

MARCH 2023

The Stanway Standard

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STANWAY SCHOOL

Head Student Team Update

Our Head Student Team got together earlier this week for their meeting and received their shiny new badges from Mr Bland. Rowan has kindly provided an update on what the team has been working on so far:

"As the first head student team at The Stanway School since the introduction of the new student leadership structure we have aimed to achieve many things. For example, one of our key goals was to reinstate the student leadership system in our school. Working with Mr MacPhail we have started the Year 8 Leaders, Year 9 Junior Prefects and Year 10 & 11 prefects and assigned them each specific roles.

Secondly we chose one key idea to present to the Senior Leadership Team and the student body. As a team we decided that many pupils were not aware of the report button, so we came up with the idea of a physical box, that is accessible to everyone, for anonymous reports or seeking help.

Another project being undertaken is to plant a common beech tree in memory of our late Queen.

Finally the student voice conference was undertaken to get an overview of the students opinions from every part of the school.

This was incredibly successful and is already planned again for next time."

Well done to Annabel, Dan, Ellie, Finley, Phoebe, Rose, Rose, Rowan, Toby and Will on all their hard work.

In This Issue:

- Karl Nova Visit
 - VEX Competition
 - Enterprise Day
- Plus more...



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Celebration Lunches

At the start of March we held celebration lunches for some of our students who had been nominated by the teaching staff for consistently demonstrating 'Stanway Standards' behaviour. Students were able to enjoy a relaxed lunch of Domino's Pizza.

Year 7: Luke, Joe, Kacey, Sophia, Josh, Talia, Evan, Penelope, Dara, Jasper, Fiona, Milly, Samuel, Maddison, Robin, Evie, Amelia, Leo, Sophie-Ann, Ben, Oliver, Fred, Oakley, Sam, Tun, Annamarie, Maddie, Mia, Molly, Phoebe, Morgan, Akosua, Alicia, Noah, Leo, Lottie, Tiffany, Layla, Finn, Joshua, Erin, Finley, George, and Kaiden.

Year 8: Caiden, James, Florence, Liam, Ellie, Charlie, Eloise, Junior, Pippa, Isabelle, Poppy, Seraphina, Reuben, Richard, Efa, Holly, Dylan, Beau, Joe, Harry, Sophie, Zhane, Amelie, Olly, Bobby, Ben, Harry, Frank, Edward, Francesca, Louise, Callum, Charlie, Phoebe, Teddy, Imogen, Freya, Lorenzo, Will, Angel, Alesha, Oscar, Eva, Indy, Chloe, Emma, and Bella.

Year 9: Ava-Lily, Sami, Richelle, Christelle, Scarlett, Miruna, Edward, Faith, George, Yeva, Caitlin, Sophie, Leah, Charlotte, Emily, Millie, Jess, Emily, Megan, Molly, Luke, Logan, Ajai, Jasmine, Benny, Ben, Tyler, Keaton, Isaac, Adam, Eva-Louise, Sonny, Monty, Darcey, Mohammad, Harley, Emma, and Freddie.

Year 10: Sadie, Sophie, Immy, Macie, Sofiia, Zahra, Molly, Kelsie-Leigh, Monty, Hannah, Louis, Toby, Jack, Lilly, Rebecca, Cait, Ashton, Sophia, Iris, Annie, Emily, Imogen, George, Lillie-May, Scarlett, Oliver, Faye, Oliver, and Molly.

Year 11: Samuel, Tom, Ori, Louis, Tiannan, Holly, Emily, Charlotte, Poppy, Tyler, Adam, Sienna, Sophie, Georgia, Chloe, Evie, Rose, Molly, Jamie, and Chloe.



Well done to everyone who received a nomination

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North Essex Maths Olympiad

This month twelve Year 8 students headed to the North Essex Maths Olympiad (NEMO's) to compete against other local schools in a test of mathematical challenge and problem solving. The Stanway School entered three eager teams who all worked incredibly well together to solve some tricky calculations. We're proud to share that all three teams placed on the podium, with two teams placing joint third, and our final team taking second place, only narrowly beaten to the top honours. In addition, the girls team was one of the only teams to correctly solve the NEMO conundrum, which even had some of the teachers scratching their heads!



