

# The Convent Chronicle



Week ending Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Inspiring Ambition,  
Achieving Excellence

Dear Parent/Carer

I always get a little bit maudlin at this time of the school year, although the morning was joyous with sunlight streaming through the window and waking us all up today. Year 11 bow out of their sporting life; courses are completed for Year 11 and we have only a few more weeks of revision, which includes the Easter Revision programme; the prefect teams have changed over to Year 10 and Year 11 hand back their badges, and final exam entries have been made. As Robert Frost's poem says 'Nothing gold can stay', but as with all cycles, school and nature, the advent of spring sees new green shoots grow and the next generation of wonderful young women spring up to take over.



As you can see I was honoured to interview the four prospective Head Girls today, with the outgoing Head Girl helping me! What an amazing group of young women; I always write down a few handy hints for interview from them. Congratulations to all of them as our new Student Senior Leadership Group, but a special well done to Tierney Wood, our new Head Girl!! I look forward to working with all of you.

I was inspired in a long week, when attending the Next Top Boss Awards with our Year 9 team last night. Well done to Sanna, Isobel, Jodie, Abigail and Paige, and to Jodie who won the 'Best in Team' award for her



Penny Johnson  
Headteacher



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Standing: Toba Lawal and Karis Barlow, Senior Prefects  
Seated: Nawal Mirza, Deputy Head Girl; Oghosa Okundaye, Assistant Head Girl;  
Tierney Wood, Head Girl; Rebecca Ngoka, Assistant Head Girl.

enthusiasm and organisation. I was proud to sit beside them, but even prouder when we came second!!! The team was outstanding and their heritage project with Land of the Fanns has also been successful in their bid for funding to carry it out. Their project is a heritage walk around Grays for Primary school children. So watch this space; they get to publish their booklet and deliver it to Primary schools!! Thank you to Debbie Brady at Land of the Fanns, Sue Yeates at the Thurrock History Society, and to the many others who contributed to their success. I would like also to say congratulations and well done to Gateway who won this year's Thurrock Next Top Boss. Woo hoo!!

**Year 11 Easter Holiday Revision:**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April & Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April & Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sessions will provide invaluable support on exam technique and strategy. Pupils will be given a specific schedule of sessions to attend. Wednesday will consist of dedicated Photography, Art and D&T sessions  
Please take these dates into account when booking holidays.**

## SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AT GRAYS CONVENT

At Grays Convent our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Collis, and our Safeguarding Officers are Mrs Wells and Mrs Bishop. Students can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

### Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to The MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: **01375 652802**.
- Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) **01375 372468**.
- Police Child Abuse Investigation Team **01277 266822** or call **999** if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection.
- Childline **0800 11 11** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)

Mrs Collis

### INTERNET SAFETY TIP – SNAPCHAT WHERE CAN I GO FOR FURTHER SUPPORT?

Snapchat Safety Centre: [www.snapchat.com/safety](http://www.snapchat.com/safety)

Snapchat Support: [support.snapchat.com](http://support.snapchat.com)

Latest changes on Snapchat Blog: [snapchat-blog.com](http://snapchat-blog.com)

UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline)

Report Child Abuse Images to IWF: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

Report abuse or grooming to CEOP: [ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)

Get Connected Helpline: [www.getconnected.org.uk](http://www.getconnected.org.uk)



Mr Burr

### GCHS TWITTER



Please, follow us on Twitter: [@GraysConvent](https://twitter.com/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 up-dates and photos on our sporting fixtures follow [@graysconventPE](https://twitter.com/graysconventPE) or look for the #GCHSsport tag!

### POPE FRANCIS' TWEET OF THE WEEK



**Pope Francis**  @Pontifex · 3d

Outward appearance, money, career, hobbies: these are sirens that enchant us and then set us adrift. #Lent is a time of grace to free our hearts from vanities.

