



Brentwood School



# Brentwood School Times 2025

Incipe | Brentwoodian | The Chronicle

# Introduction to the new BST

*This year, we are delighted to present the Brentwood School Times in a reimagined format. For the first time, this publication brings together the best of three magazines – Incipe (ages 3–11), The Brentwoodian (ages 11–18), and The Chronicle (Old Brentwoods) – into a single resource that celebrates the diversity and achievements of our entire school community.*

So, why the change? By bringing together these three magazines under one banner, the Brentwood School Times spans every stage of the Brentwood journey – from the curiosity of our youngest pupils, to the personal and academic growth of our students, and finally to the remarkable accomplishments of our alumni. This “three to OB” approach highlights the lifelong impact of a Brentwood education and the shared values that bind us as a community.

The Brentwood School Times is a celebration of the people, achievements, and traditions that make our school exceptional. By uniting the stories and voices of current pupils, parents, staff, and OBs, this magazine lets us reflect on exactly what makes us Brentwood.

Whether you are a current parent, a member of our alumni, or a prospective family exploring all that Brentwood School has to offer, we hope you enjoy reading this new edition as much as we have enjoyed creating it.



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*I am delighted to welcome readers to the first edition of our newly revamped Brentwood School Times, the intention of which is to bring together our main annual publications into one, all-encompassing document under the banner of ‘**3 to OB**’.”*



# Welcome

Taking a '3 to OB' approach reflects our firm belief that Brentwood is much more of a community than a school, something I have witnessed personally on a regular basis since my appointment in 2018 and arrival in 2019. All those who have contributed to (and/or read) this publication are part of a story that stretches back almost 500 years and share the task of ensuring our future success.

The stories you will read in these pages encompass the past, the present and look forward to the future; there are contributions from the newest and youngest members of our community in the pages of Incipi as well as those whose association with Brentwood stretches back many decades in The Chronicle. They show how in some ways the school is unrecognisable from years gone by, yet in others it is very much the same. I'm not sure the erstwhile boarders of Roden, Newnum, Otway or School House would ever have envisaged the 120-single, ensuite bedrooms of the new Boarding House that will open its doors in September, but I hope they will recognise the values and spirit – from Virtue, Learning and Manners to the ethos of service and participation – that have served the school for centuries.

This magazine also reflects the excellent work done over the past couple of years to better connect the many supporters of our school, including the Society of Old Brentwoods, the Friends of Brentwood School, current and former parents and local residents and businesses. Each group is represented in these pages and we continue to develop the Brentwood School Association as a means of developing networks and connections for the benefit of all those who belong to our school and broader community.

I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who has been part of this project – from conception to implementation, and content-creation to design. I hope you enjoy reading it and – for those who have perhaps been less involved with the school in recent times – that it inspires you to reconnect with what is a very special place.



Michael Bond, Headmaster





Single Ensuite Bedroom



State-of-the-art Boarding House

# Investing in your child's future

*In last year's Brentwood School Times, School Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, Jeremy Blunden CBE LVO provided an overview of recent developments and a look at plans for the future. In this article the Bursar describes two major developments that will open in Summer 2025.*

Over the past 50 years, the site has seen numerous developments as the school has grown and added new facilities. While the school is not expected to expand significantly in size in the coming years, it remains committed to enhancing the site to ensure that current students have access to top-quality facilities and that future students continue to enjoy all that Brentwood has to offer.





*Queens Extension*



### **New Boarding House & Sixth Form Café**

In September, we will unveil a new, integrated space designed to serve our growing boarding community and offer a modern social area for Sixth Form students. Located behind Courage Hall, the new building will accommodate both boys' and girls' boarding houses in state-of-the-art facilities, providing 120-single bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Each boarding house will have dedicated areas on the ground floor, while a shared central space will serve as a dining and recreation hub. During the day, this central area will function as a Sixth Form café and social venue. An enclosed courtyard will also offer landscaped gardens where students can study and socialise.

### **Extension to Queens Building**

An extension to the Queens Building will also open in September. Located in Wessex Square, opposite the recent extension to the Lawrence Building, this will provide an additional science laboratory, six additional classrooms and office space.

### **Coming up**

Alongside these two major projects, visitors to the site this year will notice various enhancements reflecting the school's ongoing commitment to maintaining its existing buildings and enriching the environment for current and future staff and students. In addition to the recently completed Water Garden, there will be further enhancements of outdoor spaces – creation of more garden areas, upgrading playgrounds, adding a new cricket net facility at the Prep School and developing spaces that support outdoor learning. Looking further ahead, this year the school will submit a planning application to co-locate the school's Wellbeing facilities at the heart of the school in the area that currently houses the Maintenance Department.

*It was an enormous privilege to take up the Chairmanship of our school's Governors in March 2024 in the footsteps of Sir Michael Snyder, an Old Brentwood who served Brentwood School as a Governor for over three decades with the greatest distinction.*

Our school is in robust good shape, going from strength to strength in every area. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of our teaching staff – and our senior team under the visionary leadership of Michael Bond – our pupils continue to excel at every level. And, as a result of the painstaking custodianship of Governors over many years, we have strong finances which means we have been able to invest in the school, always with one end in mind: constantly to improve the pupil experience.



We are a big school, which allows us to have such extraordinarily wide-ranging academic and co-curricular provision, but one where all pupils – and their families – are important and cared for. We must ensure that always remains the case, and I am committed to doing so.

Big schools like ours require the space and modern facilities to allow young people to breathe and grow. An ambitious building programme over many years has enabled us to do just that and we are now reaching the end of a period of significant renewal. In particular, our new Boarding House – with a Sixth Form café – is a hugely exciting development. It is rapidly taking shape and will be home to up to 120 full and flexi-boarders from September, safeguarding a vital part of Brentwood's history and heritage.

Conservation and innovation walk hand in hand at Brentwood – something which is of great importance to me, as indeed is the way we support prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds through life-changing Bursaries. We already have a long and distinguished record in this area, but there is much more we can do in order to ensure Brentwood remains an inclusive community that reflects the modern world in which all our pupils will live. That is why the work of the Brentwood School Foundation is so important to our future. Please get involved if you can.

This is particularly crucial as we face the real challenges arising from the Government's decision to impose VAT on school fees. As I have consistently said – in Parliament and elsewhere – I believe this is a cruel and vindictive policy that will simply be a tax on aspiration but will fail to achieve its aims of improving state education. We are in a strong position to withstand the fallout from this policy – and we will do so by continuing to work with and support our parents, and the wider school community, as we meet the challenge.

If you're reading the BST, you are doing so because Brentwood School is important to you – as an OB, a parent or pupil, or as someone who works at the school. In whatever role, I am grateful to you all for everything you do for us – and for your help in ensuring that our school continues to flourish in the interests of all those studying with us now, and long into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Black of Brentwood'.

**Lord Black of Brentwood (OB 1971– 1981)**  
Chairman of Governors



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# Meet the new Prep Head

Looking back to the last academic year we have much to reflect upon and to be proud of how the Prep School navigated changes, challenges and successes.

We take a moment to consider the vibrant tapestry of experiences, achievements, and memories that have shaped this year at the Prep School. From the buzz of the first day back in September to the celebratory spirit of our year-end events, this year has been nothing short of fantastic.

In the pages that follow you will find that we celebrate the academic triumphs, the artistic endeavours, and the sporting victories that have showcased the diverse talents of our pupils, from Foundation to Year 6. We delve into the innovative projects that have sparked curiosity and the community initiatives that have strengthened our bonds.

In May, we were pleased to announce that after several years of reviewing our curriculum and exploring other models, we successfully became an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Candidate School (PYP). Everything we do at Brentwood has to keep in mind the twin objectives: providing positive learning experiences now; and preparing our children for the world in which they will take their place when they leave us.

The PYP provides the framework for how schools teach and how children learn – it aligns closely with our vision and values by promoting inquiry, critical thinking, and international-mindedness, which are some of the key attributes prized by employers in the modern world. It also helps smooth the journey of Prep pupils into the Senior School, where these skills have been embedded into the curriculum for many years (based on the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile).

Over the academic year 2024 – 2025, all Prep staff are undergoing the IB-led training, collaborative planning and partnering with other PYP schools. It is indeed an exciting era we are entering with high-quality, world-class learning at the centre of everything we do as we begin to embrace a future we have yet to discover.



Alice Goodfellow, Prep Head







*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.”*





# Leaving thoughts

As my time at Brentwood comes to a close, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the pupils, parents, colleagues and governors who have made my time here such a positive, enjoyable and rewarding experience. Any perceived successes along the way are down to my extraordinary colleagues and their ability to demonstrate hard work, patience and above all else, kindness. All of these attributes make them a very special group of people.

In the past five years, I have also learned a huge amount from working with Mr Bond, alongside the Central and Prep SLT groups. I thank them whole-heartedly, and I take all the knowledge I have gleaned from Brentwood onto the next stage of my career in consultancy, mentoring, coaching and lecturing for the University of Buckingham.

The Prep School is in great shape and well-positioned to meet the challenges our sector will face in the coming years. This success is due to significant growth in enrolment, facility improvements, and a strong cultural foundation. The new PYP curriculum will further energise, challenge, and engage Prep learners and I look forward to seeing (from a distance) how this important strategic change plays out in the years to come.

The transition between Alice Goodfellow and myself has been extremely thorough and given that Mrs Goodfellow is an internal candidate, she starts her tenure as Head of Prep with a great deal of institutional knowledge and internal experience that no external candidate could possibly match. Importantly, Mrs Goodfellow is already well known to the Prep staff, and she is a genuinely respected figure within our community.

Finally, I would also like to say a thank you on behalf of my incredibly supportive wife, Katherine, and our three daughters who spent a combined total of 31 years as pupils at Brentwood. They are successful young adults with quite outstanding academic results, and the school has played a major part in this. Most importantly, they are good people who fully understand the importance of what it means to demonstrate Virtue, Learning and Manners in the wider context of adulthood.

Thank you, Brentwood."

*Jason Whiskerd*

Jason Whiskerd, Former Prep Head











# Passing the baton

As we bade farewell to Mr Whiskerd, the Prep Headmaster from 2011 to the summer of 2024, who retired after 13 remarkable years of dedicated service, we are filled with gratitude and fond memories. Mr Whiskerd's tenure was characterised by his unwavering commitment to fostering a love for learning, a passion for sports, and an emphasis on kindness and good manners, following our school motto of Virtue, Learning, Manners.

Mr Whiskerd's encouragement has inspired countless pupils to develop a lifelong love of books and he will be forever known for his many World Book Day costumes. His enthusiasm for sports of all kinds was a defining feature of his headship. Whether it was organising football matches, Sports Day, or swimming galas, Mr Whiskerd was always an advocate for the pupils having the confidence to represent themselves and the school.

Who could forget Mack, Mr Whiskerd's dog, who was a constant and beloved presence at the Prep as one of our wellbeing dogs. Mack's visits to the classrooms and his cheerful demeanour during break time brought smiles to faces, young and old.

Mr Whiskerd saw the school through the development and opening of the new North Prep building and Main Hall, our 125th Anniversary, remote learning for the best part of two years, our House system expansion, our Pre-Preparatory School and Preparatory School merge and many more amazing accolades. As we honour Mr Whiskerd's legacy we extend our heartfelt thanks for his years of leadership, guidance, and care. His impact on our school will be felt for many years to come, and we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Alice Goodfellow, Prep Head





Brentwood School



# Admissions Wednesday

Come and visit us for a tour | Every Wednesday at 9:30am

*Call 01277 243291 to book a tour*



# Charitable Endeavours

We always feel incredibly blessed to have such an engaging and supportive Prep community, from family, friends and beyond. Through themed days, dedicated events and discos we have raised over £6449 in the academic year 2023-24. Our charity work reflects our school values of Virtue, Learning, and Manners, and instil in our pupils a sense of compassion, responsibility and kindness, all whilst raising awareness for important causes, close to our hearts. Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support and generosity.

The Prep's Charity Discos were lively events with Years 5 & 6 and Years 2, 3 & 4 bringing their A-game to the dance floor, enjoying bubbles, music requests and even some dance battles that have now become a staple of our discos. The enthusiastic participation of the staff added to the vibrant atmosphere. The discos were not only a blast but also tremendous successes in terms of fundraising. Collectively, we managed to raise over £2960 for our chosen charities, a remarkable achievement that reflected the generosity of all who participated.

At the end of the school year, our Year 6 pupils hosted the annual Charity Afternoon which, despite the dreary weather, was a memorable, fun-filled event for Years 1-6 and staff. Our Year 6 teams organised a variety of creative stalls ranging from beauty salons to sport games to mindfulness activities. In total, the afternoon raised over £1050 for both The Mindstep Foundation and local charity, SNAP.

A big shout out must go to Year 3 pupils Darcey and Angel who completed a 5km 'Race for Life' mud run for Cancer Research UK. The girls raised an amazing £640 and brought our values to life as physically challenged themselves and raised awareness for an important cause.



In October 2023, Miss Shewring expertly organised our annual Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. With a shared enthusiasm for both baking and charity, many colleagues rolled up their sleeves to create a variety of scrumptious cakes and biscuits. We were also graced with some cult classics – Colin the Caterpillar made his annual appearance as always! The staff room was the place to be, providing the perfect opportunity for everyone to take a break, catch up with colleagues, and enjoy the vast array of treats, raising over £340.

We had a SPOTacular day celebrating Children in Need, transforming the Prep into a vibrant canvas of spots with polka-dotted accessories and our cherished Pudsey ears while raising money for charity through JustGiving. EYFS and KS1 pupils enjoyed engaging activities focused on developing positive relationships, including group colouring sessions and board games that fostered new friendships. Our Red Nose Day celebration also filled the school with laughter and a sense of community as pupils participated in joyful red-themed games. Both days raised awareness for fantastic charities and instilled values of kindness, giving and friendship amongst the Prep pupils.

In Michaelmas Term, we were deeply overwhelmed by the generosity of the Prep community during our Harvest Festival, which supported the Brentwood Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust network. The remarkable outpouring of donations—from non-perishable food items to essential household goods—underscored our community's compassion and commitment to helping those in need.



£2960

**raised by Years 2,  
3, 4, 5 & 6 Charity  
Discos**

£1050

**raised by the Year 6  
Charity afternoon**

£640

**raised by Darcey  
& Angel in the 5k  
Mud Run for Cancer  
Research**



# Houses

Bayman has had another great year on the sports field with many wins achieved, including Year 3 House Rugby, Year 6 House Rugby, House Hockey, House Football and Year 3 Swimming.

We also took first place in our House Maths competition which, this year, involved every member of the House.

Back in Michaelmas Term, we had our House Assembly on the theme 'Being grateful for our food'. The children recited a poem and encouraged people not to waste food. We were shocked to learn that the UK wastes 9.5 million tonnes of food every year; an amount equivalent to 47,500 blue whales!

We have had many interesting assemblies including hearing various inspiring and thought-provoking stories, funny anecdotes from the children, practising 'Walking on Sunshine' for House Music, and many examples of how we have demonstrated the attributes from the Brentwood Learner Profile.

We were very proud of the children on Sports Day as they showed such kindness and support to each other throughout the day.

A special thank you to our House Captains this year: Jesse, Arya, Oscar, Chloe, James and Yukta. They have helped us with various projects and have been excellent role models to the younger children.

**Mrs Long & Mrs Lee**



This year has been particularly successful for Brimley. Our House members worked tirelessly to earn House Points, showing commitment, respect, and camaraderie in all their endeavours. We did so well to win the good conduct award for Lent Term, and came remarkably close to securing the end-of-year trophy, which is a testament to the character and integrity of our pupils.

One of the many highlights of the year was our triumphant performance at Sports Day. The energy, enthusiasm, and sheer determination shown by every member of Brimley were truly inspiring, leading us to a well-deserved victory. Additionally, our performance of 'We Are the Champions' at the House Music event, which narrowly missed out on the winning spot, was a moment of collective pride, and perfectly encapsulated the team spirit and unity that defines Brimley House.

Other memorable moments of the year include the great team efforts on display in Michaelmas Term during House Cross Country and House General Knowledge. The performances to our House readers and public speakers was of an exceptionally high standard and helped Brimley to finish in the top half for both competitions.

At the end of January, it was Brimley's turn to host a House Assembly, which celebrated the many rich cultures and languages represented by the pupils and staff at the Prep. Pupils ended with a song, teaching the assembled pupils and staff how to say hello in many different languages.

At the end of a very memorable and action-packed year, we feel immensely proud of what the pupils of Brimley House have achieved. Their spirit and dedication has been amazing to see and we look forward to seeing Brimley House go from strength to strength in the years to come.

**Mr Edwards & Mrs Crichton**



**Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimley Brimley**



Heseltine Heseltine Heseltine Heseltine



Heseltine Heseltine Heseltine Heseltine

Always Shining Bright! The first event of the year saw a fantastic effort from all our pupils in the House Cross Country where we gained 2nd place – the best result for Heseltine ever! Not only did everyone give 100%, but the support of each other was the key to our success and wonderful to see. Moving on to the House General Knowledge competition, we finished as runners-up, and the end-of-term House standings placed us in a strong position across all categories, including the Good Conduct shield. We just needed to keep up the momentum...

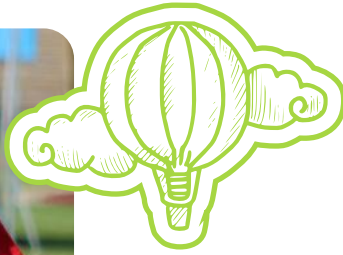
During Lent Term, our pupils continued to shine, embracing the weekly BLP messages and earning numerous Silver and Bronze Awards. House Maths brought out a lively cast of Rock Star characters, and House Football highlighted teamwork and mutual encouragement. Many pupils earned 'Going the Extra Mile' cards for their exceptional efforts. For House Reading, with a theme of Superheroes and Villains, we took a creative approach that paid off—Heseltine won!

During Trinity Term's House Week, we partnered with the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) to celebrate deaf culture. Pupils learned to sign 'Music is Magic' in assembly, inspired by the Music Man Project, which Mrs Romhany will bring to Prep more often this year. On charity day, students practised sign language and silent activities, raising £435 for RNID through generous parent support. House Music wrapped up the term with all Houses singing 'Twist and Shout', creating a vibrant, united celebration to close the year.

The final Whole School Assembly celebrated an incredible year, and we couldn't be prouder—Heseltine was announced as the overall House winner and awarded the Good Conduct Shield. This honour reflects the character and spirit of our outstanding Heseltinians. We can't wait for next year—you're all superstars!

**Miss Helsby & Ms Treadway**





As we look back on a fantastic year, it's a pleasure to celebrate the achievements and memorable moments that defined Lawrence House in 2023/24.

Our pupils showed exceptional strength and teamwork across competitions, beginning with standout performances in the House Cross Country event, especially from Sunday (Year 1), Freddie (Year 3), and Frankie (Year 5). At the KS2 Sports Day, Freddie, Uriah, Frankie, and Ruby stood out once again. Special recognition goes to Grayson (Year 5) for an impressive showing at the Year 5 Swimming Gala, helping secure 1st place overall.

We earned top spots in Year 4 & Year 5 House Rugby, Year 5 Swimming and Year 5 Boys' House Cricket. Our Year 6 pupils gave it their all in the final-term tug of war, taking 2nd place with grit and determination.

In this year's House Music competition, Lawrence House wowed with a performance of 'Jailhouse Rock'. A special shoutout to Nathan (Year 6) as Elvis, whose outfit and energy stole the show. Lawrence House proudly earned 2nd place in the House Maths Competition, with pupils showing strong problem-solving skills in quizzes and TT Rockstars events.

Lawrence House led an inspiring Whole School Assembly celebrating World Ocean Day, with heartfelt speeches about ocean protection. Many students entered the House Poetry Competition, with Amira (Year 1) & Nethya (Year 5) having their poems featured on the school blog.

A huge thank you to our House Captains: Bhavraj, Kyra, Clara, Rowan, Anna, and Sienna. Your dedication and positivity have been truly inspiring.

Let's go, Lawrence House!

**Mr Blom & Miss Weafer**



Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence



Looking back on Quennell's second year with myself and Mr Sealey at the helm, it's incredible to see the achievements and memories we've created together. It's hard to believe another year has passed, and what a fantastic year it has been for our House.

Quennell excelled in six House Weeks, with highlights including a win in the Tasker House Week 'Bake-Off' and strong performances in swimming and House Maths, where KS1 especially shined in quick-fire rounds. We took 1st place in the General Knowledge competition, and KS1 celebrated a memorable win in the Summer Event. For House Music, we delivered a lively performance of 'Happy', led by Sasha's piano talents, securing 2nd place.

House Reading allowed us to embody heroes through epic speeches from The Odyssey and Lord of the Rings and the tale of Hiccup and Toothless. Thanks to Jonathan, Elise, Krishan, and Florence for their expressive performances.

Quennell's House Week focused on global sports, blending Geography and Sport, with generous donations from the school community supporting The Diabetes Football Community. Sports Day was full of spirit, with cheers and teamwork all around. Our Year 6s showed true grit in a challenging tug-of-war competition.

Thank you to our House Captains – Sean, Maya, Lucian, Grace, Ronov, and Seren – who have been outstanding role models.

Thank you, Quennell, for an incredible year. Go Quennell!