**Well done to
all of those
involved.**

**We are very
proud of your
achievements**

Colchester Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 22 March Stanway took two teams to the Colchester swimming gala. The event has not been held for three years due to Covid and was a chance for Colchester schools to compete in the pool again. The event requires teams of four to take part in two relays and four individual events. Nine Colchester schools took part which meant that the quality of the races was high.

It began with the 4X25m Medley race which Stanway managed to get a 2nd in Year 8 girls and 4th in Year 10/11 girls. Next was the individual events of freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke. Our swimmers did very well overall and competed to high level in each event. We managed to pick up three 3rd places, a 2nd place and a 1st place finish. Going into the final events of the freestyle relays, Stanway were confident and looking to place again. In the Year 10/11 event we narrowly missed out on 3rd by centimetres and in the Year 8 event gained another 2nd place finish.

It was a great event that gave the swimmers the opportunity to compete for the school at a high level against others in the district.

Well done to all that took part - a great team effort!

Individual successes:

Sophie 1st - Year 8 Breaststroke

Ellie 2nd - Year 10/11 Butterfly

Imogen 3rd - Year 8 Freestyle

Efa 3rd - Year 8 Butterfly

Rachel 3rd - Year 10/11 Breaststroke

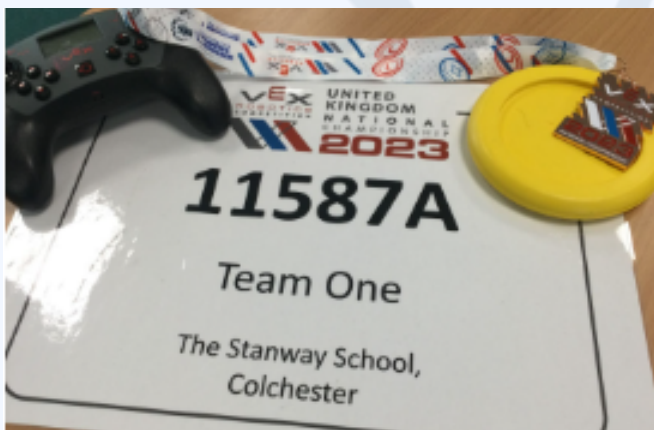
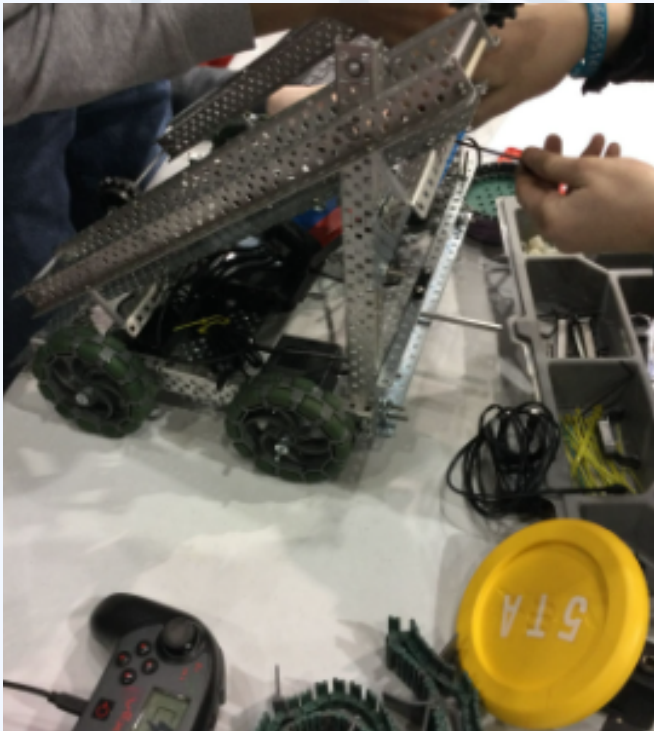
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VEX Nationals

For the second year in a row The Stanway School team has managed to qualify for the national championship!

With only one returning team member the new team had to work around obstacles with an ever changing set of challenges. They amazingly, even managed to win a round when their teammates were unable to take part. It was some amazing piloting skill that had them succeed when the pressure was on.

A huge well done to Alexander, Sophie and Thomas! We made it to the knockout stages but didn't get to take the podium this year. We'll be back!



