

# Newsletter



13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Issue 19



Dear Parent/Carers,

Ahead of Valentine's Day tomorrow, our charity reps have been busy this week selling coffee cups with personalised thoughtful messages inside with all proceeds supporting our school charity... love really was in the air today as those lucky recipients received their unexpected treats!

Valentine's Day comes to remind us that love comes in many forms; kindness to others, appreciation for friends and family, and most importantly, self-love! Take time this weekend to celebrate you and all the wonderful things that make you unique.

It's also that time of year when the Essex Teacher Awards are open for nominations! This is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our staff. These awards honour those who go above and beyond to make a positive impact on our students and school community.

We can't do it without you though and need your help to ensure our amazing teachers and staff receive the recognition they deserve, so if you know a teacher, teaching assistant or any other staff member who has made a difference in your child's education, please consider nominating them for an award by [clicking here](#) and showing your appreciation for the hardworking staff who make our school such a special place.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March we will have a photographer and videographer in the building taking footage for our new online prospectus. This is an exciting development, and I look forward to sharing more details with you after half term.

And finally, well done to our Year 11 students on successfully completing the first week of this second round of GCSE mock examinations. They have shown fantastic maturity and commitment — we are incredibly proud of their positive attitude and hard work.

A reminder that school will be open throughout half term for Year 11 revision sessions. Please see the full revision timetable on page 12 for details... Keep up the excellent effort!

I wish you all a wonderful break and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February when we can start to enjoy those longer days of sunlight as we head into Spring.

**Natalie Christie**  
**Principal of Passmores Academy**

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## TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Wilsher, Caleb	Year 7	100
Tarran, Franklin	Year 7	98
Babrauskaite, Amelia	Year 7	97
Luca, Daria	Year 7	93
Smith, Vinnie	Year 7	93
Dinesh Babu, Lemuel	Year 7	90
Olasunkanmi, Fareedah	Year 7	90
Newberry, Gracie	Year 7	88
Goodin, Hazel	Year 7	87
Wright, Lucy	Year 7	84

Edwards, Joshua	Year 8	94
Rouse, Elijah	Year 8	87
Hartgrove, Connie	Year 8	85
Unwin, Reece	Year 8	83
Nunn, Lois	Year 8	81
Almond, Scarlett	Year 8	79
Ringer, Leon	Year 8	78
Adams, Mia	Year 8	76
Wilson, Erin	Year 8	76
Mahon, Olly	Year 8	75
Owen, Amelie	Year 8	75

Toku Appleton, Ethan	Year 9	106
Smith, Ashanti	Year 9	101
Borland, Edward	Year 9	88
Morgan, Dexter	Year 9	84
Bozkurt, Saner	Year 9	83
Green, Autumn	Year 9	82
Brooks, Bobby	Year 9	81
Crutchlow, Sam	Year 9	81
Goswami, Shubh	Year 9	78
Hollands, Max	Year 9	78

Owen, Esme	Year 10	88
Windeler, Emylei	Year 10	88
Windeler, Rinoa	Year 10	88
Denkewicz, Jan	Year 10	85
Redding, Jack	Year 10	83
Chambers, Callum	Year 10	80
Fargeot, Maddie	Year 10	80
Groves, Isabelle	Year 10	80
Gunter, Noah	Year 10	80
Blackham, Ella	Year 10	78
Defor, Othniel	Year 10	78
Zborowski, Oskar	Year 10	78

Guiver, Laney	Year 11	48
Guiver, Lilly	Year 11	48
Martin, Lewis	Year 11	48
Mortimer, Evan	Year 11	48
Ozimek, Roksana	Year 11	48
Silver, Caiden	Year 11	48
Thornton, Lily-Mai	Year 11	48
Vobe, Daisy	Year 11	48
Vobe, Evie	Year 11	48
Dinnell, Louis	Year 11	47
Goody, Rebecca	Year 11	47
Man, Charlotte	Year 11	47

Year Group Attendance w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	
Year 7	91.47%
Year 8	88.93%
Year 9	85%
Year 10	85.3%
Year 11	89.96%
<b>All Students</b>	<b>88.13%</b>

## Thought for the Week – Children’s Mental Health Week

This week, our *Thought for the Week* celebrated Children’s Mental Health Week, giving students time to reflect on the importance of looking after their emotional wellbeing as well as their academic success.



Through tutor activities and discussions, students were encouraged to build their understanding of mental health, recognise that everyone experiences challenges, and develop empathy for others who may be struggling.

The sessions promoted open conversations about feelings and emotions, helping to reduce stigma and reinforce that it is always okay to talk about mental health. Students were also introduced to a range of positive coping strategies that can support them during times of stress or difficulty.

