



Davenant Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024-2025 | Issue 2

“Nurturing Mind, Body and Spirit”

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Return to School after Christmas: Tuesday 7th January (Week 1)

Key Dates

These dates are correct at the time of publication, please refer to the calendar on the website for changes and additions to these dates.

Monday 6th January
Inset Day

Monday 13th to Wednesday 22nd January
Year 13 Mock Exams

Tuesday 21st January
Year 10 RS Mock Exam

Thursday 23rd January
Year 11 Parents Evening

Tuesday 28th January
Year 7 Oliver Theatre Trip

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February
Half Term



Message from the Headteacher

As I write this, I have just finished helping set up for the Christmas meal. I can't believe it's Christmas time again and this year is already passing so quickly! As a community, we like to look back over the past year and reflect what has been good and what could be better. There is always room to improve and try to be better. As a school, we aim to do that and as individual teachers and students too. Our Year 11 students had a very positive series of mock exams. In January, once the teachers have fully moderated the papers, the students will receive feedback and will get support so they can improve further. It is so important that Year 11 embrace the support that will be given and that they work towards their summer exams. There are always a few who don't and they end up being very upset on results day. As is often said, you get what you put in!



I would like to share with you how well the students and teachers did last year in the summer exams. The Government has published the results on their website and Davenport comes up as one of the top mixed Comprehensive schools in Essex. Our results were outstanding, with all cohorts of students achieving and progressing very well. Davenport is significantly above National and Essex averages by a long way. Please take the time to have a look:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/136625/davenport-foundation-school/secondary>

I say this often but it is very true: in a time of extreme teacher shortages, we have a very experienced and dedicated set of teachers who get incredible results with the students at Davenport. 90% of their working week is in the classroom, with your children, helping them to learn and reach their potential. The other 10% is for preparation and marking. We have a communication policy and please remember we are unable to respond to emails and calls on the same day they come in but we will always do the best we can.

Never underestimate what a positive impact the teachers have on young people. Please take some time during the next year to thank one for all they do. We are under-funded and under-resourced but still keep going.

We have been blessed and have had Christmas concerts, Christmas services, pantomimes and a host of other Christmas festivities. It is a magical time of year for many but sadly not for everyone so please keep in your prayers those who struggle during the holiday season. It has been a long term but a vibrant and successful one. To me, an old man in his mid 50s, 2025 sounds like a year out of a science fiction movie, but it is arriving in just a few weeks. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hannukah and a Happy New Year.

Let us make it a memorable year for all the right reasons.

God Bless

Mr Thorne





Message from the Chair of Governors

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to reflect on the past year and extend my very best wishes to our entire school community.

Christmas is a time of joy, reflection, and gratitude. It is a time to celebrate our achievements and to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. Once again, I had the privilege of being part of the selection panel for the head boy and head girl and to experience, first hand, how the range of opportunities we provide our students add value to their lives and to the community as a whole.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our teachers and staff, whose commitment and passion make our school a nurturing and vibrant place for learning. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and you play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our young learners.

As we celebrate this season of giving, let us also remember those in our community who may need a helping hand. Let's embrace our Christian ethos by actively seeking opportunities to help and support others. There will be people in our community that are struggling but find it difficult to ask for help. Together, we can spread kindness and joy.

As we look forward to the New Year, let us carry the spirit of collaboration and positivity into 2025. Together, we can continue to inspire and uplift one another.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas filled with love, laughter, and joyful memories. May the New Year bring peace, happiness, and continued success to each of you.

Glynne Anthony
Chair of Governors



A Huge Thank You For The Shoebox Appeal

A Huge **THANK YOU!!!**

To everyone who contributed to a record total of **380 boxes**. Lots of individuals were wonderful, but as a collective community the effort put in was awesome and very moving. The men and women at Loughton Methodist Church were so pleased & impressed by our Sixth Form helpers.



**380 Boxes
collected in total**



Thank You from the charity Young Lives vs Cancer



As Winter sets in and the festive season approaches I wanted to send best wishes and thanks to 'you and yours'. Thank you for your continued support over the school year and your most recent donation of £93.22 (from the Charity Walk in the summer), bringing your donations to an amazing £1858.72 this year. It is a huge amount and could provide over 30 nights accommodation at Paul's House to enable families to stay together during their child's cancer treatment. I wanted to give you an update on the year :

Children and young people with cancer, and their families, are facing a winter without the magic that many of us hope for. Instead of making precious memories with their families, treatment means that they're facing weeks spent many miles from home.

But your support changes everything. During the last 12 months:

We supported 6,849 children, young people and their families to cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

- We provided 23,892 nights of accommodation to 633 families at our Homes from Home – free places to stay close to principal treatment centres that help families avoid the extra financial burdens of travel, accommodation and food costs.
- We also distributed 5,057 grants worth over £840,879.

Our welfare advice line received over 2,000 enquiries and provided an estimated £1,082,813 in financial gain to families seeking help and support.

Every day in the UK, 12 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer. From the moment of diagnosis, families face the overwhelming challenge of navigating complex systems to secure basic support. For these children, cancer's impact extends beyond medical treatment, especially during special times like Christmas.

Young Lives vs Cancer is unique in providing specialist care for children and young people facing cancer.

Whilst writing I also wanted to share this link as the UK Government are creating a 10-year plan for health services in England, and they want to hear your views. Please do pop on the link for more info:

<https://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/blog/nhs-england-10-year-plan-have-your-say/>

Thank you all for your ongoing support and festive wishes to you all.