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Welcome Support for our Students

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Social Workers in School Georgia Martinez and Benjamin Adegoke as well as our new Counsellor from YES, Kriselle Magsino.



NEVER WALK ALONE by Benjamin Adegoke, SWIS

The first time I took seriously the expression, 'Never Walk Alone', was when I watched the famous champions league final between Liverpool and the Italian giant, AC Milan. It was described as the miracle of Istanbul and one of the greatest football matches of all time where Liverpool came from 3-0 down to defeat AC Milan and eventually lift the UEFA champions league. The lesson from the football match is that the Liverpool fans never abandoned their team, they never gave up and the Liverpool players never really walked alone. Incidentally, the slogan of the winning team is 'You'll Never Walk Alone.'

I grew up in a communal settlement in Nigeria where it is believed that two persons (parents) are responsible in the conception of a child but the whole community is responsible for raising such child after conception. This impressed upon me the culture of supporting people in the society at a tender age and this motivated me to study a bachelor degree in Education which I believed would give me the opportunity to mentor and impact my society positively.

My journey in the service of humanity began when I took up volunteering in the community to mentor students and support youngsters in their academics and careers goals. I derived immense joy and inner satisfaction when I work people through their challenges. I joined a charity organisation where I spent about 5 years to work in the guidance and counselling unit supporting vulnerable young ones to cope and overcome different challenges.

Presently, I am pursuing a master's degree programme in Social Work in the University of Essex. My experience as a Nigerian postgraduate student in the UK has been transformative. I have learnt to be independent, self-reliant, and resilient. I have also developed a global perspective, understanding and appreciating diverse cultures and ways of life. I have made new friends, and gained valuable insights and knowledge in Social Work. I have become an inspiration to many, demonstrating the power of determination, hard work, and perseverance. My experience serves as a testament to the endless opportunities that exist when one is willing to step out of their comfort zone and explore new horizons.

It was a mixed feelings initially when I received a notice from the Stanway School of my acceptance to commence my placement as a social worker in school. However, upon my arrival in the school, the experience has been electrifying. The school environment is conducive for learning and the staff members have been wonderful. My experience with the students have been memorable and it is my delight to inform you that I am more than willing and ready to support any student in need. I promise to work hard with students and staff members towards providing the necessary support in enhancing students' performance in school and ensuring that you attain your fullest potential.

In conclusion, 'Never Walk Alone', is a powerful reminder of the importance of school support. Whether it is a friendly smile, a listening ear, or more active forms of support, support is vital to our well-being and our ability to overcome life's challenges. It provides us with a sense of belonging, purpose, and diversity, reminding us that we are not alone in our struggles. So, let us continue to support each and walk together, never alone.

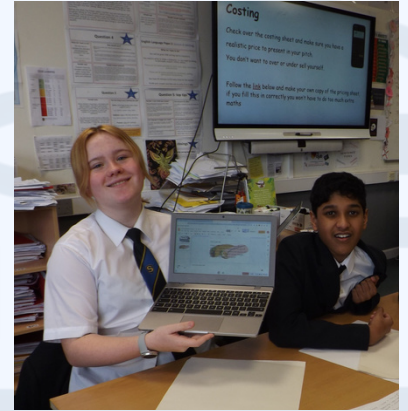
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Year 9 Enterprise Day

On the 7 March, Year 9 students were given the opportunity to work on their Enterprise skills for the day. The day started off with Mrs Deighton and Mr Player launching the event to them in the Atrium. They were asked to create a Prom party company for this year's Year 11.

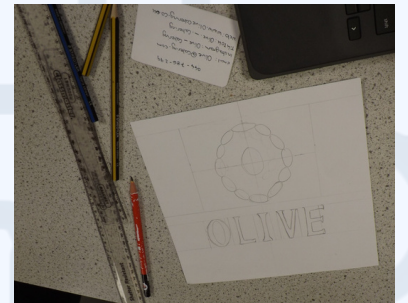


Once back in form rooms they were split into teams of four to compete against each other for the tender. They were asked to focus on the following areas of a business; finance, marketing and catering, as well as the essential role of project manager, it's fair to say there were some natural born leaders amongst them.



