subjects. Today, there are many more under the BTEC and International Baccalaureate mantles. Further, students can cut across disciplines, studying both science and arts subjects. Careers advice had clearly moved on. Michael Bond wrote recently: "To prepare our students for a fast-paced and ever-changing world, we equip them to solve current and unforeseen problems. Many will take on jobs which do not yet exist."

Asked by Development Director Sam Mason to comment on video about their visit, the four did indeed express awe at what they had seen and heard.

Martin Rowland: "It's marvellous that our old school has become a prime example of educators taking education forward."

Chris Littmoden: "The challenge now is to keep that development going. The new boarding block is like a palace compared to the places we used to live in."

John Kilmartin: "There are considerably more pupils, enjoying so much more than we could ever have imagined. It was a privilege to be here then and a privilege to be here now."

Michael Thomas: "Every pupil who comes here is extremely privileged."

Generating an Understanding of History

An enthusiastic appreciation of history characterised a particularly active group of pupils based in the Arts VIth in the late 1950s and early 1960s, many of whom went on to Oxbridge and to successful careers in academia and the law. Original research was encouraged by staff and projects and articles were manifest in the activities of the School Historical Society and the Medieval & Modern publication.

In the first issue, dated April 1960, readers' horizons would have been expanded on many fronts. Malcolm Vale explained the difference between fencibles (soldiers liable for home service) and volunteers. M.F. Haynes enthused about the joys of architecture. Tim Brown provided insights into Oliver Cromwell's judgement of Charles I. Ian Acfield outlined the development of cricket since 1745. Ian Small pondered the rise and fall of Boulanger (a late 19th century French general and politician). Rodger Hayward Smith focused on Ingatestone Hall, (near his boyhood home). Stephen Halliday contemplated Avignon, city of Popes and Poverty (Pontiffs were based there for most of the 14th century). Philip Crapnell provided a critique of the Medieval Armourer while R.C. Floud compiled an historical crossword.

The 16-year-old editor Colin Reid explained that these articles "embody the underlying theme of vivid, personal contact with the past. Facts and dates are not the be-all and end-all of history; they are only the media through which we can comprehend the thoughts and ideas of the people of former times. History is essentially about people - a conception often lost in the welter of classroom facts. The articles have tried to capture the intensely satisfying experience of living with, though not in, the past."



Colin Reid

OB 1951-1961

Brentwood School in the Second World War: Ronnie Hepworth Remembers a Turnover of Teachers and a Wrecked Pavilion

Ronnie Hepworth MBE (OB 1936-1943) is a 99-year-old phenomenon who remains a very active participant in community activities in and around Woodbridge, Suffolk. He is probably the Oldest 'known' Brentwood.

Ronnie's School career began in Middle One. He was always a day boy, usually able to cycle home for lunch. He won a prize at the 1938 Speech Day, but a serious illness set him back a year. When he returned, Headmaster Jimmy Hough greeted him with "Ho, ho young Hepworth. You'll have to start again." He was a keen footballer and cricketer but admits to not scaling the heights.

His main memories are of wartime schooling:

> After the war started, there was an inevitable increase in turnover in teaching staff. They came and went. Brooks, Rennie, Lewis and Shortland left to join up, replaced by temporary teachers. He understood Joe Hodgson was dissuaded from joining up by Jimmy Hough, who needed stability among his staff. "I can remember him cycling down the road wearing his tin hat."

Regimental Sergeant Major Stevenson used to station himself somewhere high up to spot enemy planes. "If he saw something, he would blow his whistle. Classes would be stopped immediately and we would dive into some trenches, dug at the back of Otway."

One morning in 1940, Ronnie and his fellows arrived to see the smouldering wreck of the cricket pavilion, demolished overnight by the Luftwaffe. "A tree on the main field was also hit."

Ronnie served as a police auxiliary messenger in Brentwood. He joined the town squadron and achieved his proficiency badge.