**Miss Hossack & Mr Sealey**



Quennell Quennell Quennell Que Tasker





**Mr Partridge & Mr Simpson-Crick**

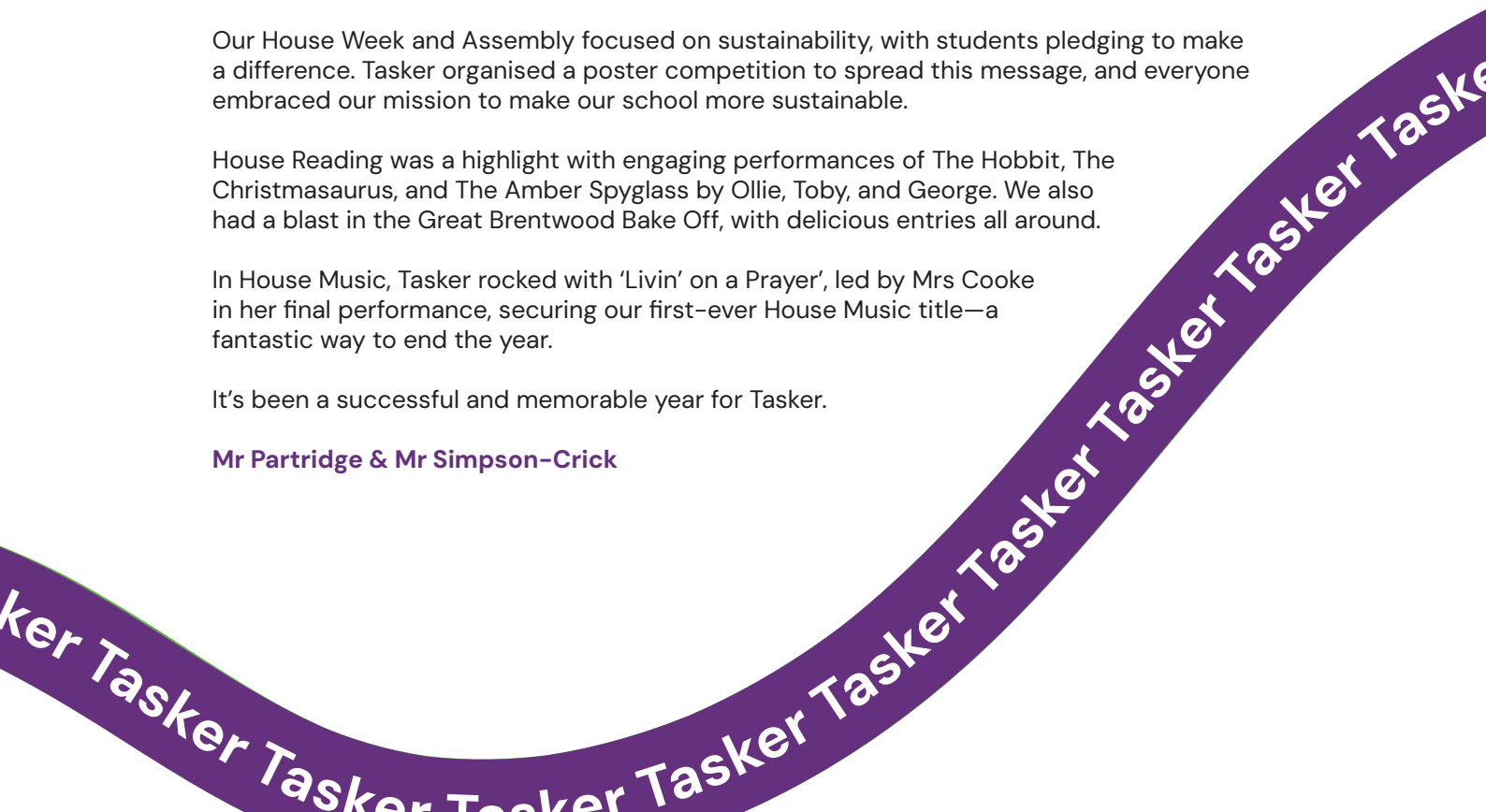
Our House Week and Assembly focused on sustainability, with students pledging to make a difference. Tasker organised a poster competition to spread this message, and everyone embraced our mission to make our school more sustainable.

House Reading was a highlight with engaging performances of *The Hobbit*, *The Christmasaurus*, and *The Amber Spyglass* by Ollie, Toby, and George. We also had a blast in the Great Brentwood Bake Off, with delicious entries all around.

In House Music, Tasker rocked with 'Livin' on a Prayer', led by Mrs Cooke in her final performance, securing our first-ever House Music title—a fantastic way to end the year.

It's been a successful and memorable year for Tasker.

**Mr Partridge & Mr Simpson-Crick**





# Classroom Chronicles

“

The **Foundation** children had a great start to their learning journey at Brentwood. They enjoyed ‘All About Me’, ‘Whatever the Weather’ and ‘Into the Woods’ topics, as well as lots of time to learn through play and explore the outdoor areas. During the Trinity Term they went to the woods for their Forest School sessions and participated in their first Summer Event.”

**Mrs Playfair-Moss, Head of Foundation**



The year started by welcoming our NewB Foundation and Reception children for a short visit to their classrooms before the year started. Children had a chance to say hi to their teachers again which provided a great opportunity to see their new classmates too. And of course, all children walked away smiling with their Brentwood Bear, donated by the Friends of Brentwood School.

With a successful first week under their belts, it was an exciting start to the year for our youngest children at Brentwood. This week marked their first time staying for lunch, an important milestone for our 3 and 4 year olds as they get familiar with our school routines, meet teachers, friends and settle into life at the Prep. In the Trinity Term, the children and their parents had a magic time at Foundation’s annual Teddy Bear’s Picnic. The children brought along their favourite teddies, while parents attended with a picnic in tow for an afternoon filled with sunshine, games, and delicious treats.

Smiles were everywhere as the children enjoyed their picnics, played with friends, and even had the chance to get their faces painted. It was a joyful and lively occasion that left everyone in high spirits. As the term drew to a close, the picnic was a perfect way to celebrate the children’s achievements and the wonderful year they had.



“

**Reception** 2023–2024 was a fun-filled year with many opportunities to explore new learning. The highlights included making jelly to trap the Evil Pea from the story, ‘Supertato’ in Michaelmas Term and finding out about Mary Anning, the Fossil Hunter in our Dinosaur topic in Lent Term. To finish our year, our ultimate highlight was our trip to the Sealife Zooquarium in the Trinity Term, where we celebrated all our learning from the ‘Rumble in the Jungle’ and ‘Commotion in the Ocean’ themes.”

### **Mrs Mercer, Head of Reception**

In November, Reception welcomed four firefighters from the Red Watch at Brentwood Fire Station. The crew shared insights into their varied responsibilities, which include not only fighting fires but also assisting with floods, collisions, and animal rescues. They taught the children about fire safety, focusing on the importance of smoke alarms. The visit included a demonstration of their protective gear and a tour of the fire engine, leaving Reception excited and more aware of fire safety, inspired by these real-life heroes.

In Trinity Term, Reception took part in our EYFS and KS1 Big Plant Up. This termly event invites all children to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and bring in a garden plant of their choice to brighten up the playground planters and flower beds. The variety of plants that were brought in were delightful and it’s safe to say that the children enjoyed getting their hands dirty and taking their time to ensure the flowers and shrubbery were taken care of, including pruning and watering. The planters and flower beds looked vibrant and full of life, creating a beautiful outdoor space for everyone to enjoy.



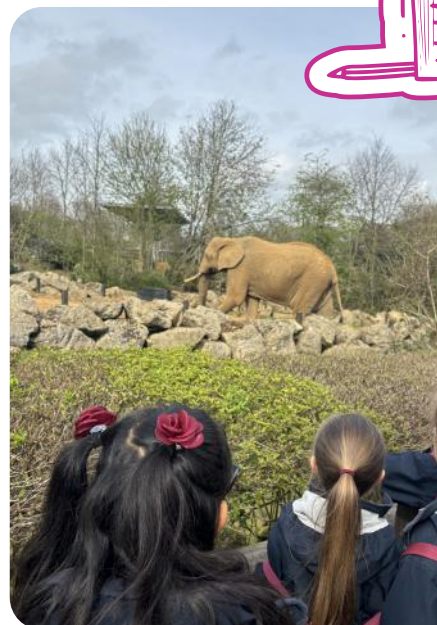


In November 2023, Year 1 welcomed 'The Brentwood Theatre Company', a talented group of Sixth Form students who performed a special show designed for Prep-aged audiences. The Sixth Formers showcased their creativity in a musical adaptation of Charlie Cook's Favourite Book by Julia Donaldson, captivating the young audience.

Year 1 delivered two outstanding performances of The Big Little Nativity: A Big Story Told by Little Voices in the Higgs Hall. Despite the title, the incredible talents of the children from the Larks, Wagtails, and Doves classes were anything but small. Every child played a significant role in retelling the Christmas story, featuring elements like dancing doors and talking lists, which brought joy and smiles to everyone in attendance.

To conclude their topic 'Very Chilly', Year 1 visited Colchester Zoo. The day was filled with animal sightings, including sea lions, penguins, lions, tigers, elephants, and giraffes. A highlight was a talk from zoo staff about penguin adaptations, during which some lucky volunteers dressed up as penguins. The children learned about penguins' spiky tongues for catching fish and had the rare opportunity to touch real penguin feathers.

During the Trinity Term, Year 1 engaged in discussions about reducing, reusing, and recycling, through the topic 'Our Wonderful World'. The children read Somebody Swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts, where they learned how a plastic bag ended up in the ocean and harmed sea creatures. This story sparked important conversations about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life. In Art, the class created a display highlighting the staggering amounts of plastic and rubbish found in the ocean, empowering them to make a positive difference for the planet.



“

What a year it was in **Year 1**! We explored three exciting topics: 'Once Upon a Time', 'Very Chilly', and 'Our Wonderful World'. From fairy tales to frosty adventures, we had a lot of fun, including a trip to Colchester Zoo for an interactive workshop on penguins. We even had a surprise visit from a witch who needed our help finding her lost belongings. We marvelled at the 'Northern Lights' while learning about the Arctic and Antarctica.”

**Mrs Johnson, Head of Year 1**





“



What an extraordinary year of learning for **Year 2**! From the arrival of the Minions, to the ‘Great Fire of Brentwood’ on the playground, pupils have embraced opportunities for hands-on learning. From learning about the local Geography of Essex, to exploring the Solar System – awe and wonder have been evident in equal measure. The enthusiasm of the children and their joy of learning has made it a memorable year for us all!”

### **Mrs Marchington, Head of Year 2**

In December, Year 2 dazzled in their first Christmas play on the Main Hall stage. After hours of rehearsals and preparation, they delivered a heartwarming show that captured the true meaning of Christmas. From ‘Inn-spectors’ to sheep, shepherds, and wise men, the pupils performed with enthusiasm, confidence, and joy, all bringing their individual characters to life. This delightful performance showcased their talent and hard work, whilst kicking off the festive season with a bang.

Starting in Lent Term, a wonderful collaboration blossomed between the older and younger pupils at Brentwood School, as Year 2 and Year 9 joined forces to host half-termly Book Buddy sessions. The inaugural gathering was a resounding success, with Year 2 pupils reading to their Year 9 buddies, who provided valuable reading advice and guidance. The Senior School library buzzed with lively chatter about plots, characters, and cliff-hangers, creating an atmosphere of shared excitement for literature. Both the younger and older pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with many expressing their eagerness for the next Book Buddy gathering.

Year 2’s topic ‘London’s Burning’ concluded in May with a recreation of the Great Fire of London. In the weeks prior, the pupils collaboratively built Tudor-style houses. When a spark ignited the row of ‘Pudding Lane’ buildings, the children watched in awe as flames danced, propelled by wind that spread the fire along the cobbled street. This vivid demonstration showed how the devastating fire of 1666 spread rapidly, leaving destruction in its wake.





**Year 3** had a busy and fantastic year. Highlights included our trip to Celtic Harmony, our Christmas Celebration to parents and our exciting Enrichment Week with a visit to Ninja Warrior in Chelmsford. We are all immensely proud of how much all the children progressed academically and socially.”

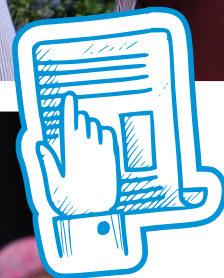
### **Mrs Bleakley & Mrs Long, Head of Year 3**

In November, Year 3 had an exciting week visiting the Senior School for a Magical Chemistry Show. The Science Department’s spellbinding experiments amazed the pupils, blending chemistry with the illusion of magic. The engaging demonstrations sparked their imaginations and deepened their interest in science.

To mark the end of the Michaelmas Term, Year 3 performed Christmas Stars – The Xmas Factor and it was a resounding success, showcasing the pupils’ hard work. The show delighted the audience with its heartwarming moments. A big thank you went to the Year 3 parents who supported the performance by organising costumes, helping the children learn their lines, and cheering enthusiastically during the performance.

To enhance their learning about Ancient Egypt, Year 3 enjoyed an exciting Egyptian Day in March. Dressed in costumes, the pupils engaged in hands-on activities that brought history to life. In the morning, they crafted canopic jars, baked bread with Nile-grown flour, painted, and wrote their names in hieroglyphs, immersing themselves in ancient culture. The day concluded with a grand Pharaoh’s banquet, where pupils performed music, drama, and dance before the Pharaoh and his wife, celebrating a bountiful harvest. The atmosphere was lively and festive all day, with the pupils’ enthusiasm and excitement shining through.

In Trinity Term, the Year 3 STEAM team embarked on an exciting plant project, applying cross-curricular knowledge to design solutions for plant growth. Leading their enquiry, the pupils formulated research questions, explored plant growth, and documented their findings through photos. This project allowed them to blend creativity with scientific inquiry, putting theory into practice while also engaging their Eco Warrior skills in surveying the environment.



“

The pupils’ time in **Year 4** was full of highlights – new friendships were formed and there was great success in a variety of co-curricular aspects such as sport, music and LAMDA, which we enjoyed celebrating throughout the year. A key highlight for many of the pupils, by their own admission, was Enrichment Week where the overnight camping stay and outdoor activities at Thriftwood saw them embrace new challenges; their resilience really shone through which was wonderful to see.”

**Mrs Ward, Head of Year 4**



In November, Year 4 artists enjoyed a unique and engaging lesson when Mr Hibbit to teach them about pointillism. As part of their studies on the famous artists George Seurat and Paul Signac, the pupils explored the technique of pointillism, using paint and cotton buds to replicate the distinctive process employed by these masters. The lesson provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to connect art with their learning and experiment with a new style.

Did you know that the 15th March 2024 was World Sleep Day? To mark the day, Year 4 took the opportunity, during their PSHE lessons, to learn about the significance of a healthy bedtime routine and the vital role sleep plays in our lives, as well as the various benefits of sleep. The pupils discussed how adequate rest improves mood, concentration, and overall wellbeing. Year 4 also learned strategies for establishing better sleep habits, such as winding down before bed, maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, and creating a calming sleep environment. This day raised awareness of their own sleep patterns, encouraging both pupils and families to reflect on whether they were getting enough rest each night.

In Trinity Term, Year 4 enjoyed a visit from Mr Dhami, a representative from Illumina, a leader in DNA sequencing technology. The pupils were captivated by astonishing facts about DNA, including that all the DNA in a human body could stretch to the sun and back 600 times! Mr Dhami explained how decoding the genome could address significant global challenges like diseases and food shortages, prompting many questions from the eager pupils. To celebrate DNA Day, Year 4 extracted DNA from strawberries, gaining firsthand experience of genetic material differences.





“

The academic year for **Year 5** was packed with many memorable events and occasions. Highlight include the Year 5 space-themed STEAM evening and Young Voices. To round off an amazing year, Year 5 pupils spent three days and two nights at Bradwell, developing their independence skills and participating in numerous outdoor activities.”

### Mrs Miles, Head of Year 5

Space Camp made a triumphant return to the Prep in November, providing an opportunity for Year 5 to delve into the wonders of the universe. On the Friday evening, the pupils returned to school to participate in a variety of space-themed activities that ignited their imaginations and curiosity. The event featured several visiting astronomers who captivated the children with the vastness of space through an impressive planetary dome. The pupils were thrilled to look through telescopes, gaining a closer view of the stars and planets. The evening continued with a fire in the forest, where Year 5 enjoyed hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows under the night sky. Back in the classroom, the pupils engaged in creative activities, including making constellations in Art and crafting 3D rockets in Design Technology.

During the Lent Term, Year 5 focused on writing explanation texts in English, centred on inventions. Inspired by Adam Kay's 'Incredible Inventions' and popular TV show 'Dragons' Den', the pupils designed and presented their unique inventions. The final eight presented their creations to a distinguished panel of 'Dragons' (various Prep School staff). Each young inventor eloquently explained their design, target audience, and purpose, utilising videos, PowerPoint presentations, and engaging diagrams to capture the Dragons' attention. The children spoke with clarity, confidence, and enthusiasm, each of them impressing the judging panel.

In June, following a day in their Shakespeare Workshop, Year 5 took the stage with a unique interpretation of Macbeth, showcasing their thorough understanding of the play alongside an impressive range of dramatic techniques. The pupils demonstrated their skills in soundscapes, conscience alleys, and stage combat and even added a modern twist with some funky dance moves. The audience was treated to spooky witches, ambitious wives, and plenty of dramatic battles, as the children brought the classic story to life in a remarkable final performance.





**Year 6**, the class of 2024. A fantastic year filled with academic achievements, musical accolades and sporting success. Life-long friendships were formed. The musical ‘Joseph’ was the perfect send-off for Mrs Cooke whilst also showcasing the exceptional talent of the children. The year ended with a sea of blue hoodies arriving on the Cantabrian coast of Northern Spain for a week of fun-filled activities.”

### Mrs Ombok, Head of Year 6

At the start of the academic year, Mrs Trowell had the wonderful task of announcing the new Year 6 Prefects for the year. This highly anticipated moment filled the school with excitement and pride as the Prefects were introduced to their peers. Everyone was so proud of each and every one of them for stepping into these important roles and embracing the responsibilities that come with being a Prefect. These young leaders represented their classmates and contributed positively to our school community.

During Lent Term, our pupils explored how we could enhance mental health education and support at the Prep in aid of Children Mental Health Week. Reflecting on Children Mental Health Week, we turned to our pupils to explore how we could enhance mental health education and support at the Prep. The Year 6 Leadership Activity Group took the initiative to conduct a survey among the Key Stage 2 pupils, and the responses were heartwarming. The feedback revealed that many pupils felt the Prep were already doing an excellent job in raising awareness and providing guidance on mental health issues. Their positive responses were encouraging and highlighted the importance and impact of the school's ongoing pastoral and wellbeing efforts.

In their final term at the Prep, some budding engineers in Year 6 got to experience the exhilarating fun of the ACES co-curricular club, Goblin Racers. Pupils delved into the mechanics of go-karts, applying their knowledge from STEAM lessons to build and refine their own racing machines. The Year 6 racers put their designs to the test, where they learnt about key concepts such as aerodynamics and brake safety. Each racer proudly built their own kart and took it for a test drive, making necessary tweaks to improve performance with every round. The club provided a thrilling opportunity for pupils to combine creativity with technical skills, and their enthusiasm was evident as they pushed the limits of their designs.





# Reading Round Up

## Reading In The Dark Competition

Our love for reading never takes a break, and in the summer of 2023 we launched an exciting new reading competition. Pupils sent in photos of themselves 'reading in the dark'—from torchlit adventures to cosy dens under the duvet. The creativity was endless!



## House Reading Competition

This year's House Reading event showcased the talents of pupils from Years 1 to 6, highlighting their love for literature. Younger students from Years 1 and 2 worked in groups and presented poems and stories about heroes, captivating their older peers with their creativity and enthusiasm.

The standard of presentations continued to rise, with Years 3 to 6 impressing the judges through engaging and heartfelt performances. We were proud of all the performers, each embodying the spirit of a hero in their storytelling. After a closely contested event, Heseltine was announced as the winning House.



Teachers joined in, by conducting reading swaps, sharing stories with different classes. The Library offered comics, newspapers, magazines, and pop-up books for lunchtime reading with Harry Potter topping KS2's favourites. Years 3 to 6 enjoyed the unique experience of reading and relaxing in their very own reading cafés, complete with snacks and drinks. The Key Stage 2 book swaps proved popular, introducing children to books they might not have typically chosen to read.

In Music, Years 4–6 explored Latin literature with Mrs Romhany, connecting words to English and other languages. Staff and even the school's wellbeing dog, Bea, served as 'lucky listeners', making the week a joyful celebration of reading at the Prep.

**Poetry Week 2024**

The Prep was a hive of creativity during Poetry Week 2024 as pupils immersed themselves in the world of poetry. Our EYFS children explored nursery rhymes with Reception children joyfully acting out their favourites. In Year 1, the children delved into similes and produced poems about the Northern Lights, paired with creative artwork. They also prepared an Easter poem for a Cathedral Service, showing their growing confidence in performing.

Year 2 focused on the vibrant theme of the circus, learning about verbs, adverbs, nouns and adjectives while writing their own entertaining circus poems. Meanwhile, older pupils explored various poetry styles, reading works from *The Jabberwocky* to ancient Greek odes. They engaged in team projects, crafted original pieces, memorised poems for performance, participated in poetry 'battles', and created class poetry raps, adding a modern twist. Overall, the week celebrated the joy of poetry, sparking creativity and collaboration among pupils, and fostering a lasting love for the written word.

**Reading Week**

During the Michaelmas Term, Brentwood Prep buzzed with excitement for a week of reading-focused activities, aimed at fostering lifelong reading habits. EYFS and KS1 children set up class libraries and shared favourite books, with Year 1 adding fun by wearing pyjamas and reading bedtime stories to their teddy bears.

**No Pens Day**

During Trinity, each year group participated in No Pens Day, where writing was banned to encourage creative learning and enhance speaking and listening skills. Discussions covered topics like rules and debates, with Year 6 using drama techniques such as 'conscience alleys' while younger pupils engaged in role play and filming diary entries. Games promoted problem-solving; Year 1 practised positional language with grids, while Year 6 created large shapes using their bodies and props. Digital learning included filming activities, creating video podcasts, and building websites. Library lessons focused on finding books and reading various materials. In music, students composed jungle rhythms, and Year 3 matched music to suspenseful stories, while all pupils practised for the House Music performance, pen-free.

**Public Speaking Competition**

At the end of the Lent Term, our Year 6 pupils dedicated themselves to writing and performing heartfelt speeches for the Public Speaking competition. Two finalists and one reserve from each class captivated an audience of Year 5 and 6 pupils, staff, governors, and parents. The speeches were remarkable, demonstrating the confidence and passion of our pupils. They covered diverse topics, including the role of AI in education, the Horizon post office scandal, and even the debate over whether it's better to be an only child than to have siblings!





