



# Davenant Newsletter

## Spring Term

SPRING TERM 2024, ISSUE 1

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### Return to School after Half Term

**\*\*Monday 26th February—Week 1\*\***

### Key Dates

**17th to 25th February**

**Ski Trip**

**Tuesday 5th March**

**Early Closure at 2.30pm**

**Thursday 7th March**

**Yr 12 Epping Forest Careers Festival**

**5th, 6th and 7th March**

**Matilda Theatre Performances**

**Wednesday 13th March**

**Yr 9 Option's Evening**

### Key Dates

**Thursday 14th March**

**Yr 12 Parent's Evening**

**Monday 18th March**

**Yr 9 Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio and  
Meningitis Vaccine**

**Tuesday 19th March**

**Key Stage 4 & 5 Recital Evening**

**Thursday 21st March**

**Yr 9 Parent's Evening**

**Thursday 28th March**

**Last day of term**

# Message from the Headteacher

Well Valentine's day has been and gone and we reach the half way point of another year. It seems like yesterday it was the summer holidays and the back to school in September feeling. I suppose we have had Christmas as well. The Year 11 and 13 students have had a good run at their mocks. Mocks tell what you need to know to do even better this summer. Be proud of what you achieved and work hard on the areas highlighted by your results ready for the summer exams.



This term our new Mini Buses arrived, one suggestion on our twitter was to name them Dave and Ant.

*Great idea, better than Bussy McBus face!*



Huge thank you to all those involved in our Parents' Association who have helped fund our mini buses making a huge difference to what we can offer our students. Thank you to those of you who engage in our events and help raise money for the PA, in these challenging times they make a huge difference.

Today our boys and girls teams in Years 7 and 8 won a clean sweep of the district indoor athletics competition, first time one school has dominated for a very long time. ***Well done to you all.***



After half term we are looking forward to Matilda the Musical, so if you do not have tickets get them quickly.

May you all have a restful half term as we all look forward to spring. I am excited to see what our Japanese cherry blossom trees will look like, they are still young but I hope they blossom this year.



***Take Care***  
***Mr Thorne***



# Politics - Timothy Holmes Visit

Ex-Davenant student Timothy Holmes came to talk to A Level Politics students in December. Holmes is a specialist on the Treasury Select Committee, the committee responsible for scrutinising how the government spends its money.

He spoke about his career journey from Davenant to where he is now, talking about how to get into working in Westminster, what it's like to work there, university tips, and even about how to deal with unexpected A Level results. Working for HMRC as a tax evasion specialist and as a senior advisor in the Department for Exiting the European Union, he had lots to say about recent events - particularly behind the scenes info on Brexit.

Students then got to ask questions about his work and about politics, ranging from career advice to Westminster gossip about politicians. In his job, he briefs MPs on how to question government ministers, so it was exciting for students to see the world behind the headlines and connect it to lessons. Both Year 12 and Year 13 had a wide range of intriguing questions such as whether party loyalties get in the way of examining the government's actions; what the role of the civil service is and what it's like to work with ministers; and about broader topics like Central Bank Digital Currency.

With UCAS applications or exams around the corner, the advice and experience from someone who studied the same subjects in the same school was incredibly helpful. The visit proved to be a meaningful experience for all students since Holmes has lived through and worked with the exact debates and events written about in A Level essays. On behalf of all Politics students, we want to say a big thank you to Mrs Laws for organising such an interesting and relevant talk.

*H Prosser, Year 13*

## Year 9 Language Leaders

In the Autumn term students from Year 9 were given the opportunity to join the Language Leaders team with the aim of teaching French and Spanish in local primary schools. We have been meeting every week to work in groups creating and rehearsing our presentations.

We were excited to visit Alderton Primary school last week because we knew it would bring new learning opportunities to the Year 4 students. We were especially surprised by the children's enthusiasm and positive attitude to learning Spanish. This new experience has enhanced our confidence and we are looking forward to our next visit.



# Art & Design Department House Competition



*Currently displayed in the Art Corridor.*

Mrs Bray, Mrs Alexandrou and Miss Webb selected winners for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place from their Year 8 classes and points were awarded to their respective houses.

Students looked at the work of different artists, such as Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo and Andy Warhol to produce their self-portraits.

## HOUSE COMPETITION

Gillingham



Salisbury



Whitechapel



Matilda  
Mural



## Open to all students in KS3 & KS4

The Creative Hub Club are launching a school wide competition to design a mural which will adorn the wall near the Arter Library. With the upcoming school production Matilda, we want to celebrate her love of reading and capture the spirit of the show.

Invite to all budding artists, pull out your pens and pencils and get creating!