Ronnie Hepworth

OB 1936-1943

Defending Skegness Pier

He joined up in June 1944, shortly before his 18th birthday. He volunteered for the air crew but the last 14 months of the war were characterised by chronic uncertainty. "I did my square bashing at the RAF training establishment at Skegness. I had the honour of defending Skegness pier via a gunnery post!" He was selected for aircrew and had started training when the war in Europe ended. He soon found himself drafted for clerical duties within the RAF. Postings followed,, including to Morecambe, Warrington, North Weald and the Air ministry in London. V2 rockets were falling on London, causing horrific damage, most noticeably at Smithfield market which cost over 100 lives. A 13-month posting to Iceland followed the war and he was demobbed in 1947 as an acting sergeant.

He joined his uncle's chartered accountancy practice in Manchester and spent time in the London office, soon becoming a chartered tax adviser. There was much involvement in nationalised industries, including coal and rail, and in assessing the corporate tax liabilities of rail lines and stations axed under Dr. Beeching in the 1960s. He was a member of a CBI tax committee.

Working in London and based in Shenfield, Ronnie got stuck into OB sport once Burland Road became the HQ of Old Brentwoods football and cricket from 1954. He captained the 3rd and 4th XIs. He played cricket for the Sunday XI and helped start the OB sports club. Ronnie played serious golf for the OBs - and has plenty of tankards testifying to his success.

Freeman of Woodbridge

He moved to Woodbridge in 1965 when he joined Fison's as taxation manager. Coming to Woodbridge marked the start of substantial and consistent civic involvement. He was Chairman of the New Horizons lunch and leisure club, and a governor of Woodbridge Primary School. He still lays a wreath in Woodbridge on Remembrance Sunday. In 2000, he was made a Freeman of Woodbridge and is now the Senior Freeman.

Becoming a Rotarian "has opened my eyes to many things and widened my horizons to providing services for the community wherever they are needed." He has recently helped organise parties under the aegis of the Suffolk Crucial Crew, teaching schoolchildren personal safety and community infrastructure basics. He still plays golf regularly.

Twice widowed, Ronnie has two sons and a daughter and continues to live in Woodbridge, organising games and other activities within his residential home overlooking the River Deben.

Colin's obituary can be found on page 118

Tributes to Colin Finch

Colin Finch's profound and unwavering service to Brentwood School, and the exceptional manner in which he carried it out, were fully celebrated in the eulogies delivered by Chairman of Governors Lord Black and Headmaster Michael Bond at Colin's memorial service in the School Chapel on 13th October.



Colin unveils the plaque for the Finch Building, June 2021.

He left the School in 1953 but the School did not leave him

By Guy Black

In 2000, Colin Finch contributed to Brentwood School's millennium book 'The Best of Days?' He noted how his relationship with the School, "as a pupil, a parent and a governor," was "somewhat unique." It certainly was. An exceptional bond existed between Colin and the School. We are lucky indeed that it did."

He joined the School in 1947, entering Middle II. He always maintained he was "eternally grateful to my parents for their personal sacrifices which enable me to benefit from the education I received at Brentwood."

Colin readily admitted that he struggled to keep up with school work but "sport was my salvation." In this he excelled and continued to do so afterwards.

He left School in 1953 but the School never really left him. The golden thread ran throughout his life. In 1978, he became Chairman of the Society of Old Brentwoods, a post he held with distinction for two decades, also serving as President. In 1984, he became a Governor.

In 1987, he was elected Vice Chairman and ten years later Chairman. When he stepped down in 2016, he was accorded the title of Governor Emeritus, lending us the benefit of his wisdom.

In 1984, the School was struggling to come to grips with the world after Direct Grant, its financial situation tolerable but precarious. Change was on the way and Colin led the charge. The School became co-educational in 1988. Boarding was transformed. The estate was expanded and rejuvenated.

As Chairman, he and Sir Michael Snyder rebuilt the School's finances, enabling investment in education and in the estate without placing additional burdens on parents. When so many independent schools are struggling in the face of the Government's cruel onslaught on the sector, we continue to benefit from the enormous financial strength that is one of Colin's greatest legacies.

Most important, he propagated its values – learning them from the generation that followed the Second World War, honing them, instilling them in his own family, and passing them on to those coming after.