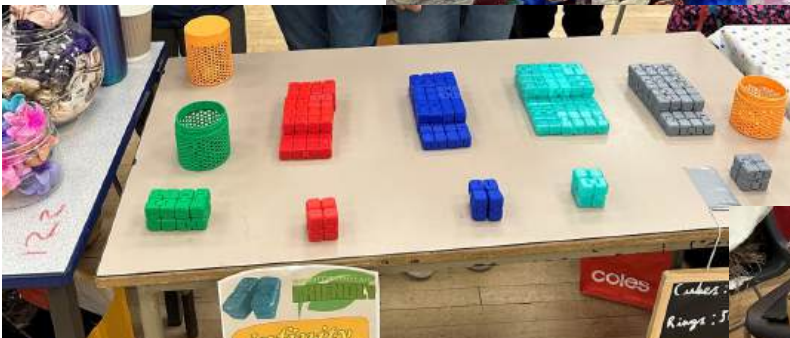


Enterprise Club At The Christmas Fair

This year we have 32 students taking part in the young enterprise company programme whereby they have had to come up with their own business idea in groups and sell to the public. This has required them to come together as a team and work out how to collaborate to ensure business success. It also required them to think creatively in creating a logo, slogan and products for a target market.

The students have all worked incredibly well and from the group we have four main businesses:

- Fluff & Stuff: Selling handmade crocheted plushies
- Coco Crochet: Selling Crocheted hair scrunchies and accessories
- Infinity Cube: Selling homemade 3D printed fidget cubes
- Crafts & Co: Selling hand made bits and bobs.





Davenant Sport and Health

The Autumn term has been even busier this year with more than 90 fixtures/events/in-house sports being played with an array of results across district, regional and national competitions. There have been opportunities for all to get involved in the extra curriculum clubs offered as well as a variety of competitive sports including football, rugby, netball, cross country, indoor athletics, swimming and basketball. A massive thank you to everyone who has taken part in all of the extra curriculum activity and wishing you continued success for the Spring term.

Football

ESFA & ESSEX CUPS

Year 7 Boys and U13 Girls progressed the furthest in the English Schooling (ESFA) competition reaching Round 3 with the boys losing very narrowly to Eastbury (1-0 after extra time) at the end of November; the girls score of 5-0 loss against FitzWimarc didn't really reflect the closeness of the game; the team manager was proud of their fighting spirit right to the end whistle. More positive news is that we still have three teams still in the Essex Cup competitions including our U13 and U16 girls who have played some tough opposition to reach the third round, and the Year 11 Boys who are fast approaching the quarter finals. We are hoping the new year continues their winning ways to the latter stages for all three teams.



DISTRICT FOOTBALL

We are on schedule for the district games despite the wet weather we have experienced during the latter half of the Autumn term, having played West Hatch, Ongar Academy and Epping St John with more wins than losses. We are hoping that this trend continues and we have representation from all the age groups, Year 7 through to Year 11, making the district finals scheduled for late April/ early May.

U19 SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ESSEX LEAGUE

The U19 college team have managed to play all their fixtures so far with a mixture of results leaving them in sixth place in their Division, they, unfortunately, didn't progress in the League Cup this year so we are hoping they find more consistency for their remaining games to give them a chance of being in the play offs at the end of the season.

INTERHOUSE FOOTBALL

We launch the academic year with the Interhouse football competition running every evening during the first week of the term. As expected, the Year 7 students had no problem in recruiting sufficient pupils with in excess of 45 trying to take the first honour of the year for their House.



Davenant Sport and Health

Football Continued...

It was a very close competition between Gillingham and Whitechapel with the eventual winners going to Gillingham who beat Whitechapel 2-1 in the final match. Well done to Gillingham a great display of technical ball skills, also need to mention Whitechapel who came in second place who fought valiantly to the end, and Salisbury who finished in 3rd place drawing one and losing one.

Year 8 & Year 9 replicated the Year 7 result with Gillingham taking the top spot with two wins, Whitechapel second place with one win and a loss and Salisbury 3rd place.



Year 9 Interhouse Winners
Gillingham

Rugby

This year there has been a significant increase in the number of Rugby games for the various age groups as we have played in the Essex County Festivals throughout the Autumn term. In addition, the teams have played the qualifying and, in some cases, final stages of the West Essex and Harlow District championships.

Competing in the County competitions has given the boys the opportunity to play at a higher level which has definitely shown an improved in all the teams. Year 11 were the first to start the County competitions and came away winning one game, drawing one game and losing one game – they did much better than expected especially as it was so early in their training program.



Year 11 Rugby Team – Essex County Competition

The most successful teams were Year 9 and Year 10 who both won their Essex County groups with ease, not dropping a game and will now move onto the finals of the competition. The same two teams won their qualifying groups in the district enabling them to play the finals against their Harlow school counterparts. Needless to say, both won with relative ease and are such a credit to the school, Year 9 and Year 10 are 2024/2025 District Champions.



Davenant Sport and Health

Rugby Continued...

A mention also for the Year 8 team who tied for first place in the district qualifiers but missed out going to the final as they lost out on the tries scored count-back which was a brilliant result especially as they were short of players. Unlucky Year 8 but well played, fighting to the end.