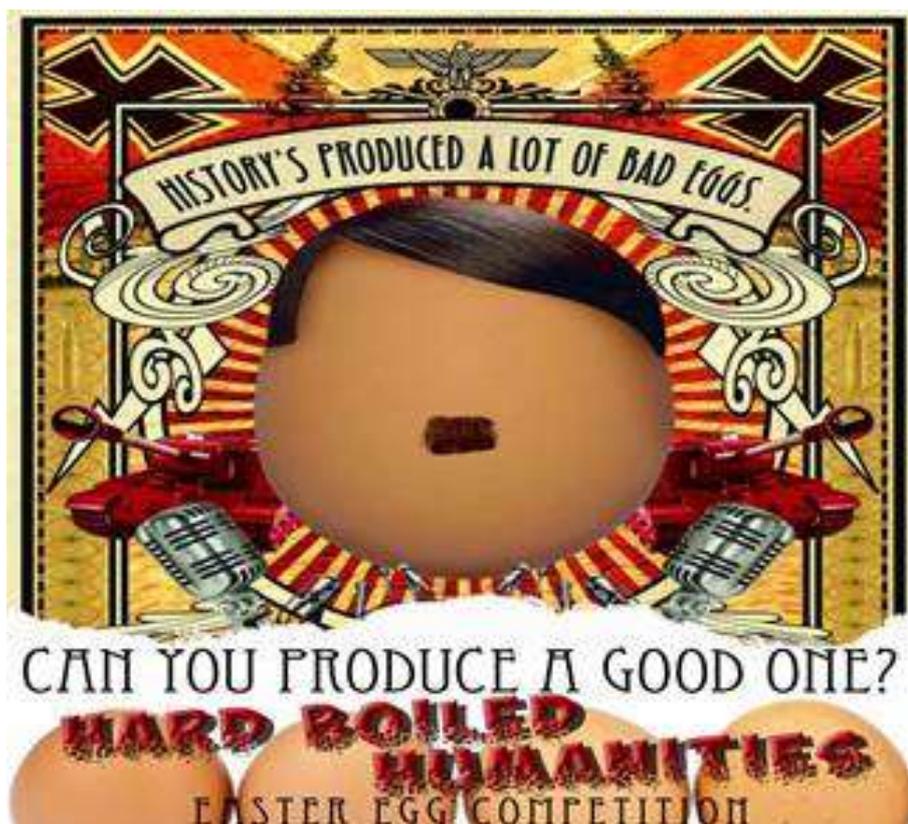
 889

 7,221

 33K



## 'EGG-CITING' TIMES IN HISTORY



The History Department's egg competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 ends next week. Please bring your entries to room 22 on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The judges are eager to see all your entries!

We already have a group of suffragettes and Charles Darwin – I am looking forward to seeing some more good and bad eggs from the past!

All entries will receive Achievement Points and there will be a prize for the winner.

Mrs M Smith

## NEWS FROM THE ECO CLUB

The Eco Club have been busy making mother's day cards, wooden hearts and pretty boxes with sweets inside as gifts for their mums. A big thank you to Aruba who sat for hours making the card boxes. Pictured below with Alexia and Mrs Collier are Harshita and Simran who have both written Happy Mother's Day in their own language on their wooden hearts!



Next Wednesday the Eco Club are participating again in the Great British Spring clean-up, they will be going down to Grays Beach Park to litter pick and tidy up the area.

Mrs Goddard

## 'MRS HISTORY' MEETS 'MR HISTORY'!!!

*"Wow, it's Dan Snow!"*



*"Wow, it's Mrs Smith!!!"*

## HEALTH & SAFETY

It has been noticed that a number of girls are bringing hot water bottles into school. This practice is not allowed as it is a health and safety concern. Please do not allow your daughter to bring these into school.

Mrs C Smith

## STUDENT ABSENCE

When leaving a message on the absence answerphone, can we please ask that you speak clearly and slowly. It is sometimes quite difficult to understand exactly what has been said and it is important that we know where your child is. We require the following information:

- Student name
- Form
- Reason for absence

Also, if your child has a medical appointment you should not take your daughter out of school for the whole day. Medical appointment absences will only be authorised for the morning or afternoon depending on the time of the appointment. Exceptions will only be made if the appointment is, for example, in London when travel time will be taken into account.

Mrs C Smith

## THE CAMBRIDGE INITIATIVE

From Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, four of us from Year 10 were given the incredible opportunity to take part in the Cambridge Initiative. This three day event gave us an insightful taste of what it was like to study at a Russell group university but also how the opportunities offered at Cambridge differed from the rest.