Colin did not simply reflect the values reflected in Virtue, Learning and Manners. He lived them, not least in his unfailing courtesy and gentle charm. For him, the sacred task of nurturing young minds and getting the very best out of them was the alpha and the omega.

Colin lived for this town, for the School, for its students and for his family. I last saw him for lunch in the spring. He was on top of the world. As we parted, he said simply to me:' Look after my school.' To that, all of us are committed.

The personification of the School's values

By Michael Bond

Although I knew Colin Finch for only six years, I soon realised that he was a giant on whose shoulders we stand today. He was the personification of the values that have served Brentwood School for over 400 years. He was virtuous, aiming to 'work effectively, positively, productively, and happily, with kindred spirits who share an impatient, perfectionist and hard work ethic!'

Colin's continued attendance at the Property Management Committee meetings - long after he stepped down as Chair of Governors - was complemented by his - and Susan's - unwavering commitment to School concerts and plays. In Florian Cooper's words, 'it was a noticeable omission if Colin and Susan weren't in the front row, immaculately dressed, smiling and showing true pride in the pupils.' He had the impeccable manners of a true gentleman.

He was one of only a small number of people who have chaired the governing body in almost 500 years. One of them, Evelyn Heseltine, wrote the following words on a card given to every pupil in 1907, to mark the 350th anniversary of the school's foundation:

'I shall pass this way only once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.'

These words encapsulate the way Colin served our School.

Colin will always be remembered: through bricks and mortar, in the shape of the Finch Building that we named a few years ago in his honour; through the dedication of an Upper Sixth prize for business to be awarded annually from next year; and, most of all, for the spirit of hard work, productive restlessness and energy he gave to our School through a lifetime of service.

Chapel Life



Amelia J celebrates her baptism with family and Revd. Dr. Adrian McConnaughie

Sunday Chapel Worship
Our Sunday morning community continues to grow and flourish and we have gathered monthly to support and encourage one another in our journey of faith. Our services are suitable for all ages and it is here that we celebrate key moments in life such as baptism and important occasions within the Christian year such as Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas along with Mothering Sunday, Easter and Pentecost. For details about our Sunday Services, please do contact the Chaplain directly by email (awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk). It would be lovely to welcome you to any of these services.

Weddings and Baptisms
Baptism marks the beginning of our life within the Christian faith and over the years many have gathered in the Chapel to celebrate baptism. Our Harvest Service in October included the baptism of one of our pupils, Amelia J, and it was a joy to welcome her and her family on this occasion.

This year we also welcomed Bishop Adam to our Service of Baptism and Confirmation in February where we had 6 candidates for Baptism and Confirmation and 5 for Confirmation. Amongst the candidates, it was particularly wonderful to be able to celebrate with two staff colleagues who were baptised and confirmed - Mr Stevens and Ms Law and 4 Brentwood students - Tireni and Korinola Ogundele, Lois Shepherd and Jordan Adebowale.

Memorial Services
We gather in the School Chapel at times of joy and sadness. This year, we mourned the loss of a number of current and former staff colleagues who died. On 7th December, we held a Memorial Service for Dennis Riddiford who was a pillar of our teaching staff body for over 30 years and it was wonderful to be able to join with his family and former colleagues and friends for a celebration of a life lived to the full. Nancy Bixby was a teacher and Head of Art here at School for almost 20 years and her long and courageous battle with cancer sadly came to an end this year. Nancy's courage and her zest for life will be missed and her memorial service offered us all a chance to say farewell to a very special colleague. Many of Nancy's art works can be seen around school which remain a lasting tribute to her and her artistic talent. Dave Clark joined the School a few years ago as one of car park wardens and died unexpectedly in 2025. We hosted a Memorial Service in School for Dave's wider circle of friends as well as the School community in June 2025.



Brentwood School's Chapel.

"The Chapel at Brentwood School remains at the very heart of this school and is often the location where the School gathers at key moments in our school Life and in the lives of those connected to this place. As Old Brentwoods, you remain very much part of this school, and this Chapel, and I look forward to welcoming you if you are able to join us."