Year 9 District Rugby Champions 2024



Year 8 District Rugby Squad 2024

Interhouse Rugby

The results from the interhouse rugby competition saw all three houses being top at the various age groups: Salisbury were outright winners in Year 7, Whitechapel took pole position in Year 8, Whitechapel repeated their success in Year 9 as well, and Year 10/11 combined was Gillingham. The Year 7 and Year 10/11 combined had the highest participation numbers both having more than 45 pupils taking part. Year 8 and Year 9 struggled to get full teams for each of the houses but those that did turn up worked hard in all the games showing some good rugby along the way.

Cross Country

The first cross country competition took place at Lee valley Golf Course on the 18th September and was a brilliant warm up for the English schools in October. It was also a good opportunity for the Year 7 competitors to get a flavour of what a large-scale cross-country event was like. The star of the show was definitely H.Stockill who won the Senior boys event although some younger participants showed their potential, namely D. Osinibi and I.Machine who both finished in 7th place in the Junior (Year 7) boys race.



Davenant Sport and Health

Cross Country Continued

The English Schools (ESAA) qualifying round took place on the 11th October with some excellent results. The intermediate Boys finished in a respectable 6th place which was mirrored by the Girl's intermediate team. The Junior girls fared slightly better finishing in 4th place. The outstanding results were that both the Junior Boys and the Senior Boys qualified for the next round, Regional Finals. This event occurred early November hosted by Felsted School, and, although the boys teams did really well both finishing in 4th place, they narrowly missed out on getting a place in the National finals as only the top three teams qualified.

The English Schools Cross Country wasn't the only event we experienced success in during this term, sixty plus pupils took part in the District Cross Country finals held at Ashton Playing Fields on the 6th December. The West Essex & Harlow District Cross Country results showed that Davenant retained the overall title for a fifth consecutive year and remain District champions for 2024/2025. A special mention needs to go to all the Year 11 participants who sat their Maths Mock exam first thing in the morning and then were transported by Mrs Winch at 10:50am, literally arriving just in time for their race, and then went on to win their age group. This highlights the commitment, hard work and ability of the pupils at Davenant and the support of staff other than PE. Miss Ball congratulates everyone for a job well done and says that the PE team will look at ways that we can continue to improve so that Davenant can defend the title next year and beyond!

Some highlights from the event: We won 4 out of the 6 events; the 2 we didn't win, we were runners-up missing out on the first place by a single point in Year 7 girls. Davenant have 14 students who have been selected to represent West Essex schools at Essex championships on Saturday 18th January namely: D Arnold, F. Owers, E. Mosanya, E. Frith, R. Muffett, L. Norden, H. Stockill, A. Wood, J. Sephenson, I. Lester, H. Loe, W. Godsave, D. Anderson, A. Buckley. It should be noted that the Year 7 Essex County Cross Country takes place in February at Writtle University and we will have a strong team for this event as well. A reminder that Year 7 cross country training will resume w/c 13th January 2025.



**Year 11 Girls
District Gold
Medalist**



**Year 7 Boys
District Winner**



**Year 7 Girls
District Silver
Medalist**



Davenant Sport and Health

Cross Country Continued

Interhouse Cross Country

A hotly contested event with winners for Year 7 coming from Whitechapel in both the boy's and girl's races. Year 8 saw Salisbury taking the honours for the boys and Gillingham for the girls. These two Houses took the top spot for Year 9 although it was Gillingham for the boys and Salisbury for the girls and again it was Gillingham for the boys Year 10/11 and Salisbury for Year 10/11 girls.



**Year 9 Boys Cross Country
Interhouse**



Year 9 Girls Cross Country Interhouse

Indoor Athletics

The Year 10/11 combined teams took part in the Indoor Schools Championships in October and finished in a respectable 9th place for the Boys and 10th place for the girls. The Year 8/9 combined teams were markedly more successful in their event first qualifying for the semi-finals and then making it to the B final where the Boys and Girls A teams finished in 2nd and 3rd places consecutively. It is worth mentioning that the boys missed out on the A final by 1 point!!! Further, there were many outstanding performances in the finals with a number of the Davenant teams just missing out on setting new records especially in the Boys sprints. The Year 7 Indoor Championships start in February so the PE team are beginning to get them ready by offering some of the disciplines as part of the Spring extra curriculum clubs.



Davenant Sport and Health

Netball



Year 8 District Netball Team

There has been a marked improvement across all four of the netball teams this year. They have done remarkably well to get a significant number of the scheduled games played before the Christmas break and will start the New Year in first place in Year 7 and 8 leagues and 3rd place in Year 9 and U16 leagues. We know through their hard work they will continue to improve and are hoping they all make the final play offs.

Basketball

Three teams, Year 7, 8, and U16, have all played in the district qualifiers over the past two months. The Year 7 students found the level of competition particularly difficult only winning one of their four games however they will get another opportunity in the New Year to try and make the final stages of the championship. Despite the difficulties they did have two players of the tournament (those wearing the medals) namely K. Barrow and G. Pover. The Year 8 teams did remarkably well with the first team winning 5 out of 6 games and the second team winning 4, drawing 1 and only losing 1. They have definitely made it to the final competition and their two players of the tournament (those wearing the medals) were H. Wimpress and N. Kirwan-Louis. The U16 team managed to play their qualifier without losing a game so will definitely make the final stages scheduled to be played in February 2025.