# Performing Arts

## Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service at Brentwood Cathedral

Our Year 4-6 Carol Service at Brentwood Cathedral treated parents, staff, and governors to an uplifting experience. The orchestra began with 'Walking in the Air' from 'The Snowman', filling the space beautifully. Confident readers, lively jazzy numbers, and choir performances of 'Mary, Did You Know?'; and 'The Jesus Gift' added harmonies to the congregational carols.



## Young Voices

At the start of Lent Term, Year 5 headed to the O2 to perform in the much-anticipated Young Voices concert. They joined other schools in singing a variety of songs, from 'Matilda' to gospel and pop medleys. Pupils and staff worked with guest singer Natalie Williams from Ronnie Scott's, 12-year-old drumming prodigy Nandi Bushell, and the unforgettable MC Grammar! It was a fantastic day and a memorable experience for all involved.

## Year 6 & Ensembles Concert

We enjoyed an uplifting Year 6 & Ensembles concert in the Prep Hall, showcasing our vibrant music scene. Ensembles included the String Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, Cello Club, Recorder Ensemble, and both choirs, all displaying their range and talent. The programme featured music from Vivaldi to D Jam Blues, with impressive improvisation from the Orchestra. Year 6 pupils wowed the audience with solos on various instruments, highlighting our Endangered Instruments Scheme. The concert concluded with the Year 6 Choir, whose passion and enthusiasm were a joy to witness.



### Senior Choir Sing at the Royal Albert Hall

During the Easter holidays, the Prep Senior Choir had the incredible opportunity to sing at the Royal Albert Hall for a concert supporting the Music Man Project, which showcases musicians with learning disabilities across the UK. Brentwood Prep was the only school invited to perform alongside adult choirs, and the pupils were in awe of the prestigious venue. In addition to the musical experience and sign language lessons, witnessing the Music Man ambassadors sing and play with confidence was truly inspiring. Their infectious love of music created a humbling atmosphere. Our pupils and staff buzzed with pride, receiving many compliments from surrounding choirs on their representation of our school and their beautiful singing voices.

### House Music

With all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 in attendance, House Music kicked off with a soloist from each House, chosen by their Head of House. From the flute to drums, piano to vocalists, each brought their own expertise to the first round, making it tough to choose a favourite.

Next, each House performed their own song, starting with Tasker's dramatic rendition of 'Living on a Prayer'. Bayman brought the Eurovision flair with 'Walking on Sunshine', while Lawrence channelled Elvis with 'Jailhouse Rock'. Brimley's 'We Are the Champions' made us feel Freddie Mercury's presence, and Heseltine delivered a lively 'Twist & Shout'. Quennell closed the show with Pharrell Williams' 'Happy', leaving everyone smiling.

Mr O'Leary from the Senior School Music Department, along with Upper Sixth students Sophia Assitzoglou and Murray Peat, announced Tasker as the winner of the House Music 2024 Trophy. Congratulations to all the Houses for their energy and commitment, and especially to the soloists.

### Year 6 production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Jr

Our Year 6 brought to life the vibrant musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Jr for the annual Year 6 production. The atmosphere was electric as parents, teachers, and friends filled the hall to witness the culmination of weeks of hard work. From the dazzling costumes to powerful performances of iconic songs like 'Any Dream Will Do', the cast captivated the audience with their enthusiasm and vocal talent. Their acting added depth and humour, drawing everyone into the story. As the final curtain fell, the audience erupted into applause, celebrating the talent of our young stars, we couldn't be prouder of them.



# Sporting Superstars

What a year it has been! With more pupils taking part in sporting events and fixtures than ever before, we were busy. This year demonstrated once again the level of Virtue, Learning and Manners from our pupils on and off the sports fields, throughout all year groups. A huge well done to all our amazing pupils who showed enthusiasm and commitment throughout the academic year of 2023–2024, from House Events to tournaments, from trips to famous sporting grounds to levelling up in training sessions.

Here are a few highlights of our year...



## Cricket

During Trinity, the U11A girls' cricket team made a strong debut in their first IAPS hardball competition. Despite heavy rain, they won their pool matches and advanced to a 'Super Over' semi-final. The girls showcased impressive skills in the final, ultimately finishing as champions!



## Tennis

During Trinity, we hosted the Essex Independent Schools' Tennis Tournament across our 24 courts. Our U9 and U11 teams took part in the morning Prep tournaments, and it was fantastic to see so many pupils enjoying this annual doubles event and giving great performances on the court.

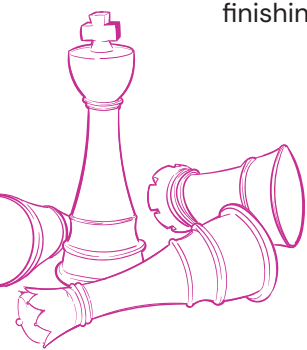


## Netball

Our U11A team played in the IAPS Netball tournament, but after one game, rain forced a postponement. Luckily, with sunshine at the rescheduled event, they showed great teamwork and finished 3rd in the plate.

## Chess

At the beginning of 2024, we saw George, Year 6, finish as runner-up in an U18 chess tournament with the Essex Chess Association who were celebrating their 125th anniversary. George also scored 4/6 in a mixed-age competition at the Senior School. Meanwhile, our sibling superstars, Aiden and Ava qualified for the Southern Gigafinal at Sandown Park racecourse during the summer, a fantastic achievement.



### Swimming

In Lent, our U11 & U10 IAPS Swimming Squads competed at the national qualifying gala at Bishop's Stortford College. With impressive first and second-place finishes, our swimmers excelled. Well done to the entire squad.



### Football

During Lent Term, our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a training session at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground, led by future professional players working on their coaching badges. Training just steps from the first-team pitch, they practised skills, drills, and competitive matches, creating lasting memories for pupils and staff alike.

To close out the Lent Term, we hosted the Brentwood Football District Finals for the Langhelt Cup (boys) and Whiskerd Cup (girls)—and were thrilled to have teams in both. The high quality play and strong support from the large crowd made for an exciting atmosphere. Huge congratulations to both teams, who walked away winners.



### Hockey

During the Michaelmas Term, our U11 Girls' Hockey team started the season with a bang, performing fantastically at the IAPS Hockey qualifier to finish 4th— the best ever result for a Brentwood Prep team. Their successes continued as the girls went on to represent Essex at Regionals in November 2023 where they finished 5th in the East Region. Well done girls!



### Rugby

In November we proudly hosted the IAPS U11 Rugby Festival, welcoming teams from across the East of England. Our U11A team faced a challenging pool but demonstrated remarkable determination. After making it through the pool stages, they capped off the day with an exciting 4-3 victory. With incredible sportsmanship throughout the competition, they were a testament to the Prep.

### Skiing

In December, our Prep Ski Race Team jetted off to Italy for the Independent Schools' Ski Championships, where both Prep and Senior pupils performed brilliantly, bringing home multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies in Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Team events—making Brentwood proud!





## House Events

Sport plays a huge part in our annual House events and to see the six colours on the fields, all taking part, from Year 1 to Year 6. Congratulations to the following Houses for winning the events:

**Hockey**  
**Bayman**

**Rugby**  
**Tasker**

**Cross Country**  
**Tasker**

**Swimming**  
**Quennell**

**Football**  
**Bayman**

**Netball**  
**Heseltine**

**KS2 Sports Day**  
**Brimley**

**Archery**  
**Heseltine**

**EYFS & KS1 Summer Event**  
**Quennell**

## EYFS & KS1 Summer Event 2024

The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as children, parents, and teachers gathered for the EYFS & KS1 Summer Event, packed with activities showcasing the children's physical development and ensuring fun for all.

Foundation and Reception kicked off with sprint races, their enthusiasm infectious as they sped down the track. Year 2 then delighted the crowd with Maypole performances, showing rhythm and coordination in intricate patterns. Year 1 and Year 2 races followed, full of friendly competition and close finishes.

Foundation children returned for the Teddy Bears' Picnic Race, setting up and packing a picnic in teams, while Reception showed off their balancing skills in a bean bag race. Year 2 line dancers energised the crowd with a performance of 'Texas Hold'em', setting a summer vibe.

Obstacle races for Year 1 and Year 2 brought excitement with bean bags, egg and spoon, and hurdles, keeping everyone on edge. The event closed with an Olympic-themed song and relay race, celebrating teamwork ahead of the Paris Olympics. Toddlers and young siblings had their turn on the track, while the Parent & Spectator race saw over 100 participants, ending the day with a huge sense of community and fun.

Thanks to everyone for attending and creating a memorable day, and well done to the children for their fantastic efforts!



## KS2 Sports Day

Under a blazing sun, KS2 pupils kicked off Sports Day 2024 with high spirits. House banners waved, and the colourful t-shirts added to the lively, competitive energy.

The day began with Year 3 and Year 4 tackling the 600m, showing determination, followed by thrilling 800m races from Year 5 and Year 6. Despite the heat, stamina and strategy shone through with exciting finishes. Next up were the sprints, with Year 3 and Year 4 taking on 60m races, and Year 5 and Year 6 tackling 80m, each group displaying fierce competitiveness.

Before lunch, all relays were completed to avoid peak heat. A highlight was the 4x100m relay for Years 5 and 6, followed by a twist on the traditional relay with hurdle legs. Points spread across winners, keeping the race close.

The afternoon included guest races from Year 1 and Year 2, adding to the event's cheerful atmosphere. Straight relays then followed, with each House showing strong competitive spirit. In the final event, the Year 6 Tug of War, Tasker House emerged victorious after thrilling knock-out rounds, demonstrating resilience and teamwork.

The event closed with presentations, awards, and the announcement of Brimley as House Champions- an exciting first for the new House. Every pupil contributed, creating a memorable day of camaraderie and athletic achievement.







# Academic Enrichment

What an enriching year this has been for our pupils in Brentwood Prep, featuring academic workshops and educational trips that have enhanced learning experiences. Our English and Maths AIM Higher days offered various children new ways to approach challenges and think critically. Beyond the classroom, trips to museums, castles and historical sites brought subjects like history and science to life. A highlight was the overseas trip to Spain, where pupils immersed themselves in local culture and language, enhancing their global awareness.”

## Mrs Barke, Head of Academic Enrichment

### CPR Training

This year's Enrichment Programme included CPR training for Year 5, led by Luke from Nuffield Health. He highlighted the importance of CPR, key emergency signs, and effective responses. The pupils actively engaged in the training, demonstrating a strong understanding of these vital lifesaving skills.

### AIM Higher Workshops

This year, we hosted several AIM Higher Workshops for our pupils and neighbouring schools, which enriched their classroom learning.

One workshop focused on creative writing for Year 5 pupils. They explored the genre of biographies by writing short pieces about friends, conducting autobiographical investigations, and crafting a biography of someone of their choice. Children's author Seth Burkett led the workshop, providing valuable guidance and inspiration for all involved.

Our Year 6 pupils joined local schools for an AIM Higher Maths workshop led by Pete Hall from Authors Abroad. The day featured engaging activities, as Pete combined his humour with challenging puzzles that entertained everyone.

We welcomed Kimba, a renowned children's poet, to lead a workshop for Years 2 and 3, along with pupils from five local schools. Her electrifying performance captivated the young writers and they learned to transform simple ideas into creative phrases using various literary devices.





### Foundation

During Enrichment Week, Foundation learned how to follow step-by-step instructions and created teddy bear sandwiches which were un-bearably delicious!

### Reception

We invited our favourite visitors from Zoo Lab UK to join Reception for an exciting animal hunt. The children journeyed around the world, meeting fascinating creatures like a silky snake named Terry and a magnificent millipede called Tango. The children showed remarkable patience and bravery as they took turns greeting the critters.

### Year 1

How do bumble bees collect pollen? Year 1 explored this question with Einstein's Entertainers, learning about bees' crucial role in pollination and ecosystems while fostering appreciation for the natural world and the importance of protecting these essential creatures.

### Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed an unforgettable, space-themed workshop led by Mike Culley from Science Horizons. Pupils explored the wonders of space by using stereoscopes, dressing up as astronauts, learning how to operate a telescope, and reflecting on space exploration through history.

### Year 3

Year 3 embraced their inner champions in a Ninja Warrior challenge inspired by the ITV show, tackling obstacle courses and the ultimate test—'Beat the Wall.' The pupils showed key Brentwood Learner Profile attributes of resilience and preparation, with smiles all around as they conquered each course.

### Year 4

Our Year 4 campers had an unforgettable two-day stay at Thriftwood Campsite where they participated in an array of thrilling activities, including water sports, rock climbing, zip-lining, and obstacle courses. Year 4 showed impressive teamwork skills and resilience during these challenges, refusing to let the soggy weather 'dampen' their spirits.

### Year 5

Year 5 visited Leeds Castle, touring the historic site, exploring the beautiful gardens and navigating the intricate maze. The pupils also joined a Tudor workshop of the life of Henry VIII and then got the opportunity to dress up in period costumes and even tried their hands at making Tudor figures from clay.

### Year 6

Year 6's trip to Spain was packed with beach days, dance workshops, a thrilling 2,000m-high cable car ride, a wildlife park visit, dinners out, and hotel quiz nights. Pupils immersed themselves in a new culture, making unforgettable memories—a perfect finale to their time at Prep.







At Brentwood School, we believe in fostering a warm and welcoming community for parents beyond the school gates. The Friends provides a friendly social network while raising essential funds for those extra touches that make the Brentwood experience special for pupils, parents and staff alike.

To get involved with The Friends, please contact [friendsofbrentwoodschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrentwoodschool@gmail.com)

### **Preloved Uniform Sales**

Throughout the year, the Friends host Preloved Uniform Sales. These sales provide an opportunity for parents to shop sustainably for spare uniform and sports kits, for both Prep and Senior pupils. Parents have gratefully received this initiative, which has raised approximately £7,000 to date.

### **Mothering Sunday Sale**

Mothering Sunday Sale brought the spirit of love and appreciation to the Prep as we reflected on the thoughtful gifts chosen by our wonderful pupils. They selected some amazing surprises for their loved ones during the fantastic sale, from beautifully scented candles to delightful potted plants, there was truly something for everyone.

### **Annual Christmas Fayre**

Last year, we embraced the festive spirit during our annual Christmas Fayre. The event was a celebration that brought the entire school community together. The market hall was bustling with activity, featuring an array of game stalls, festive treats, and a special visit from Father Christmas himself.

### **Friends of Brentwood School Ball**

Our annual Friends Ball proved to be a roaring success and was a night to remember. Guests donned their finest attire for a evening filled with festivities, including a delicious three-course meal, an exciting raffle & auction, fun games, and a lively disco where everyone danced the night away. Thanks go to all who attended and supported this special event, with the proceeds raised helping to fund future projects for both the Prep and Senior School.



### **Prep Sport Shelter for Aaron**

In the Trinity Term, Mr Whiskerd officially opened a £20,000, 50-person Sports Shelter, funded by the Friends through their year-round events. Located next to the Prep School AstroTurf, the shelter honours Aaron Ball, a beloved pupil who tragically passed away in 2022 when he was just 9 years old. Aaron's two brothers, also pupils at the school, unveiled the Friends' plaque. This heartfelt tribute celebrates Aaron's memory and love of sport. It promises to be a cherished space for future sporting memories, thanks to the generosity of all who contributed.



# Brentwoodian Brentwoodian Brentwoodian





Brentwood School

# Investing in your child's future



## *A (second) warm welcome, this time to the Brentwoodian, a document that has been part of our School's history since it was first published in 1891.*

The story told in the pages that follow illustrates how Brentwood is flourishing – despite (or perhaps partly because of) the challenges facing our country, schools in general and the independent sector in particular. The County of Essex has a long history of entrepreneurship and non-conformism, as illustrated by the story of Brentwood's emergence in the late 12th Century. Pilgrims en route to the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury took advantage of a major fire in the forest around these parts to shorten their route to Tilbury. As they passed through the 'Burnt Wood' enterprising locals supplied weary travellers with provisions, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Of course, our own school emerged from the ashes, quite literally, of the religious struggles in 16th Century Tudor England and, whether Sir Antony Browne did or did not petition Queen Mary to found our school out of remorse for convicting William Hunter, it is at least reasonable to suggest that turning challenges into opportunities is part of Brentwood's heritage.

But enough about the past. Today's school is a hive of activity, based on the belief that the busiest people are usually the most successful (and content). Harvard University's 'Human Flourishing Programme' dissects the ingredients of a fulfilled and successful existence and setting them side-by-side in the pages that follow, it becomes clear that most have featured in our school over the past 12 months:

- Acts of kindness and gratitude (our Peer Mentoring programme and Mental Health First Aiders have offered outstanding support to fellow students).
- A service orientation (our Houses and Voluntary Service Association continue their excellent work within and beyond the school gates).
- Meaningful physical activity (over 1000 Senior School pupils were part of a school sports team last year).
- Engagement in the Performing Arts (over 70 concerts, shows and plays).
- Engagement with nature (all our Year 7 pupils follow an Outdoor Education programme).
- And perhaps above all, a sense of belonging and community (we enjoyed 46 House competitions last year)

All feature in Harvard's assessment of what makes humans flourish, and all can be seen in this year's Brentwoodian.

Thank you to all those who have been part of the stories told herein, and to those who have told them. In the true spirit of entrepreneurship, however, there is no sense of complacency at Brentwood, so while you enjoy reading about the highlights of the past year, readers can rest assured that those who study and work at the school, as well as those who support our community, are already engaged in the activities that will feature in next year's publication!



Michael Bond, Headmaster

# Academic Achievement

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 2024, with all Sixth Form results converted into A Level equivalent scores, the overall outcome for Brentwood School students was as follows:

	2024	2023	UK Grades (2024)
A* – A	54.2%	50.1%	27.6%
A* – B	80.5%	76.2%	53.6%

## Brentwood School Results 2024

### International Baccalaureate Results

43% of all IB students achieved 40 or more points

The average IB score was 38.3 points (equivalent to A\*AA)

Brentwood School is one of the top 10 IB schools in the UK

### A Level Results

	A*	A* – A	A* – B
A Level Results	10.7%	37.2%	72%

ABB average A Level profile

### BTEC Extended Diploma Results

5 students  
gained the  
equivalent of  
A\*A\*A\* or better

The average  
BTEC score was  
equivalent to A\*AA  
at A Level

Outstanding  
outcomes for our  
students who  
choose a high  
quality vocational  
pathway

### Beyond Brentwood 2024

82%

of leavers were  
accepted at  
their first choice  
destination

75%

were accepted  
at Russell  
Group/Top 20  
universities

22

students were  
offered high  
quality apprentice  
pathways

10

attained places  
at top overseas  
universities

2

talented students  
were awarded  
places at top Music  
Conservatoires

### Specialist Pathways

- ✓ 11 students started degrees in Medical, Dentistry, Veterinary
- ✓ 59 in Business, Economics, Finance
- ✓ 7 in Law
- ✓ 28 in Sciences, Engineering
- ✓ 3 in Modern Foreign Languages
- ✓ 10 in Performing Arts

### Elite Apprenticeships include:

Amwins; BMS Insurance; FES; Vanguard; Weber Shandwick; Miller Insurance; Brightstar; Richard Luckin; Canopus; Beresfords; BGC; Amazon; McGill and Partners; Savills; Chubb Insurance; AON; ACA

### Bursary Student Success

13 bursary students gained places at Russell Group/Top 20 universities and 4 to universities overseas





“

We are delighted that the vast majority of students are moving into the Sixth Form alongside those who will be joining from other schools.”

**Michael Bond, Headmaster**

# Students achieve exceptional success in GCSE results

Brentwood students achieved outstanding GCSE results this summer, significantly outperforming national averages. Around a fifth of their GCSE grades were Grade 9, compared to the national figure of 5.1%, and nearly 60% of grades were 7–9 (versus 22.6% nationally). A dozen standout students achieved a perfect score of 72 points, with 8 to 11 grade 9s. Additionally, 31 students earned a combination of 8–11 grades at 8 or 9, and 58 students achieved 7–9 grades across 8–11 subjects, reflecting the high academic standards of the school.

Within these impressive numbers are incredible individual stories. Skye Lake, a student who balanced academic excellence with co-curricular success in athletics and drama, earned all 8s and 9s in her GCSEs. Another impressive student, Nicholas Rashkov, a Dance Scholar and Bursary student, earned seven Grade 9s alongside numerous dance accolades.

The school continues to offer a broad, holistic education that combines academic achievement with personal growth and co-curricular success. Headmaster Michael Bond highlighted Brentwood’s three Sixth Form pathways—International Baccalaureate, A Levels, and BTEC Extended Diploma—that help students maximise their future opportunities. The school is proud of its students’ dedication and enjoyed welcoming many of them into the Sixth Form.



# Whether A Level, IB or BTEC: Brentwood students excel in all directions!

Brentwood School's Sixth Form offers three distinct pathways—A Levels, the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP), and BTEC Extended Diplomas in Sport and Business—allowing students to choose courses that best suit their strengths. The results for 2024 highlight the excellence of Brentwood's teaching staff and the dedication of its students.

The IB Diploma Class of 2024 achieved an impressive average of 38.3 points, placing Brentwood in the Top 10 IB Schools in the UK. Twelve students scored 40 points or more, with two securing the maximum 45 points. A Level results were equally impressive, with 37.2% of grades at A\* or A, and a 100% pass rate. In the BTEC programme, all 31 students achieved their first-choice outcomes, with ten students earning the equivalent of A\*A\*A.

Notable individual successes include Faris Fahal, who secured three A\*s and a place at Oxford University, to study Arabic. Twins Adnan and Salman Yaqub, who finished with top IB scores of 44 and 45 points, respectively, will both study medicine at Anglia Ruskin Medical School, after both winning prestigious prizes at Speech Day. Grace Sullivan, the youngest of four siblings to attend Brentwood, secured D\*DD in her Business BTEC, and was excited to finally say she was an Old Brentwood!

Brentwood continues to support students in achieving their best, whether heading to top universities or pursuing alternative career paths like apprenticeships.