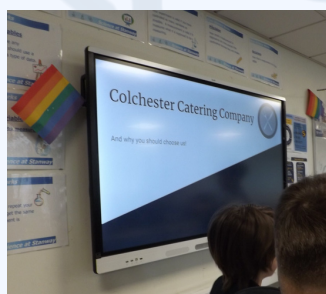
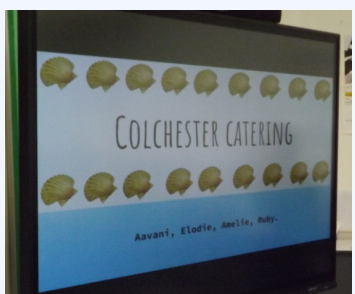
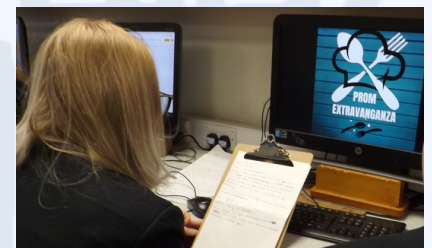
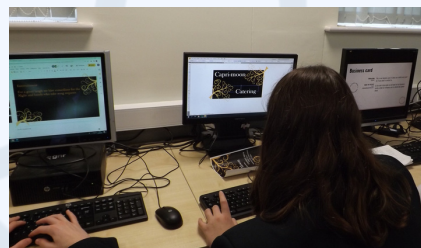
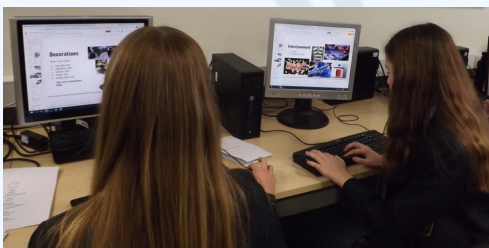
Throughout the day they created a Dragon's Den style pitch in their groups, supported by their form tutors and external business advisors. It was lovely to see groups working in a business like manner and developing a number of interpersonal and transferable skills

At the end of the day they presented to the class and mentors. From this a winning group from each form was chosen.



Winning teams are currently collaborating with Year 11 Business Studies students to further develop their skills ready for the final inter-house competition on the 31st March. We wish them all the best and can't wait for the showcase!

Miss Conway, Mrs Deighton and Mr Player



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Year 10 Careers Day

At the end of last term our Year 10 students took part in their Careers Day.

Students had the opportunity to spend time with training providers from all settings, as well as employers and professional organisations. This enabled them to gain some valuable skills, knowledge about career opportunities and routes into a number of different areas of employment in the future.



Have you looked on the school website lately and seen our new Careers Hub?

<https://sites.google.com/stanway.school/careers-hub/home>

You will find careers information for all year groups along with useful information for the older students and helpful website links. This is constantly updated so you will always find the most up-to-date information we have.

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Royal Navy Visit

We were fortunate to welcome two officers from the Royal Navy this week who came in and gave a brief talk and presentation about life in the Royal Navy.

Afterwards some Year 10 food students were invited to take part in an activity, students worked in groups for a 'cook-off'. Each group were given ingredients to make a lasagne and a pavlova. All the students worked well together and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.



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Poetry Live Trip

On the 8th of February 2023 our Year 10 students visited Cambridge to attend the Poetry Live conference. Following a long two hour journey, we quickly settled into the already packed auditorium and were briefed on the contents of the day ahead. The event was an exciting opportunity for Year 10 due to the fact that every poet present would be recognisable to students from their GCSE poetry anthology books. These contain a variety of acclaimed poems from both past and present. The current book is split into two clusters: Love & Relationships, and Power & Conflict. Although, as a school, we focus on Power & Conflict, some of the featured poems were taken from the other category which also presented students with an insight into a more diverse range of literature.

Beginning the day was an Examiners' Session, entailing tips and tricks to develop answers, as well as some activities for the students to participate in (such as comparing model responses and identifying key points from developed answers). Following that was the first of the event's guests: Dame Carol Ann Duffy. Carol is a professor and creative director of the writing school at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her poetry has received many awards including the Signal Prize for The Children's Verse, the Whitbread, and Forward. She was also the Poet Laureate from 2009-2019, her presence presenting a brilliant chance for students to delve deeper into the meaning and inspiration for her poems (Before You Were Mine, War Photographer, Valentine). One noticeable perk of the conference was that students were given time to ask direct questions to the poets in regard to their poetry which many students benefited from as it helped to develop their understanding.