Year 7 Mixed Basketball Squad



Year 8 Boys Basketball Team



Davenport Sport and Health

Swim Gala

The first district swim gala of the year was hosted by West Hatch and offered competition for Year 9 through to Year 11. The Davenport team was initially depleted because of the Year 11 mocks, however luckily for us we managed to get a number of Year 9s to step in at the last minute (literally the morning of the gala) to ensure we had a full team. Great work from all those representing the school with both our boy's and girl's teams taking a very respectable 2nd place overall, which was achieved by first place finishes from our two medley relay teams; Girls B team front crawl and Girls A team back stroke; Boys B team front Crawl and Boys A team Front Crawl and back stroke. Congratulations to the boys teams L. Adams, A. Apostol, H. Loe, L. Stokes, J. Prinsloo and girls teams J. Carter, Y. Milad, A. Stone, P. Gray and T. Youngson, Davenport are proud of your effort and success.



Message from Mrs Baldwin



Message from Mrs Baldwin - Hair Donation

Hair loss has been an important issue for me since I was at school myself. When I was in year 8 I watched my best friend lose her hair and it always made me wonder how it would make me feel if it ever happened to me. Since then many women in my family have been bald for both health reasons and out of curiosity. In 2018 I got curious myself and shaved my head for charity - **Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children who lose their hair.**

So what's next?

I've been growing it back ever since to do the same again. At the end of November, I cut my hair off to send to the charity to make a wig. I did not go bald again but for your amusement, here's when I shaved it off nearly 7 years ago!





Creative Hub Club



CREATIVE HUB CLUB

Each week they are given a project theme, materials and resources and allowed to let their creative ideas flow. Last week they were making Christmas cards. Starting back in the New Year—after school on Mondays in room 36.



Creative Hub Club



Competition winners from the Creative Hub club set to work painting the murals for the Girls toilets in the Maths corridor and the Boys toilets in the Art corridor. Designs chosen were focused around the theme of nature, land & sea.



Miss Webb and her 2 teams of artists have done a fantastic job recreating the mural designs on the walls.





Performing Arts: Christmas Concerts

Article written by T. Dean (Year 13)

The first performance to kick off Davenant's Christmas Concert was, as tradition would have it, the orchestra. The first piece performed by the orchestra was Magnificent Seven. Magnificent Seven is a piece composed for the 1960 film of the same name. Davenant's many skilled musicians managed to capture the essence of the symphony amazingly well, with many thanks to Mrs Tubb for rehearsing and conducting them. Following the Magnificent Seven, they performed Christmas at the Symphony, curated by many well-known classical composers such as Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Our musicians put many hours into finessing the performance and we could not be more pleased with how it turned out. Following the incredible performance from the orchestra, the junior choir were next to take the stage. Led by Mrs Flanagan, the choir performed Rewrite The Stars from the 2017 musical The Greatest Showman. Our junior choir is full of many incredible vocalists who have put a lot of time and effort into their performances over the years but this year was something special. With much of the audience singing along, it is safe to say they swept us away with this rendition.

Next up came my band, Bustacean. We performed a rendition of David Bowie's Moonage Daydream. Led by Mr Burns, we managed to capture the essence of Ziggy Stardust through our incredibly talented rockstars. Bustacean is a new addition to the Davenant Concert line-up, with the Christmas concert being our first time performing on stage together as a group. We decided to do David Bowie as it captured the sci-fi element we all love so much. We definitely rocked the audience with our recital, earning a chorus of claps and cheers when it was over.

The tremendously skilled C. Chilvers, giving the audience a show with a performance of Cloche Des Matines by Friedrich Burgmuller. The piece was emotional and thought-provoking which was heavily impacted by the passion and effort she put into it. The praise following her recital was well-deserved, all thanks to the time she had spent perfecting the piece and giving us an excellent experience in the audience.

Continuing the night's spectacular line-up was the Kittun Asylem. The Kittuns have not failed to win over the hearts of the audience before and they certainly did it again this year.





Performing Arts: Christmas Concerts Continued

Directed by Mrs Santer, they performed a mashup of Town Called Malice and Going Underground, two hit songs by The Jam. The Senior Girls' Choir were up next with their take on a mashup of two Beatles songs, Golden Slumbers and Carry That Weight. Directed by Mrs Flanagan, the girls put on an amazing show, capturing the beauty of the two songs well. It's no surprise to learn of the time spent perfecting the performance and we are so proud of what the girls have achieved.

Another long-standing band in the Davenant repertoire is Sock Hospital, directed by Mr Ball. Singing Radiohead's Karma Police, O. Prosser and S. Marx stole the hearts of many audience members with the rendition. As many of us in the school can confirm, we always look forward to seeing what Sock Hospital can bring to the concerts and we are proud to say they never disappoint. Rocking the night was their goal and they certainly achieved that, backed up by the roaring applause at the end.

Wrapping up the first half was Davenant's pride and joy, the School Choir. The school choir is a collection of the whole school's most talented vocalists. Directed by Mrs Tubb, the first song was the Dirty Dancing hit (I've Had) The Time Of My Life. The audience clapped along as if we were all really part of Dirty Dancing, a sense of enjoyment emanating through the room, with thanks to G. Koskinas for his solo during the first song. Followed by the Christmas classic, O Holy Night, the School Choir did not fail to live up to the name they have made for themselves over the years.

Kicking off the second half of the first night was the Senior Concert Band, directed by Mr Williams. Performing a collection of songs aptly titled Coldplay on Stage, the senior concert band had the audience's attention from the start, with instrumental versions of some of Coldplay's greatest hits. It has to be noted that the senior concert band worked incredibly hard to make sure these pieces were without fault and it must be said they did so very well. Another new band in Davenant's collection is Band 89. Directed by Mr Ball, the band managed to take on the task of singing Keane's Somewhere Only We Know. To say they nailed it would be an understatement, with many of the audience members singing along with them. For a new band, the reception was stunning and extremely well-deserved as they really had everyone in the palm of their hands for that small moment. A huge well done to our performers for that wonderful performance.