# Performing Arts celebrates another landmark year

Brentwood School's Performing Arts Faculty has had another extraordinary year, marked by a diverse range of performances, competitions, and collaborations. With over 80 public performances, the faculty has showcased the exceptional talent and dedication of its students across the disciplines of Drama, Dance, and Music and is proud to be one of the leading Arts education providers in the country.

The calendar year came to a bombastic close with the faculty combining for a 5-night production of 'West Side Story', performed to sell-out audiences in the Wessex Auditorium to huge acclaim. A team of over 100 students, both on and off the stage, produced performances that would not have been out of place on a professional stage. It remains a point of pride for Brentwood School that our musicals are accompanied by a student orchestra and playing perhaps the most difficult score for musical theatre ever written, our 32-strong orchestra accompanied the show with complete dedication and musical maturity. On the stage, a plethora of stand-out individual and ensemble performances impressed the audience, with the ensemble sound for the infamously difficult 'tonight quintet' being a particularly special moment. Our dancers, not to be outdone, performed the Robbins choreography with poise and style, bringing an electric visual portrayal to this iconic dance musical. A unique aspect of Brentwood School's Performing Arts programme is the emphasis on student leadership.





Students have taken on significant roles, directing, choreographing, and musically arranging productions, and we are thrilled that each year the ambition of our student body grows.

Over the course of the year, the faculty has witnessed new heights of individual student success. Six students have secured places in the National Youth Theatre, while two have represented the UK in the Dance World Cup. Nearly 20 talented musicians are actively involved in national-level ensembles, choirs, and junior conservatoires. In local, national and international competitions, our young artists continue to thrive and it is fast becoming obvious how present Brentwood School students are in the wider local and national artistic landscapes. The school continues to enjoy a wonderful partnership with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where many of its star musicians study, as well as growing relationships with Trinity Laban and the National Youth Theatre.

The Lent Term was a hive of activity. Our musicians took to multiple stages, enthralling audiences with intimate chamber concerts, jazz gigs, Big Band concerts and a particularly memorable joint gig with the Seven Steps Big Band, where they more than held their own against a band of professional musicians. Our Drama Department continued their excellent relationship with the Shakespeare Schools Festival and our Year 10s performed, following extensive workshops, on the professional stage. The major focus of this term for our actors was the Middle School production of 'Wendy and Peter', which delighted a large audience with its thought-provoking twist on Barrie's classic tale.

A highlight of any PA calendar is the annual Dance Show, which last year entitled 'Rhythvolution; The Evolution of Dance'. This two-night run in Wessex saw students from our acclaimed Dance Academy, combined with students from our academic Dance curriculum in a high-octane series of large and small ensemble performances. Standing ovations from sold-out audiences, spoke to the quality and impact of this year's Dance Show.

Amidst these incredible large scale performances, the faculty continues to work tirelessly, with countless masterclasses, workshops and trips regularly inspiring our young performers. We were particularly delighted to celebrate our partnership with Steinway and Sons and welcomed international concert pianist Florian Mitera to Brentwood to the masterclass and perform alongside our many high-level pianists. Evensongs, theatre trips, dance workshops, choreography competitions and much more take place on a near daily basis to cater for the vast demand and myriad artistic interests of our students.

The musical highlight of the term came with our Symphonic and Choral Concert, held in Brentwood Cathedral. Here we welcomed Upper Sixth Virtuoso, Alex Lockyer, to perform the mighty Dvorak Cello Concerto, accompanied by the school's Symphony Orchestra. Perhaps one of the standout performances of recent years, Alex deservedly concluded his year winning the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Musical Excellence for a place reading Medicine at the University of Bristol. The concert also included a massed Brentwood Choral Society performance of Britten's St Nicholas, where we were delighted to join forces with pupils (across both Prep and Senior Schools), parents, OBs and local choral societies to perform this truly remarkable work.





“

Alex's successes in music are the result of very hard work over a sustained period of time and, coupled with a phenomenal musical mind, he continues to develop as one of the foremost young musicians in the country.”

**Florian Cooper, Director of Performing Arts**

The summer term, which offers the joy of public examinations for many of our older students, is a time for us to devote energy and time to our wonderful junior students at the school. Junior Chamber Concerts, Drama club performances and Junior Dance shows came thick and fast in the following weeks, culminating in the second full musical production of the academic year 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Here, we saw just how bright the future of Performing Arts is at Brentwood School and to see over 100 Year 7-9s singing, acting, accompanying and dancing together, was a true highlight of the year.







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](https://brentwoodschool.co.uk)



# Sporting excellence

The **Michaelmas** Term started with the boys' 1st XI football team taking part in the annual ISFA Sixes national tournament – a 6-a-side competition played on full-size pitches. This event acts as the curtain raiser for the independent schools' football season, with the top 24 schools in the country taking part. The team performed strongly in the 'group of death', placing third to qualify in the plate competition. Once in the knockout stage, the team performed exceptionally well, defeating Chigwell School and Epsom College in the quarter and semi-final respectively, setting up a final with Royal Russell (who were the defending cup champions). Another outstanding display from the team saw them through with a 3-1 victory to win the plate for the 3rd time in the school's history (Brentwood now have 3 cup wins and 3 plate wins).

The first half-term is always a busy period for both our hockey and netball teams, as there are numerous qualifying rounds/tournaments to play to ensure qualification for county and regional finals. In hockey, our U12, U14s and 1st XI all qualified for their respective regional tournaments, while in netball, our U16 and U19 teams qualified for their regional finals.

In Rugby, our 1st XV got their county and national cup campaigns underway, with victories against Eltham College and Southend High School for Boys ensuring that the team would be in the latter stages in November. In swimming, our junior girls were crowned regional champions in the English Schools' Swimming Association relay championships, winning both the 4x50m freestyle and the 4x50m medley relay to qualify for the national finals.

The success of all sports teams means there is never a quieter period. In November and December all of our squash teams played well in the national cup first round to move onto the regional finals, while our U16 and U19 netball teams also qualified for their respective regional finals by winning their county rounds. The boys' 1st XI football continued their ISFA Cup run with a good win against Harrow School, scoring a last-minute goal to progress to the last 16.

Our girls' football programme was also starting to develop some momentum, with both our U12 and U13 girls winning their country cup games. In hockey, our 1st XI performed brilliantly to win the regional tournament, qualifying for the national finals for the second year in a row. The most significant performances of the term came from the junior girls' swimming team and the senior girls' cross country team who both performed well in their national finals. The team swam phenomenally well, placing 7th in the 4x50m freestyle relay and 9th in the medley relay. There were 30 schools that qualified for the finals, so to secure two top-ten finishes is an incredible achievement. The Senior Girls competed at the National Cross Country Cup Championships in what was a testing course at Woodbridge School. Not only did the girls have to tackle hay barrels, ice and four long hills, but the weather was also below freezing making it a challenging test of endurance. The team showed huge resilience and determination, finishing a fantastic 16th in the country, which was an excellent performance.



**Tobi Ogundeko (Year 11)** earned a silver medal in the 200m at the U17 National Championships

**Sean- Connor Atafo (Year 11)** impressively secured a bronze medal in the triple jump at the U17 English Schools' Championship



**Ava Fay (Year 10)** proudly joined the England U14 Fencing Team

In Chess, our U19 A and B teams qualified for the regional stages of the English Chess Federation National School's Championships. This was formerly the Times Championships. Our U19 A and B teams also took part in the Eton College Rapid Play – making a welcome return post-Covid. It was great to see our U14s win the Essex qualifier of the ECF Junior Team Championships by a single game point to qualify directly for the National Final.

December also saw the school equestrian team participate in the NSEA Eventers Challenge at Brook Farm. The course was challenging; consisting of seven show jumps and eight simulated cross-country fences, with an unknown optimum time. Despite some setbacks, all riders displayed resilience, a positive attitude and excellent team spirit; this ultimately secured the riders a place in the NSEA Eventers Challenge Final at Hickstead which would take place in the summer.

Michaelmas Term ended with our ski racing team, who took part in the Independent Schools' Ski Championships in Sestriere, Italy. Pupils from both the Prep and Senior School took part in the championships over five days, with some notable results for the school. In the team events, the school placed first in the junior slalom, junior giant slalom and junior combined/overall. The senior team was also successful, with the boys placing first in the senior slalom and giant slalom, whilst the mixed senior team were crowned combined/overall winners. Despite there being so many individual and team successes, the most pleasing aspect was receiving an email from a member of the public who wanted to compliment the students on their exemplary behaviour at the airport.

The **Lent** Term began with the school golf team qualifying for both the ISGA and British Schools' finals, with excellent victories against Haileybury, New Hall School, Culford School, Framlingham College and St Edmund's College secured the team's passage for the third year in a row.





**Jasper Kidd (Year 10) became a gold medalist in individual fighting at the World Karate Championships**

**Max Dowman (Year 10) was selected to represent England in the U17 Football Team**

**Melvyn Kabongolo (Year 10) was chosen to represent England in the U15 Football Team**

**Joe Payne (U6) chosen to represent the ISFA National U18 Squad**

**Joe Poyton & Josh Harkins (Year 11) selected to represent the ISFA National U16 Squad**



The boys' 1st XI football team bounced back from a narrow defeat against Rossall School in the ISFA Cup to reach the Elgin League final for the third year in succession, defeating Forest School in the semi-final.

Our squash teams played their age-group regional finals, with the U19 girls' team playing well to reach the national plate finals in Nottingham. January sees the regional netball tournament take place which has become a permanent fixture for Brentwood, with both our U16 and U19 teams in action. In what is always a tough competition, both teams missed out on making the national finals by an agonising one place, however, placing in the top three in a regional final is still a great accomplishment. The U19 team managed to bounce back by having an incredible cup run in the ISNC competition, reaching the semi-finals where they were drawn against Woodhouse Grove School. In what was an epic game, the team managed to claw themselves back into contention, as with one minute remaining, only one goal separated the teams. Our opposition managed to retain possession to win the game, however, our girls should be proud of reaching another national semi-final.

A key sporting event for the school at this time of year is the Public Schools' Fencing Championships; this was hosted at Lea Valley. The Brentwood School Fencing team finished 2nd overall behind Millfield School, with there also being several fantastic personal highlights for our students, including the Master in Arms trophy which is awarded to the best all-round fencer. The Fencing Department continues to produce some outstanding results, with yet more students achieving international honours this year. In hockey, our 1st XI reached the national tournament for the 2nd year in a row, playing at the Nottingham National Hockey Centre. The team placed 6th in the tier 3 competition, with the girls showing a fighting spirit throughout the tournament and demonstrating exceptional teamwork to produce some impressive hockey. At the same venue, our U13 hockey team reached the ISHC plate finals, where they also finished 6th on the day. This was a great day for our hockey programme, with two teams playing in such a prestigious competition.

In Chess, our U19 Girls (Nina Pert, Gracie Coppel and Anushka Kishore Kumar) qualified for and finished runners-up to North London Collegiate in the ECF National Girls' School Championships. The final took place across 9 rounds and 2 days at St Catherine's School in Surrey. After losing to us in the opening round, NLC won their next 8 matches without losing a single individual game to be worthy winners. The U14s finished 7th in the National Final of the ECF Junior Team Challenge in Birmingham and unfortunately our U19s lost to KEGS in the East Anglian region of the ECF National U19 Championships.

A highlight of the Lent Term is always the Rugby Sevens season, which culminates in the famous national schools' tournament at Rosslyn Park. Our U18 team performed well in a number of festivals, travelling to Oakham and Brecon to play against some of the best rugby schools in the country. The group acquitted themselves at Rosslyn Park, defeating Graveney School and Cardiff High School which meant that the team finished with a winning record. Our U16 netball team were also crowned county champions to round off a successful season, however, the boys' 1st XI lost their Elgin final to Aldenham but should be proud of reaching the final three years in a row. The term finished with the national squash plate finals, where our U19 girls performed brilliantly to win the overall competition.

The **Trinity** summer season always sees a big transition, with athletics, cricket and tennis becoming the main focus. However, it was our golf team who set the tone for a successful summer, with an incredible win in the ISGA national golf finals. The team travelled to The Player's Club in Bristol to compete in the two-day event, with practice rounds taking place before. With two scores of three to count, Brentwood's total of 147 meant that they were in joint 1st place with Radley College at the end of day one. This was unprecedented as Brentwood had never finished above 9th place at the finals. Day two brought more challenging weather conditions, with a blustery breeze making the course even tougher. There were some nerves amongst the team in the opening few holes, with several shots dropped to par from each player. There then followed an agonising wait for about half an hour, as two schools with players still out on the course could theoretically beat the total score for two days of 296.



**Sophia Mitchell (U6) & Cara Castleman (L6) joined the Essex Ladies 1st Cricket Team**

**Tom Arnold (OB) became Essex Cricket Academy Player of the Year**

**Brothers Max & Sam Kingsley (L6) were selected to represent Great Britain at Alpine Skiing**

**Max Pert (Year 10) earned the title of Candidate Master and became U16 British Champion in Chess**



However, after some careful checking of scorecards by the tournament organiser, the calculations were made and Brentwood prevailed by a single shot over RGS Guildford, and were crowned national champions! 130 independent schools entered the competition last year, with 18 reaching the national finals, and to win it represents by far the biggest golfing achievement in the history of the school.

After a warm weather training trip to Lanzarote in April, our athletics managed to achieve a number of team and individual successes throughout the season, with the inter-girls' team reaching the regional 'A' final, while the junior girls, junior boys and inter-boys all qualified for the regional 'B' finals. We had a number of students represent the district at the county championships, with a further two students then progressing to represent Essex at the English Schools' championships. It was also a very busy summer of tennis, with 177 fixtures being played, while some students also got to attend the tour to Vale do Lobo in Portugal. Our U13 boys, U13 girls and U15 girls were crowned Essex Independent Schools champions, while our senior boys' team reached the final of the Clark trophy at the Independent Schools' championships at Eton. A huge highlight was the performance of both our U13 and U15 girls' teams, who first won the Essex Schools' Cup and then progressed to the regional finals by beating Notting Hill and Ealing High School and St Paul's Girls' School in their respective regional qualifiers. The regional finals were scheduled to take place at the end of November.

It was another successful season for our cricket teams, with our U17 girls' team winning the county final in April (which was rearranged from the previous September). The honours didn't stop there as our U19 boys were crowned Essex champions for the first time since 2019, defeating an exceptional Forest School team who had been crowned national champions the season before. Our U15 boys' team were also crowned county champions which qualified them into the regional competition, where excellent wins against The Leys School and Bede's School took them to the regional final, where they lost to eventual national champions Harrow School. There were also some excellent league wins for our 14 boys' team, while our U12 and U13 girls' teams showed excellent progress throughout the summer, while our girls' 1st XI finished the year strongly with a good win against the MCC. We also had a number of students represent Essex age-groups sides from U12 all the way up to U18.

Overall, it was another outstanding year of school sports, with the number of students and teams involved in competitive sports being a key indicator of success. In total, 1,029 students represented the school across 14 different sports, involving an incredible 200 teams. Thank you to all students, staff and parents for your continued commitment and support, enabling us to create a positive sporting experience for all.

#### **National Champions**

Senior Boys' Golf Team

#### **National Plate Champions**

Senior Girls' Squash Team

#### **National 6 a-side Plate Champions (and Cup Semi Finalists)**

1st XI Boys' Football Team

#### **National Finalists**

Junior Girls' Swimming Team

1st XI Girls' Hockey Team

Senior Girls' Cross Country Team

#### **Regional Finalists**

U15 Boys' Cricket Team

U13 and U15 Girls' Tennis Teams

#### **ISNC Semi-finalists**

Senior Girls' Netball Team





# Clash of the Houses

## House Music

As always, the year kicked off with the epic House Music event. Thorndon and Merrymeade won the first round with their partsong. Owen Romhany led and inspired a dedicated group, with many of the students involved in all three parts of House Music with a tight rehearsal schedule. Ensemble saw Weald and Hampden reign supreme with a La La Land medley, arranged and conducted by Oliver Maltby and Luca Orasanu. A highlight of the piece was an impressive saxophone performance from Osi Bhaat, who has arranged this year's Hampden and Weald ensemble.

It was East and Hartswood's mash-up of Gloria Gaynor and Destiny's Child which won the Unison but it was too little too late and the mash up of Thorndon and Merrymeade were the overall winners for House Music 2023.



“

Being part of my House has given me an increased sense of purpose. As a House Captain, I take pride in my responsibility as a role model. Being part of Weald has allowed me to experience a new sense of community and build relationships with students of all ages!”

“

Being part of my House means quite a bit as my dad was in West when he went to Brentwood.”

#### House Chess

After 5 rounds, 900+ games and 40,000+ moves, Merrymeade retained their House Championship. South won the tightest of races for second. For the first time, each House had a guest Year 6 player from the Prep. Games were played on [www.lichess.org](http://www.lichess.org) with the students on their iPads in the Bean Lecture Theatre so everyone could watch the tournament standings in live time on the big screen while they played and cheered for their House.

#### House Reading

House Reading proved that we are developing a strong reading culture, with over 2,300 reviews submitted by students and staff. Many of these reviews have been on display in the Bean Library and have become a popular source of recommendations for our reading community. Thorndon were the overall winners for the year, but it was close with only 20 books separating Hampden and Weald in second and third place respectively. House points and two individual prizes were awarded each term to reward our avid readers and those who demonstrated a real connection with their chosen books.

Last year also saw the launch of the first Parent House Event where a separate House Reading competition was run and shared with all parents in September. This was very successful with over 200 parents sharing book reviews and earning valuable House points. It was Hartswood who took the overall win for the inaugural event.





### House Sports

At Brentwood School, House Sports fosters inclusivity and teamwork, with a goal to involve every student, whether as players, captains, or coaches. In the recent competitions, East House dominated across Netball, Hockey, and Football, emerging victorious. Merrymeade House put up a strong effort, securing 3rd place in the first term and improving to 2nd place in the next, demonstrating their determination and growth throughout the events. North and Weald also put in an excellent performance over the range of sports across both terms. The House Sports format allows for each House to play a select few in a pool competition before reaching place playoffs to create their final standings.

### House Track and Field

The House Track and Field Day was a thrilling and action-packed event, bringing together ten Houses in fierce competition. Athletes participated in a wide range of events, from sprints, relays, and long-distance races to high jump, long jump, shot put, and discus. North House delivered an impressive all-around performance, securing the overall victory with standout efforts across both track and field disciplines.

The event wasn't just about team success, as several individuals put on incredible displays of athleticism. Notably, multiple school records were broken, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day. One highlight was the performance in the 100-metre sprint (Joe Payne), where a new record was set, with records in the triple and high jump (Sean-Connor Atafo; Zach Grainger) also achieved.

Throughout the day, the atmosphere was electric, with enthusiastic cheers from spectators, teammates, and staff creating a supportive environment for all the athletes. Despite the competitive nature, the spirit of sportsmanship was evident, with participants congratulating one another on their efforts. In the end, North House took home the trophy, but all Houses can be proud of their achievements in what was a memorable and highly successful event.

In addition to the athletic competition, House Track and Field Day also featured a range of charity stalls, adding a community-focused element to the event. Each House set up their own stall, offering a variety of activities, games, and refreshments to raise money for different charitable causes.



### Other events

Football fever took hold of Brentwood with Euro 2024 but, more importantly, with the annual House FIFA event. Each House competed to decide a House champion in matches which involved brother vs brother and friend vs friend. These champions then chose an international team and took part against each other in a knockout tournament. Ultimately, the final came down to a hotly contested match between South and Thorndon where Jesh Sagoe kept his nerve for South and came out victorious.

North and Weald organised a charity Easter egg hunt in support of North's chosen charity the Niall Stringer Foundation. Year 7 and 8 students had fun working out and collecting clues which eventually led them to an Easter egg. It was good fun and the event raised £77.

Another popular event was the archery tag which was a new event and was well attended. The highlight, however was the talent show which displayed an array of talent from students and groups of all ages and saw the dancers in School House deservedly victorious.

Students were asked to promote the global plastic crisis during Geography Enrichment Week. In relay teams the Houses competed by collecting different items from the swimming pool (including plastic) which were worth different points. Weald were victorious, with a tactical plan very well executed by Mr Stannard and his elite relay team.

### Winners

Congratulations to Merrymeade House for winning overall! This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and team spirit shown by all Merrymeade students throughout the year. With that being said, every House worked incredibly hard, bringing their best to academics, sports, and school events, and each one contributed to a vibrant, supportive school community.



# Brentwood goes global

What an incredible year of exploration and learning we've had! Our students embarked on a diverse array of trips, each offering unique experiences and invaluable lessons.

In San Francisco, students dove into the heart of innovation, participating in a Walt Disney workshop and witnessing real business pitches to venture capitalists. Talk about bringing the classroom to life!

Our linguists honed their skills in Galicia, Spain, and Munich, Germany. From ordering tapas to participating in German lessons, these trips were a language lover's dream come true.

Geography students marveled at Iceland's breathtaking landscapes, trekking on glaciers and cooking eggs in geothermal springs. Meanwhile, in Snowdonia, cadets pushed their limits with activities like paddle boarding, coasteering, and mountaineering.

Year 9 students paid their respects at WWI Battlefields in Belgium and France, while Year 10 explored Berlin's rich history, from the Brandenburg Gate to the Berlin Wall.

Our athletes shone bright in Lanzarote (athletics) and Dubai (cricket). Golfers tested their skills on challenging links courses in Ayrshire, Scotland.

The St Omer visit was a hit, with students trying snails, making apple juice, and even participating in a silent disco! In La Rochelle, our musicians wowed crowds with Big Band and Choral Concerts, performing to audiences of up to 800 people.

RAF Cadets at RAF Valley got hands-on with fast jet training simulators and mountain rescue services. Navy enthusiasts experienced damage control simulations at HMS Excellent.

Year 7 and 8 students had a blast in Cologne, enjoying a Rhine cruise, exploring Phantasialand theme park, and indulging at the chocolate museum.



# Acting local

## *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 Essex Wildlife Trust, Sparkle Malawi, and Remus Horse Sanctuary, helping to broaden our community engagement.