A key focus of the week was fostering a positive, supportive school culture where everyone feels valued, listened to, and safe. By embedding conversations about mental health into everyday school life, we aim to support students’ wellbeing, prevent difficulties from escalating, and ensure that those who need help know where to find it.

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## In the News – National Apprenticeship Week

This week’s *In the News* highlighted National Apprenticeship Week, helping students understand that there are many successful pathways beyond school.

A blue rectangular logo with white text that reads 'NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK #NAW2026'. The text is arranged in three lines, with a white bracket on the left side.

Students learned that apprenticeships offer a valuable combination of hands-on learning, real workplace experience, and academic study, while also allowing individuals to earn a wage. This makes apprenticeships a strong alternative to traditional college or sixth form routes.

The sessions encouraged students to think about career exploration, skill development, and how apprenticeships can lead to strong employment prospects and long-term career progression. They also highlighted how apprenticeships help meet industry needs and address skills gaps, making them an important part of the future workforce.

Overall, the week aimed to broaden students’ horizons and support them in making informed, confident decisions about their next steps.

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## Other News...

It has been a busy and positive week at Passmores.

Year 11 students have made an excellent start to their final set of mock exams. Their focus, effort, and maturity have been impressive, and we are very proud of them—hard work truly does pay off.

It was wonderful to hear the Heart Space filled with music, laughter, and excitement on Wednesday and Thursday as auditions for the school musical got underway. Well done to all students who showed courage and confidence in auditioning—we wish everyone the very best of luck.

On Friday, students who attended all of their lessons on time during the punctuality challenge window were rewarded with a non-uniform day. Congratulations to all who passed the challenge—punctuality is a vital life skill, both in school and beyond. Students who were not successful this time will have another opportunity after half-term.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next half-term.



**13/02/26**  
**Weekly Winners**

Alicia Tutka  
Jess Sayers  
Josh Seip  
Teddy Webb  
Lucy Wright  
George Euesden  
Lacey Webb  
Kingsley Chui  
Eric Sava-Luchian  
Heath White

**13/12/25**  
**Half-Termly Winners**

**Year 7**

Vlad Cotorobai  
Ire Akinyeye

**Year 8**

Amelia-Mae Keeble  
Peyton Poole

**Year 9**

Alicia Beeharry  
Shubh Goswami

**Year 10**

Samuel Cudmore

**Year 11**

Lucy Gregory  
Diva Ehiemua

## Valentine's Day Event

Our wonderful Charity Representatives have been busy hosting a Valentine's Day event this week in aid of raising money for charity.

They have been selling coffee cups for 50p, each containing a lovely message inside along with a free hot drink voucher and a small treat for a great cause! Cups have been distributed throughout the day today and anyone missed will receive theirs during the first week back after half-term.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this fantastic initiative. We will share the final amount raised after half term.



Wishing you all a wonderful break.

Mrs Riley

## Ramadan

The holy month of Ramadan will begin during the half term. This is a very special time for our students from the Muslim community.

If you would like your child to have access to a prayer room during Ramadan, please email **Mrs Goddard** on [I.goddard@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:I.goddard@passmoresacademy.com). We will then make the necessary arrangements.



CALLING ALL YEAR 10 & 11 STUDENTS!

# PASSCHELLA

MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March | 6PM - 8:30PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY

Jerk Chicken  
Shack

Burger Shack

Braiding  
Station

★ Face Gems &  
Hair Glitter

MAIN STAGE

DJ BELL

FROM 6PM

YOU CHOOSE THE SONGS!

Mocktails



Photobooths

Festival Games!

BUY YOUR TICKETS/FOOD ON ARBOR NOW

FRIENDS OF PASSMORES  
PRESENT

**PASSMORES'**  
**GOT**  
**TALENT**

**FRIDAY**

**13 MARCH | 6 PM**

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK  
/FRIENDS-OF-PASSMORES](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FRIENDS-OF-PASSMORES)



## SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES

### Tomorrow's Teachers



Our year 10 cohort of Tomorrow's Teachers undertook day 1 of their TES course (day 2 to follow in the Summer Term). They began their day at Pear Tree Mead working with classroom teachers from Early Years to Year 5. The group immersed themselves in each classroom and got a glimpse into what teaching and learning looks like across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and how it differs as they had the opportunity to participate in lessons from all different key-stages.

Later in the day, the cohort returned to Passmores to complete sessions as part of their Tomorrow's Teachers training - this included exploring what the 'A-Z of teaching' could be, discussing traits we believe to be imperative to a good teacher and the plethora of reasons why people become teachers; as well as a session delivered by our Principal Ms Christie about her teaching route and reasons for becoming a teacher.