Next was Guitar Ensemble with a mix of Smoke On the Water and White Christmas. Directed by Mr McGonagle, the students did very well performing the songs with such practiced expertise. The crowd watched on intently as many of our talented musicians stole the show. Guitar Ensemble is made up of only a select few musicians so the best of our guitarists have the chance to showcase their skills in the concerts. Following on from this was another fan favourite, The New Normal with a brilliant performance of the Cranberries' Linger. The band did very well when it came to capturing the song's beauty. Directed by Mr Ball, the band is all very good friends and all got together to start a band. This band also features the Stage Manager for all of our performances, D. Linnane who has done such a brilliant job both in his band and outside too!



Performing Arts: Christmas Concerts Continued



Directed by Mrs Tubb, the String Ensemble came next with renditions of Katy Perry's Roar and Silver Bells. Similarly to the orchestra, the musicians in the string ensemble are the best of the best. Davenport prides itself in having the highest quality musicians in all of its performances during the concerts. The string ensemble did very well earning a deserved round of applause at the end.

Next up were the Swing Band, with their take on Fly Me To The Moon. Directed by Mr Williams, it's of no surprise that these musicians did so well. We are incredibly proud to have such talented students at Davenport and we thank each one of them for the time and effort they put into their performances and rehearsals that make up the concerts.

A final new addition to the Davenport band collection is the instrumental group the Fabric Four. Directed by Mr Burns, the group performed two songs by acid jazz band Corduroy. The first was Skirt Alert followed by Ponytail. It was the first time that one of our bands had performed only instrumental pieces outside the concert bands. The band put on a brilliant performance and were sure to blow us all away.

And to top off night one, the Year 7 students sang a collection of Christmas Hits, including those from Mariah Carey and Shakin' Stevens. The Year 7 Christmas Medley is a long-standing Davenport tradition showcasing the hard work teachers and students have put into making it happen. We are overwhelmingly proud of how well the Year 7 students have done this year and we would also love to give a big thanks to the parents and teachers for encouraging the students to do their very best.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge all of the staff and crew that made this concert possible. I'd like to wish a huge thank you to the following:

Mrs Tubb, Mrs Flanagan, Mr Williams, Mr Burns, Mr McGonagle, Mr Ball, Mrs Santer, D. Linnane, all of the stage crew and the Parents Association.

Written by: T Dean

Year 12 student



Performing Arts: Music and Drama Tuition

Music Tuition

Sign up NOW for SPRING TERM January-April 2025

ON PARENT PAY NOW

Closing Date for signing up 5th January 2025—see details

Music and Drama Tuition

Music Tuition starts again the week commencing the **13th January 2025**

If your son/daughter is taking Music or Drama GCSE/A' Level then tuition will greatly aid their performance grade. Beginner piano skills are considered a distinct advantage to those taking music as the composition element of the course is programmed using the keyboard.

SIGN UP FOR TUITION SPRING MUSIC & LAMDA (Drama) TUITION

If you **did not** complete a Google Form in SEPTEMBER please complete a Google Form, if you did complete a form we are assuming you are carrying on with lessons the SAME as AUTUMN term unless you have informed us otherwise. Please fill out the form on this link -

<https://forms.gle/ZbDic48v5cLPCSnw8>

Please send an email to confirm you are not continuing with lessons.

If you are continuing with lessons payment must be received on Parent Pay by 5th January 2025.

Please detail in the notes section the lesson/s you are signing up for. Applications after this date **will not be** successful. It is an 11 week term and so there is not enough time to chase up payments and set out the timetables before the lessons are due to start. There is only enough weeks for the timetables to exactly 10 weeks so limited time for catch up lessons.

This Google form MUST be completed if you are signing up for the first time lessons or if you are on PUPIL PREMIUM: (<https://forms.gle/ZbDic48v5cLPCSnw8>)

- Remember to pay for lessons on PARENTPAY – the standard term fee for 10 weeks of 30 minutes is £215. Parent Pay option open now.
- If you require instrument hire: add £30 to lesson fee
- Please specify the instrument/singing/Drama to NOTES section

We have a new Brass teacher starting in January and we now have vocal/ singing spaces due to an additional Vocal coach being on board.

Lessons start week beginning 13th January 2025 for next term.

Please ensure you have read the full terms and conditions on Davenant website under Performing Arts before signing up and the separate communications that are sent by email.



Performing Arts: Music and Drama Tuition

Music and Drama Tuition Continued

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE:

Lessons are timetabled during the school day. Lessons are usually on the same day of the week but times are rotated so that students do not miss too much of the same subject. The lesson time and day will be posted on their Google Classroom and is printed on a timetable outside the Music Office every FRIDAY for the following week. It is vital that students check these. Changes to the timetable MUST be requested by 11am the following MONDAY morning.

Lesson times are occasionally subject to change due to events outside our control (sporting events/ assessments/room changes/teacher absence or schedules/other school events) so we advise students always to double check on the morning of the lesson. We will do all we can to make sure changes are communicated in good time and if a change is particularly short notice we may go and collect your child from their class to ensure they make their lesson.

If you need to change the lesson time booked (for example due to Dentist/Doctor appointments/ Exams/assessments/family issues) you must give 48 hours' notice otherwise the lesson is still charged and not rescheduled. If you need to change a lesson and give sufficient notice we will endeavour to reschedule for the same day or add as a catch up lesson later in the term.

