



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back all and I hope that your daughter is settling in as the term begins in earnest. Although we said a sad goodbye to some fabulous members of staff, we have welcomed Mrs Bialek, the new Head of Science. She is getting to grips with the maze that is Grays Convent. We wish her well.

Mrs O'Donoghue was safely delivered of a beautiful baby girl, Isla Rose, just before we broke up. In her absence Mrs Burrow, our Assistant Head, is acting as the Head of Drama and Ms Edwards, as the Head of Dance - something they are both very experienced at doing. Mrs Nyland is working an extra day and has regrouped the sets in English so that they are being taught by experienced English staff. Mrs Hill was successful in her application to be the Head of Key Stage 3, Years 8 and 9, and will also retain her role as the 2<sup>nd</sup> in English.

Thank you for sending your daughters back in, in most case, impeccable uniform. As the weather gets cold, although we have all been incredibly hot in school today as the heating has come on!, can you please ensure that your daughter has a coat. The canteen is open before school, from 8am if the weather is inclement, but we do like girls to have at least half an hour out of doors in the healthy air at lunchtime.

The Homework club begins again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January, from Monday to Thursday after school in the library. Mr Burr will also be running a homework club on Wednesday lunchtimes in Room 26 too. This is the long lunchtime, so we are grateful to him for giving up his time. Alongside this the Year 11 intervention timetable remains in place. With not many weeks to go, GCSES begin in earnest on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 with Art, Photography and Drama before this, it is important that your daughter takes up what is on offer - for free! You will have to help her navigate her way around it; it is on a 2 week timetable and she cannot attend everything.

The Bishop has asked that we keep the crib up in school until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, a date known as Candlemas. **Candlemas** is the feast of the **Presentation of our Lord Jesus**, one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD in Jerusalem. This is when Jesus would have been taken to the temple for the first time after his birth and also reflected in the once-prevalent custom of 'churching' new mothers forty days after the birth of a child.

Now in France and Belgium this is 'Chandeleur', crepe day, or pancakes day, so maybe we could start this here and have another pancake day! The crib is however a good reminder that the business of Christmas is not over, even if we take down the decorations this weekend on the Epiphany!

'Christmas Begins'.

When the song of the Angels is stilled.  
When the star in the sky is gone.  
When the Magi and elders are home.

When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the Hungry, To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among all peoples,  
To make music in the heart. Amen

Enjoy the weekend.

Penny Johnson  
Headteacher



## IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

### SEVERE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS



We are not anticipating weather, severe enough to close schools, but as it is that time of year we feel it best to keep you informed of the procedure.

In the **very unlikely** event that the school is closed due to snow, Mrs Johnson will make the decision as soon as possible and inform BBC Essex and Essex FM of any school closure.

Should we experience severe weather, you are advised to listen to these stations, which list schools that are closed. If we are **not** mentioned – **we are open!** We will also post a message on the front page of our website, so keep an eye on that too.

**BBC Essex - 103.5 FM or 95.3 FM**  
**Essex FM - 102.6 FM or 96.3 FM**

***If Grays Convent are NOT mentioned on these radio stations, and there is NOT a message on the front page of the website GRAYS CONVENT SCHOOL IS OPEN!***



## DO YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT GRAYS?



We are the 'Path of the Past', a group of Year 9 students who are leading a project to benefit Thurrock and we need YOUR help.

We are looking for information about the heritage of Thurrock and most importantly Grays which will help us move forward with our project.

We need your memories, your experiences and your knowledge of what Grays used to be like.

If you can help please send in your memories to:

[taylorlorm@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:taylorlorm@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk)

Miss Taylor & Path of the Past Students

## GCSE PE TRIP TO BODY WORLDS LONDON

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 49 Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students visited the Body Worlds Exhibition in Piccadilly as part of their studies into anatomy and physiology.



Body Worlds London is an educational museum that exhibits preserved human bodies through the process of plastination. It educates about the inner workings of the human body and shows the effects that daily lifestyle choices have on our health. It helps to stimulate curiosity about the anatomy and physiology. There were over 200 exhibits spread over 6 galleries that were split into:

- Locomotive System
- Nervous System
- Cardiovascular System
- Reproductive System
- Respiratory System
- Digestive System

The girls thoroughly enjoyed this unique opportunity to study the human body and develop their knowledge and understanding of health, fitness and human development. Their behaviour and attitude throughout the day was excellent and they were a real credit to the school. We hope that this experience has enhanced their understanding in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams.

