Friday 7th March 2025 Issue 22



County Education

Nominate us!

If you think our school, or someone who works in our school is worth celebrating, please nominate us for the Essex Teaching Awards! Essex Teaching Awards 2025

www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/essex-teaching-awards

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to announce the Essex Teaching Awards, a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our dedicated educators and staff. These awards honour those who go above and beyond to make a positive impact on our students and our community.

We need your help to ensure our amazing teachers and staff receive the recognition they deserve. If you know a teacher, teaching assistant, headteacher or other staff member who has made a difference in your child's education, please consider nominating them for an award.

Your nominations help us to celebrate the hard work, dedication and passion of our team. At a time when recruitment is a challenge and teachers are leaving the profession, this is the perfect opportunity to share some love. The link is above to submit a nomination.

Thank you for your support in recognising the incredible efforts of our educators and staff. Together we can celebrate the excellence in our school!

Natalie Christie Principal of Passmores Academy



USEFUL LINKS

Parents/Carers Letters Clubs and Activities School Calendar ParentPay











TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

28th February to 6th March 2025

Mimms, Joshua	Year 7	40
McIntosh, Jack	Year 7	37
Coleman, Maxwell	Year 7	36
Seip, Joshua	Year 7	36
Tedder, Archie	Year 7	35
Ford, Grayson	Year 7	34
Howe, Tate	Year 7	33
Mahon, Charlie	Year 7	33
Labdon, Cian	Year 7	32
March, Sam	Year 7	32
Owen, Amelie	Year 7	32
Ozimek, Filip	Year 8	39
Brandle, Aiden	Year 8	37
Clarke, Ellen	Year 8	36
Fleming, Ellie	Year 8	36
Allen Raggio, Pixie-Mae	Year 8	35
Jones, Kayleigh	Year 8	34
Travers-Knott, George	Year 8	34
Beeharry, Alicia	Year 8	33
Hills, Ella	Year 8	33
Rogers, Mason	Year 8	33
Wright, Megan	Year 8	33
Barnard, Alfie-James	Year 9	31
Broughton, Marnie	Year 9	30
Benge, Maddie	Year 9	28
Chambers, Callum	Year 9	28
Keen, Rein	Year 9	27
Kiss, Ruben	Year 9	27
Hussey, Trey	Year 9	26
Tapambwa, Alisha	Year 9	26
Everett, Melody	Year 9	25
Goh, Eik Tian	Year 9	25
Goh, Eik Tian Silva Magri, Nicolas	Year 9 Year 9	25 25

Honan, Faraya	Year 10	44
Crutchlow, Jack	Year 10	39
Dinnell, Louis	Year 10	36
Harvey, Jersey	Year 10	36
Laska, Wiktoria	Year 10	35
Osei, Luisa	Year 10	35
Dack, Benjamin	Year 10	33
Dean, Lewis	Year 10	33
Man, Charlotte	Year 10	33
Stevic, Lana	Year 10	33
Beckett, Emily	Year 11	22
Hall, Charlie	Year 11	22
Lawrence, Owaen	Year 11	19
Webb, Macey	Year 11	18
Howard, Georgia	Year 11	17
Kaarma Campia		47
Kearns, Connie	Year 11	17
Kearns, Connie Stringer, Lara	Year 11 Year 11	17
Stringer, Lara	Year 11	17

Year Group Attendance (17 th to 21 st February 2025)		
Year 7	93.45%	
Year 8	90.3%	
Year 9	88.43%	
Year 10	88.77%	
Year 11	86.96%	
All Students	89.62%	

PASTORAL UPDATE



Thought for the Week – Marking Ramadan and Lent

This week, students learned about Ramadan and Lent, exploring the significance and the impact on those who observe it.

Understanding Ramadan is essential for:

- Promoting Cultural Awareness Helping students appreciate different traditions and beliefs.
- ➢ Fostering Inclusivity − Ensuring all students feel respected and valued.
- > Enhancing Religious Literacy Providing a deeper understanding of world religions.
- Encouraging Empathy Developing respect for those who are fasting and the self-discipline involved.

