



NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN TERM ISSUE 22 • 14TH DECEMBER 2020

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 17 th December	Winter Paxfest 6.30pm
Friday 18 th December	Non Uniform Day / Last day of term, 1pm finish
Monday 4 th January	Students return to school

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

2020 has been a very challenging year and I'm so grateful for everything that our school community has done to support each other. I am in awe of how our students, staff and parents/carers continue to convey such high levels of resilience in these difficult times.

In spite of the pandemic, we have made a very positive start to the school year and have continued to carry on some of the traditions that we began last year whilst introducing a few new ones along the way. I am writing this welcome for the newsletter on Christmas Jumper Day, having just watched some of our students being filmed for the virtual school concert. A few things have made me quite emotional today; firstly, the generosity of food donations for those less fortunate than ourselves and, most latterly, the enthusiastic performance of one of our Year 7 tutor groups who were preparing for the 'Winter Paxfest' Christmas concert.

This newsletter contains details of many of the things that we have been doing over the past few weeks to ensure that your child has the best experience possible in the lead up to the festive period. I hope that you enjoy reading about them.

Unfortunately, as outlined in my recent letter, we have had our first confirmed Covid case. It is of paramount importance that we continue to keep our community safe and I will be sending out details later this week about track and trace procedures over the forthcoming holiday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this term - both myself and the staff at the school really appreciate it. I hope that you rest, relax and enjoy a break with your families over the Christmas period, returning safely in January.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Moffat
Headteacher

End of Term Arrangements / Catering

A big thank you to our fantastic catering team, led by Ms Tinworth. Students very much enjoyed our themed Christmas Week in the Food Plant recently, which saw many of us sample a variety of festive treats and of course a traditional turkey dinner.

School will finish at 1.00pm on Friday. This is prior to lunchtime, so students may need to bring something more substantial to eat for morning break (the Food Plant will offer food at break time, as usual). The school office will also close at this time, and will reopen on Monday 4th January 2021 when students return to school.

In addition, to reward students for their hard work this term, Friday is a non-uniform day.

Mr Mussett

Christmas Jumper Day

Last week, students were invited to wear Christmas jumpers in exchange for a voluntary donation of an item to one of our chosen charities, Colchester Foodbank. To date, students and staff have donated over 127kg of items to this worthy cause and we are immensely proud to support our local community. I will provide details on the size of our donation in the next newsletter, and know that our collective generosity will make a difference to those in need.



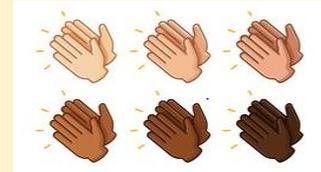
If you or any family members are in need of support from Colchester Foodbank, we are in a position to issue vouchers that are redeemable at any Colchester Foodbank location. Please contact the school if you require further information about this.

Mr Nash

Celebration Assemblies

Today we held our Year 7 Virtual Celebration Assembly where I detailed some of the year groups' many successes this term. Later in the week, students will be presented with their ASPIRE and academic certificates as rewards for their hard work and efforts this year. I am pleased with how well our Year 7's have settled into life at Paxman Academy, and continue to be impressed with students' hard work, conduct and togetherness.

Mr Nash, Head of Year 7



I had the pleasure today of presenting our Year 8 virtual assembly. This was an opportunity to reflect on the Autumn term and celebrate student successes. There have been several ASPIRE points awards achieved, as well as subject awards. We look forward to a brilliant last week of term. All Year 8 students have worked extremely hard and we hope they enjoy a well-deserved break.

Mr Samjawon, Head of Year 8

Winter Paxfest



All students have been working hard in music lessons and in enrichment clubs at lunchtimes to practise and rehearse performances for our Christmas concert – Winter Paxfest! There are ensemble, choral and solo pieces, all with a festive theme.

Given Covid-19 restrictions, we are sadly unable to invite parents and carers into school this year to see a live performance, however, Mr Damigella and Mr Robbins are working hard to edit and pre-record the show. Parents and carers are invited to enjoy the show virtually on Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm. All instructions and the link to view will be communicated later this week. Students will also get to see the performance as part of their end of term arrangements on Friday 18th December.

We hope you enjoy watching it as much as the students have enjoyed putting it together. Huge thanks to Mr Damigella and Mr Robbins for all of their hard work and commitment, which has made this possible in challenging circumstances.

Mrs Steele

Free School Meals Applications

If your circumstances have recently changed and you think you may now be entitled to free school meals, find out by applying through the link via our website [click here](#). The school office is happy to support you in completing the application if required.

Reporting Covid Over the Christmas Break

In order for appropriate track and trace procedures to be in place over the Christmas period, can we please ask if your child presents with Covid related symptoms up to and including the morning of Monday 21st December you make us aware using the email address provided below. Equally, if your child receives a positive Covid test between now and Wednesday 23rd December, please also make us aware and follow the appropriate isolation guidelines. The email address to use during this period is **covidreporting@paxmanacademy.school**.

Upon our return to school on Monday 4th January, please make us aware on that morning if your child is isolating, presenting with symptoms or has tested positive via the usual Student Absence Line (01206 671155, Option 1).