Preceding Carol Ann Duffy was the current Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, in his "best shirt". Simon is a professor in poetry at the University of Leeds and is once again a recipient of numerous respected prizes and awards, including the Queen's gold medal for poetry. During his time on stage he spoke of his writing process as well as his inspirations for the poems The Manhunt, Remains, and Mother, Any Distance from Book of Matches. The inspiration for the latter of these poems has particular significance as he told the audience about his memory of leaving home for the first time, recognising the sense of adventure combined with underlying and unavoidable sorrow and trepidation.

Another poet attending the event was Owen Sheers, born in Fiji and brought up in Abergavenny. He's a poet, novelist, playwright, and a professor of Creativity at Swansea University as well as a cofounder of Black Mountains College in the Brecon Beacons. Owen's Welsh Heritage is an important feature of his writing, he shared with us the poems Winter Swan and Mametz Wood.

During the event, Year 10 also had the pleasure of listening to Imtiaz Dharker who is considered to have written one of the more challenging poems within the anthology: Tissue. Having the actual writer of the poem explain such complex ideas (like how paper carries history) was indispensable for the students because it provided a more authentic insight. Earlier on in the conference was Daljit Nagra who was born and raised in London and comes from a Punjabi background. Before reading his poems, Daljit explained his sentimentality towards using a Punjabi accent in his poems as it was something that he was often bullied for as a child and now wishes to celebrate along with his culture. He read multiple poems to the audience, one of which was Singh Song! His poems were engaging and lively.

To conclude the day was the incredible John Agard, known especially for his marvelous poems Checking Out Me History and Half-Caste. Both students and Mr Elbourne were particularly excited for the captivating way he performs said poems. He spoke of the significance of words and the emotions they incite - both positive and negative - as well as his love for language. His amazing performance left the students in an upbeat mood ready for the long journey back.

If the students felt inspired by the day, they can enter The Simon Powell Poetry Prize (entries must be received by Monday 17th April) in which they can submit an original poem to be judged by a panel of distinguished poets and have the chance to be invited to a workshop with Daljit Nagra and a chance to read your winning poem at a Poetry Live event. This is a great chance to get yourself involved in the world of poetry. Hopefully the students have taken away many new ideas from this event and established a greater respect for poetry to aid them in their GCSEs.

By Tilly and Molly, Year 10



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World Book Day Visit from Karl Nova

On 2 March we were lucky to have a visit from award-winning poet and hip hop artist Karl Nova as part of our World Book Day events.

Karl made a presentation to all our Year 9 & 10 students, delivering insight into his own life and work, in his own unique, witty and energetic style. He also ran two poetry workshops for selected students which were aimed at nurturing and developing students skills and enthusiasm towards reading, writing and poetry.

Karl has published two books of poetry and prose, 'Rhythm & Poetry' and 'The Curious Case of Karl Nova' and the students had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of his books. They are also available to borrow from our library.



Reading By Karl Nova

When you're reading you're feeding your mind
opening books is like opening doors
in your imagination you will find
an opening where there was only a wall
as the world turns keeps turning the pages
each story is like a play acted on stages
reading can make you see possibilities
reading expands your mental capacity
reading gives you more options and frames of reference
whether it's paperback, hardback, on tablets or audiobooks
reading is relevant
the more you read books the more you can read the times
life is like a book read between the lines
I've got a lot of drive so I must read the signs
I wrote a book, so literally you'll read my mind
I'm a walking audio book, a living book of rhymes
reading is like digging, you dig?
you'll find a goldmine.

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Scholastic Book Fair & Book Swap

The Scholastic Book Fair has been running in school this month and we have had an offering of over 200 books for students to purchase from. The selection was wide-ranging, from award-winners and new releases to beloved favourites and bestsellers. Every book that has been purchased has also helped to earn free books for the school so thank you all for taking part.



We have also hosted a successful bookswap as part of an initiative to ensure students have access to books at home. Students have been able to bring in a book from home to swap for another from our selection, which included some brand new books that were donated by local bookseller Red Lion Books through funding from the Essex Year of Reading.