Mrs Bailey

## GCHS TWITTER



Please, follow us on Twitter: @GraysConvent, **and re-tweet all our good news!**

Scan our new QR code using your mobile phone which takes you to our Twitter page:



See our Twitter feed: <http://www.graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk>. If you would like real time updates and photos on our sporting fixtures follow @graysconventPE or look for the #GCHSsport tag!

## TRIP MONEY

All trip money must be in a SEALED ENVELOPE, as lots of money is coming through the letter box loose and falling out. Also, please DO NOT USE THE ACTUAL RETURN RECEIPT SLIP STAPLED UP AND MADE INTO AN ENVELOPE or monies in a food freezer bag! Envelopes must have pupils name, and which trip it is, and a separate envelope for EACH trip please!



## DEBORAH HOUSE CHRISTMAS COPPERS COMPETITION



Well done to all of **Deborah House** who raised an amazing **£72.50** in coppers in just three weeks leading up to Christmas. Year groups raced against each other to fill the highest number of jars. There was a fiercely fought battle between 9D and 10D; overall champions were 9D, who were rewarded with a box of sweet treats to enjoy.

Thank you to all students and parents, teachers and governors who emptied their piggy banks for charity. Thanks too to the girls in 9D who decorated the jars and 10D who organised the collections.

**Miss Hill**

## SCIENCE TASTER DAY AT SOUTH ESSEX COLLEGE

The day was split into different sessions and workshops. Whilst there the girls got hands-on in the science labs using different chemicals to make alginate beads (most of them made Christmas trees). The next workshop was forensics and the girls had a chance to take their own finger prints and worked on a crime scene, to see the rate of a blood splatter to determine how people had been shot, what distance height etc.



The last workshop involved animals and insects, the girls loved this workshop and were very keen to get involved. Various insects were brought out including a giant millipede (Mrs Goddard was brave holding it!) The girls also looked at habitats and had some owl poo to dissect to see what creatures the owl would have eaten (this was smelly!) The final part was to examine some animals (Guinea Pigs) which the girls loved and took part in some first aid on animals. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Thanks to Mr Woodburn and Mrs Goddard for assisting with the day.

**Mrs Goddard**

## STUDENT ABSENCE

It has come to our attention since returning from the Christmas and New Year break, that a number of girls are arriving at school wearing colourful scarves. May we please remind parents and carers that as per the school's uniform policy (which can be viewed on the school's website), scarves should only be plain black or plain navy.

We advise you that from Monday 14 January, any scarves other than plain black or plain navy will be removed and confiscated from your daughter.

**Mrs Burrow**

## STUDENT ABSENCE

When phoning the school to report a student absence for sickness etc., could we please ask that when you leave a message on the answerphone you speak clearly leaving the following important information:

- Student Name
- Form Group
- Reason for Absence

**Mrs C Smith**

## PUNCTUALITY

Students must be in school by 8:25am and go straight to their form class for registration.



We have had a number of girls say that they were in school for 8:25am but were "looking for a teacher", or "dropping off equipment" etc. This must be done **after** registration.

If your daughter arrives late to registration she will be issued a 'late mark'.

**Mrs C Smith**

## FANTASTIC FINALE AT LEE VALLEY ATHLETICS FINALS

After battling through the first round and semi-finals of the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Cup before Christmas, the Grays Convent Year 8 & 9 team were successful in qualifying into the finals which comprised of the top 12 teams from over 70 school teams entered. These 12 teams were split into A and B finals, where our girls secured their place in the B team final, which took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The team was off to a flying start with a win in the 60m Hurdles from Zion Ballou and a second place from Mayli Luu in the long jump. Fis Babatunde had an outstanding performance in the Shot Putt, throwing a new personal best of 10.03m to smash her own school record that she set in the last round. This was the furthest throw of the evening, beating all the competitors in both the A and B final! A spirited run from Ife Ayeni in the 800m was rewarded with 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with a new personal best time of 2m 55s; helping the team to gain valuable points towards their final total.

At the end of the competition Grays Convent were declared joint winners on team points with the Fitzwmark School, with 42 points each. This meant that in order to decide a winner the officials looked at which team had the most first places throughout the event. Grays Convent had two first places and the Fitzwmark School had three, meaning a win for them by a hairs breadth.