Revd. Dr. Adrian McConnaughie, Chaplain

OB Celebrations

John Caulfield (OB 1992-1999)
On 27th August, John Caulfield married Laura White in Dorchester. John and Laura also celebrated the arrival of their baby daughter, Darcy Rose, on 24th September.

Martin and Faye Wade (OBs 1991-1999 and 1991-1997)
Martin Wade and his wife Faye, who met at Brentwood School, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in November 2025.

Peter Rhodes (OB 1964-1971)
Peter was appointed sole provider of Psychological Services at Caribbean Airlines owned by the Jamaican and Trinidadian Governments and is responsible for assessment and selection of First officers and Captains of Fleet.

Daniel Salmon (OB 1994-2002)
Daniel Salmon, owner of bespoke luxury travel company 'Never A Wasted Journey', was proudly named Luxury Travel Designer of the Year at the Carrier A-List Awards 2025. Held at BAFTA, Daniel was up against tough competition throughout the country and to have won is a testament to his commitment to excellence and passion to create unparalleled travel experiences (including holidays booked for many Old Brentwoods).

Daniel Salmon





Martin & Faye Wade

John Caulfield & Darcy Rose



Laura Watts (OB 1988-1995)
Laura ran her 199th marathon in Boston this year in 3 hours 24 minutes, and six days later, ran her 200th marathon at the London Marathon, dressed as Wonder Woman in 3 hours 29 minutes, her 17th time running the London Marathon. These two marathons were her two fastest ever too!

Alex Donald (OB 1999-2006)
On 4th July 2025, Alex Donald married Raffy Juaton in London. The ceremony took place at Old Marylebone Town Hall. Alex is a serving Royal Air Force reservist and donned his uniform on their special day. Raffy is a nurse specialist at Queen's Hospital in Romford. They have been together for seven years and had a wonderful honeymoon in Montenegro.

Laura Cramphorn (OB 2001-2006)
On 2nd February 2025, Laura Cramphorn (née Crosby) and her husband, David, welcomed their son, Thomas, into the world.

Henry Simpson (OB 2010-2016)
This past year Henry Simpson worked with a charitable organisation to bring a Second World War aircraft across the Atlantic to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Baby Thomas



Henry Simpson (right)





Laura Watts

Alex Donald & Raffy Juaton



Notice of Deaths

The editor has been notified of the following Old Brentwood deaths in 2025.

Former Students

Graham Born
OB 1948 - 1957

Christopher Spurr
OB 1962 - 1967

David Brice
OB 1941 - 1948

John Howgego
OB 1945 - 1950

Alan Carling
OB 1957 - 1967

Robert Mann
OB 1959 - 1965

Richard Pemberton
OB 1944 - 1953

John Vale
OB 1949 - 1957

Raymond Parks
OB 1943 - 1949

Benjamin Gladman
OB 2004 - 2009

Martin Oliver
OB 1955 - 1961

John Barnes
OB 1949 - 1955

Anthony Green
OB 1937 - 1950

Duncan Naughten
OB 1955 - 1959

Howard de Mont
OB 1951 - 1962

Roy Edwin White
OB 1949 - 1956

Malcolm Blackburn
OB 1950 - 1957

Geoff Segal
OB 1951 - 1956

*Colin Finch**
OB 1947 - 1953

John Brett
OB 1941 - 1947

Keith Hook
OB 1942 - 1949

Adrian Rilstone
OB 1953 - 1964

Anthony Wallington
OB 1961 - 1965

Former Staff

Nancy Bixby
(2001 - 2019)

Stella Goss
(1969 - 1972)

Pamela Sheridan
(2005 - 2025)

* Colin Finch was Governor (1984-1987), Vice Chair of Governors (1987-1997), and Chairman of Governors (1997-2016).

While we are unable to cover everything in this publication, we are privileged to receive many fond memories and obituaries. All these remarkable lives and stories are celebrated in full on the Association website. To read their obituaries and learn more about their legacies, please visit the Association page or scan the QR code.