The winner's design will be selected by Mr Thorne, Miss McComb and Miss Webb and painted by the Creative Hub Club team.

Please create your designs on A4 paper (portrait style) and place in the tray at student reception by **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**.

Please write your name, form, and house clearly on the back of your entry.

Top three entrants will win

1st Prize - 150 house points

2nd Prize - 100 house points

3rd Prize - 50 house points

The winning mural will be displayed for years to come, to be enjoyed by many future students at Davenant.

# Chess Tournament

## *Latest League Table*

There are 7 games to play in total. Last year's winner M Farmer is out in front (but played an extra game!).

M Cousens is unbeaten, as is L Gipson but there are a few others in a strong position. ***Good luck all!***

Latest table	Played	Points	Year
M Farmer	4	10	8
L Gipson	3	9	8
M Cousens	3	9	10
F Machine	3	7	8
O Biggs	3	7	8
Z Douglass	3	7	9
M Gell	2	6	7
A Brown	2	6	9
C Adams	3	6	8
A Jewell	4	6	7
E Plant	3	5	7
T Escott	3	5	11
V Singh	3	5	11
P de Sousa Reis	5	5	7
G Kurtev	3	4	8
J Prinsloo	1	3	9
L Stokes	3	3	9
J J Benjamin	1	1	7

# Performing Arts Department

Davenant Music Department presented yet another fantastic festive concert series.

The concerts took place on 13th and 14th December to a sold out audience on both evenings.

The programme comprised a wide range of repertoire and demonstrated the vast array of talent within the department. Some highlights were the school Orchestra played a Slavonic take on 'Carol of the Bells', the Chamber choir performed a beautiful trio of pieces which displayed some of our best vocalists and the Armitage Sharks played a stunning set on both evenings.

This year's soloists included A Gray in Year 7, L Gray Year 10, A Osborn Year 10, A Cheal Year 12 and F Petheu Year 13. It was wonderful to see the budding talent of Year 7, being inspired by our senior students.





# Performing Arts Department Cont'd

The Year 7 students performed a rousing Christmas Medley and were accompanied by a live band full of our senior students. The Medley was rehearsed during curriculum lessons; it all came together on the day of sound checks for the first time.



Thanks go to Mr Williams for running the Senior Concert Band and for accompanying the School Choir, to Mr McGonagle for running one of our new ensembles the Guitar Ensemble and of course to Mrs Flanagan for running the Senior Girls' Choir Junior Choir and for co-conducting the Year 7 Medley.

Behind the scenes was expertly organised by Mr Burns and his stage crew, lead by Mina Jowett and Mrs Santer for her running of the box office, thank you to them both for their contributions towards the concerts too.

The next event for the department is the school production "Matilda" week beginning 5th March and then the school choir and invited soloists will be performing at the Roding Music Guild concert at Chigwell high school on the 15th March.



## Dates for your Diary:

## 9th and 10th July Summer Concerts

# Performing Arts Department Cont'd



March  
5, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>  
2024

**TICKETS ON SALE ON PARENT PAY NOW!**

## Music events SPRING term:



**MATILDA Jnr The Musical 5th, 6th, 7th MARCH 2024**

**7.30pm School Hall**

**Tickets on Sale on Parent pay now!**

**ROTARY CLUB OF RODING—YOUTH MAKES MUSIC EVENT**

**Chigwell High School**

**Friday 15th March 6pm—tickets £5 on the door**

For your diaries:

**Davenant Summer Concerts 9th & 10th JULY**





# Parents' Association



Our Year 7 and 8 students had a tremendous time at the disco, and we raised just over £1,000!

Thank you!



## **WHATS NEXT?**

We are looking forward to serving you with refreshments at the Matilda school productions which will be on Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Friday 7 March.

Please watch out soon for our fantastic PA Easter Raffle - which this year comes with a twist!

The PA is busy trying to source great prizes for Wonky Bar ticket holders – more information to follow soon. We are looking to source prizes that will appeal to our students i.e sports shop vouchers, Amazon vouchers, a large Easter egg, a box of Easter treats etc. If anyone is willing and able to donate a prize please contact us.

We would be grateful for any donations!

We hope that you can support us in what should be a really fun raffle whilst at the same time another great fundraiser for the school!

Thank you all so much for your support and please give us a follow.