Despite missing out on the medals by the narrowest of margins the team showed dignity and determination throughout the whole evening. The PE department are extremely proud of your achievements so far this year and we hope that you continue to train and compete with the attitude that you have started the season with.

Well done to the team: Deborah Ogbonna, Feyi Awosika, Stephanie Okoli, Nasya Agodo, Mayli Luu, Zion Ballou, Ife Ayeni, Fiona Ogbonna and Fis Babatunde.

**Mrs Bailey**

## POPE FRANCIS' TWEET OF THE WEEK



**Pope Francis** @Pontifex · 1d

Do not be afraid to weep when you encounter difficult situations: tears are drops that irrigate life. Tears of compassion purify hearts and feelings.

1,084

15.1K

53.6K



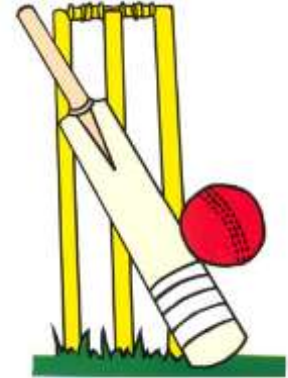
## MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

Whilst we do allow students to have mobile phones in school, it is on the strict assumption that students will not have it out, use it, or that it will not 'go off' under any circumstances whilst they are in school.

If a student's phone is out during school time, or 'goes off' or they are caught using them, the phone will be confiscated and behaviour points will be issued. The phone is then kept in our Finance Department for safekeeping and the parent will be contacted.

The phone will only then be released to a parent/carer who must collect it from the school. If an older sibling comes to collect the phone, the sibling must be over 18 years and we will require proof of age before we are able to hand over the student's phone. Thank you for your understanding.

## GCHS CRICKET TEAM



This Tuesday the Year 7 and 8 Cricket Team participated in their first ever indoor cricket tournament. This is a fast paced style of cricket with 8 overs per innings and points being scored for hitting the walls! The tournament was held at the Essex County Cricket Ground and had lots of exciting features such as wickets that flashed multi-coloured when hit and bales that flashed red when they were knocked off!

The girls played 2 games against two very drilled sides; in the end we scored 102 runs in total with 145 being scored against us. The girls played much better in their second game, and the bowling was sharper with some overs not having any wides!

It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to play in such a setting, and the cherry on the cake was two of our pupils; Olivia Debenham and Kaja Grochowska were scouted for the Essex County Cricket Development Squad!

Well done to all the team and a good start to our summer term preparations.

**Miss Franklin**

## MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

If you wish for the school to look after prescription medicines, inhalers, epipens etc. please make sure that they are replaced by new ones once the expiry date has passed. Regarding the current availability problems with epipens, the Department of Health and Social Care has recently issued the following advice and website address:

- Furthermore, recently it has been approved that certain batches of adult EpiPen 0.3mg auto-injectors (children over 30kg can be prescribed adult 0.3mg auto-injectors) can be safely used for four months after the expiry date has passed – further information about these batches is available on the EpiPen website <http://www.epipen.co.uk/> or via healthcare professionals.
- The extension of use beyond the labelled expiry date only applies to those batches of EpiPen specified on the EpiPen website. For other EpiPens, not covered by the batch numbers on the EpiPen website, including all EpiPen Junior devices, the expiry date labelled on the EpiPen should continue to be adhered to.

**Mr O'Hanlon**

## OPERATING THEATRE LIVE @ HACH

Harris Academy Chafford Hundred have advised that they will be hosting an operating live event on Saturday 6 July 2019. As part of the event they are inviting students and parents from the area who would love to take part in an incredible, immersive operating theatre experience which will give everyone an amazing opportunity to dissect real specimens led by human anatomist Samuel Piri and his team of clinicians. The event is also sponsored by the Royal Society of Medicine.



The event is targeted to both KS4 and KS5 students who are interested in medicine.

Here is the website containing the details: <https://www.operatingtheatrelive.co.uk/publicevents>

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/operating-theatre-live-essex-6th-july-2019-tickets-49980559198>

If you have any queries please contact Nadim Uddin at Harris Academy Chafford Hundred.