More information is available on the school website PERFORMING ARTS/Tuition and there are two documents on Talaxy covering the details.

If your child has school tuition it is mandatory that they join a school ensemble. Obviously those who learn outside school are more than welcome too!

If you still have questions please email: charlotte.santer@davenport.org who is the Performing Arts Administrator.

With best wishes,

Davenport Performing Arts Department





Performing Arts: The Last Post

Six of our senior trumpeters were positioned around the school site to sound The Last Post and The Reveille to mark the two minute's silence on Remembrance Day. They did a splendid job and we even received fantastic feedback from the neighbours of the school who were "stopped in their tracks" upon being able to hear the students playing from their homes and gardens. They quoted it as being a "moving, poignant and fitting tribute to mark such an occasion". L. Gray and E. Warwick pictured.

Mrs Tubb

Director of Music



Performing Arts: Music Exams

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements:

ABRSM Exam

E. Lea - Violin - Grade 5 Merit

E. Frith - Piano - Grade 2 Pass

A. Stone - Violin - Grade 1 Merit

N. Badach - Piano - Grade 3 Merit

D. Balogun - Violin - Grade 1 Merit



Performing Arts: Upcoming Events

Music events SPRING term:



RECITAL FOR All Years

18th MARCH 2025

5-7pm School Hall

Beauty & the Beast Jr Musical

4th, 5th, & 6th MARCH 2025

All Years

SUMMER CONCERTS

ALL YEAR 7's PERFORM

Tuesday 8th July

Wednesday 9th July

7pm — School Hall



TUESDAY 5TH MARCH

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH



Careers

Learning From Industry Professionals

Raytheon UK, a leading technology company based in Harlow, shared their knowledge and expertise of working in the IT industry with keen Year 12 students looking to pursue a future career in the field.



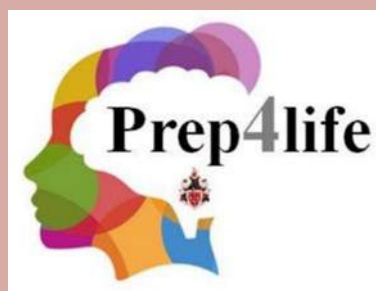
The session covered a range of topics including the skills and qualifications employers look for in potential employees, this includes what makes a good CV and the importance of completing work experience to demonstrate you have what it takes to succeed in the work-



World of Work Conference 2024

place.

On 4th December, a group of Year 10 students attended the annual World of Work conference in Waltham Abbey delivered by the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) Partnership.



The aim of the conference is to introduce students to the working world and the variety of jobs available to them after completing different qualification pathways such as apprenticeships, T Levels and A Levels. Throughout the day students took part in activities to help them develop their confidence and to build employability skills in leadership, teamwork, problem solving and creative thinking. Students also had the opportunity to network with a range of local employers including Essex Police, government officers and recruitment consultants. The students embraced the day and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Reality Check: Medicine

Thank you to Freya McCaughley, a first-year medical student, who returned to Davenport this week to speak to students about her experience of studying medicine.

Freya left Davenport Sixth Form this year to study medicine at the University of Leeds. Her talk enlightened students about the admissions process, medical interviews and university life.



Careers Continued

Dates for your Diary

20th March 2025 – Year 10 Child to Work Day

This day gives all Year 10 students the chance to attend work with a parent/ carer or family member/ friend. Please start planning now where your child is going to do their workplace experience.



SAVE THE DATE
CAREERS 2025 FEST
THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2025
3.00pm — 6.30pm
NEW CITY COLLEGE: EPPING
Borders Lane Loughton IG10 3SA

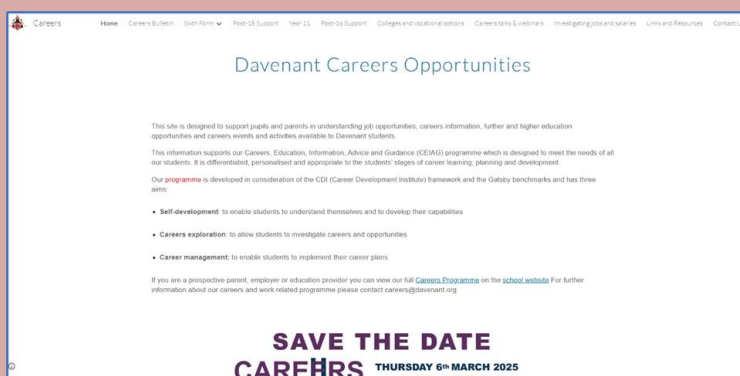
Logos for: Careers Consortium, DAVENANT FOUNDATION SCHOOL, DEBDEN PARK HIGH SCHOOL, EPPING ST JOHN'S, KING HAROLD, and New City College.

7th-22nd July 2025 – Year 12 Work Experience

As part of our Careers Enrichment Programme, all Year 12 students are asked to find work experience at the end of the summer term. We encourage students to start looking early to find a placement linked to their future career aspirations or in an industry they find interesting. If your organisation is able to support our work experience programme, please contact careers@davenant.org

6th March 2025 – CareersFest

Our annual careers fair to meet employers, universities, colleges and sixth forms will be taking place on Thursday 6th March at New City College, Epping campus, 3.00pm-6.30pm.



Davenant Careers Opportunities

This site is designed to support pupils and parents in understanding job opportunities, careers information, further and higher education opportunities and careers events and activities available to Davenant students.