Your PA  
[davenantpa@hotmail.com](mailto:davenantpa@hotmail.com)

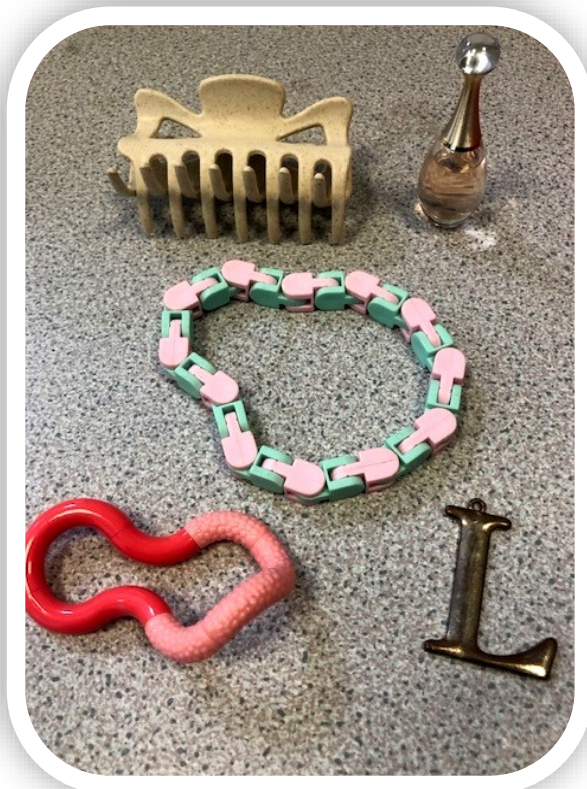
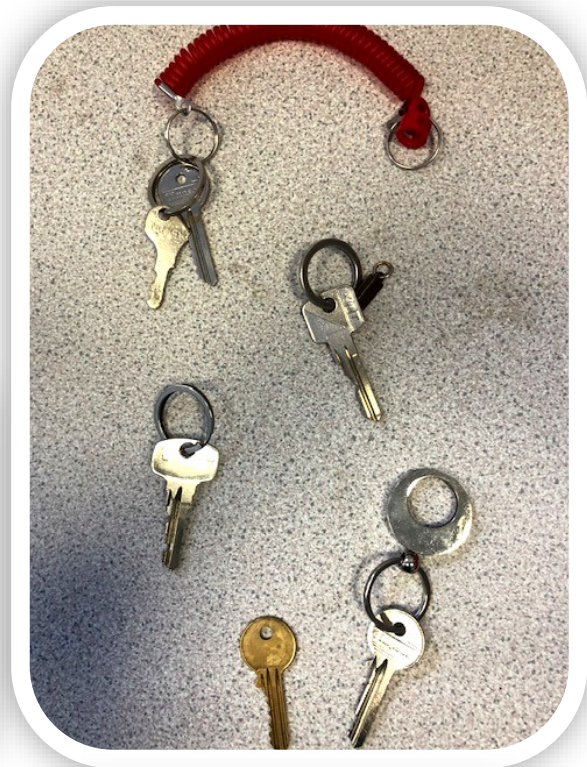




# Lost Property

We have a collection of lost property currently and after the half term, we will be laying it out for students to come and look at in reception. If you notice anything in the photos below which you think your child might have left at school, please do encourage them to come and look at Student Reception after the half term.

***As a reminder, lost property is open on a Wednesday lunchtime for students to check for items they have misplaced so if they have lost anything, please do encourage them to look then.***





Got a **degree** you're not really using? Looking for a challenging **new career**? Time to think about becoming a **teacher**....?



Graduates of 2022-23

**Train to teach here, or at another school local to you!** Gain qualified teacher status (QTS), and an optional **post-graduate certificate in education (PGCE)** through the **Essex Schools ITT** initial teacher-training programme.

Join our next online information event:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, from 7.30pm**

Scan the QR code to view our events page and register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.essexschoolsitt.com/events/>



**Davenant is the lead school of the programme, which allows you to train here or in a nearby partnership school.** You'll work as a member of the school team and learn your skills from **experienced professionals**, supplemented by high quality, **online learning sessions** through **Tes Institute**.

**Get tailored, one-to-one advice today:**

**Call:** 020 8498 6718

**Email:** [teach@essexschoolsitt.com](mailto:teach@essexschoolsitt.com)

**Visit:** <https://www.essexschoolsitt.com>

Essex Schools ITT in partnership with





# Prayer Letter

## Davenant Foundation School

Prayer Letter: January-February 2024

**We have a barrier breaking God**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart

During these next few months can I urge you to read God's promises and pray them over our children and our school. For as Hebrews says God's word is an amazing weapon for praying over situations we need to change and influence. Whatever the situation may look like we need to look to God for His intervention and provision.