Read the full story on the Brentwood School Association website



Colin Finch

OB 1947 – 1953

Emeritus Governor Under Whose Leadership the School Was Transformed

In 32 years as a Governor of Brentwood School, nearly 20 of them as Chairman, Colin Finch (1947-53) advised on, agreed, raised funds for, initiated, progressed and presided over a host of projects and changes to the School's structure and direction. The period saw an "unprecedented growth in academic advancement, buildings, facilities and management of a burgeoning enterprise."

Shortly after his retirement in 2016 the Governing Body bestowed on him the honorary title of Governor Emeritus of Brentwood School. Colin expressed himself "overwhelmed, humbled and thrilled to be considered worthy of such a privilege."

His former colleagues had no such reservations. His successor, Sir Michael Snyder said they recognised Colin's "outstanding and remarkable contribution to the School as governor, committee member and Chairman. To the best of our knowledge, such an honour has never before been offered to a retiring governor. But then, no one in the modern era has made a contribution worthy of such a distinction."

In 2017, Colin told the Old Brentwoods Chronicle "The behind-the-scenes work on these projects was monumental, requiring a stoic approach to planning applications and inevitable design and building changes before and during construction. We have developed the campus as an integrated whole and ensured each project was architecturally sympathetic and coherent."

There had been huge investment in information technology, in grounds improvement and drainage across the 72-acre site and in pupil security; and an emphasis on more bursaries and specialist staff recruitment.

To accomplish so much, there were changes to the Governing Body's financial and management structures to focus on the overall management of individual projects and their strategic direction.

Current Chairman of Governors Lord Black has referred to a succession of "incredibly loyal, generous, visionary leaders, united by the steely commitment to the values and ethos of Brentwood School, summed up in those timeless words: Virtue, Learning and Manners."

The Revd. Dr. Adrian McConnaughie, the School's Chaplin, told mourners at Colin's funeral: "his commitment, vision and enthusiasm and his deep, abiding love for the School and its pupils lay at his core. It was these foundations which turned bricks and mortar into a space for creativity and community."

Among the tributes sent to the Finch family was one from another former governor. "Colin lived an exceptional life of service to others, not least to Brentwood School which owes him so very much. Under his leadership of the Governors, our School was transformed. His name will always be synonymous with its success and its reputation."



Graham Born

OB 1948 - 1957

Graham was born during the Blitz and came to the Prep School in 1948. He was at the School in 1957 when the Queen visited to celebrate the School's 400th anniversary, but left that year, aged 16 with two A Levels. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He was a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, a Fellow of the Association of Business Recovery Professionals and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Graham was a great supporter of the OB Society, joining the Committee in 1969. He soon became editor of the Chronicle, followed by Hon. Registrar. He was President in 2001. He was a stalwart of the OB Lodge, being its Master in 1977 and serving as its Secretary for sixteen years. He was honoured by the United Grand Lodge with Grand Rank in 2007. He was also a member of the OB Chapter.

Graham leaves a devoted wife of 54 years, Shirley, two sons, Andrew and Simon, who both attended the school. His granddaughter, Isabella, is also an Old Brentwood, having left the School last year.

He lived respected and died regretted.



John Barnes

OB 1949 - 1955

John Barnes was a solicitor and Immigration judge, pub owner, antiquities collector, an expert on 18th and 19th century glass and long time resident on the Mediterranean island of Gozo. A former President of the Society of Old Brentwoods, he died at his home on March 4th 2025. His funeral took place at Xaghra Parish Church on April 26th.

John was born in Romford to Fred Barnes MBE and Phyllis Barnes on the 13th March 1938. John won a scholarship to Brentwood School in 1949, joining West House and the arts stream. He excelled academically and met fellow pupils who would become lifelong friends.

In 1955, his solicitor father Fred wanted to open his own law firm with John joining him. John qualified through spare time study. F. Barnes & Son Solicitors came into being. His interest in wider areas of the law drew him towards the judiciary and he took on a full-time role as an immigration appeals judge in the London tribunals, serving for over ten years.

He married his first wife Barbara in 1960. They had three sons: Simon, sadly deceased, Jamie and Adrian. Regrettably, John and Barbara separated in the 1980s. Later, John met Chris, who shared his passion for food, travel and Jazz. Tragically, she passed away after a few short years. On holiday in Tunisia, John met Frances. They married in 1992 and enjoyed 29 years together until she passed away in 2021.