This information supports our Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme which is designed to meet the needs of all our students. It is differentiated, personalised and appropriate to the students' stages of career learning, planning and development.

Our programme is developed in consideration of the Gatsby (Career Development Institute) framework and the Gatsby benchmarks and has three aims:

- **Self-development:** to enable students to understand themselves and to develop their capabilities
- **Careers exploration:** to allow students to investigate careers and opportunities
- **Career management:** to enable students to implement their career plans

If you are a prospective parent, employer or education provider you can view our full [Careers Programme](#) on the [school website](#). For further information about our careers and work related programme please contact careers@davenant.org

SAVE THE DATE
CAREERS 2025 FEST
THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2025
3.00pm — 6.30pm

Davenant Careers Site

Please keep a regular eye on the Davenant Careers Site (<https://careers.davenant.org/>) for information and support about post-16 and post-18 options and opportunities for college and university open days, career fairs, summer schools and work experience.

Supporting Careers

If you would like to get involved in supporting our careers programme, we are always looking for individuals to help with careers talks, mock interview sessions, assemblies and work experience. Please get in touch at careers@davenant.org.



Jewish Society

CAA Visit - 5th December

On 5th December the Sixth Form students in the JSOC were visited by Sarah Fox who is the Education Officer for Campaign Against Antisemitism. She led a session which included discussing the rise in antisemitic incidences in the UK and the identification of antisemitism. She also informed the students of the work that CAA does and the impact that their work has had since it was established.



Chanukah Celebration with Rabbi Yanky - 12th December

On 12th December Rabbi Yanky Abrams from Loughton Synagogue visited our JSOC. He spoke about Chanukah and the lessons we can learn from the Chanukah story. He led the students in playing games including spinning dreidels and playing Chanukah Scategories. The 'build a chanukiah' competition was won by H. Fresco in Year 13. The students enjoyed Sufganiyot

(Kosher doughnuts) which were sponsored by UJS.





Safeguarding - Latest Advice for Parents and Carers

Safeguarding Team - Who We Are!

Davenant Foundation School's Safeguarding Team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent/carer or staff to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) : Miss A Cooper

Deputy DSL: Mrs K Davies

Deputy DSL & Head of Sixth Form: Mrs K Fisher

Deputy DSL & Head of Student Services: Mrs J Escott

The Safeguarding Team work closely with Heads of Years and Form Tutors to ensure the emotional wellbeing of our students is maintained. They manage and facilitate the mentors and counsellors who come into the school and who work so closely with our students.

If you have a concern or would like to speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team please email safeguarding@davenant.org

Online Safety

Online safety is as important as ever in the lead up to the festive season with technology and gadgets high on the wish list for many young people this Christmas. The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) are reminding parents and carers that if their child does receive a new device or games consoles for Christmas, it's important to set them up correctly to keep children safe when online - the parental controls installed on previous devices may need checking and setting up again.

Any child is at risk of being exploited - both boys and girls can be groomed online, with contact often starting on social media. It is important to remember that exploitation is not the child's fault, and they are never to blame.

Caregivers can create a supportive environment, where online safety is discussed regularly in the same way as road safety or stranger danger, enabling children to speak up about any concerns they may have. By taking an interest in what games they are playing and trying to understand their online world, parents and carers can initiate important conversations.

The [ESCB online safety webpages](#) have resources for parents, carers and professionals including podcasts, videos, how to report concerns, and information about spotting the signs of exploitation.

Concerns about child exploitation can be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800 555111. There is also a dedicated Essex Police Child Exploitation hotline - for parents, carers and members of the public to seek advice around concerns they may have about their own or other children with regards to criminal and sexual exploitation: 01245 452058.



Safeguarding Continued

Online Safety Continued

Essex Police have launched their Sort Your Settings campaign. It provides parents and carers with essential safeguarding tips and advice on making online devices safer for children. The refreshed webpage now includes up-to-date information about new and popular online games and social media platforms. There is a step-by-step guide and advice on all aspects of online safety, including how to access parental controls, social media age restrictions, game age ratings, chat settings and more.

Link to web page : Sort your settings / Essex Police <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/sort-your-settings/>

Link to main video : Sort your settings video <https://youtu.be/NtsBnNqVFRY>



WORRIED ABOUT THEM?

Our trained advisers can offer tailored support if you're worried about a change in your child's behaviour or emotions.

Contact YoungMinds Parents Helpline on
0808 802 5544.

✚ This free and confidential service is open to all parents and carers.

YOUNGMINDS
Fighting for young people's mental health

@YoungMindsUK

[youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Scan QR code
to find out how.



YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016908) and Scotland (SC039700)



Safeguarding Continued



 **mind** in West Essex
Mental Health Support Teams in Schools



Keeping Myself Safe

Non-Emergency Support

- **SHOUT**
Text SHOUT to 85258 (free, anonymous text crisis messenger, 24/7)

- **Kooth.com**
www.kooth.com for free, safe, anonymous online mental health support and counselling (age 10-25, 7 days a week until 10pm)



Essential support for under 25s



Free Apps



CALMHARM

Guided exercises using CBT principles to help manage physical, thought-based and emotional or behaviour changing elements of anxiety.



CLEAR FEAR

shout
85258



The Mix

Telephone support 3pm-12pm everyday
0800 808 4994

Text crisis messenger 24/7 to 85258

Webchat support www.themix.org.uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team

Childline

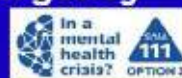
1:1 telephone counselling 9am-midnight
everyday 0800 11 11

Switchboard

Confidential service available 10am – 10pm,
every day 365
days a year. Service provides a safe space
listening service via
telephone, email or online chat.