This year, our students dedicated over 2,430 minutes to volunteering. 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 Hamelin Trust, Hutton View Care Home, Leonard Lodge Care Home, Remus Horse Sanctuary, and Brentwood Theatre. Nine students achieved their British Sign Language Level 101 Qualification and twelve earned their First Aid Certification through St John's Ambulance.

Besides their regular activities, students engaged in full-day field experiences at Hopefield Animal Sanctuary, Barleylands, and Hanningfield Wildlife Reserve, where they contributed to animal welfare and conservation work and further enhanced their understanding of environmental management. These hands-on activities have been instrumental in fostering a sense of responsibility and care for both the community and the environment.

A real 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. Feedback from attendees emphasised how much they appreciated the students' efforts, creating memorable moments for all involved.

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.





# SAB: Debating & dialogue

## Guest Speaker Programme

September 2024 marked the start of the programme's second year. The aim of the programme is to acquaint Sixth Form student members with speakers who talk on a wide range of topics, experiences and careers. Last year's programme was a great success and was well attended by students. It featured speakers from the fields of law, politics, marketing, insurance, photography, adventure challenges, AI, language and linguistics, journalism, music and the film industry. The 2024/25 programme includes similarly exciting speakers, and started with our first four guests who collectively have been a professional footballer, oil trader, author, podcaster, NASA technician, electrical engineer, seed investor, Liberal Democrat councillor and key figure in the Thailand cave rescue, which was featured in the film 'Thirteen' – and that was just the first half-term!

## Debating

The purpose of the debating side of the Sir Antony Browne programme aims to give students a platform to tackle contentious issues through the art of debating. In our weekly after school sessions, we have debated a wide range of topics including: 'Surrogate pregnancy is unethical', 'Performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in athletic competitions', 'Arms are more useful than legs' and many more! During the 23/24 academic year we also entered a number of prestigious debating competitions: the ESU mace, Cambridge Schools' Debating and also Oxford Schools' Debating. In the ESU we progressed to the county rounds and this year we aim to do even better.



# Giving back

The Charity Programme is built into our school system ensuring that all pupils in all year groups are engaged in experiences which will make them informed, caring, contributing citizens. A wide range of charities and community projects are supported on a local, national and international level through pupil and staff fundraising.

In 23/24, Houses raised money for local charities Gold Geese, Treasured Memories, Rainbow Trust, Niall Stringer Foundation and Brentwood Stroke, overall raising £810. Year groups raised money for national charities Great Ormond Street Hospital, Cancer Research UK, MS Society, Sommerville Heart Foundation and Place2Be and overall £2,738.68 was raised. Staff suggested international charities close to their heart for non-uniform days. Money was raised for Plan International, Hand in Hand and The Seva Foundation, with a final total raised of £10,054.

Other individual fundraiser initiatives from pupils and staff raised a total of £3359.14. This includes the Big Band playing at Broomfield Hospital raising £645.64 and Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff, raising £464. There was no shortage of fundraising from individual pupils including £172 for Children Liver Disease, and selling Mother's Day cards for Gingerbread charity, raising £113.

In total, across all local, national and international charities that we fundraised for in 23/24, over £17,000 was raised, with Brentwood School finishing highly commended in the 'Giving Something Back' category at the Muddy Awards 2024, held by Muddy Stilettos.

So what's been going on so far this year? Our Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff raised £305.50, and we held a Harvest collection in conjunction with the Chapel for Brentwood Foodbank. We have already kicked off our first year group charity week, with all proceeds from Year 8 fundraising week going towards Young Lives vs Cancer. We would like to thank the Brentwood School community for their continuous generosity in supporting these wonderful charities.



# The great outdoors

Our Outdoor Education programme offers students a diverse range of experiences, blending personal development with environmental stewardship. Year 7 students begin their time at the school with outdoor adventures, forest school sessions, and community projects. Year 8 students take on a wide range of challenges at Thriftwood Scout Camp and participate in eco activities, gardening, and STEAM projects, blending together practical and creative skills.

In Year 9, 10 and 11, many students work towards The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award, in the time between their expeditions they spend time in activities that enhance both hard skills, like navigation and survival, and soft skills, such as leadership and teamwork. The Sixth Formers take an active leadership role, spearheading the Brentwood Bees project to install a school beehive and progressing in their bushcraft, archery, and self-defence skills, as well as many other skills. They also lead sessions for younger students in the Outdoor Education programme, promoting a culture of mentorship.

Alongside these initiatives, the school's facilities are expanding to support outdoor education. A new Water Garden serves as a wellbeing space, offering students a tranquil retreat for mental health and reflection. A separate garden area is being developed as a hub for outdoor education, featuring raised beds for gardening, student research spaces, and an outdoor classroom which will cater for a wide range of subjects. Additionally, improvements to the forest school area, such as fire pits and permanent covers, ensure that students can engage in outdoor learning year-round and in all weather.

These initiatives and new facilities reflect our commitment to providing students with enriching, hands-on learning experiences.







# Another year of DofE success

This past year has been another great success for our DofE awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The continuation of the Tuesday training programmes at both Bronze and Silver levels has given the students opportunities to develop their campcraft and navigation skills in greater detail leading to the vast majority of students passing all 4 sections of the programme and receiving their relevant award.

The highlight of the DofE award is generally always the expedition section of the programme, which allows students to navigate and walk independently in small groups with at least one night of camping.

At Bronze level we had 45 students attend their practice and assessed expeditions in the local Essex countryside; Danbury and Roxwell respectively.

Twenty-nine of our Year 11 Silver DofE students began the year by venturing further afield to Ashdown Forest in Kent and braved the colder Autumn night temperatures, passing their final assessed expedition.

Into the summer months, came another two Silver DofE practice expeditions to the South Downs in Brighton, where a total of 32 students across the trips improved their navigation and campcraft skills across hilly terrain, surrounded by beautiful scenery.

Fifty-seven Sixth Form students took part in both practice and assessed expeditions this year in the Chilterns and Dartmoor (starting and finishing in Princetown), surviving 4 days of walking and camping for each trip.

Alongside the physical and skill sections of their awards, our DofE participants this year have been awarded a volunteering certificate from the central DofE team which commends the school on collectively completing 6,331 DofE volunteering hours, equating to £33,427 of social value.



# CCF Highlights

## Royal Navy

Brentwood School's CCF Royal Navy Section has developed considerably throughout the last year, expanding opportunities and achievements while maintaining an inclusive and supportive environment.

From Michaelmas Term 2023 to Michaelmas Term 2024, the training syllabus has been broadened to include new features such as Marines Training and CHAP (Cadet Humanitarian Assistance Project), in addition to the syllabus provided by the Ministry of Defence. Training sessions are varied between smaller watches, whole year group events or cross-year group events, helping the cadets to form connections with new people. The syllabus offers the chance for each cadet to get involved and be equipped with transferable, lifelong skills.

The syllabus is enhanced through October and July Field Days. Numerous trips are offered such as the thrilling on-water activities at Fairlop Waters, the immersive overnight trip at Chatham Historic Dockyard (staying on the WW2 Destroyer HMS Cavalier), the eye-opening National Maritime Museum visit, the memorable camping trip in Portsmouth... the trips are a definite highlight for the cadets! In addition to this, the Scuba Diving trip recently travelled to Mexico. It is a special experience being a cadet on a residential trip which has been demonstrated by many of our Royal Navy cadets voluntarily undertaking external cadet courses.

“

It is an honour to be able to be a part of Brentwood School's Royal Navy section, forming a large part of mine and my friend's school memories. While still working productively and professionally, the section has a continuous 'family-feel'; one which I have felt since I was a Year 9 cadet and one that I am sure will continue after my year group has left. I can't give enough thanks to the staff and cadets for giving myself and Royal Navy cadets the opportunities we are offered.”

**Emma Burgess (U6)**





## RAF

Over the past 12 months, the RAF Section has experienced a period of remarkable growth and achievement.

In April, leadership transitioned smoothly as F/L Chan succeeded as OC RAF Section. Our cadets actively participated in various activities, including 11 cadets taking to the skies at RAF Wittering and 13 had some very memorable moments in the Summer Camp at RAF Valley.

Additionally, Sgt F Chan and Sgt S Ahammod enhanced their leadership skills at the Essex Wing SNCO Training Course, while Cpl I North completed the JNCO course. During the Trinity Field Days, our cadets enjoyed two days of water based team building training. And as part of the Michaelmas Field Days, we hosted a formal RAF Mess Night, attended by nearly 70 cadets, CFAVs, and staff, with the Headmaster as our Guest of Honour. We also organised the largest single-service parade in recent memory, honoured by the presence of Air Vice-Marshal Randal Munro, Commandant of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, as the Reviewing Officer.



## Army

The Army Section has had a hugely busy calendar, from adventure training and fieldcraft to a carousel of activities. These are all designed to reinforce what is learnt during Tuesday sessions, including stalks, ambushes, and harbour drills. As an Army cadet, their marksmanship skills are also regularly put to the test on the shooting range.

Our cadets had an unforgettable week away in Colchester, teaming up with Shenfield School CCF for a mix of fieldcraft and adventure. Paddleboarding, kayaking, climbing, and team-building challenges, were some of the main activities, all enjoyable and challenging while developing valuable skills.

Easter Adventure Training was another opportunity for cadets to experience an array of activities; forging, river traversing, canoeing, and caving through the Easter holidays.

Several cadets stood out for their leadership and there were some promotions of note: Toby Elliston was promoted to RSM, and Kitty Chalk stepped up to CSM. Congratulations to both of them, and all the cadets, who are developing and demonstrating admirable character in their CCF service.





# Planning for the future: Careers & pathways

## **Empowering Informed Decision Making**

Brentwood School is dedicated to providing exceptional career guidance to all students. This begins in Year 7 and supports the whole school's learning values – Virtue, Learning, Manners.

By helping students to recognise their own strengths, we hope to support and empower them to make informed decisions.

Brentwood School has been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS), one of only 719 English secondary schools to have achieved the award. This nationally recognised award demonstrates Brentwood School's commitment to providing outstanding impartial, independent Career Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) to all our students.

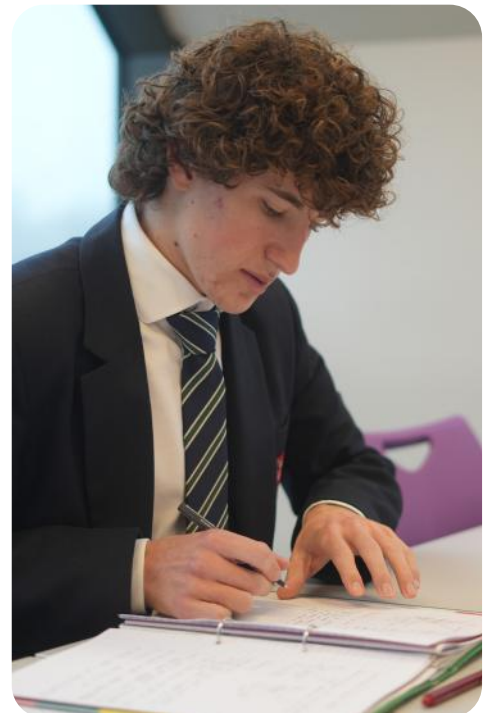
## **Career Convention**

In March, the annual Careers Convention took place in Courage Hall. It was attended by 205 students from Year 10 to Upper Sixth, accompanied by their family members.

We hosted 65 exhibitors including KPMG, Deloitte, The Brightstar Group and Tees Law. From the medical sector students had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Medical, Dentistry and Veterinary (MDV) fields. In total, there were 17 different industries including Education, the Emergency services, Travel, Technology and Engineering. Students engaged in meaningful interactions with exhibitors allowing them to expand their horizons while working on communication and networking skills.

## **Unifrog**

Beginning in Year 7, students are introduced to Unifrog, a platform designed to assist them in exploring their skills, evaluating various options and considering their next steps after school. The use of psychometric testing facilitates the identification of students' interests and the potential career paths that may arise from them.





Unifrog maintains the largest database of post-16 and post-18 opportunities. It is particularly helpful as it enables students to compare universities in the UK alongside those internationally. Additionally, it features an extensive compilation of apprenticeships offered throughout the country, including higher level and degree apprenticeships.

### Support in Year 11

At the start of the academic year, each student participates in a 45-minute meeting with an impartial Level 6 qualified Careers Guidance professional. The session culminates in a personalised Action Plan designed to aid in future planning. Following this all students have a 10 minute follow-up meeting with senior staff members with the purpose of ensuring that they are well-informed about their Sixth Form pathway options.

After completing their GCSEs, Year 11 students are invited to undertake a week-long work experience placement. This is an excellent opportunity to get an insight into the world of work and gain an understanding of the skills required to thrive in environments beyond Brentwood School. It helps students to develop transferable skills for the future as well as understanding how organisations work and bringing a job they have read about to life.



### Sixth Form

All Sixth Form students are introduced to the University and College Admissions Service (UCAS) which will assist them in choosing universities or apprenticeships, as well as writing their personal statement. Each student has an individual UCAS Hub, in which they log information about their career pathway and future plans.

Any students applying to Oxford or Cambridge are assigned a personal, subject-specific mentor to aid in the application process. Similarly those who look to pursue competitive fields such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science receive advice starting in Year 10 and continuing until their application is complete.

### InvestIN

Brentwood School works with InvestIN, a company equally passionate about furthering students' career aspirations. In February, 776 students across Years 8, 9, 11 and 12 attended sessions that covered Finding your Future Career, Making the Most of Work Experience and Impressing at an Interview.

# National & local recognition

Brentwood School nominated for 3 prestigious awards in 2024!

## Our Tes Schools Awards nomination for Independent School of the Year



Brentwood School received a nomination at the Tes Schools Awards 2024 under the category 'Independent Senior School of the Year' – a major national award open to all independent schools in the country.

The Tes Schools Awards, often referred to as the 'Oscars of education,' is a prestigious awards programme that celebrates the best of education across the UK. The awards recognise outstanding teachers and schools from both state and independent sectors, covering early years settings, primary, and secondary education.

Headmaster, Michael Bond, expressed his delight at the news, stating, "We were thrilled to learn that Brentwood had been shortlisted for the Independent Senior School of the Year award, because it was a testament to the whole school being so much more than the sum of its individual parts."



## Our Independent School of the Year nomination for Contribution to Social Mobility

We were delighted to learn of our nomination at the Independent School of the Year Awards, under the category 'Contribution to Social Mobility'. Brentwood School's vision for social mobility is to enable everyone to become the best versions of themselves, regardless of their backgrounds or social circumstances, with our bursary programme nurturing this the most. We are proud to be nurturing a generation of altruistic young people who will carry our legacy forward by seeking every opportunity to create upward social mobility.



## Our nomination for 'Best Community Engagement' at the Brentwood Business Awards

Brentwood School received a nomination for the 'Best Community Engagement' award at the Brentwood Business Awards, recognising the school's commitment to positively impacting the local community. The school's community engagement efforts are multifaceted, encompassing student-led volunteer work, strategic partnerships with local organisations, and a robust bursaries programme aimed at providing educational opportunities to deserving students.



# Lending an IT hand

Brentwood School is staunchly committed to our work and place in the community, indeed the establishment of the Association was to include all those connected with the school. As part of this commitment, we have created a Director of Partnerships position at Brentwood. This post is held by Sarb Singh (OB 1990–2001), who actively explores partnerships and opportunities in our community for mutual and educational benefit.

We wish to build meaningful partnerships that have a tangible positive impact in our community.

## **Drapers' Academy receives IT equipment donation from Brentwood School**

Brentwood School has been working in collaboration with Essex County Council for the Digital Essex 'Closing the Digital Divide' campaign, which aims to bridge the digital literacy gap in the region. We are delighted to announce that Drapers' Academy has received a generous donation of IT equipment from Brentwood School as part of this initiative. This donation significantly enhances the academy's technological resources, providing pupils with updated tools to support their learning and development.

The newly acquired equipment includes desktop computers, monitors, keyboards, and mice, which will replace older devices and be part of the academy's larger IT suite refurbishment. These upgrades will not only improve facilities but also empower pupils with the resources they need to excel in an increasingly digital world.



Headmaster, Michael Bond, said, "We are delighted to support Drapers' Academy by providing this IT equipment, which is part of our Partnerships Strategy that promotes collaboration with other schools and organisations for the betterment of all children in the local community."

Sarb Singh, Head of ITSS, added, "It is fantastic to see that 60 desktop machines, which were destined to be recycled, have been given a second lease of life and are making a positive difference to teaching and learning in the community." This initiative reflects Brentwood School's ongoing dedication to closing the digital divide and enhancing educational resources for all.

Gillian Dineen, Principal of Drapers' Academy, said, "This donation is a vital step in our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible education for our pupils, equipping them with the facilities, skills, and knowledge they need to succeed. We extend our deepest gratitude to Brentwood School for their support and commitment to improving educational opportunities for our pupils. This act of generosity is a powerful reminder of the positive impact that collaboration between schools can have on our communities."

# Moving to pastures new



## **Kerry Cooke (1997-2024)**

Kerry was a member of the Brentwood Prep community for 27 years, contributing in numerous roles. She led Basic Company in the CCF, served as a class teacher, Head of Academic Enrichment, and Deputy Head Academic. Kerry also introduced rugby to the Prep, acting as Head of Rugby for five years. However, her greatest passion was always drama. She spent much of her time at the school as Head of Drama, directing, producing, and choreographing Year 6 musicals that many of you will fondly remember.

Kerry's influence on the school was profound, and she is deeply missed as she steps into retirement.



## **Susan Green (2008-2023)**

Susan Green began her tenure at Brentwood School in 2008 as the Examinations Officer. Over her 15 years at the school, the Exams Department experienced remarkable growth, with Susan overseeing two assistants and managing a team of around 50 invigilators—a challenging responsibility that she handled with exceptional skill. Her dedication and meticulous attention to detail ensured the seamless organisation and execution of exams throughout her time at Brentwood School.

In retirement, Susan is relishing the chance to spend more quality time with her fiancé, family, and friends. She enjoys being on the water, whether sailing or kayaking during warmer weather, and staying fit by swimming, and line dancing with friends.



## **Richard Mortimer (1995-2024) & Paul Ingram (1998-2024)**

Richard Mortimer (Carpenter, October 1995 to March 2024) and Paul Ingram (Carpenter/Handyman, August 1998 to September 2024) were our resident carpenter joiners for a combined period of 51 years! Richard and Paul have both gone into full retirement and are enjoying their well earned rest. They have both produced some notable works over the years, one of the more recent is the handmade bug hotel (Bugingham Palace) which can be found by the Water Garden entrance.



## Jenny McLeod (2009-2024)

Jenny joined the school 15 years ago and was an integral part of its community, contributing to nearly every aspect of school life. Many of you will know her as Flight Lieutenant McLeod, a dedicated member of the CCF and RAF section, whose passion for aviation and visits to Duxford made her a key figure at camps in the UK and Cyprus, as well local and national courses. Others remember Jenny as a talented hockey player and coach, a teacher of GCSE and A Level PE, or for supporting students on DofE expeditions—often accompanied by her dog Wilbur.

Jenny has stepped into her new role as Deputy Head at the Stephen Perse School in Cambridge, we thank her for all she has done and wish her every success in this exciting next chapter.



## Amy Wall (2002-2023)

Amy dedicated 21 years of energy and enthusiasm to the school, organising countless Spanish trips, supporting numerous excursions, and leading West House through triumphs and challenges. Starting as Deputy Head of East House in 2005, Amy spent the last six years as Head of West House, inspiring students with her passion and dedication. She leaves a lasting legacy and passes the baton to Mr Prinn. Her humour, wisdom, kindness, and impressive shoe collection is deeply missed by all. We wish her every happiness as she begins a new chapter in New Zealand.



## Joanne Urry (2013-2024)

Joanne became part of the Brentwood School community in 2013, bringing her dedication and professionalism to the Invigilation team. Over the years, she proved to be an invaluable member of the department, taking on the role of Lead Invigilator.

After more than a decade of service, Joanne stepped down in 2024. We are grateful for Joanne's input to our community and hopes she goes on to future success.





Brentwood School



# Introducing flexi boarding



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**Brentwood School**  
FOUNDATION

# Bursaries at Brentwood & the School Foundation

We are facing an unprecedented time in the Independent School sector with much turbulence in the face of significant taxation on private education. Quite rightly, this topic is much discussed in this publication, and in the case of bursaries it has reduced the number of bursaries we can fund overnight!

However, Brentwood School is steadfast in our ambition to provide means-tested bursaries for gifted children who would otherwise not have access to the opportunity of a Brentwood education. We have nearly 1 in 10 of our Senior School pupils receiving a bursary with an average award of over 80%, which demonstrates that meaningful bursaries are reaching students in genuine financial need.

We continue to see firsthand the transformative effect these bursary awards have on both the recipients and the wider Brentwood School community. Bursary students not only elevate the academic aspirations of their peers, but also enrich school life through their active participation in co-curricular activities.

If we wish to achieve our goals and continue this transformational work, we must significantly grow the influence and fundraising of the Brentwood School Foundation. The Foundation solely raises money for bursaries and in the following pages we are proud to show the stories of our award students. As these individuals leave Brentwood, they have been set on a path that has been made possible by a bursary. They have grasped the opportunity and they have bright futures, in both their own lives and in their influence on the world around them.

**Please consider when reading how your support, however that might look, could help start one of these stories. There are many ways to support:**



Connecting your  
donation to a busary  
award



Corporate  
**1622 Corporate  
Partnership**



**Leave a legacy**

**Sponsored fundraising**

**Attending a Foundation event**

# Our Bursary Ambassadors

Every year we ask for Sixth Form volunteers – those in receipt of a bursary – to become Bursary Ambassadors and champions of the programme. They play a vital role in raising awareness and putting a face to the inspirational impact of bursaries and the work of the School Foundation to secure these essential funds. The Foundation would like to express its sincere thanks to last year's Bursary Ambassadors for their exceptional dedication and we wish them all the best for their bright futures, we look forward to keeping in touch.