Jamie Barnes told mourners: "He remained youthful beyond his years and enjoyed life to the full... the glass was always half full, never half empty."

Bringing Brentwood's History to Life, in Person and Online

Brentwood School's history is one of its greatest treasures. It lives not only in centuries-old documents and collections but in the stories and shared experiences of generations of Old Brentwoods. Today, that history is more accessible than ever through the combined efforts of The Willis Museum and the School's fast-growing SocialArchive platform.

The Willis Museum - A Living Legacy

Down by Newnum House, the Willis Museum continues to welcome Old Brentwoods, families and visitors keen to rediscover the School's past. Opened in May 2024, the museum holds an ever-evolving collection of artefacts, photographs, uniforms, books and memorabilia from Brentwood's history, spanning over 465 years.

Tours of the museum can be booked at any time by contacting oldbrentwoods@brentwood.essex.sch.uk. Each tour offers not just a walk through Brentwood's past, but often moments of recognition and surprise, whether these be a class photograph rediscovered or an item of uniform sparking a long-lost memory.

As we continue to develop the museum, we honour the legacy of Mike Willis, whose passion for Brentwood's history shaped both the museum that bears his name and the beginnings of the new School History Book completed after his passing.

The Willis Museum





History made interactive with SocialArchive

SocialArchive brings the School's heritage to life online – accessible anywhere and anytime.

As of today, over 600 Old Brentwoods have already signed up to the platform, exploring a growing digital collection containing over 3,000 individual items. Together users have generated over 73,000 content views, a real testament to the appetite for reconnecting with Brentwood's past in a way that is interactive and engaging.

Photographs, publications and artefacts all sit side by side. Alumni can comment, share recollections, tag former classmates and help fill historical gaps, which transforms passive records into living conversations. For many, the experience is a nostalgic one: rediscovering the faces of former teachers, revisiting school plays and sports teams and tracing the evolution of the School's buildings, traditions and culture.

The Willis Museum and SocialArchive form a powerful partnership, both driven by a commitment to safeguarding Brentwood's heritage for generations to come. With thousands of items already catalogued, more being added every week and a growing global community of Old Brentwoods reconnecting with the School's past, there truly is something for everyone. And this is only the beginning!

> As a History teacher, I have always been aware of Brentwood School's significant and long past. Of course, within this history are the people and stories that are central to our community and identity. The challenge was to find a way to present this in a way that wasn't static, to make it dynamic with something that invites engagement. SocialArchive has given us that platform, to bring our archive to life, making it interactive, accessible, and scalable for the future. Seeing so many people sign up and explore in just a short time proves how powerful our history is when combined with the SocialArchive!"
>
> ***Michael Bond, Headmaster***

Old Brentwoods Society Officers

President: Sarbjeet Singh (OB 1990-2001) **President Elect:** Stuart Doran (OB 1967 - 1973)

Vice Presidents (non voting)
J. Barnes, Sir Rodger Bell, Lord Black of Brentwood, M. D. Bradford, J. Brown, P. R. Clements, C. Croll, C. S. G. Cooper, D. I. Davies, T. J. Faiers, D. Fisk, J. Hollington, J. Hubbard, J. Kelsall, P. M. Loader, J. M. May, D. J. Oldham, R.W. Owers, T. Pailthorpe, M. J. Pepper, M. A. G. Rowland, K.L. Semple, Sir Michael Snyder, D. W. Tee, I. S. Waite.

Management Board

Chairman
Chris Cooper (OB 1981-1992)
csgcooper@aol.com

Secretary
Paul Tooley (OB 1967-1974)
secretary@oldbrentwoods.com

Treasurer
Dominic Searle (OB 1980-1991)
dgs@dominicsearle.com

Membership Secretary
Jos Hollington (OB 1972-1981)
jhollington@btinternet.com

School Liaison
Andrew Burgess (OB 1995-2006)
ajburgess88@gmail.com

Elected Trustee
Scott Norris (OB 1968-1978)
scott@norrisfarm.co.uk

Social Events - Vacant

Social Media & Marketing - Vacant

Special Projects
Richard Hoyle (OB 1978-1989)
Richard@hoylesfarm.com

Above Plus
Phillip Loader (OB 1972-1982)
phil@loaderchemicals.co.uk

Board Sub-Committees

Club Committee: Rob Jupp, Dominic Searle, Richard Owers

Development Committee: Christian Cooper (chairman), Pat Stroud, Christian Croll, Richard Hoyle, Richard Owers, Ian Crispin, Hon. Secretary & President (by invitation)