In an emergency

Call 999 or attend A&E



Samaritans

- Telephone support 24/7 on 116 123
- Email support jo@samaritans (24hr response time)

SET CAHMS – Monday to Friday telephone: 0800 953 0222

Out of hours and weekend Crisis Support Service: 0800 995 1000

Young Minds -Text crisis messenger 24/7: text YM to 85258 (free from most mobile networks).

Parents helpline Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm 0808 802 5544 (free of charge)

Essex County Council Children & Families Hub - Telephone 0345 603 7627

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Telephone 0345 606 1212 (out of hours)

Vita Health (16+) -Telephone 0300 0152 966. This is NOT an emergency service. Self-referrals are accepted.

Family Lives - Helpline 0808 800 2222 Email askus@familylives.org.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP – or Chloë, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

X @wake_up_weds

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@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.12.2024



Parents' Association



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your phenomenal support this term. We cannot wait to continue in the same vein next term!

We will be receiving department bids next term and will report back how funds have been able to help.

The **Fireworks Spectacular** did not disappoint, and we managed with your generosity to raise **£6,000!**



Our Year 9 Helpers



Parents' Association



Lots of fun was had at the Christmas Fair!



Our year 8
winner of
'Peppermint
the elf!

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming you to next term's events!

Wishing you all a
wonderful
Christmas and with
all good health and
wishes for 2025!

Your PA



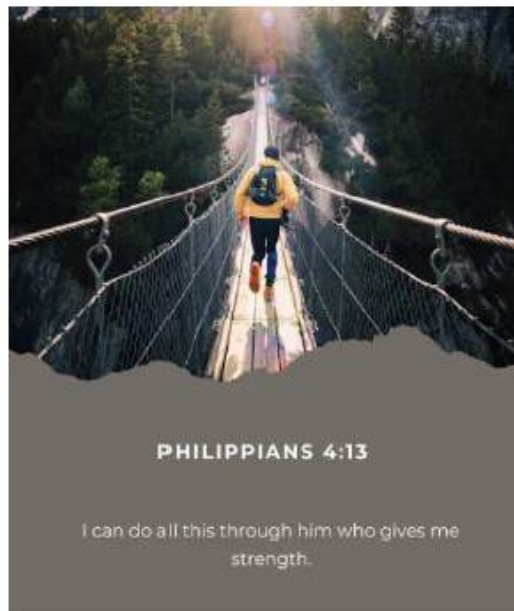


Prayer Letter



Davenport Foundation School

Prayer Letter: November to December 2024



We continue to think about this year through the lens of Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength'. We know that change and growth happen for us as individuals and as a school only through the work of the Spirit of Christ in our lives, and we pray that teachers, support staff, parents, and students at Davenport know God's strength as we move into Advent, towards Christmas and a new year.

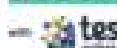
We are grateful that new students have settled well into the school's routines, and that new staff have quickly become part of our shared life as school family. This time of year is wonderful for the community of the school, as the coming of Jesus binds us together in hope and anticipation. The end of term will see Christmas services for all students, led by our thriving Christian Unions and local church partners from St Michael's, Loughton; St John's, Buckhurst Hill; Potter's House; and All Saints, Woodford Wells. Students will have the opportunity to share in Holy Communion, led by the Rev Chris Davies.

With so much to come this term, and so much to pray into for our students in the coming months, we would love you to join us for our second prayer meeting of the year.

This is taking place this Thursday, 5th December, in the Arter Library at 6.30pm; following the Year 13 Parents' Evening. It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible. It has never been more crucial to support the work of the school with prayer.



ESSEX SCHOOLS ITT



Got a degree and not sure how to use it?

Looking for a new career challenge?

Ever thought about teacher training?

Come and visit us at Davenant and find out more.



Davenant is the home and the lead school of Essex Schools ITT, the largest and most successful teacher training provider in West Essex. We work in partnership with TES Institute and train around 60 teachers every year, both primary and secondary, in over 30 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools in Epping Forest, Chelmsford, Harlow and Havering. We're now recruiting for our next cohort of trainee teachers for a September 2025 start – could you be one of them?

If you're considering a **new career challenge**, and you have a degree you're not fully utilizing – then teaching could be for you. You may even **know someone who has recently graduated or is in their final year at Uni and is exploring future career options**.



Come in for a chat to find out more:

We host 'Coffee & Chat' sessions in our office at Davenant School throughout the week, and would love to meet you!

Or log onto our website.....

...and find out more about us! www.essexschoolsitt.com



Contact us to arrange a chat or to start a conversation about teacher training.

Call: 020 8498 6718

Email: teach@essexschoolsitt.com



Community News



Forest Casual & Schoolwear

Christmas & New Year Opening Times

Monday 23rd December - **CLOSED**

Christmas Eve - **CLOSED**

Christmas Day - **CLOSED**

Boxing Day - **CLOSED**

Friday 27th December - **CLOSED**

Saturday 28th December - **CLOSED**

Sunday 29th December - **CLOSED**

Monday 30th December - **CLOSED**

Tuesday 31st December - **CLOSED**

Wednesday 1st January - **CLOSED**

Thursday 2nd January - **OPEN AS USUAL**

*The staff at Forest Casual and Schoolwear would like to
wish our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*