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Mr Morgan

Christmas Advent

Students are continuing to receive a Christmas quiz question daily as part of the Paxman Academy Christmas Advent challenge, with a lucky winner from each year group receiving a daily prize. Participation has been amazing, with students eager to find out what each question will be.

We encourage more students to engage, as there are more prizes to be won. Well done to all that are getting involved and congratulations to Isiah, Romane, Callum, Scarlett, Francesca, Logan, Sophie, Mahrin and Josefine.

Mrs Newman

Spanish Christmas Card Challenge

The Language department is kick-starting the Christmas festivities with a Spanish Christmas Card Competition. Our students have been given the chance to design a Christmas card that illustrates Christmas traditions in Spain, accompanied by a short written festive message in Spanish. Amazon vouchers have been organised for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and ASPIRE points for all participants, with winners announced on 17th December.

Feliz Navidad y prospero año 2021!

Ms Constantinescu

Art Christmas Card Competition



Students were set a challenge to design a Christmas card for the school. We had incredible responses across the year groups, making it a tough decision to judge the winners!

Congratulations to the following students, who each received a mini art kit to encourage them to continue their creativity:

- Summer, 7HM
- Romane, 7CX
- Ruby, 8CP

Well done to everyone who took part.

Ms Newman



Holiday Hunger Projects

Shrub End Community Centre, Shrub End	Colchester United Football in the Community	21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th December, 9.00am – 1.00pm	https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/colchesterunited/holiday-hunger-programme-colchester-december-2020.html
Firstsite, Town Centre	Firstsite	21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th , 28 th , 29 th , 30 th , 31 st December 11.00am – 2.30pm	firstsite.uk
St Annes Youth Club, Oak Hall, Acorn Hall Greenstead, St Johns and St Annes	Essex Boys and Girls Clubs	21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th December 10.00am – 2.00pm	http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/christmas-activity-sessions/

Colchester Community Christmas Giving Tree







Colchester Community Christmas Giving Tree

Donate a small unwrapped toy or gift so we can deliver to a vulnerable child this Christmas

Donate before Saturday 19th December

DROP OFF POINTS –

- Colchester Police Station
- Sainsbury's Tollgate
- Tesco's Highwoods
- Tesco's Greenstead

Working with volunteers and partners to make Christmas in Essex special for everyone

Meet & Eat

21 -24th December 2020

11:00 – 3:00 each day

Come along and meet other young people (13-19 years) and take part in activities...

- Free Food
- Cooking
- Sports activities
- Crafting
- Games

Ongar Youth Centre
The Gable
CM5 0GA

Halstead Youth Centre
Parsonage Street
CO9 2ES

Stansted Youth Centre
Lower street
CM24 8LR

Green Lodge Youth Centre
(Clacton)
180 Old Road
CO15 3AY

Timberlog Youth Centre
(Basildon)
Timberlog lane
SS14 1UX

To book a place or to find out more contact:
youth.work@essex.gov.uk

Be who you WANT to be... | **YOUTH SERVICE** | Essex County Council



SAFE IN ESSEX PROGRAMME FOR THE FESTIVE PERIOD.
You can access Microsoft Teams via the internet or download the app

FOR AGES 8-18

21ST DECEMBER

10am: **Exam Stress Workshop** – Some useful tips and advice on how to manage stress related to studies and upcoming exams.

1pm: **One Community**- Support group for young people who identify as LGBTQ+ exploring identity and belonging.

3pm: **Festive Quiz**- Fun quiz and riddles to make you think.

22ND DECEMBER

10am: **Conflict Resolution and risky behaviours**- How to overcome conflict and find a solution to those difficult situations.

1pm: **Festive Survival Workshop**- fun tips on how to survive different situations, like being trapped in the North Pole!

3pm: **Festive Crafts**- a look at creating your own festive masterpieces and crafty creations on a budget.

23RD DECEMBER

10am: **Managing Emotions**- Helping you to recognise, acknowledge and manage your emotions.

1pm: **One Community**- Support group for BAME young people exploring identity and belonging.

3pm: **Fun Festive Baking** – Forget The Great British Bake off, Safe in Essex have some simple but fun festive baking ideas for you.

SAFE IN ESSEX ADVICE LINE- 07725 639571
OPEN FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD. AVAILABLE DURING
21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th and 31st December - 10am to 2pm

To book your place, please check out our website; www.childrenssociety.org.uk/east/services/safe-in-essex
or contact Essexreferrals@childrenssociety.org.uk

Emergency help with bills, food and other items



If you find yourself in need of some help this winter, the Essential Living Fund can help pay for heating, electricity, water and food. We can also help you get essential household items like a fridge, cooker or table.

To get a grant you must

- Live in Essex, Southend or Thurrock
- Be aged over 16

How to apply

Check if this applies to you.

Visit www.southend.gov.uk/elfforessex

Or if you are vulnerable or have no access to the internet you can call **0300 7900124** (between 8:45am - 5:00pm).

 thurrock.gov.uk

 **southend
on sea**
BOROUGH COUNCIL


Essex County Council