**The below 2024 leavers are a select few of our Ambassadors, their successes to date and in future, all started with a bursary:**

## **Damifola Odelusi (OB 2013–24)** **History, University of Warwick**

Damifola's extracurricular talents knew no end, playing in the 1st XI football team, getting the opportunity to play abroad in Porto, Portugal, as well as being involved in numerous national tournaments for Athletics, where he became triple district champion! In addition to his sporting talents, as a Music scholar, he has played in numerous school concerts, as part of the Big Band and Symphony Orchestra.



## **Poppy Knowles (OB 2022–2024)** **Actuarial Science, University of East Anglia**

Poppy loved being part of the CCF, saying it was a great way to connect with people that weren't in your lessons and other year groups. She headed to the University of East Anglia to study Actuarial Science, after deciding she wanted to become an actuary just before starting at the school. The support she has received from both her peers as well as mentors and teachers has shown how much support from others can boost one's confidence and abilities, encouraging her to take part in more community and charity work after leaving school.







**Kai Young (OB 2022–2024)**  
**Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, University of Birmingham**

Kai was a Senior Praepostor at the school as well as being a part of the rugby team. Physiology has definitely been his favourite subject at Brentwood, and that is what gave him the inspiration to go to university and pursue his aspiration of owning multiple physiotherapy clinics. After studying at the University of Birmingham, he ultimately would like to pursue a Master's in Physiotherapy and go on to work with top level clubs, as well as give back to his area by creating and funding youth clubs and mosques.



**Joseph Zinyemba (OB 2017–2024)**  
**Biomedical Sciences, University of Birmingham**

Joseph was involved in a number of productions during his time at the school. He says it has given him the skills and the passion to pursue performing arts outside of school with a place in the National Youth Theatre. Another fond memory of his is his time with the Sports Department – particularly Athletics. Joseph is now studying Biomedical Sciences at university, and he would like to use this degree to either pursue a career in either research or more clinical roles.

**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.

### Your details:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you wish for your donation to the Foundation to remain anonymous, please tick the box.

### Gift Aid your donation:

Boost your donation and make it worth an extra 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

☐ In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Brentwood School.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify Brentwood School if you: • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

### Making a single/regular gift

I would like to make a single/regular gift of £.....

I am making this payment via:

☐ BACS Direct Credit Please use your banking app or online/telephone banking to make a one-off (or regular) payment.

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

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

☐ Cheque Please make payable to 'Brentwood School' and enclose with this form.

☐ Debit/Credit Card Please visit our website to donate securely.

☐ Legacy Please visit our website for more details or contact the Development Office.

Please return this form (however you donate) to:

**Brentwood School  
Development Office  
Middleton Hall Lane  
Brentwood, Essex  
CM15 8EE**

If you have any queries about the form, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01277 240451.



SCAN ME

Find out  
more about  
The Foundation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The 1622 Corporate is a success story of partnership

## The start of something big

Launched as a concept in 2023, September 2024 saw our first two bursary award students being directly sponsored by a 1622 Corporate bursary. These two students are proud and grateful for their place and are now well settled in Sixth Form. Much like the students you have read about in the previous pages, they are grasping the opportunity to the fullest.

Last BST, we featured the Ox brothers, two Old Brentwoods who, as previous bursary recipients, exemplified Brentwood values by providing the inaugural 1622 Corporate bursary. Another Old Brentwood, Russell Bartlett (OB 1964–1973), was quick to follow in this support. He “had always planned to leave a legacy to the Foundation, but the 1622 Corporate offered the ideal opportunity to support through my business and see the impact in my lifetime.”

## A little on our first two 1622 Corporate sponsors:

Winged Boots is one of the fastest growing travel companies in the UK, servicing luxury leisure and corporate customers. It is owned by two sets of brothers: Harry and George Hastings and Daniel (OB 1989–1998) and David Ox (OB 1990–1997). Daniel and David were recipients of a transformational bursary, providing access to a Brentwood education that would otherwise have been out of reach. The brothers credit their school experience as equipping them with the confidence and mindset to have a successful entrepreneurial career. Now, as well as sending their own children to the school, Daniel and David are using their success to pay forward the support they received.

The Heron Country Club is set in a superb near 300 acres site just a few miles from Brentwood School. They have a stunning piece of undulating countryside offering a 27 hole Golf course, state of the art driving range, a Padel Club with covered and floodlit courts, and extensive venue hire. Owned by Old Brentwood Russell Bartlett, he credits Brentwood School as giving him a strong foundation and start in life – as well as holding many fond memories. The Heron have been a hugely supportive partner of the school, not only in funding a full transformational bursary, but hosting Foundation events.

**A huge thank you to both our 1622 Corporate partners.**

## Only the start...

Daniel, David and Russell have been very clear with us from the moment they signed up to the 1622 scheme; they want it to be the start of something big! They hope others in the Brentwood School community will see their support and be inspired to consider the same. So, please consider if you see a potential route to fund these life changing bursaries through a company.

As testament to their ambition, they have all asked we share their direct details and welcome a conversation:

**Russell Bartlett**  
russell@firstgolf.co.uk

**Daniel Ox**  
daniel.ox@ocean-holidays.co.uk

**David Ox**  
david@wingedboots.co.uk





WINGED  
BOOTS



# Inaugural Foundation Golf Day

The 'Transformational Trophy' Foundation Golf Day, held on 2nd October 2024, marked a special occasion for Brentwood School's 1622 Foundation. Hosted by Heron Country Club and supported by Winged Boots, the event celebrated the school's first two corporate partners, and promoted the Foundation goal to provide life-changing opportunities for students.

The event brought together Old Brentwoods, current parents, and friends of the school. Despite early threats of rain, the weather held up, allowing 32 golfers to take on the beautifully presented Heron and Hawk courses. The competition was fierce, with teams battling to become the first ever winners of the Transformational Trophy. Congratulations went to the team of Leon Hunter, Tony Occleshaw, Seb Wagner, and Terry Oldfield for their narrow victory, celebrated with Winged Boots vouchers as prizes.

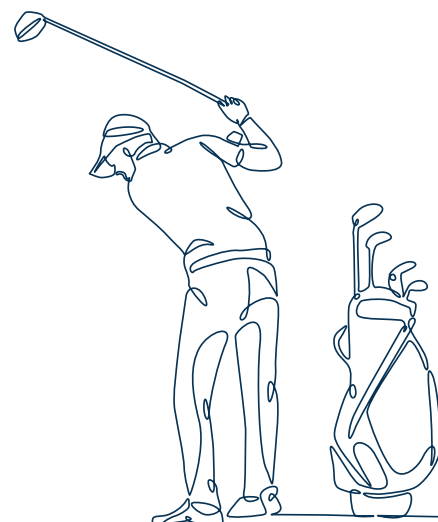
Beyond the golf, attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet and socialised over drinks, hearing inspiring stories from Old Brentwoods Russell Bartlett and David Ox about how their own Brentwood School education shaped their lives. The success of this event signals just the beginning, with hopes that many more such gatherings will follow, allowing the Brentwood School community to come together in support of bursaries and the Foundation. As the day proved, giving back can be both impactful and fun.

Several people have contacted us on seeing the event coverage on social media and have said they would be keen to be involved next time. If that is the case for you, email [foundation@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:foundation@brentwood.essex.sch.uk) and we will be sure to get you involved.



Look out for events and opportunities to support our Foundation

For anyone considering their support, our Director of Development, Sam Mason, would gladly arrange a meeting to discuss in person. Please contact Sam via [masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk).







# After Sixth Form

As students progress through the Sixth Form we are striving to help them to think and consider their options surrounding their future and their lives and careers 'Beyond Brentwood'. This past year has been no exception. We are determined to help support them all to find their next steps as they embark on their future.

The connections that continue to be forged with Old Brentwoods has been fantastic and is starting to grow with recent OBs coming in to speak to Sixth Form students at our Sir Antony Browne visiting speakers society giving their insights into their own specialisms and fledgling professional careers. It has also been fantastic to welcome parents of current students who have graciously come into school and given up their time to talk on such an array of topics from politics and law to mindset.

We have seen a continued increase in interest in students going on to the world of Apprenticeships, Degree Apprenticeships and the world of work; with 22 of last year's Upper Sixth Leavers following that route. We were delighted to welcome in two 2023 leavers who had just embarked on their apprenticeship journey, in banks and insurance brokers, to speak to our students last year and we are hoping to welcome others in the future. Our annual Careers Convention has also been a great success, welcoming in an array of employers and universities. These are all snippets of the things that go on and there are many more links being forged in individual departments that see the connections between current and former students 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.

**Tim Sellers**

Director of Sixth Form



# The Chronicle The Chronicle The Chronicle





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**Welcome** to the 2025 edition of The Chronicle, incorporated as it is these days within the Brentwood School Times.

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Society – although, of course, there were alumni from Brentwood long before that! – it has been fascinating to read the notes and minutes from the first meetings, in 1899, of the pioneering OBs who presided over the formation of the ‘official’ Society of Old Brentwoods. I note that The Chronicle began life within the school’s magazine of the time, The Brentwoodian, and following many years as a standalone publication, last published as such in 2018, The Chronicle has come full circle to be found again within one of today’s school magazines.

Thank you to Sam Mason and Theo Harris (OB 2009–2020) in the school’s Development Office, to Liz Dortel the school’s very talented designer, and to Martin Rowland (OB 1951–1961), former editor of The Chronicle who has penned several articles, for their immense time and effort into producing this edition. Having been in their position myself, I know just how much work is required to collate, print, put online and circulate. I hope you enjoy reading this year’s offering!

It was a great honour to start my year as President, on what was an excellent and enjoyable Old Brentwoods Day in September – even the weather was kind to us! I am working hard with Sam, the Headmaster, and Chair of Governors, Guy Black (OB 1971–1981) on further strengthening the already positive relationship between the school and Old Brentwoods; there is an obvious and common desire to keep moving forward on this.

It is clear, to me at least, that the school is on a very firm footing and in excellent hands under the Headmaster's leadership. Having worked closely with him during my time in the Development Office and now in this different role, I have seen firsthand just how well the school is evolving despite an ever challenging global backdrop and it is sending students out into the world – and into the Old Brentwoods family – as the very best versions of themselves, with Virtue, Learning and Manners firmly rooted in their souls. Having successfully dealt with the pandemic, that was thrown at him a mere six months into his role as our Headmaster, and probably just when he thought the school landscape was somewhat back to normal (aside the day to day ups and downs that go with the job!), he was recently thrown the challenges of 'VAT on Fees' which he has tackled with his customary calm, considered and efficient manner.

The Board of the Old Brentwoods is also watching the 'VAT on Fees' situation closely and stands ready to offer whatever support it can to the school, should it be requested, but of course will fully support whatever decisions the Governors deem necessary to take in the circumstances.

The Board continues to grapple with the incredibly complex matter of the restructuring, as introduced in last year's edition, and my thanks to Chris Cooper (OB 1981–1992), his sub-committee, and the rest of the Board – who all give their time voluntarily – for their ongoing hard work and stamina in ploughing on through a minefield of legal, accounting and constitutional issues as we look to set the Society and Clubhouse into an appropriate structure for today's world and fit for purpose for the next 125 years. Like my predecessors, I have some aspirations for my time in office. Continuing from my recent time back at school in the Development Office, I continue to personally support and promote the Foundation and hope to help foster greater OB support for bursaries, to give today's youth the opportunities that we all enjoyed; the need and demand for these will be greater with the upcoming fee increases once VAT is added. I was delighted to announce at the London dinner in November that, during my year in office, I will be attempting to raise sufficient funds for a 'President's Bursary' – all support gratefully received so please get in touch if you can help with a donation. It was great to have a London dinner back on the calendar again and it was a superb evening, at the RAF Club, to celebrate the Society's 125th anniversary.

Inevitably, OB activity is more centred around the school and the OB Club, but the Society's members are spread far and wide of course. One of my first thoughts on becoming President Elect in 2023 was to talk with Sam and the Headmaster about how we might take the Society and the school's Alumni team 'out and about' more. After much thought and planning, I am pleased that the first OB Regional Event took place in Exeter in November where OBs from 18 to 80 gathered in good numbers for an evening of great revelry. We are aiming to visit other parts of the UK in the Spring and Summer of 2025, so watch out for more details of these events.

I am really enjoying my year in office, have met many OBs already and look forward to meeting many more between now and September 2025 when I hand over the reins to Sarb Singh (OB 1990–2001). If you are not already registered on the OB Portal, I encourage you to do so and if you are in contact with other groups of OBs, please ask if they are and encourage them likewise if they are not. This will help you get the most, be that for social or business connections, out of the vast and welcoming community that is the Old Brentwoods."

**Jos Hollington (OB 1972–1981)**



# Landmark celebration for OBs

**An Evening to Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the 1st Society Meeting held in the now demolished St Philip's Church, Bethnal Green – Thursday 19th September 2024.**

At the junction of Swanfield Street & Rhoda Street in Bethnal Green on September 19th, 2024, it was a mild evening but with a slightly foreboding sky. Perhaps not dissimilar to the same day in 1899 when sixteen Old Brentwoods met at the school room annexed to St Philip's Church in Bethnal Green. Led by Canon William Quennell, at that meeting it was resolved to launch the Society of Old Brentwoods, and what was to become an all-enduring society based on the fellowship of Brentwood School's alumni and a deep-seated love for and pride in their alma mater.

It was poignant that on this day in this year there were again sixteen Old Brentwoods present. As the church was demolished in the 1950s, the meeting convened on the exact spot (Lat/Lon 51.525794, -0.073088), in what is now a small parcel of open space.



Attendees were (from left to right): Christian Croll (President 2023–24), Richard Owers (President 2011–12), Ella Belsham, Richard Hoyle, Andrew Born, Alfie Seaton, Jos Hollington (President 2024–25), Christian Cooper, (President 2023–24 & Chairman 2024+), Stuart Doran (in shorts & brogues), Paul Tooley, Jeremy Blunden, Sarbjeet Singh (President–Elect 2025–26), Phil Loader (President 2019–20), Andrew Burgess, Keith Fenwick (Chairman 2018–24).



This celebratory event took the following format:

**6.30pm** – Address by Christian Cooper, Chairman of The Society of Old Brentwoods

**“Precisely 125 years ago just in front of no.52 Swansfield Street, sixteen Old Brentwoods met and formed the Society of Old Brentwoods. Present were the elected chairman: Canon Rev W. Quennell, D. Linklater, RW Field, WJ Knar, E. Bean, E.H.Wright, RH Lyons, HJ Bowen, WJ Holme, FW Clapham, AG Bister, GCR Taylor, AJ Kilby, A Lawton, CW Hill & JE Bennett.**

**The intention was nothing less than purely honourable, to build bridges between former pupils and their school, and was borne out of those bonds of friendship that all of us here today have enjoyed through our time spent at Brentwood School, and subsequently in serving the Society of Old Brentwoods.”** (An extract from the address)

**6.37pm** – A moment’s silence and reflection to remember those founding members of the Society, and other Old Brentwoods who have been known to us and have now passed away.

**6.38pm** – Reading from the original minute book by Sarbjeet Singh, Hon. Secretary of The Society of Old Brentwoods.

**6.43pm** – A hearty rendition of The Old Red Wall (written by C.E.W. Bean in 1907). 1st, 3rd, and Last verses + chorus, with considerable amusement and confusion from local residents.

**6.46pm** – The first public reading of the Society of Old Brentwoods 125th Anniversary blessing, delivered with great reverence by the School Bursar, Jeremy Blunden, CBE, LVO. The blessing was specially prepared for this occasion by the Brentwood School Chaplain, Rev Dr Adrian McConaughie.



With formalities concluded preprandial refreshments were taken at The Well and Bucket, an old Victorian public house where in all likelihood those original sixteen ended up after that very first meeting. At precisely **7pm** a toast was made, and an evening of conviviality ensued, culminating in a £367.95p bill from the Sheba Curry House in Brick Lane, where amongst other things forty-two pints of cobra and twenty-four poppadoms were enjoyed.

**Christian Cooper (OB 1981–1992)**, Chairman of The Society of Old Brentwoods



The Society of  
Old Brentwoods

# Modernising the structure of the Society of Old Brentwoods: it's about to happen

Developments at the Old Brentwoods clubhouse mean the 125-year-old Society must modernise its structure to ensure its continued viability and service to members and the community.

Since the creation of the Old Brentwoods Club nearly five decades ago, the clubhouse and grounds have increasingly welcomed non-Old Brentwoods who now account for the majority of its income and much of its usage. Consequently, it had become obvious that the Society's long established unincorporated association status could not meet the current and future requirements for running an evolving undertaking.

After a lengthy assessment of the situation, complemented by expert advice from Old Brentwoods and outside consultants, the Society's board has put together a new structure to encompass our established principles and new charitable intentions and commercial operations.

## **Half a century of change**

The Society of Old Brentwoods has had its 'home and heartland' at the Clubhouse in Ashwells Road since 1976. OBs have enjoyed sports and social activity there ever since.

Brentwood School used to pay five years' Society membership fees for leavers. However, the expansion of universities has spread school leavers around the country with fewer staying locally and using Ashwells Road. This played a part in the substantial reduction in the late 1990s and early 2000s in the number of Old Brentwoods converting their free five-year memberships into the annual £23.50 subscription. In 2014, the school ceased its contributions, redirecting funds to its development office.



Further financial pressures emanated from Covid restrictions and the cost of living crisis which hit clubhouse revenue. Yet overhead costs remained high, a problem exacerbated by an ageing building and essential upgrades for new windows, fire prevention equipment, rewiring and disability facilities. Consequently, the Society Board had to trim its expenditure while sustaining OBs' use. However, it was becoming very clear that Ashwells Road could no longer carry on, financed solely by members' subs.

**Opening a club for non-OBs.** Accordingly, Old Brentwoods Club membership was opened in 2014 to the non-OBs in the area who play their sport in teams which consider the OB Club as their home ground. This quickly increased the numbers using the Clubhouse and has created a sustainable community sports club.

The Board has considered likely changes in the relative contributions of the three user groups. From 1976 to 2014, Society members had 90 percent of income. In 2014–21, this dropped to 25 percent, and in 2021–23, Old Brentwoods made up just five percent.

Initiatives to realise new income are bearing fruit. Monday to Friday daytime trading has been established and the school is using the clubhouse more for sports and leadership meetings. More functions are being booked, not least post-funeral wakes where guests can use the new lift which now provides step free access to the main clubroom.

### Trading and financial factors

Accordingly, the Board initiated a broad review of the Society's operations in 2022/23, enlisting the advice of Society members with legal and accounting skills. ***There was universal consensus that the Society would benefit from a form of charitable status, probably combined with a wholly owned trading subsidiary.*** The Society would become focused on achieving charitable objectives including the encouragement of amateur sport at the new Old Brentwoods Club charity. The newly formed entity would also establish a limited company to run the commercial activities that increase revenue but are not deemed charitable activities, such as selling alcohol, under the rules of the Charities Commission. The relationship between the Club charity and trading company will allow the Society to maximise income without incurring significant tax liabilities.

Selling triangle land. Since 2021, the Society has been pursuing a possible planning opportunity on a piece of land at the OB Club – the triangle. A pre-application enquiry has been considered by Brentwood Council and a formal application is likely to be submitted in January 2025 as the new Government's approach to Green Belt regulations, might offer a better chance of success.

### Established structure and its limitations

The Society has always been an unincorporated association which is not a legal entity. It is used by small volunteer-based groups which trade between themselves and have very limited interaction with third parties. The Ashwells Road land and assets have been held in trust on behalf of Society of Old Brentwoods members, the four trustees being themselves members. However, there are many restrictions on how such an association conducts its affairs. As an unincorporated association, the Society lacks legal status, exposing members to personal liability and limiting access to grants.

**Restructuring: requirements and opportunities**

The new entities should accommodate all the Society's sources of income and expenditure; maintain and expand the Old Brentwoods Club offering; and pursue charitable aims. The key requirements are to preserve the Old Brentwoods identity, achieve financial self-sufficiency, and maximise grants and tax efficiency.

**Restructuring: two charities and an operating company**

There will be two charities, separately and independently governed but linked in certain operational areas: the Old Brentwoods Society and the Old Brentwoods Club. The latter will oversee a new trading company, Old Brentwoods Club Trading Ltd. Both charities will share the same charitable objectives: to promote community participation in recreation, to advance education for the public benefit, to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure pursuits and to pursue other charitable purposes.

**Old Brentwoods Society Charity**

Membership of the new Old Brentwoods Society charity will be open to all alumni of Brentwood School.

Existing subscribing members of the Society of Old Brentwoods will become founder members of the new Old Brentwoods Society charity if they choose to continue with their current membership subscription. All alumni who are not currently subscribing members are able to become members of the new Old Brentwoods Society upon payment of a membership fee to be set by the Board. The school will be a single member (to protect its beneficiary rights if the Society was ever dissolved).

The Old Brentwoods Society charity will be the owners of the land. It will grant a 125-year full repairing and insuring lease to the Club charity; approve the appointment of its trustees; and support it in seeking grants and loan applications and in its own fund raising activities.

**Old Brentwoods Club Charity**

Again, there would be two classes of members: associate members already paying the £30 annual fee and new members (including some OBs as individuals); and the Society itself to protect its formal rights.

The Old Brentwoods Club charity will promote the public benefit of community participation in recreation, particularly among people in and around Brentwood (the 'community amateur sports charitable purpose') using the land and facilities to run a charitable club in line with Charity Commission guidance. It will operate independently with responsibility for the governance of Old Brentwoods Club Trading Ltd and appoint its three directors.

There will be two categories of members. Current and future Club members will be associate members of the Old Brentwoods Club charity, paying the annual membership fee (currently £30). The Old Brentwoods Society itself will be the sole member to protect its formal rights. Old Brentwoods Club will grant a licence to the trading company to occupy land and buildings as appropriate; and enter into a loan agreement with the trading company to provide working capital.

**Old Brentwoods Club Trading Ltd**

A single £1 share will be owned by the Club charity.

It will use staff employed by the Club charity and agree with that body the disposition of costs, terms and benefits. It will use only Vatable supplies and enter a VAT group with the Club charity.

Old Brentwoods Club Trading Ltd will transfer profits to the two charities on a pre-agreed ratio within nine months of each financial year.