The first day, hosted at USP College, Palmers Campus, was a colourful one, providing a variety of different sessions; from assigning sentences to cases in the Law session, to dissecting a rat in the Science session.

Day 2 was full of profound and awe-inspiring moments: we travelled to Emmanuel College, one of the 31 colleges at Cambridge University. Not only did we have the pleasure of admiring the beauty of the college, we were also given invaluable information about Cambridge. From the many weird and wonderful societies; the financial help almost exclusive to the University; the courses and opportunities provided; to the application process, we were both surprised and shocked by what we found out.

The initiative concluded with group presentations, looking back on what we had learnt from the past few days. We were given tips on presentation skills and then we had to produce and perform our own presentation, which was a great



opportunity for some of us to go out of our comfort zones.

Overall, the experience as a whole was unforgettable and we have all obtained incredibly helpful information that we will be able to use in the near future.

It was very educational, informative and eye-opening.

**Kirit Kaur, Eylul Tunc, Alisha Ahmed and Boglarka Pasztor - Year 10**



## BRONZE AWARDEES

Congratulations to the following students who have reached in excess of 200 achievement points and will receive the Assistant Headteacher's Bronze Award:

- ★ Adoley Brown 7D
- ★ Esther Balogum 7E
- ★ Tilly Forrest 7E
- ★ Mariam Smith 7E
- ★ Olivia Stawarz 7E
- ★ Christina Mohanakumar 7L
- ★ Aoife Wood 7L
- ★ Alishia Heluszka 7M
- ★ Violet Neville 8M
- ★ Keren Femi-Alade 9E
- ★ Nancy Foy 9E
- ★ Janet Gamado 9L
- ★ Isabel Ferreira 9L
- ★ Itohan Igbinigie 9L
- ★ Ruby Ajenifuja 9M
- ★ Kaelyn Berman 9M
- ★ Cherise Joseph-Holloway 9M
- ★ Oluwakemi Abbas 10D
- ★ Karis Barlow 10D
- ★ Shanae Mulenga 10D
- ★ Rebecca Ngoka 10E
- ★ Sara Limbu 10L
- ★ Sarah Mekea 10L
- ★ Abbie Nicholls 10L
- ★ Fiona Hutchinson 10M
- ★ Isata Smith 10M

Well done to all of these students.

**Mrs Bishop**

## Y10 EXAM CONTINGENCY DAY

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CURRENT YEAR 10 STUDENTS**



The JCQ contingency day for 2020 has been announced today and confirmed as **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**. This date applies to current Year 10

students, who must make sure that during the summer exams season 2020 they are available up to and including **24<sup>th</sup> June 2020** (i.e. please do not make any plans or book any holidays until after this date). Your daughters have been informed of this in assembly this week.

**Mrs J Smith**

## Y11 EXAM CONTINGENCY DAY

To remind you that for current Year 11 students, **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019** is the contingency day for the summer exam season 2019, and your daughters must make sure they are available up to and including **26<sup>th</sup> June 2019** – no holidays to be booked before this date.

**Mrs J Smith**

## SCHOOL MEAL PRICE

Please be advised that the price of all school meals and some sundry items will be increasing by 10p for Secondary schools. The price change will take effect when the new menu starts after the Easter break week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. The current price will stay in place until the end of the Autumn/Winter menu on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.



# HOLY WEEK

The second week of the Easter holidays will be Holy Week, the holiest week of the Church year when we remember the events of Jesus' last days leading up to his death and resurrection. In preparation for Holy Week, every RE Class in Years 7-10 have a turn to come to the Chapel for Lenten Reflections.

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Year groups 7-10 have had Exposition assemblies, to pray with Jesus, remembering his Agony in the Garden, and praying for those suffering their own agony today: those who are persecuted for their faith, for our Muslim brothers and sisters suffering from recent attacks on their Mosques, for all whose lives have been devastated by the cyclone in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The second week of the Easter holidays is Holy Week, the eventful last days of Jesus' earthly life, beginning on

### Palm Sunday



Jesus enters Jerusalem  
The people welcome him singing Hosanna

Jesus was arriving in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Passover. He came in peace riding humbly on a donkey. All the people came to welcome him, waving palms and cheering Hosanna to the Son of David. They made a carpet with their palm leaves and laid their cloaks on the ground to greet him. Jesus was famous for his teaching and all his great miracles, curing the sick and raising the dead to life. He raised Jairus' daughter, a widow's son, and Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days.