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KS3 Eco Club Update

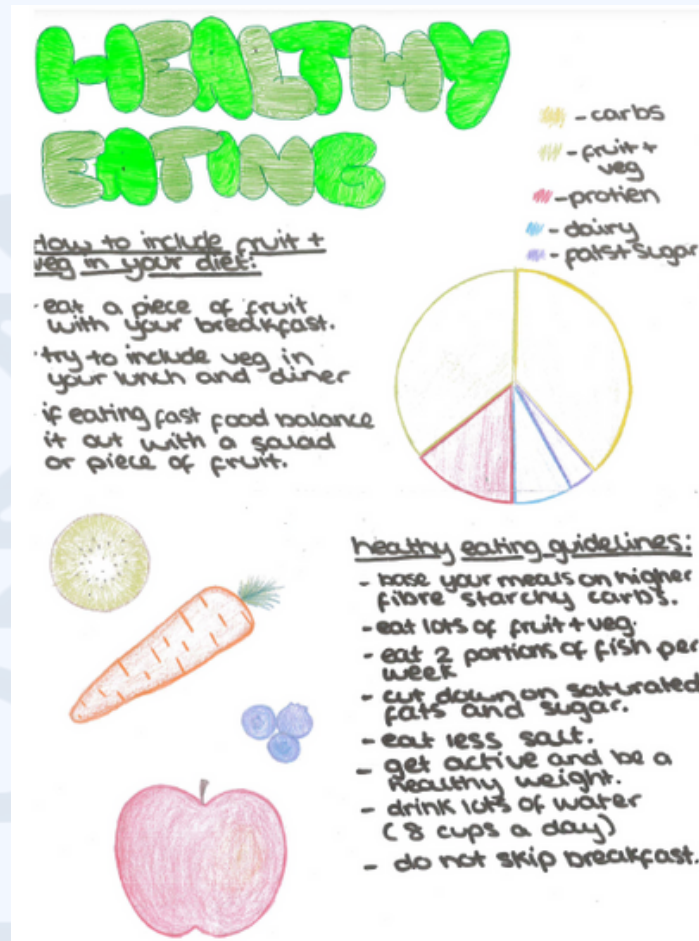
A small group of Year 9 students are completing an application to achieve Eco Schools status. For this application, we are focusing on three elements to increase our environmental status around the school. This is a great opportunity to not only improve our school's environment but to make a difference to our planet.

Through this programme, we are focused on creating a healthy environment for wildlife around the school. We are going to be completing fundraising to ensure that a sensory garden can be created on the school site - watch this space!

We are also going to be focusing on improving recycling and promoting healthy living around the school through various campaigns. Here is an example of the posters that you will be starting to see around the school to promote these issues.

If you would like to get involved, please come and see us in B209 on a Week B KS3 lunchtime - we would love to have you involved.

Mrs Wright (Eco Committee Leader) and the Eco Club.



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Year 10 & 11 Girls Basketball Success





The Year 10 & 11 girls basketball teams both successfully made the Colchester Schools Basketball Final at Essex University.

The Year 10 team played Paxman last week in the semi-final, it was 10-10 and such a tight game the whole way through so we were excited to see what would happen when they met again. The girls played amazingly in this week's final and managed to beat Paxman 27-17 after a really tough game. Congratulations on your win!

Unfortunately the Year 11 girls lost to St Benedicts in their final and took second place. They played a tough game, did really well and were a credit to the school. Well done everyone!

The Year 10 team are: Sophie, Daisy, Daisy, Fleur, Issy, Issy, Catherine, Chloe, Emily, & Bella.

The Year 11 team are: Tilly, Imogen, Lucy, Chloe, Lily, Rose & Jess.

<p>Wednesday After school 3:15-4:15 Where? A Block Changing Rooms Who? Miss Larkin</p>   <p>Girls' Y10/11 Basketball</p>	<p>Thursday After school 3:15-4:15 Where? C005 Who? Mr Corps</p>   <p>Woodwork Club</p>
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Woodwork Club

Do you have an interest in woodwork? Ever wanted to make your own jewellery box, storage caddy, birdbox, photo frame or even a chair! Do you want to learn the skills that could make your idea become a reality? Mr Corps runs a Woodwork Club after school on a Thursday from 3.15pm-4.15pm and would like to talk to you if you are interested in joining.