Understanding Lent is essential for:

- Cultural and Religious Awareness Helps students understand important Christian traditions and their significance in many communities.
- Historical Context Explains the origins and traditions of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent.
- Moral and Ethical Reflection Encourages students to reflect on themes of self-discipline, repentance, and personal growth.
- Inclusivity and Respect Promotes respect for different beliefs and traditions within a diverse school community.
- Personal Development Encourages goal-setting and self-improvement, aligning with the Lenten focus on reflection and positive change.

By learning about Ramadan and Lent, we continue to create a tolerant, respectful, and harmonious school environment.

In the News – Should Phones Be Banned in Schools?

This week, students engaged in a lively debate about the government's proposed mobile phone ban in schools, discussing the pros and cons:

- > Negative Impacts Research suggests extensive phone use may affect mental health and relationships.
- Mixed Evidence Some believe a ban in schools could help, but studies show varied results.
- Personal Reflection Regardless of policy, students were encouraged to consider their own phone usage and its effect on their wellbeing.

The discussion allowed students to develop critical thinking skills and reflect on their relationship with technology.

Other News

National Careers Week

• This week marked National Careers Week (NCW), a fantastic opportunity for students to explore future career paths. NCW provides guidance and resources to help young people consider their next steps.

Year 10 Prefect Applications Open

• The application window for Year 10 Prefects opened on Monday and closed today! This is a brilliant leadership opportunity, and we wish good luck to all applicants.

Hollywood Night

 Thursday night saw the return of our annual Hollywood Night, a dazzling event filled with glitz, glamour, games, laughter, and some very impressive dance moves! A huge thank you to everyone who took part in making it such a special evening.

Continued on the next page...

Looking Ahead to Next Week

- Thought for the Week Students will review their Passmores Passports and reflect on how well they are embracing our school values. They will also identify areas for improvement.
- > In the News Students will discuss current major news stories from around the world.
- Behaviour Curriculum Launch We will introduce the first focus area of our behaviour curriculum, starting with appropriate behaviour at break and lunchtime.

It's going to be a busy and exciting week ahead!

				CAU Making A Difference!
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Heidi Moore Millie McNeilly Corey Thompson Tommy Burns Poppy Perkins	Francesca Griffiths Aiden Brandle Skye Casey Scarlett Barone Livvy McAlpine	Mason Coe Shay Burgess Freddie Quigley Charlie Brown Tyler Guinness	Adrian Zalinski Abdul Kamara Frazer Anderson Ronnie Swann Charlie Hodgson	Ben Algar Ryan Salberg Charlotte Bridge Ella Nicholls



Emily Abery	Ruben Kiss	Sawyer Norden	Lily-Mai Thornton
Isabella Hards	Isabelle Groves	Chloe Watters	Harry Wheeler
Leon Ringer	Max Surtees	Olivia Lamplough	Rebecca Haynes
Immy Long	Heath White	Freya Onslow	Millie Parker

SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES



Rainbow Services, with whom Passmores work very closely, attended the High Sheriff of Essex Awards Ceremony in Chelmsford on Wednesday 5th March, to recognise the achievements of the Youth Project.

Rainbow were thrilled to have received an award at the event in recognition of their outstanding work around Community Safety in the County.

The funding they have received from the High Sheriff has allowed their Youth Project to grow, offering additional opportunities to young people such as fully funded spaces on the Essex Fire & Rescue's FireBreak course and it has also supported their hugely successful community projects.

Rainbow Services were only permitted to invite two students to this prestigious event, and despite the vast number of students who take part in their weekly courses, they invited our very own Mayson Armstrong to attend, due to his achievements with them over the past year.

Both Jason and Rachel from Rainbow said that Mayson was an amazing ambassador for Rainbow Services, the Youth Project and Passmores Academy.

Well done Mayson, keep up the excellent work!





SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES

Chris Vince MP – Visit to Passmores

We were so pleased to welcome Chris Vince, our Harlow MP, to Passmores today. As well as being able to discuss the challenges faced in schools at present, he took great pleasure in touring the school and meeting our young people.