### ALADDIN THE MUSICAL

*This week has been a productive week recapping scenes during after school rehearsals and practicing songs with Mrs White. Mrs Haxell and Miss Hill have been busy with students creating props in arts and crafts sessions. While myself, Miss Warby and Oghosa white washed the scenery blocks in preparation for Miss Varney's magic art work to commence next week!*



*Rehearsal schedules have been handed out to all cast members and notice of absence must be given to Miss Couch or Mrs White if students cannot make them  
IN ADVANCE please*

**Miss Couch**

## EXPOSITION - O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

In celebration of the **Epiphany** every year group came to worship the new born king, our Saviour Jesus Christ at a services of Exposition, during their assembly times. We prayed for all in need and asked God's blessing on all our families and school family at the start of this new year. 11C beautifully prepared our first Mass of the year to which everyone was invited. We were thinking about **the Baptism of the Lord which we will be celebrating in Church this Sunday**. We gave thanks for the gift of our own Baptism and which we remembered through the sprinkling of water at the Penitential Rite of the Mass. We were very pleased to welcome Fr Daniel Kelly, from Basildon, who kindly stood in for Fr Brian.

Jesus was baptised by his cousin Saint John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The **Holy Trinity of God** the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 3 persons in **ONE God**, one being, was revealed at the Baptism of Jesus.

"As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven  
**"You are my own dear Son,  
I am pleased with you."** Mk1:1-11



Jesus was baptised as an example for us to follow, so that God the Father can say to each one of us

**"YOU are my own dear child,  
I am pleased with YOU."**



**A view of The River Jordan**

### REFLECTION: Who Is He?

**God the Father confirmed that Jesus is the Son of God,** as he had foretold through the prophets and the Angel Gabriel.

**Jesus is both fully God and fully Man.**

He is of one being with God and out of his love for us he humbled himself to come down to our level, to be born as we are and to die on the cross for our sake, taking the punishment for our sins, to set us free from sin and death.

**This shows the awesome, personal love of God for each one of us.**

**Prayer:** Almighty God, we glorify, praise and thank you for all the wonderful things you have done and for your amazing personal love for each one of us. **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

God's blessing and peace be with you throughout this New Year.

Miss Carson

# TUDOR

ARTS & CULTURAL ACADEMY

- ART
- MATHS
- SPANISH
- RUSSIAN



## GROUP AND PRIVATE TUITION

For further information and to register, please call Marina on 07737015163 or email [info@tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk)



ALL STAFF DBS CHECKED FREE PARKING CAFE ON SITE

## ABOUT US

Since 2014, Tudor Arts and Cultural Academy have offered a variety of classes for children and adults. Located in a safe and regulated environment, we offer a bright and friendly welcome.

Working individually and in groups, students will improve their confidence and self-esteem. All of our classes are conducted in a fun environment stretching your child's artistic, problem solving, linguistic and social development.

You and your child will be supported by a community of dedicated tutors or have attained qualifications to BA (Hons) and MA levels and have lectured at Oxford, Brighton and other universities.

All of our staff are DBS checked.

## CAREERS & VOLUNTEERING

We are always looking for bright individuals with a passion for education to join our team.

New classes in various subjects may be added throughout the year. Please email us your CV and a covering letter.

## BRANCHES

Tudor Arts and Cultural Academy  
1st Floor, All Saints' Church  
Drake Road  
Chafford Hundred  
RM16 6RW

Tudor Arts and Cultural Academy  
Drake Road Community Centre  
Drake Road  
Chafford Hundred  
RM16 6PS

Marina Kellard  
M: 07737015163  
E: [info@tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk)  
W: [www.tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk](http://www.tudorartsandculturalacademy.co.uk)



# Thurrock Healthy Walks



Why not join us for one of our FREE short Health Walks, No special equipment needed just a comfortable pair of shoes and weather appropriate clothing.

Join our walks starting at the following venues.

- Impulse Leisure, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU  
Thursday 10am
- War Memorial, Civic Square, Tilbury, RM18 8AD  
Friday 9.30am
- Davy Down Pumping Station, Back Lane, North Stifford, RM16 5UL  
Friday 1.30pm

Develop a love of walking with likeminded people and live a healthier happier life.

### For more information

Email: [eulph@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:eulph@thurrock.gov.uk)  
Call: 01375 652006 ext. 64186

 [thurrock.gov.uk](http://thurrock.gov.uk)

## Grangewaters Events Calendar 2019

### January

**New Year New You** – Weekly guided walk around our lake with refreshments. First walk will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, from 10-11am. Price: £2 per person.