Have a look at this fabulous sewing box project that one of our students recently completed with the help of our staff in Woodwork Club.

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School Clubs

Monday
KS3 Lunch 12:40-13:10
Where? LRC
Who? Year 7, MRS JARRATT




Mindful colouring

Monday
After school 3:15-4:15
Where? A block changing rooms
Who? Mr Wade, Mr Johnson, Mr Reedman




Year 7/8 Rugby

Tuesday
KS3 Lunch 12:40-13:10
Where? B003
Who? MR H-P



Year 7/8
Drama Club



Tuesday
KS3 Lunch 12:40-13:10
Where? A001
Who? Years 7-9, Mrs Horcox



Wind Band




Friday
After school 3:15-4:15
Where? A001
Who? Mr Hanlon




Orchestra



Monday
After school 3:15-4:15
Where? A block changing rooms
Who? Mrs Saiz



Year 7 Netball




Thursday
KS4 Lunch 13:40-14:10
Where? B207
Who? Miss Hamblen




Debate Club



Tuesday
After school 3:15-4:15
Where? A block changing rooms
Who? Miss Larkin, Mr Johnson, Mr Reedman



Girls' Football



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Information, Events and Activities



IT'S NOT **BANTER** IF...

1	2	3	4	5	6
You would be upset if someone said it to you.	It's hurtful.	You're not friends.	Someone's asked you to stop.	The target isn't laughing.	It focuses on someone's insecurities.

SPEAK UP!

STOP DISCRIMINATION

No matter our |
**AGE, RACE, GENDER, COLOUR, SEXUALITY,
RELIGION, ABILITY**

WE'RE ALL **HUMANS!**

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Information, Events and Activities



FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES ARE BACK

STARTING FROM MONDAY 3RD APRIL UNTIL THUR 6TH APRIL

AND STARTING AGAIN TUES 11TH APRIL UNTIL FRI 14TH APRIL

AVAILABLE FROM 11:30-2PM

FIND AT ENTRANCE OF KINGSLAND CHURCH, 86 LONDON ROAD, COLCHESTER, CO39DW



How can we help you?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.

Who is the programme for?

These clubs are suitable for children aged 4-16 years old who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and from low income working families who benefit from this extra support. Some clubs may offer paid spaces that run alongside Essex ActivAte.

What do the clubs offer?

Essex ActivAte clubs offer mainstream primary and secondary clubs across the county, also supported Mental Wellbeing Hubs and dedicated SEND Hubs. Each club delivers a variety of physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Family support is also available alongside the programme.

How can I book my child onto a club?

To book onto a club, head over to our booking page on our website. From there, select the area you live in or the category you require and follow the steps.

What is considered 'low income'?

We understand that all families circumstances can be different, therefore if you are in employment or on an income which means you are unable to attend a holiday club without our support - you can book on.

Half-Term & Holidays explained...

Easter, Summer & Winter School Holidays

- The programme runs in the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays and is funded by The Department for Education. This is aimed solely at school children who would usually receive benefits based free school meals during term time.
- Limited spaces are available for low income working families and other vulnerable groups who would otherwise not be able to afford holiday clubs. You can book onto our programme self-certifying.
- eVoucher codes are sent by schools to all families eligible for benefits based free school meals. This code allows you to book onto your local clubs and verify you are eligible for our programme.

Spring & Autumn Half Term

- Essex County Council agreed that during the half term, funding could be allocated to run the programme for both those eligible for benefits based free school meals and 'low income' working families.
- Essex County Council fund the programme with additional funding from Basildon Borough Council to further support across Basildon.
- The half term programme is funded to provide spaces to those areas most in need.
- We will not require an eVoucher code to book onto our clubs during half terms.

Scan the QR code to find out more!

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Information, Events and Activities



Student Travel

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution!

Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited Travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No Restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible Payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance – Either set your direct debit a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes

Plan your journey – Please use our 'Plan a journey' tool on our website to work out which bus you require or, download our app on the Apple Store or Google Play

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit the website below and, select the region the school, college or university is in

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone, so you won't have to worry about paying every time you board the bus.

This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

***Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes**



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Information, Events and Activities

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

PEG RATING 7+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter Oders. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server, if your child is a Roblox fan. It's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

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