Grounds Committee: Phillip Loader (chairman), Richard Hoyle

Restructuring Committee: Christian Cooper, Sarb Singh, Richard Owers, Keith Fenwick

Contacts for affiliated clubs & other groups

Auditor
David Wasley (OB 1965-1971)
davidwasley@yahoo.com

Cricket
Fred Rylah (OB 1992-1999)
fred.rylah@ker.co.uk

Croquet
Richard Hoyle (OB 1978-1989)
richard@hoylesfarm.com

Football
Phillip Loader (OB 1972-1982)
phil@loaderchemicals.co.uk

Golf
Gareth Pope (OB 1968-1975)
gareth.fs.pope@googlemail.com

Hockey
Annie Simpson-Crick (OB 2004-2011)
avs@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Masonic Lodge
Chris Cooper (OB 1981-1992)
L5342Secretary@gmail.com

Netball
Lucie Selby (1996-2003)
lucieselby@hotmail.co.uk

Rugby
Neil Hannaway (OB 1985-1992)
neil@ellison-electronics.com

Tennis
Peter Newton (OB 1962-1969)
petenewton04@gmail.com

Squash
Christian Croll (OB 1977-1988)
christian@crollgroup.co.uk

The Society of Old Brentwoods

Brentwood School
ASSOCIATION

Stay *connected*

to the Brentwood community by joining the Brentwood School Association. The Association unites alumni, parents, staff and friends through news, events and opportunities, helping to keep our wider community engaged and supported.

Scan the QR code to register online.

Lent Term 2026

Thursday 5th February
6pm - Weald Hall
Foundation Wine Club

Thursday 12th February
5pm - Venue TBC
OB Regional Drinks - Durham

Mon 2nd - Thu 5th March
4pm - BAC
Careers Week Talk

Friday 20th March
6pm - Dining Halls
Old Brentwoods Dinner

Tuesday 24th March
5pm - Courage Hall
Careers Convention

Trinity Term 2026

Tuesday 5th May
Heron Country Club
Brentwood Bursary Classic

Thursday 14th May
Evening - Venue TBC
Friends Headmaster's Quiz

Tuesday 9th June
7pm - Venue TBC
Drum Concert

Friday 12th June
All Day - School Track
Race Across the Globe

Thursday 18th June
7pm - School Chapel
Baroque Concert

Friday 26th June
6pm - Courage Hall
Prom Concert

Thursday 2nd July
6pm - Venue TBC
Summer Drinks in the City

Association Calendar 2026

Details of these events may change, so scan the QR code to see latest details, updates, and to book your tickets.

Get in Touch

Admissions

Discovering what Brentwood has to offer starts with a conversation. Our Admissions Team is ready to guide you through every option, including boarding.



Debbie Cook - *Head of Admissions 3-18*

01277 243314
admissionsmanager@brentwood.essex.sch.uk



Gayle Penn - *Prep Admissions Manager*

01277 243291
penng@brentwood.essex.sch.uk



Brian Hays - *Boarding Recruitment Manager*

01277 243273
haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

We welcome all enquiries and are always happy to guide you to the information you need. If you're unsure who to contact, our Reception team and Senior Leadership Team can point you in the right direction and answer general school-related questions.

Brentwood School Association

We love staying connected with our wider community. Whether you have news to share or simply want to reach out, we want to hear from you!



Theo Harris - *Alumni Relations Officer*

01277 240451
harrist@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

If you'd like to find out more about the Foundation or arrange a meeting:



Sam Mason - *Director of Development*

01277 243329
masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

A Snapshot of Our

Community





That's What Makes Us

Brentwood

BST

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