As part of the visit, he recognised Danielle Erikume for her wonderful poem that was placed 2nd in the National 'Show Racism the Red Card' Competition that she participated in whilst in year 6. Danielle read her poem aloud in front of her English class, with her dad proudly watching on. The class were then able to ask questions and find out a little more about the electoral system and Chris' day to day work.





Why are you so jealous of my valued beauty? I am proud of my skin. Why are you furious when I walk with courage? I will not walk with lowered shoulders. Does my rich, dark skin intimidate you? You may stamp on my ego but, like a butterfly, I will soar to my success. Did you know that my ancestors were kings and queens? I have the right to walk with pride. Why are you so provoked by my black femininity? My skin is worth more than silver and gold! Does my intelligence threaten you? You may stamp on my ego but, like a butterfly, I will soar to my success. Written by Danielle Erikume

Written by Danielle Erikume Year 6



In addition, Chris also took the time to meet with Darcie Goward-Johnson, Elissa Morris & Emily New who are three of our students involved in the #LetGirlsPlayCampaign which is an initiative aimed at providing equal access to football for girls in schools across England. Launched in 2019, it represents the largest ever investment in UK women's sport by a brand. The partnership involves over 300 specialist hubs that deliver football programs in PE lessons, supporting teachers with training and resources.

Key aspects of the partnership include:

- > A program designed to engage girls in secondary schools through football, teaching key life skills.
- Biggest Ever Football Session, an annual event where thousands of girls play football on the same day, promoting participation and visibility.
- Disney Inspired Shooting Stars, aimed at younger girls, this program uses creative play and storytelling to engage them in football.

The partnership has seen significant success, with the number of participating schools rising from 3,000 in 2019 to 20,000 in 2024. The initiative is set to continue until at least 2028, with a focus on supporting talented players and their families.

SPORTS/PE UPDATES

U15's Boys Cricket

On Monday 3rd March, we hosted an Essex indoor cricket tournament for U15 boys.

Three other schools attended: Ilford County, Greatfields and Oaks Park.

The format of the competition would be a round robin with each school playing each other once with a 4-ball, an over and a total of 5 overs. The games would be fast paced with lots of runs to be scored.

Each game was evenly matched with scores being close but Ilford County came away with the overall win for the tournament.

A great time was had by all!

U16's Girls Netball

Our under 16's netball team travelled to Romford to compete against Robert Clack School in the Essex Cup tournament this week.

Following a strong performance from the girls, we took a comfortable win of 46-5. The girls showed resilience and amazing teamwork skills which saw multiple turn overs and opportunities at goal.

A special shout out to Imi Hainsworth for receiving 'oppositions player of the match'.

We look forward to seeing who we have in the next round of this competition.

Well played Everyone!





PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE				
	BREAK	STAFF	AFTERSCHOOL 3:30PM- 4:15PM	STAFF
MONDAY	Basketball/Netball Shooting (Sports Hall)	Break 1 CLO Break 2 OWY		
			Fitness (Gym)	MGD
TUESDAY	TUESDAY Basketball/Netball Shooting (Sports Hall)	AMN Break 2	Badminton (All Years)	AMN JKG
		MGD	Girls Football (All Years)	GCI CLO
			Fitness (Gym)	AMN
	Basketball/Netball Shooting (Sports Hall)	Break 1 JKG Break 2 GCI	Trampolining (All Years)	OWY
WEDNESDAY			Dance (All Years)	ARY
			Boys Football (All Years)	MGD JWB
		Break 1 JWB	Fitness (Gym)	JKG
THURSDAY Basketball/Netball Shootin (Sports Hall)	Basketball/Netball Shooting		Boys Futsal (Years 7 & 8)	MGD
	(Sports Hall)	Break 2 ARY	Girls Netball (All Years)	ARY CLO OWY GCI
			Table Tennis (Activity Studio)	JWB
FRIDAY			BTEC Coursework Catch-Up & PE Detentions	

CAREERS NEWS

Career Choices Day – Free Webinar!