**Next steps**

With the end of the lengthy consultation process, implementation will be subject to formal approval of the proposals by the Society's Board. Special meetings of the Society will be required to pass the necessary resolutions, of which due notice will be given.

What happens to the original Society?

The original Society will continue only to transfer members' subscriptions to the new charity, ceasing other activities.



It has taken a fair amount of toil and tears to produce this structure. It had become starkly obvious that we could not continue to run Ashwells Road via the unincorporated association structure. It was increasingly inefficient and completely unsuitable for dealing with the demands of a growing leisure and sporting business.

I am full of admiration for my working party colleagues who have striven to develop a robust offering for the membership to assess. I am deeply thankful to all those who have contributed help and advice.”

**Christian Cooper (OB 1981–1992)**, Chairman of The Society of Old Brentwoods



# OB Club

The **Old Brentwoods Club** on Ashwells Road has been a hub for community and friendship through sport for 45 years. Home to over 600 members, the club supported 11 sports over the past year, including regular fixtures and Old Brentwoods Day events.

With 20 acres of sports grounds, a clubhouse featuring a bar and social area, and ample on-site parking, the club offers a welcoming space for all. The clubhouse is also available for private bookings – visit the club's website to learn more and get involved!



Find out more here

# Proposal for 5 Open-Air Padel Courts

The Society of Old Brentwoods is applying for full planning permission for the installation of five open-air padel courts with associated landscaping. The site identified for the installation is the practice training field currently used for overspill football and rugby practice. This is positioned on the northeast part of the estate adjacent to the existing car park. Access remains via the entrance off Ashwells Road.

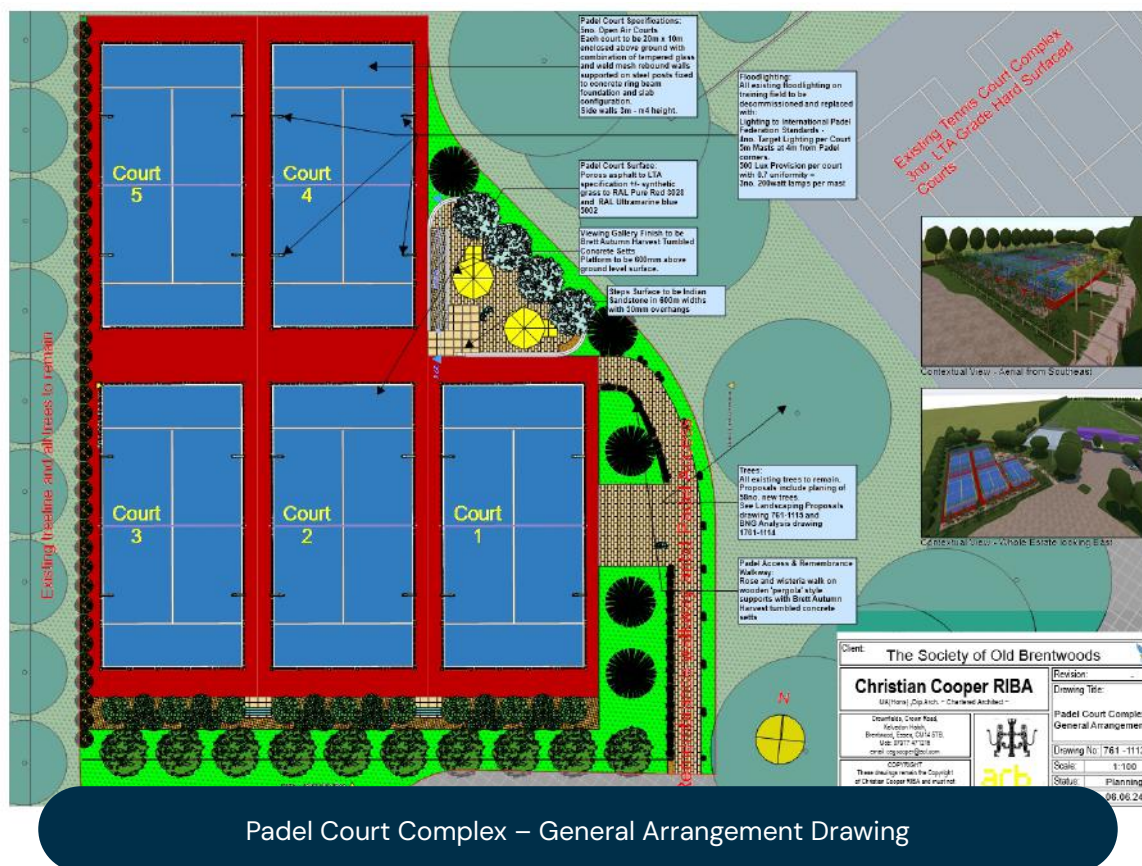
The scheme includes the following:

- 5 full Size LTA Compliant Padel Courts
- Perimeter Court Boundary Enclosure comprising tempered glass and grid-style fencing to 3m–4m in height.
- Low-level target lighting for courts (to replace existing lighting around the training field).
- Access to the padel courts remains precisely as per the existing car park access.
- A 'Remembrance' walkway for pedestrian linkage into the padel courts from the car park. Also, this gives access to the raised viewing gallery – 600mm above ground level with a disability ramp.
- Extensive landscaping incorporating the planting of 58 trees, a new hedge line with trees and a new rhododendron border.



CGI of Proposed Padel Court Complex – Aerial View from Southeast





The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is padel's governing body, and they say that the UK is experiencing its own padel boom because padel is:

“Fast-paced, accessible and social – it’s easy to see why padel is widely renowned as one of the fastest growing sports in the world”

They back this up with the following statistical evidence; the UK currently has over 250 padel courts in more than 50 clubs, which host major events such as the British Open Padel Championship. Compared to the 150 courts in 66 British facilities at the end of 2022, the numbers haven't stopped.

There's no doubt about it that padel is here and it's growing in popularity, with two sets of courts in Brentwood (six at Brentwood Padel Club in Childerditch and two at The Heron in Herongate having been built in Brentwood over the last two years).

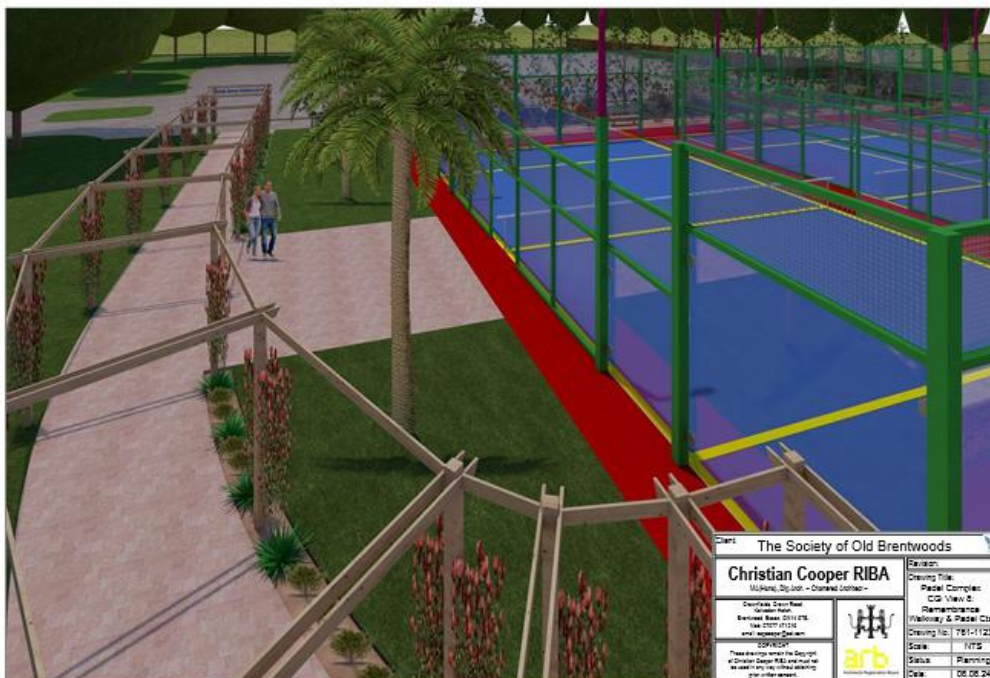
The Old Brentwoods Sports Club has consulted widely with the membership and multiple stakeholders and there is no question as to the local demand. Moreover, the padel offering in Brentwood is currently serviced on the southside of the Borough with no representation to the North, leading to problems of accessibility.



Playing padel tennis offers a range of social and community benefits, including opportunities for social interaction, inclusivity, teamwork, physical health, mental well-being, community building, and the promotion of sports kinship. Padel is viewed as a 'very accessible' sport, it's easier on the body than tennis and squash, and is easy to pick up and hard to put down.

With regards to gender usage, padel is highly regarded for the female market. This is a quote from Women's Health – 'as padel does not focus on strength, but rather tactics, it's a great sport for all abilities. The game adapts to the rhythms of its players, and you determine the level and intensity of the game. It's also massively growing in popularity among women with 30% of padel players being women compared to just 15% in tennis.

To create a 'sense of place' the proposal has sought to create an exciting and vibrant celebratory entrance into the Padel Court complex, albeit small-in-scale and respectful to the site context.



Padel Court Complex – View of Padel Entrance and Memorial Walkway from North

The proposal is therefore to create a 'Remembrance Walkway' which directly connects to the car park. The walkway incorporates the following:

- Hardwood oak pergola structure forming planting opportunities.
- Memorial rose planting opportunities with plaques for 'fallen friends'.
- Wisteria planting to the east creating year-round visual interest to the walkway.
- Low-level ornamental shrub planting.

As at November 1st the planning application was still awaiting a decision. **Detailed planning consent granted by Brentwood Borough Council on 6.12.24.**



# OB Sport

## Squash

It's been a fantastic year for the Old Brentwoods squash club, with plenty of great moments both on and off the court. While our focus is on enjoying the game and catching up with old friends, we're proud of some exciting milestones, including our promotion to the premier division and taking home the inaugural Essex Cup, which was a great achievement for the club.

It's also been great to welcome some younger, recent school leavers to the team. They've brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and it's exciting to see them grow as players.

Looking ahead, we're excited about what's to come in the premier division and keen to build on everything we've achieved this year. Thanks to everyone for their support – here's to another great season!

## Rugby

Old Brentwoods rugby at Ashwells Road continues to march on, offering a wide range of opportunities from 6 to 60+. This now includes a thriving girls' section which is enjoying an explosion in numbers from U12 through to U16 in just their second season (huge thanks to Simon 'PC' Peace).

The Mini-Midis (6-11) play mixed Tag Rugby progressing to contact, while 11-18s split into boys' and girls' teams, advancing to full XV-a-side games. The emphasis within the Old Brentwoods Acorns (our youth section) is: "striving to nurture the best out of every player, not just nurturing the best".

The club as a whole would like to pay tribute to stalwart Matt Staines who has stood down from coaching & leading our Seniors after several decades. We wish Matt & his family all the best. And hope he keeps his boots on!

Club President Rob Jupp and Chairman Gary Christopher are moving the club forwards on and off the pitch. The Seniors, with Director of Rugby Jake Wigham bringing his own coaching pedigree, are now fielding regular 1st XV and 2nd XVs. And the OBRFC Vets play sporadically, but remain very good whilst 'On Tour'.

Important to note that OBRFC is 'open' to those who didn't (or don't) attend the school. As such, it is the perfect place for you, your family and your friends to enjoy your rugby together.

OBRFC is also incredibly proud to be supporting the Niall Stringer Foundation to raise Suicide Awareness amongst young adults. #NS10. Please do take a look at what is such a worthy cause that is very close to our hearts.





### Cricket

A very mixed season for the Cricket Club with the weather impacting significantly on all of the teams, making it hard to get consistency of performance. Notwithstanding that, we once again had an enjoyable season with some strong individual performances auguring well for next year.

The 1st team had a strong second half of the year in Division 2 of the Hamro Foundation Essex League, setting us up for a challenge for promotion this year. The 2nd team ended up finishing ninth in its league, and the 3rd team, having been promoted last season, was in the running for promotion again until an agonising loss in their penultimate match meant they just missed out on a 4th successive rise in division.

In addition to our Saturday League fixtures, we also played a number of T20 matches and had our regular Tour to Hampshire and Sussex in August.

We always welcome new players. Did you play cricket at school but gave up because of other commitments? We are a club which has a mixture of teams which will suit players of all standards and which comprise a mixture of OBs and those from other sporting backgrounds.

If you think your playing days are behind you, do you have young family members who would be interested in experiencing the game? We run colts for girls and boys from early April to early September on Friday evenings from 18.00 to 19.30 – those from Year 1 upwards are welcome.

### Croquet

Announcing the formation and establishment of the Old Brentwoods Croquet Club at the Old Brentwoods Club in Ashwell's Road.

Yes, you are reading this correctly – croquet! A highly competitive, vicious game of skill and strategy where quarter is neither given nor expected as any player who has had their ball knocked clear off the lawn will attest. But having said that, croquet is also a fantastically social game in which men and women can compete on equal terms. In fact our croquet coach, Alison Maugham is, you won't be surprised to learn from her name, a lady – and she's ranked no 10 in the world!

So how has all this come about? Two years ago, three Old Brentwoods were reminiscing about how much they enjoyed playing croquet at school and how it would be wonderful if they could play at the Old Brentwoods. So last year they 'borrowed' the cricket square and held the first Old Brentwoods' Croquet Championship. All those who took part enjoyed it so much, they set out on a mission to create a croquet club. It's taken a lot of work but we are now a fully paid up registered club with Croquet England and have created a lawn in front of the veranda where on 22nd September, we held our first open day. Sadly, the weather wasn't kind but everyone who attended said they really enjoyed it, nothing to do with the free wine I'm sure!





Then by chance, we were contacted by Alison Maugham, Director of Communications for Croquet England, who asked if we would be interested in merging our club with hers with the combined clubs using the Old Brentwoods as its home ground. We are now in the early stages of creating a road map to potentially and eventually establishing the Old Brentwoods as one of the premier croquet venues in the country, but it will take time. This winter will, subject to the agreement of the Clubhouse Committee, see the start of work to create 3 full size 'Association' lawns which will hopefully be ready for play this summer whilst in the meantime we intend to maintain the 'half size' lawn we established in front of the veranda for the open day in September so we can play during this winter. This is in addition to the indoor croquet events that we are planning to hold in the Courage Hall during this winter.

### Football

What a brilliant season for Old Brentwoods Football Club. The 1s fought bravely all season with one of the best defensive records, but couldn't find the goals, and in the end narrowly missed out on maintaining their Premier League status by just 2 points. The fight back is already underway. Meanwhile, however we were able to celebrate promotion for the 2s, 3s and 4s... with the 4s winning the league! Both the 2s and 3s scored 60 goals in just 18 games, whilst the 4s hit 44 goals in just the 12 fixtures. To have 4 successful teams competing every Saturday is an achievement itself, but to have them playing at the levels they are shows the club continues to go from strength to strength. For the icing on the cake our vets went on to win the Senior Dunn cup, winning the final 1-0 with an 88th minute winner against KCS Wimbledon... smashed it!



### Sports Contacts

Chess – Robin Slade  
slader@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Cricket – David Wasley (OB 1965–1971)  
davidwasley@yahoo.com

Croquet – Alison Maugham  
info@oldbrentwoodscroquet  
club.co.uk

Fencing – Christiaan Galesloot  
galeslootc@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Football – Phil Loader (OB 1972–1982)  
phil@loaderchemicals.co.uk

Golf – Gareth Pope (OB 1968–1975)  
gareth.fs.pope@gmail.com

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

Netball – Vacant

Rugby (Senior) – Matthew Staines (OB 1988–1995)  
matthew-staines@btconnect.com

Rugby (Youth & Mini-Midi) – Alastair Ridgen  
obrfcminichair@gmail.com

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

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

# Old Brentwoods Society Officers

**President:** Jos Hollington (OB 1972–1981)

**President Elect:** Sarbjeet Singh (OB 1990–2001)

## Vice Presidents (non voting)

J. Barnes, Sir Rodger Bell, Lord Black of Brentwood, G. Born, M. D. Bradford, J. Brown, P. R. Clements, C. Croll, C. S. G. Cooper, D. I. Davies, T. J. Faiers, C. J. Finch, D. Fisk, 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  
Sarb Singh (OB 1990–2001)  
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: Ian Crispin (chairman), Christian Croll, Richard Owers,

Development Committee: Christian Cooper (chairman), Pat Stroud, Christian Croll, Richard Hoyle, Richard Owers, Ian Crispin

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

Croquet  
Alison Maugham  
info@oldbrentwoodscroquetclub.co.uk

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

David Wilson (OB 1976–1982)  
L5342Secretary@gmail.com

Netball – Vacant

## 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

# OB words of wisdom

Our Alumni Stories section is dedicated to the journeys undertaken by former students and the diverse paths they've taken since their school days. This is a celebration of talent and all part of building connections and knowledge across our network.

All of the featured Old Brentwoods were interviewed and asked the same questions about their experiences at school and where life and career has taken them since.

Below is just a snapshot and you can read full stories on the Association website. We hope these stories are an inspiration and we feature their words of advice to current students graduating Brentwood.



**William Chow (OB 1990–1995)**

“Embrace your school years, pursue your dreams, and stay true to yourself. Seek opportunities that align with your aspirations.”

William earned a Civil Engineering degree from UCL in 1998 and began his career as a proprietary trader at UBS. He later held fund manager roles at State Street Global Advisors and BlackRock before becoming Group Managing Director at Value Partners Group. In 2021, he joined Raffles Family Office as Deputy Group CEO, overseeing investments, strategy, and governance.



**Victoria Barton (OB 2008–2013)**

“It’s okay not to have your path mapped out. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed when there are big decisions ahead. Follow your passion and remember one choice doesn’t define you or your future.”

Victoria earned a degree in Philosophy, a diploma in Law, and a Master’s in Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence. Her career spans diverse sectors, from health and mental health to luxury sporting goods. She describes her career path as unconventional, having worked with three different organisations since university and continuing to collaborate with all three in various capacities.



**Alastair Banks (OB 1991–1997)**

“Embrace change and be adaptable; the world is evolving rapidly, especially in technology and digital spheres. Every challenge is an opportunity to learn and grow. There is no such thing as failure, only feedback.”

The founder and director at Optix Solutions (Strategic Digital Marketing Agency) & Your Digital Future (Recruitment in the Marketing and Tech Space). After leaving Brentwood, he pursued higher education at Exeter University, where he co-founded Optix Solutions in 1999 during his second year of study.

**Chloe O'Shea (OB 2008–2015)**

“Make sure you do what feels right for you and ultimately doing what makes you happy is what is most important and in doing so you will always succeed.”

Chloe left Brentwood with A Levels in Economics, Geography and History and went onto the University of Nottingham to study Politics, before deciding to change paths after taking a step back joining Deloitte on their BrightStart Apprenticeship Scheme. She has now been with Deloitte for over seven years, joining their consulting practice. Her favourite engagement to date is working with the NHS during Covid on their Test and Trace project.

**Alasdair Hooper (OB 2004–2011)**

“Don't be afraid to say yes to new things and always, always ask questions. As I was once told, the only stupid questions are the ones that don't get asked.”

After completing a News Associates diploma, he joined TalkSPORT as a writer before becoming a local news reporter in 2017. He led the launch of HertsLive as Digital Content Lead in 2020, transitioning to sports journalism as Sports Content Editor for Reach PLC's national titles in 2021. He joined Formula 1 as Duty Editor in 2023, overseeing editorial content for the official website.

**Alex Barker (OB 1996–2002)**

“Get the balance right. Study hard but study smartly so that you also look after your mental wellbeing alongside, as well as doing as much work experience you can in your sector, as it shows you are proactive.”

Alex studied Law at King’s College London and completed her Legal Practice Course at BPP Law School in Holborn. She qualified as a property lawyer in 2010, and then started specialising in the development sector, now working as an in-house for a company who buys land and develops it to provide new residential homes.

**Emily Scott (OB 2016–2018))**

“Don’t get too fixated on your end goal, but try to enjoy each step of the journey on your chosen career path.”

Emily completed a degree in Psychology at the University of Exeter, followed by a Master’s in Applied Clinical Psychology at the University of Bath. After working as a Community Mental Health Support Worker for a year, she currently works as an Assistant Psychologist at a mental health inpatient unit.

**Chris Smith (OB 2000–2007)**

“Do a degree you enjoy rather than one you think will give you better career opportunities, and try to spend your summers upskilling yourself, be it an internship or work experience.”

After Brentwood, Chris earned a degree in Journalism, which led to opportunities as a freelance writer for the likes of Men’s Health, Esquire and The Sunday Times. He then went on to work in Public Relations, working for a global PR agency for six years, before moving to Adidas, where he has been for the past three years.

**Lewis Bruniges (OB 2006–2013)**

“Look for the opportunities in life that make you feel proud and empowered and chase them down as best you can, but remember that what is right for you won’t pass you by.”

Following a gap year working part time at Brentwood Theatre and performing with RADA, Queen’s Hornchurch and National Youth Theatre, Lewis became a Genesis Scholar at LAMDA on the three year acting training. After drama school, he signed with his first agent, began working in theatre productions in London and around the country as an actor, and has gradually moved into directing and teaching both in theatres and back at LAMDA.

**David Eldridge (OB 1985–1992)**

“Work hard, and have the courage to take the odd risk when an opportunity presents itself and you’ll be just fine.”

David went to the University of Exeter to study English Literature and Drama, with the hopes of being a theatre director. He went off that idea and started writing plays as an undergraduate. A full length play of his, ‘Serving It Up’, was picked up for production in 1996 by The Bush Theatre in London, becoming a hit, leading him to continue acting since then.

**Dr Alice Scott (OB 1995–2002)**

“Ignore conventional approaches and be open to success coming in ways you don’t expect.”

Alice studied Medicine at UCL, did various hospital jobs and then embarked upon GP training. After moving back to Brentwood and working in several local NHS GP surgeries, she started doing some private general practice alongside NHS work. After completing a Postgraduate qualification and becoming recognised as a British Menopause Specialist, she moved into full time private General Practice and private specialist menopause care.