When the Chief Priests and Pharisees saw this, they were jealous and afraid the people would make Jesus their King. So they plotted to kill him.

They also wanted to kill Lazarus, because it was on account of his testimony that Jesus raised him from the dead after 4 days, that so many Jews were leaving their teaching and following Jesus instead.



The Chief Priests and Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus when there were not many people around.

Judas, one of Jesus' friends saw an opportunity to make money and agreed to hand Jesus over to them in exchange for 30 pieces of silver. He arranged to meet them in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed at night and said he would betray Jesus with a kiss (the usual greeting) so the guards would know who to arrest.



Jesus knew all that was going to happen. He was born to die on the cross for us, for the forgiveness of all our sins. Jesus set us free and destroyed the power of death which could not hold him. He came alive again on the third day, so that all who believe in him will rise to eternal life with him in Heaven.



**Prayer:** Merciful Father, thank you for your amazing personal love for me, that you sent your beloved Son Jesus to die on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins and to gain for me the free gift of eternal life. Please fill my heart with love for Jesus and gratitude for all that he suffered and for the freedom and new eternal life he gives me. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

God bless you.

Miss Carson

## GRANGEWATERS EVENTS CALENDAR APRIL 2019

### 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. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

## OPERATING THEATRE LIVE EVENT

Harris Academy Chafford are holding an Operating Theatre Live event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019. For more information see their website:

<https://www.operatingtheatreive.co.uk/homepage>

**operating theatre live**

LIVE INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH REAL SPECIMENS

THE UK'S AWARD WINNING LIVE SURGERY EVENT FOR STUDENTS AGED 14-19

**NHS** "A COMPELLING AND THOROUGHLY IMMERSIVE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. EVERY STUDENT SHOULD EXPERIENCE THIS" - RJAH NHS TRUST

WWW.OPERATINGTHEATRELIVE.CO.UK

## Feel Good Saturday 2

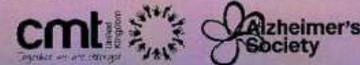
A day of Wellbeing at the Cross Keys, Chadwell St. Mary  
Saturday 30th March (10am - 4pm)

A chance to try out various therapies; taster sessions available in; Reflexology, Shiatsu, Facial reflexology, Indian head, Thai yoga massage, Kinesiology, Seated chair massage, Thai foot massage, Reiki and Rose quartz facial massage.



Visit our Feel Good Market we have a variety of wellbeing goods for sale. From (healthy) coffee and tea, crystals, skin care, supplements, magnetic jewellery, home scents, salt lamps and oils.

Raffle & Cake sales for charities; CMT and Alzheimer's Society UK



Its advisable to book taster sessions in advance to avoid disappointment on the day. Book and reserve by calling,  
Lisa - 07966448254 OR

LISA CROSS - L S A

## 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
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10 & 11	Lee Valley Outdoor Cup	Lee Valley
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7-11 Athletics	District Athletics Finals	Blackshots
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	8-10 Athletics	Essex Schools C. E. T	Brentwood School
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	7-10	English Schools Athletics Cup	Chelmsford Athletics Stadium
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> June	7, 8 & 9	Lee Valley Outdoor Cup	Lee Valley

## KEY DATES, TRIPS & EVENTS

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Macbeth Romeo & Juliet	Year 9 Year 10 & 11
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Ten Ten Theatre Performance – RSE	Years 8, 9 & 10
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	House Captain Elections Easter Mass 11:30am	Whole School Years 7-10
	Year 11 Off-site	Year 11
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>End of Term Students dismissed at 1pm</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 11 Revision Sessions	Year 11
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>School Returns at 8:25am</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Shakespeare in a Suitcase	Year ?
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Exam Mass (lunchtime)	Year 11
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 7 Parent's Evening 4-7pm	Year 7
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Engineering Taster Day	Year 9 & 10
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening	????

### CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**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



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

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1st Floor, All Saints' Church  
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Chafford Hundred  
RM16 6RW

Tudor Arts and Cultural Academy  
Drake Road Community Centre  
Drake Road  
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