**St. Matthew 5: 3-10**

Blessed are the **poor in spirit**: for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**. (*Verse 3*)

Pray for those students and staff who are finding themselves low in mood, fearful of exams and the future. Ask that the reality of the kingdom of heaven will be theirs here on earth. Pray that the Davenant community will know God's protection from the pandemic of mental health issues that are affecting our country.

Blessed are the **meek**: for they shall possess the land. (*Verse 4*)

Ask that those in our community who may be nervous, peaceful and counter-cultural will know the presence of God leading, assuring them and strengthening them by His spirit. Pray that our children will be free to realise all the plans that God has for them.

Blessed are they who **mourn**: for they shall be comforted. (*Verse 5*)

We have many families who are mourning the death or imminent death of a loved one. Pray that they may know comfort and strength at this difficult time. Pray for the children that they will have peace and encouragement to pursue life in the face of death. Remember those particularly who are coming up to public examinations.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after **justice**: for they shall have their fill. (*Verse 6*)

Ask that God will see and acknowledge all those in our community who seek justice in the face of disaster. Pray for those of our community who are affected by the conflict in the Middle East, in Ukraine and other areas of disaster or war.

Ask that those who feel abandoned and do not know where to turn nor know where help or hope will come from that they will feel the touch of the Holy Spirit and will know not only his peace but also his miraculous intervention.

Blessed are they **merciful**: for they shall obtain mercy. (*Verse 7*)

Pray that those of our community who seek to be merciful and counter-cultural will find the strength and conviction to maintain their merciful stance. Pray that our children will learn to be merciful towards each other and break the societies drive in our community for retaliation, vengeance and their pound of flesh.

Blessed are the **clean of heart**: for they shall see God. (*Verse 8*)

Ask that we will be a community that desires purity and positive, hopeful and joyful hearts. Pray that as a community that we will be different and stand for all that is right and just. Ask for God's strength and wisdom for each one of us to be different and to stand and be counted in God's Kingdom.

Blessed are the **peacemakers**: for they shall be called the children of God. (*Verse 9*)

As our children witness the conflicts around the world and some are particularly affected by them directly, pray that they will have a counter-cultural reaction and one that chooses to be peacemakers.

Blessed are they that suffer **persecution** for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*Verse 10*)

Pray that as a community we will welcome the persecuted, shelter those who are broken and hurt and ask that our children grow in desire to fight for justice and what is right.

**Matthew 18:18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven

Remember as we pray that we have the power of God in our prayers and we can bind the things we do not want in our community and loose the love of God and His mercy. Remember we have a barrier breaking God.

**Amen**



# In the Community

 **Epping Forest District Council**

## COMMUNITY TRAINING DOMESTIC ABUSE INITIATIVE

We are looking for local people, groups, businesses & organisations to become part of the Essex J9 Network. For more information please visit: [www.alphavesta.com/j9](http://www.alphavesta.com/j9)



### FREE 1hr online training session

Our training has been designed to engage, educate, and empower members of our community;

- ★ To understand and recognise the signs of domestic abuse.
- ★ To create safe spaces in our community for adults or children to access information and details of support services.
- ★ To ensure more people get access to the help they need, when they need it.



**1 in 5 adults experience domestic abuse at some point during their adult lifetime.**  
**1 in 5 children will experience domestic abuse in the home as they are growing up.**

## 2024

**Wednesday 31 January**  
10.00am - 11.00am

**Thursday 29 February**  
12.00pm - 1.00pm

**Monday 18 March**  
7.00pm - 8.00pm

### Following the training, you will: -

- Receive the Essex J9 information pack which includes support services details.
- Receive the Essex J9 logo so your premises can be identified as a J9 Champion in the community.



### MORE TRAINING INFORMATION

01277 549136  
[enquiries@alphavesta.com](mailto:enquiries@alphavesta.com)  
[www.alphavesta.com](http://www.alphavesta.com)



TO BOOK TRAINING PLEASE  
SCAN THE QR CODE

# In the Community



## FREE SELF DEFENCE CLASSES

COME AND JOIN OUR FREE CLASSES

Free Self Defence classes available to members of the community aged 11+. Led by a qualified Self Defence Trainer to provide you with:

- Information about the law
- How to improve your personal safety
- Techniques that you can use if you are at risk of serious harm.

This initiative is part of Operation Minerva, a project led by Epping Forest District Council to reduce violence against women and girls.



**THE MURRAY HALL, LOUGHTON**

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2024 - 7PM - 9PM

SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024 - 10AM - 12PM

To secure your space in one of our classes, visit our website or scan the QR code above to secure your free ticket:

<https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/book/add/p/649>

For more information or to discuss reasonable adjustments to support you in attending the class Email: [safercommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:safercommunities@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)