19 September, 2025

HEADTEACHER
Weekly Bulletin

A big thank you to all Year 8 and 9 parents who attended last night's DPR (Dynamic Progress Reporting) presentation. Your support is hugely appreciated.

What is DPR? (Quick Recap)

DPR helps students, parents, and teachers track learning in Years 7–9 through clear learning objectives and levels of mastery (e.g., emerging → consolidating → securing → exceeding). Students follow pathways tailored to prior attainment, teachers use ongoing assessment alongside scheduled "freeze points," and parents can view up-to-date progress via the DPR app/web portal with a unique access code.

Year 7 Information Evening

A reminder to Year 7 parents that our Information Evening is on 25 September and will include a short presentation on DPR.

Student Feedback & Our Response On The School Day

Over recent weeks, our new structure of the day has been working very well—lessons are settled, transitions are smoother, and learning time is maximised. However, students told us they'd value a slightly longer lunchtime. We listened.

From Thursday, lunch will start at 1:10 pm (earlier) and finish at 1:45 pm, followed by 5 minutes' movement time before line-up at 1:50 pm. Students are being informed of the change today.

Careers

Careers education and guidance remain a key part of our provision. Next Wednesday, our Year 11 students will take part in their first careers event of the year, giving them the opportunity to explore post-16 pathways, ask questions, and begin planning their next steps.

In addition to this, please see below details of 'Drop-ins' located across Essex.

Essex County Council

YOUTH SERVICE

GET ON TRACK

Helping 16–18 year olds move into education, employment, or training.

Come and see us at Drop-ins located all over Essex!

Southernhay Youth Centre,
Basildon
Every Thursday · 12pm – 3pm

Highwoods Youth Centre,
Colchester
10 Sept, 24 Sept, 8 Oct, 22 Oct
10am – 1pm

Green Lodge Youth Centre,
Clacton
17 Sept, 1 Oct, 15 Oct, 29 Oct
10am – 12pm

Loughton Youth Centre,
Loughton
22 Sept, 6 Oct, 20 Oct · 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Hare Street Youth Centre,
Harlow
15 Sept, 29 Sept, 13 Oct · 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Chapel Hill Youth Centre,
Braintree
17 Sept, 1 Oct, 15 Oct · 10am – 1pm

Chelmergate Youth Centre,
Chelmsford
Every Monday · 11am – 2pm

0800 707 6384

Call us for more information!

And then a further careers information from our careers teams:

Careers News & Information Week Commencing 15/09/25

Explore Careers with the British Army

Join us for two exclusive webinars with the British Army, to learn more about the 40+ different apprenticeship opportunities in the British Army available, from engineering to animal care, to logistics and HR. The October date is aimed at parents and carers with the February date perfect for young people and those supporting them.

Parent & Carer Webinar

Student Webinar

Discover Apprenticeships at the BBC

Join us to discover exciting

apprenticeship opportunities at the BBC in business, data and digital technology, engineering, journalism, and production. This engaging session is designed for school leavers, career changers, or anyone curious about what it's like to work behind the scenes of the UK's leading public service broadcaster. During this session, you'll hear directly from the BBC about what it's like to be an apprentice, gain valuable insights into the structure and benefits of the apprenticeship schemes and more!

Click Here for Webinar Sign Up

Discover Apprenticeships with Dunelm

Join us to hear from the Early

Careers team at Dunelm and learn more about their amazing apprenticeship opportunities opening for applications in January 2026. With apprenticeships available across the business, from Retail, Supply Chain & Logistics, Commercial, Fitting Management and more, Dunelm is inviting students, teachers/careers advisers, parents/carers and anyone else interested in an apprenticeship to hear more about the exciting career opportunities available.

Book Here

NavigATE: How to search and apply for apprenticeships

Book Here

Positives to Celebrate

We have been really impressed with the vast majority of students' approach to the start of term. Behaviour across the school has been calm and respectful, and the atmosphere in corridors and classrooms has been purposeful. In lessons, students are showing real engagement and enthusiasm, settling quickly and applying themselves with focus. It has been particularly pleasing to see them sustaining their concentration and effort throughout the day, making the most of every learning opportunity.

Heart Points

We believe in encouraging and rewarding effort and achievement. Students earn HEART points which focus on positive behaviours for learning and the development of each and every student's character.

We believe that by providing students with HEART points, students are encouraged to engage fully with all opportunities available to them.

They also provide a framework for students to achieve their personal best and to be rewarded for it.

Through our planned curriculum and focus on HEART, we strive to develop 6 character virtues which are in line with our whole school ethos of 'Enjoy, Enrich, Achieve, Aspire'.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about DPR, the school day adjustments, or careers guidance, please get in touch.

Mr M Barrow