## Brentwood School ASSOCIATION

Launched in 2023, the Brentwood School Association continues to build its reach to connect all those in our community. In November 2024 we held our first Association London Dinner and it proved a hugely successful evening.

Held at the RAF Club, London the inaugural Association Dinner was open to everyone and incorporated a celebration of a landmark for the OB Society as they reached their 125th anniversary. Eighty guests in attendance, there was naturally a majority of Old Brentwoods, but we also had many parents (past and present), and several others representing our various connections in the local community. In this sense the event embodied the ethos of the Association, and we hope next year the second Association London Dinner (Nov, 2025) has many more from the full breadth of our community.

In 2025 we will continue to welcome more people to get signed up and involved with the Association. There will be more Association events, including various opportunities to network and socialise.



### Whether you are..

#### **Parents**

Join in by signing up and getting involved

#### **Old Brentwoods & Recent Leavers**

Stay in touch with your school & be part of a strong professional and social network

#### **Local Businesses & Organisations**

Speak to us about how we work together

#### **Part of the OB Society**

Be at the very heart of anything Brentwood. The relationship with the Society is integral to mutual success

#### **The Friends**

We want to promote and involve

#### **Family of OBs**

Brentwood School is often as close to you as OBs

#### **An OB Clubhouse Member**

This is an OB and community home

#### **Foundation Supporters**

Changing lives through bursaries will depend on your philanthropy

**People will often be in multiple groups, but all of these are vital parts of the Association.**

# Cantona's irreverence helps Toby with iconic nameplates

**Toby Lyon-Brown (OB 1999–2006)** has become a major player in recognising and developing the sophisticated communications skills that lead motorists to buy and retain particular vehicles—in his case Ford cars. As European newsroom editor and deputy editor with Ford's global newsroom, based in Dunton and Cologne, he looks for 'inspiration, opportunity and improvement from a wider media world.'

But it's tough going. "It is harder than ever to get through to the prospective purchaser." All communications have to be "set against an ever changing and ever more crowded media landscape, the rise of the creator/influencer, and the need to liaise closely with customers after purchase." All marketing and PR activity has to be more measurable against desired business outcomes.

"Brand and product communications without human insight or cultural relevance just don't resonate with consumers. Monitoring conversations on social media has become increasingly important in getting us into the conversation."

Toby has been heavily involved in the recent relaunch of iconic Ford nameplates attached to electric vehicles: the Puma in 2019 (now the best selling car in the UK), the Mustang Mach-E in 2021 and, most recently, the Capri. "We knew not everyone would like the electric aspect." This was tackled by featuring Eric Cantona in the commercials and in social media as a symbol of irreverence. "The launch gained tremendous stats for awareness. It's not often a new car launch gets eight minutes on BBC Breakfast and 12 minutes on Sky News!"



“The vehicle market will get more and more crowded over the coming years. It’s the brands that can effectively differentiate themselves from the pack who will win. The role of communications will be vital – and I’m looking forward to the fight.”

The fast-paced world of innovative communications evidently suits Toby, who admits that he is never at his best when asked to focus on subjects in which he is not particularly interested. However, Brentwood School encouraged him to get stuck into things he was keen on. These included duties as Deputy Head Boy and a passion for rugby which made him a force in the 1st XV and earned him full colours. He was the first male pupil to study food tech for GCSE which no doubt whetted his appetite for commercial catering, demonstrated by his creation of Lyon-Brown Bespoke Catering, which he used to run with fellow OBs Andrew Burgess and Chris Prowting.

Toby was the first person in a long while to pass the full Regular Commissions Board whilst at school. He secured a commission as 2nd lieutenant RLC-Bomb Disposal Unit, which he took up in his gap year immediately after school. He represented the corps in the rugby 1st XV, winning the Army Cup.



Next step was Exeter University (2007–10), where he gained an upper second class economics degree and played for the 1st XV. Back in Brentwood, he played for Old Brentwoods RFC from 2011 to 2016, captaining the 1st XV for three of those seasons.

Toby is the President of the Old Red Wall Club. Its 16 OB members support many Old Brentwoods events and carry out their own fundraising. The club has raised nearly £100,000 for charities close to members’ hearts.

A brief stint in the City brought a realisation that a career without creativity was not for him. He started on Ford Motor Company’s graduate scheme

in 2011. Since then, he has held nine positions across marketing and public relations in Ford UK and Ford Europe.

All this imbued him with a lifelong sense of always striving to reach his potential. He remains wary of that “lingering feeling of underachievement” which can haunt those of us less robotic in our focus.”

**Martin Rowland (OB 1951–1961), Author**



# Sixth Form helped shape a headmaster's radical approach to pupil development

**A pioneering educator with a radical approach to pupils' very different needs, Colin Reid (1951–61) was a teacher for 38 years, mostly as a headmaster, expanding the range and depth of pupils' education, complemented by innovative ways of achieving his goals. He was closely involved in the early development of the teaching of the International Baccalaureate, served as an independent schools' inspector, was active on reforming educational bodies and took up prison monitoring in his retirement.**

**Throughout his career, he set aside restrictive rules where he felt they limited pupils' development. Married to an active environmentalist, he cast a wide net to draw on ideas and inspiration from various beliefs and cultures. He regards his Sixth Form years at Brentwood as central to forming his outlook and approach.**

Born in 1944, Colin's first memories were of Hong Kong, where his father Alan worked for Jardine Matheson and he attended an Anglo-Chinese school. A parental transfer to London in 1950 meant a short stay at Harecroft Hall school in the Lake District. With the family ensconced near Ingatestone, it was time for Colin's academic mettle—and later those of brothers David and Keith—to be tested at Brentwood Prep. In his final year, he was head of Lawrence and remembers a group effort to build a race track for Dinky toys from bricks and dust behind the Upper and Lower One classroom block.

In the Senior School, being 'no good at games', he took the scouts seriously, attending camps led by Perk Rowsell and Tom Cluer. In the CCF, eventually as the WO2 of Support Company, he helped Jack Higgs with 'rather unrealistic' training in putting down colonial disturbances and aiding Civil Defence in the event of a nuclear attack.



### **A talented Arts VIth**

Colin was a member of the Arts VIth for his Advanced level years. "Our experience was extended well beyond the stereotypical three A levels." A Christmas holiday reading scheme, a summer thesis and extra courses enhanced learning. "We benefited from exceptional teachers. These included George Elcoat and Terry Best in French, Sid Bergin in economics, Dennis Tarrant in geology and Tom Sheppard in Russian.

Tom Gardner, the newly arrived assistant chaplain, organised religion and philosophy conferences. Alan Mould, who had counselled Colin to take history, was succeeded by the "inspiring Peter Watkins—the greatest influence on my intellectual development. Watkins regarded history as a 'contested subject' and would deploy quotations about people and events and ask you to make up your mind."

Colin was one of an UVIth Arts party who, having just finished A levels, visited historical sites in France and Spain under Mr Watkins' guidance. He was a member of the Debating and History Societies and edited the journal *Medieval and Modern*. He enjoyed forays into Byron and other Romantics under the guidance of William Barron. 'Spud' also masterminded the school's theatrical productions—nearly always Shakespeare. Colin had roles in *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It* and *Hamlet*.

His contemporaries were a talented crew. Sir David Eady and Rodger Hayward Smith, who became judges; Professor Sir Roderick Floud, economic historian and academic administrator; Malcolm Vale, an Oxford History professor; Bernard Porter, a professor specialising in imperial history at Newcastle; Stephen Halliday, author of books on London's history; solicitor Philip Crapnell; and Ian Small, Headmaster of the Bootham School, York. Colin remains in touch with Mike Carey, who became a headteacher in Yorkshire, and with Chris Causton who, after history at Oxford, became an IT specialist. A lifelong friend was Richard Sheppard, an Oxford Professor of German, who, as head boy, ceased the practice of praepostors beating boys!

Post-A level, Colin spent a term in the VIIth Form under Jim Rennie, leaving the school in December 1961. He regretted the passing of the Direct Grant scheme. In his day, about 85 percent of Brentwood pupils were state financed.

### **Nigeria, Cambridge and Exeter**

Before university, Colin taught History, English and Latin at the Ijebu Ode Grammar School, Nigeria for nine months. He voyaged to and from west Africa as a member of a cargo ship's crew. Headmaster Ralph Allison's strong international outlook conveyed itself to the young Reid. Allison arranged for Brentwood and Ijebu Ode sixth formers to spend exchange years at each others' schools.

From 1962–65, Colin read history at Corpus Christi, Cambridge. Then he attended Exeter University to do a PGCE (1965–66) where he met his future wife Betsy, also studying for her PGCE. Betsy came from Rhodesia where she had obtained a London University external degree in history. They were married in 1966. He was ready to teach.

For an extended account of Colin Reid's career, please see the Association website.

**Martin Rowland (OB 1951–1961), Author**



# Chapel Life

## Sunday Chapel Worship

There is a growing community of people who gather each month for a service in Chapel on a Sunday morning at 10am. These services seek to celebrate many of the key moments in the Christian year and provide space for us all to discuss issues of faith in a more informal way. For many of our services, we are joined by one of our junior choirs who help to lead the worship. For further details about services in 2024/25, please do contact the Chaplain directly by email. It would be lovely to welcome you to any of these services.

## Weddings and Baptisms

It is always a pleasure to be able to celebrate marriage and baptism in our Chapel. We rejoiced with Beth Fuller and Brian LoBue who were married in March 2024 and it was good to welcome them, along with friends and family from around the world, for a service of Blessing on 30th March 2024. It was a truly special occasion and it was a joy to see the Chapel so full of people. It was also wonderful to be able to gather with Louise and James Bullock, and their family, on Saturday 1st June, 2024, as they celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a short service where they renewed their Wedding Vows.

Max Harris (OB 2007-2014) married his wife, Becky, on August 17th 2024 at Royal Holloway, University of London, the very place they first met. Friends and family from across the country joined for this special occasion, with the best man being Max's younger brother, also an Old Brentwood. Max was a music scholar at the school, and after his undergraduate degree, went on to study for his PGCE at the University of Cambridge. He currently works as the Director of Music at an independent school in Leicestershire, and the happy couple live in Rugby.

*Louise & James Bullock*



*Brian & Beth*



*Max Harris (OB 2007-2014) & Becky*



### 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. Please do get in touch if you would like to explore baptism in Chapel further. Our Start of Year Service on Sunday 15th September, 2024 was also a day to mark the baptism of Alfred Peter Cooper, and our reflections on the concept of beginnings was deepened as we celebrated the beginning of his journey of faith alongside his parents, Florian Cooper (OB 1995–2009) and Louisa and their wider family and friends.



*Alfred Peter Cooper with parents Florian & Louisa*

### Memorial Services

As we celebrate the gift of life and the joy of marriage, we also take time to remember the lives of those who have made a significant impact in our school community. On 29th January, 2024, Old Brentwoods, former colleagues and current staff gathered in Chapel for the funeral of Terence (Terry) Best, a Brentwood School teacher who devoted over 34 years of his life to this community and the education of a generation of young people. Terence was, among many other things, a man of great musical talent and so it was a particular joy to have a small group of our very finest musicians and singers in school alongside us, together with the wonderful harpsichord which Terence so generously donated to the school, for the funeral service.



“

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

# Notice of deaths

*The editor has been notified of the following Old Brentwood deaths in 2024.*

## Former Students

*Brian Odell*  
OB 1938 – 1947

*Peter Herbert Denning*  
OB 1941 – 1948

*Philip Edward Anderson*  
OB 1945 – 1954

*Neil Woods*  
OB 1971 – 1978

*Derek Gregory*  
OB 1937 – 1941

*Bill Wastell*  
OB 1951 – 1957

*Peter Crutchett*  
OB 1963 – 1969

*Jimmy Matthews*  
OB 1950 – 1959

*Richard Holyoak*  
OB 1954 – 1965

*David Huw Davies*  
OB 1962 – 1964

*John Casstles*  
OB 1940 – 1950

*John Skeels*  
OB 1960 – 1966

*Dr Bruce Coull*  
OB 1943 – 1951

*Alun Thomas Ridge*  
OB 1942 – 1951

*Michael King*  
OB 1950 – 1957

*Howard Fisher*  
OB 1964 – 1970

*Christopher Sedgwick*  
OB 1940 – 1950

*Neil Loader*  
OB 1940 – 1946

## Former Staff

*Terence Best*  
1956 – 1990

*James Williams*  
2011 – 2018

*Bill Gray*  
1986 – 2008

*Richard Wells*  
1979 – 1989

*Victoria Carson*  
2016 – 2017

*Joan Kidd*  
1944 – 1946

*Dennis Riddiford*  
1951 – 1988

# Terence Best



When Terence Best, a Brentwood School teacher for 34 years, died on January 9th 2024, aged 94, it was difficult to know where to start in noting his achievements and recording his accolades. He was an exceptional educator, accomplished linguist, gifted musician and erudite musical scholar. He was recognised as a leading authority on the works of George Frideric Handel, one of the greatest ever composers of classical music.

Terence Best was born on 27th December 1929. He attended Bournemouth Grammar School and graduated from Jesus College, Oxford, before joining Brentwood School in 1956, where he remained until his retirement in 1990. He was a housemaster, Head of Languages and the first ever Head of Sixth Form (1989–90). He was a keen CCF Officer and led the 1957 400th anniversary CCF Parade. An accomplished musician, he played the harpsichord, which he donated to the school.

His funeral service was held in the Chapel on 29th January with a number of Old Brentwoods in attendance. The address was delivered by Revd Dr Adrian McConnaughie, the School Chaplain.

He cited the words of Mike Hall, Housemaster of School House, chemistry teacher and Second Master: 'In Terence Best we had a schoolmaster who combined first class

teaching with a strong pastoral interest.' "This seems to take us to the very essence of the man whose life we celebrate today."

Terence quickly gained the reputation as an excellent classroom practitioner and educator. From 1962, he was Head of the Modern Languages Department. Under his aegis, it expanded and flourished with the introduction of Italian and the development of a French exchange programme.

Revd Dr McConnaughie had been "struck by the number of times his inspiration and passion for languages was spoken of by former pupils. Whether you were a struggling linguist or someone with a flair for the subject, Terence seemed to inspire those in his charge to reach their potential and even, at times, to supersede it.

Perhaps the last word should be with Andrew Phillips (OB 1966–1974):

He had a great sense of humour, but also a quick temper and was not slow to bring mischievous boys to heel. He was in my humble opinion, not just a polymath, but a good all-round fellow: fair, honest and with an integrity rare enough in the day, perhaps even rarer now. We were lucky to have known him and to have had him as a teacher."

(Former staff 1956–1990)



# Neil Loader

## (OB 1940–1946)

Stalwart of the Old Brentwoods, Neil Loader died on October 2nd, aged 95. The funeral took place at Christ Church, Warley on October 24th, attended by many Old Brentwoods. Neil was born in Chadwell Heath on 9th September 1929 to Charles and Emily. His early school reports indicated a very capable pupil. In 1939, the family was evacuated to a farmhouse in Bason Bridge, Somerset. Neil attended Dr Morgan's School in Bridgwater. They returned to Chadwell Heath – and the Blitz – in July 1940 and Alan and Neil were accepted into Brentwood School (annual fee £57!)

In 1946, he joined chemical company May & Baker. He attended evening classes and passed the executive exam to join the Civil Service. However, he was called up for National Service in the Navy – enjoying a tour of Japan and being stationed in Malta. On leaving the Navy, he decided against the Civil Service and became employed by Remington Rand, an electric equipment and electronics manufacturer, as a trainee salesman. Four years later, he joined Monsanto's UK plastics division, working his way up from sales trainee to UK Sales Director.

In 1973, Neil left the corporate world and set up Loader Chemicals & Plastics Ltd. He bought an office in Gresham Road, Brentwood in 1980 and extended it in 1984. Son Phil joined Loader Chemicals in 1990. Four years later, Neil became the company's chairman, leaving the management to his son. He fully relinquished ownership in 2008. Neil settled into the Old Brentwoods in the 1950s. He was Secretary of the Football Club in the late 50s and early 60s, becoming President in the late 70s and early 80s. He was Cricket Club President from 1989–91, and Society President in 1974.

Neil was initiated into the Old Brentwoods Lodge, aged 29, in 1959. He became Master of the Lodge in 1973, subsequently serving as Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain. He was awarded with Senior London Grand Rank and Senior London Grand Chapter Rank for his services to the Lodge and London Freemasonry. In 2019, in his 90th year, he was presented with his 60th certificate in 2019 by Sir Michael Snyder (OB 1961–1968).

Phil Loader told mourners: "He deserved all the respect and admiration from every member of every club or society he was such a part of, every hour of warmth, friendship and laughter shared with many friends, every ounce of love and affection from family, every minute of support received in later years."



# Dennis Riddiford

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Dennis Riddiford, on 22nd September 2024, in Pisa, at the age of 97, after a short illness. A graduate of Brasenose, Oxford, Dennis joined our staff in 1951 after military service. He became the first of a golden post-war generation of long-serving teachers who came to Brentwood during that decade (alongside his great friends Terence Best and Frank Halford, Brian Tymms, Mickey Hall, Bob Jackson and Godfrey Thomas) and formed the backbone of the school for three decades. As Head of Classics, and tutor of VI (21) – his beloved Classical Sixth – he inspired a generation of pupils not just with a deep understanding of classical texts but a love of the ancient world and Greek and Roman civilisations.

Living in the tiny cottage on The Chase with his wife Maria – with whom he retired to Venice in 1988 – and his son George and daughter Luisa (both OBs), he was seen every day making his way to the Common Room with his trademark pipe locked firmly between his teeth – the origin of his affectionate nickname ‘Bubbles’ – and a volume of Vergil or another poet under his arm. And in the evenings he would often be seen on the golf course – a sport he relished playing until only a few years ago. (At the course in Venice, he once famously found himself playing alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger and Clint Eastwood who were visiting the City and asked him to join them.)

He celebrated his 85th and 90th birthdays at the school, and enjoyed keeping in touch with many of the pupils whom he had inspired – exchanging emails which dispensed his profound wisdom, news about his beloved family, political gossip, intense scholarship, and observations about those great loves of his life, Italian food, wine and music (particularly the operas of Verdi). He remained active until very recently, his idea of slowing down being to translate Juvenal or Horace in the mornings and then enjoy a glass (or two) of Soave at lunchtime before taking siesta, and to reminisce about his time at Brentwood, among the happiest days of his remarkable and long life.

(Former staff 1951–1988)



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.







## Brentwood School

*As our cricket professional, former Essex batsman Taike Mickleburgh knows, it's about trust in your team, hours of practice when nobody's watching and that hard-earned feeling of satisfaction.*



the  
cricketer  
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2025  
**TOP 100**



One of the UK's leading independent schools in Brentwood, Essex for boys and girls aged 3-18.





# A record OB dinner & even more OB Day sports

## **Old Brentwoods Dinner – 22nd March 2024**

It was the largest attendance in recent history for the OB dinner. Numbers actually had to be capped at 150 for the school dining halls and in 2025 we look at how to add some capacity without compromising the service and speeches.

Nearly a third of the guests were under 30 years old, it was agreed by all that this injected a welcome energy and diversity to the occasion. A hustling and enthusiastic welcome drink reception was accompanied with our talented Sixth Form musicians, and very much set the tone of the evening. While the dinner had the usual speeches and traditions, all were delivered in a warm and entertaining manner. Drinks and toasts flowed, fuelling a genuinely positive buzz, and showing exactly why all get together.

Next year, we look to build on this momentum and positivity. If you are interested in getting a table together for the 2025 event (Friday 28th March) look out for tickets going on sale and make sure you are signed up to get Association and OB comms.

## **Old Brentwoods Day – 7th September 2024**

Continuing in the new larger social format, there was representation across a wide range of sports with both fencing and croquet formally added this year. Sports teams, spectators, AGM attendees all gathered at the afternoon BBQ around the Pavilion. The bar was hugely well supported and everyone enjoyed a relaxed summer day in the school grounds. The large inflatable was intended to encourage families and entertain the children but several adults were seen taking on the assault course! We will continue to grow this format – celebrating the strength of our sports – while catering for all to be involved in this highlight of the school calendar.



# Future events



Old Brentwoods

**Please note the 2025 dates for these OB events**

OB School Dinner – 28th March 2025

City drinks – 26th June 2025

Regional OB reunions – Lent & Trinity tbc (Michaelmas 2024 was Exeter)

OB Day – 6th September 2025 (attendance/support is very much open to all)



**Brentwood School**  
ASSOCIATION

We continue to build our Association wide events, occasions for all those in our community to socialise and connect. Some will be bespoke events, others an opportunity to join something in the school calendar.

**Below are just a few notable dates and some proposed events in 2025, if you are signed you will get a full calendar with notifications and invites:**

School Steinway Concert – 5th February 2025

Careers Convention – 25th March 2025

A celebration of Brentwood women – date tbc

Open Day – 7th June 2025

Prom Concert – 27th June 2025

Association Dinner – November 2025 date tbc

# Get in touch

## Admissions

For all admissions-related queries, including boarding enquiries, we are here to help you explore everything Brentwood School has to offer. To learn more, please get in contact with our Admissions Office.



**Debbie Cook**, Head of Admissions 3-18  
01277 243314  
[admissionsmanager@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admissionsmanager@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)



**Brian Hays**, Boarding Recruitment Manager  
01277 243273  
[haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

## General

We welcome enquiries and are happy to help with any questions you may have. Our Main Reception and Senior Leadership Team are available to provide information or direct you to the appropriate department.

## Brentwood School Association

We love hearing from our community! Please get in touch if you have any comments, queries or news to share:



**Theo Harris**, Alumni Relations Officer  
01277 240451  
[harrist@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:harrist@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

If you'd like to discuss the Foundation or perhaps meet in person, please contact:



**Sam Mason**, Director of Development  
01277 243329  
[masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:masons@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)





# Brentwood School

## ASSOCIATION

The Brentwood School Association is here to connect all the people and organisations in our community. To be part of this powerful and fulfilling network, please scan the QR code and sign up to the Association online and receive all news and invitations.



# BST

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