**Early bird discount** – Confirm an activity booking for your group in 2019 before the end of January for 5% discount.

### February

**New Year New You** – Weekly guided walk around our lake with refreshments; continuing on Wednesdays from 10-11am. Price: £2 per person.

**Half Term Family Activities** – Spend the week day mornings with us trying some new activities and revisiting old favourites. Sessions run from 11.15am-12.45pm and 13.30-15.00pm. Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>th</sup> Feb. Price: £9 per person.

### March

**New Year New You** – Weekly guided walk around our lake with refreshments; continuing on Wednesdays from 10-11am. Price: £2 per person.

**Teacher's Day** – Opportunity for teachers to visit our site, try out some activities and gather information. Date TBC.

### April

**Easter Family Activities** – Spend the week day mornings with us trying some new activities and revisiting old favourites. Sessions run from 9.30-11am and 11.15am-12.45pm. Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Apr. Price £9 per person.

**Saturday Family Activities** – Come over for a bit of fun on land or the water. Sessions are 10-11.30am. Price £9 per person.



## YEAR 11 INTERVENTION 2018/19

WEEK 1					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	Maths		Maths/Art/Photog/D&T	Food	
After School	Science	OPTION J	OPTION L/Maths	OPTION K	Maths

WEEK 2					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	Maths		Maths/Art/Photog/D&T	Food	
After School	MFL	OPTION M	RE (from Jan)/ Maths	Drama	Maths/Science

OPTION BLOCKS 2018			
J	K	L	M
Media	History	Food	French
Drama	Geog	PE	Comp Sci
Spanish	DT Textiles	Media	Music
French	DT Prod Design	Geog	Art
Food	Drama	Photog	History
Art		History	

## WINTER/SPRING FIXTURES 2018-19

*The following fixtures are subject to change  
please make sure you check every week!*

Date	Year	Opposition	Venue
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> January	U16 Netball	Hassenbrook	Away
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> January	7 Athletics	Lee Valley Indoor R1 (TBC)	Lee Valley
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	8 Netball- 3:15 start	St Cleres	Home
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	7 Athletics	Lee Valley Indoor R1 (TBC)	Lee Valley
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> January	9 Netball	Harris Chafford	Home
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> January	9 Netball	Hassenbrook	Away
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> January	U16 Netball	Gable Hall	Away
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Y9 Netball	Gable Hall	Away
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> February	7 Netball	William Edwards	Home
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> February	7 Netball	Gable Hall	Home
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> February	8 Netball	Gable Hall	Home
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> February	7 Netball	Chafford Harris & Riverside	Away
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> February	9 Netball	William Edwards	Away
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> February	7 Athletics	Lee Valley Semi 1 (TBC)	Lee Valley
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> March	8 Netball	Gateway	Home
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> March	7 Netball	Gateway	Home
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	7 Athletics	Lee Valley Semi 2 (TBC)	Lee Valley
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> March	8 Netball	Rally	Hassenbrook
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March	7 Athletics	Lee Valley Finals (TBC)	Lee Valley
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y7 Netball	Ockendon	Home
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> March	8 Netball	Ockendon	Home
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> March	7 Netball	Rally	Hassenbrook
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7-11 Athletics	District Athletics Finals	Blackshots
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	8-11 Athletics	Essex Schools C. E. T	Brentwood School

## KEY DATES, TRIPS & EVENTS

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Maths PPE's Mon: 8:40am for 1hr 30mins Tues: 11:00am for 1hr 30mins Weds: 11:00am for 1hr 30mins	Year 11
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Vocations Day (Period 1-4)	Year 9
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 11 Parent's Evening 4-7pm Deadline for Prefect Applications	Year 11 Year 10
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 9-11 Sports Taster Day	Year 9-11
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	National Gallery Trip	Year 11
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Design & Technology Primary Day	Year 6
28 <sup>th</sup> January – 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Trailblazer Design Challenge	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Parent's Evening 4-7pm	Year 10
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School Production	Parents will shortly be invited to purchase tickets!
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>School Finishes at 3:10pm for Half Term</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>School Returns at 8:25am</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Parent's Evening 4-7pm	Year 9
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams Start	Year 11