Are you a student aged 13-18 feeling uncertain about which career path to take? Or perhaps you have many ideas but aren't sure how to choose the right one? Join the **free online event** called **Career Choices Day** on **Sunday, 6th April**, specifically designed for students who may feel unsure about their career direction.



During this session, students will receive practical advice on how to identify career options that match their interests and strengths. The goal is to help them understand that it's okay to not have it all figured out yet and to provide them with the tools to explore their options with confidence.

Just visit <u>www.careerdays.co.uk/career-choices-day</u> to register.





College open Events

Capel Manor - Sat 22nd March 10-3pm

Neurodiversity Week: 17th - 21st March

This website has lots of useful information for parents to help support a child:

Resources | Neurodiversity Celebration Week



FRIENDS OF PASSMORES

<u>ASSMORES</u>

12NT

FRIDAY 28 MARCH | 7 PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY

FOP@PASSMORESACADEMY.COM

To buy your tickets, click the link below:

http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-passmores



GET YOUR TICKETS FROM Y030 OR EMAIL: FOP@PASSMORESACADEMY.COM



Alton Towers family 4-day pass Magician's Table Immerse experience x 2 Pircio's Restaurant voucher Mayfield Bakery handcrafted cake Cammas Hall farm Football golf x 6 Suzi Q ear piercing Scratch 18 Virtual Golf **Go Karting for Fun Bella Tots handmade gifts Church Langley Tesco** Dog & Pickle voucher Make Believe 1 month class Top Golf x 4 players 2 games **Create Identitee voucher** Harlow College beauty voucher Wild n Wacky pass **HIP HOP POP voucher** Marcanto Restaurant voucher Wagamama voucher **G9** Football Legends Hairdressers girls style voucher more to come



www.passmoresacademy.com

Issue 22

Unlock Parenting Success: The Power of an Online Course

Life today is busy, making it hard for parents and grandparents to attend in-person classes. Online parenting courses solve this problem by offering flexible schedules. Whether you're a working parent, a stay-at-home mum, a dad with many tasks, or a grandparent helping out, these courses give you useful parenting tips from home. This flexibility helps you learn and use new strategies without extra stress. If you want to improve your parenting skills, try an online course and see how easy it can be.

Parenting can sometimes feel lonely, especially when facing unique challenges. Online courses allow you to connect with other families who understand what you are going through. Sharing experiences and offering support to one another can reduce feelings of isolation and provide valuable insights.

Parenting is a journey with changing stages and needs. Online courses teach parents how to handle these changes confidently. They also encourage lifelong learning, helping parents find new tips and strategies. This adaptability is important as parenting norms change.

By choosing online parenting courses, you can stay informed, connected, and confident in your parenting journey.

Online Courses:

<u>Bitesize: Sibling Rivalry</u> Tuesday 11th March

<u>Bitesize: Sleep for Wellbeing</u> Thursday 13th March

<u>Creative Writing Workshop</u> Thursday 20th March

<u>Bitesize: Managing Big Emotions</u> Tuesday 25th March

Family Wellbeing Thursday 27th March

Understanding ADHD and ASD in Girls Thursday 27th March

<u>Bitesize: Managing Big Emotions</u> Friday 28th March

For more information about our courses, please visit <u>https://aclessex.com/courses/community-family-learning/</u>

Call us on: 0345 603 7635



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 20 th March	KS4 Options Evening
Friday 28 th March 2025	Passmores Got Talent
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening
Friday 4 th April	Early Closure for Students
Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st April	EASTER HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 22 nd April	Summer Term 1 Begins
Thursday 24 th April	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorial Evening
Monday 26th – Friday 30 th May	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2 nd June	Summer Term 2 Begins
Wednesday 11 th June	Sports Presentation Evening

Please can you remember to let us know if any of your contact details have changed,



so that so that we can update our records. You can do this easily by emailing our Data Team: <u>datateam@passmoresacademy.com</u> or via the Arbor app.





Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher? Contact Gareth Walsh on <u>g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com</u>

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators NG TECHNOLOGY TO READ

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain involuable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of test that a child engages with. If they need help on accession, digital reacting pens can awaist by scaming and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in esama if they're over other to the day to be used in esama if they're port of their loutine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customize text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance nsion. For many readers, white text on a comprehe black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dysiesia-friendly fonts – a designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence

ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS 3

Most modern devices include built-in tools desig ed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech to-text and screen magnification functions, thabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly. especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have on easier time with spoken longuage than the written word, or who might simply requise a clear look at the text.

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INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES 4

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer leatures like word highlighting, adjustable test speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break desen complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

VIDEO GAMES AND 5 READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and missio objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzites or problem-solving often include large amounts of test – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them con improve their comprehensi a fun, engaging way

X @wake_up_weds

A CONTRACTOR OF Meet Our Expert

Catrino Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and esperienced SENCO. She recently lounched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'haw-ta' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

SUBTITLES AND 6 CLOSED CAPTIONS

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Watching videos with subtities or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or steps, As children wortch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the test, gaining a better understanding of how written words asound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for refuctont readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging contest, Repeatedly watching content with subtilies reinforces word recognition and comprohension.

USING AUDIOBOOKS 7

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop Ettening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the test while Estening to a narrator reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For strugging readers, listening to an audioback before attempting to read the test independently can boost their confidence and



Test-to-voice softwore reads digital text aloud making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users con highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for ouditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR 8 WRITING AND READING

99 Voice to text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spo and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and enting skills simultaneously.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND 10 PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental centrols (such as time limits and content filters) to create a sale and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy



The Nationa College

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(O) @wake.up.wednesday

C @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: 05.03.3025

Spring Pickers

10 - 19 March

Join the fight against litter.

Take action

Pick up 5 pieces of litter every day for 10 days, to help clean up the county before spring.

The problem

It's estimated that over 2 million pieces of litter are dropped daily in the UK. This has profound impacts on our wildlife and environment.

Essex

ildlife Trust

Sign up at

www.essexwt.org.uk/pickers



Love Essex • Love Wildlife

Registered Charity No. 210065

MERCURY

FREE drama classes for 13-17s!

Scan to find out more



Mercury Young Company in the Community

Basildon • Clacton • Colchester



















GIRLSONLY FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CAMP

7th, 8th, 9th April

Fun Day (5-8 Years Old)

- Sun games with and without the ball
- S Chance to make friends while having a blast

Train Like A Lioness (9-14 Years Old)

- Goal Scoring: The James & Russo Workshop
- Screator: The Hemp & Mead Workshop
- Stopper/Destroyer: The Earps & Bright Workshop

Price: £26 Full Day/Book 3 days £65

10AM-3PM

All coaches have extensive football and first aid qualifications and are DBS checked

WHITE RODING SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Marks Hall Ln, White Roding, Dunmow, CM6 1RT

Sign up: bit.ly/cc82signup More Information 07905 822171 coachingclub82@gmail.com



Not sure where to turn?

We can offer information and guidance to help you get the support you need. So don't be shy, if you've got a health or social care issue – we're all ears.

We can help with:

- finding health and care services
- accessing advice and support
- sharing feedback about services
- how to make a complaint

Call 0300 500 1895 WhatsApp/Text 07712 395398 info@healthwatchessex.org.uk





Lines open Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Cost of local call & standard message rate.



2025/26 FOOTBALL TRIALS

TAKELEY FC U15 HOOPS EASTERN JUNIOR ALLIANCE SIDE 2025/26 Season

Will soon be running TRIALS

REGISTER TODAY

hoopsu15eja@yahoo.com

Please provide the following detail:

Name:

Position:

Current Team:

Home Location:

DOB:

Trials will be on an invite only basis in MAY

ALL POSISTIONS CONSIDERED

Spotlight on services... FREE Parenting courses

Did you know, **ACL Essex** has a wide range of parenting courses, some are face to face, some are virtual, some are one off and some are a series. They are all FREE.

Subjects include;

- SEND support for families
- Positive Parenting
- □ Family Wellbeing
- □ Understanding Teens.

ACL will also collaborate with you to provide bespoke courses where you have a cohort of parents.

For further information Community & Family Learning - ACL Essex