The next session focused on learning about the day in the life of a Primary and Secondary Teacher; the cohort had the opportunity to interview teachers at Passmores about teaching and what their day-to-day schedule and responsibilities can look like and comparing this to what this may look like for a primary school teacher.

We are so incredibly proud of cohort and are very much looking forward to day 2, where the cohort will be visiting another primary school and exploring the different routes into teaching from university to apprenticeships.



Miss Palmer and Mr Walsh

## Jack Petchey Speak Out Workshop

On Thursday 60 of our Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out.

# Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge is a public speaking program designed to empower young people in London and Essex, helping them develop confidence and communication skills through workshops and competitions. The program is aimed at Year 10 students (ages 14-15) in state schools across London and Essex with around 35,000 students participating each year.

The Year 10 students received a full day of public speaking training from expert trainers. During the workshops, students learnt essential speaking techniques and created their own speeches. There was a variety of topics, ranging from inspirational leaders to the state of our planet – it was truly inspiring!

Two students will be selected to represent our school at the West Essex Regional Semi-Finals in May.



Well done to all of those who took part in the day.  
Mrs Vanderlith

## Drama

### Audition News - Matilda Jr.

Congratulations to everyone that auditioned for Matilda Jr. this week.

We have been blown away by the excitement around the school surrounding the production; we had nearly 80 students sign up and 60 audition for main roles.

As there are only 16 main roles, you can imagine that this has been a tough task for the creative team.

Due to the high level of talent on show, we have not been able to finalise our cast list as early as hoped. Therefore, we will be calling back a small number of students (the list has been sent on Arbor) on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February after school whilst the remaining cast work on Revolting Children.



### *French Friday Fun... Idioms*

*Être comme deux gouttes d'eau*

*Mon frère et moi sommes comme deux gouttes  
d'eau, tout le monde nous confond.*

*My brother and I are like two drops of water;  
everyone confuses us.*



## ADAPT

To Parents & Carers of Year 11...

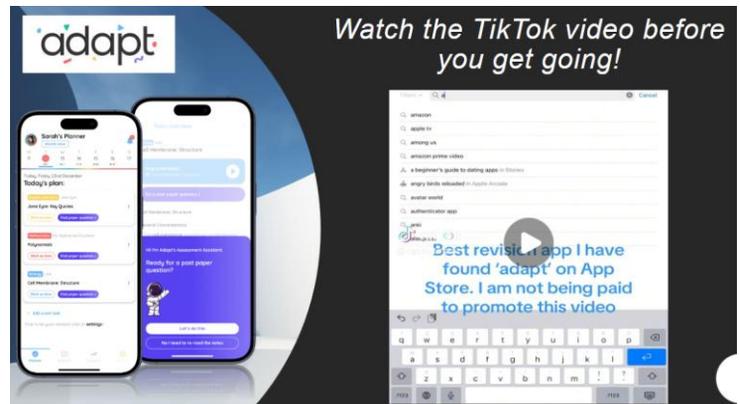
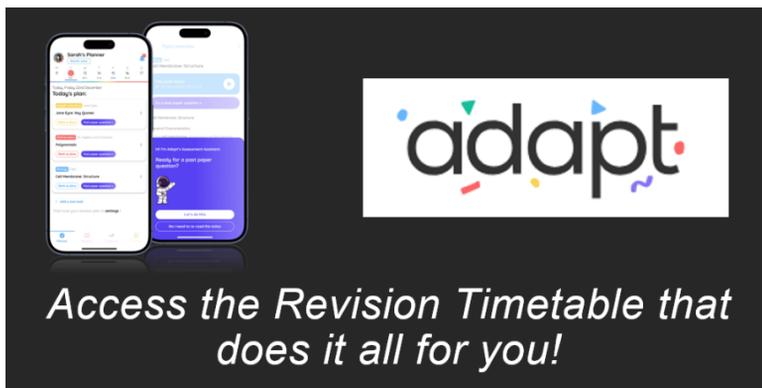
Reminder that all Year 11 have now created an ADAPT account and should have revision tasks set that can be accessed on their phones from home. Tasks are marked and are a super way to support with exam technique. Students will be working on these tasks in Pastoral Curriculum Time, if they don't have English, Maths or Science mentoring.

Year 11 are working really hard at the moment, we had over 100 students at English P6 this week - fabulous!

Monday Assemblies are full of student names given by staff to say how proud they are of them and their efforts. We are expecting great results in the February mocks - two weeks until they start! Students will receive their individualised timetable soon.

Please contact me if I can help with anything.

**Jo Connolly**  
Assistant Principal



### How to access your premium Adapt student account.

- 1) Go to [getadapt.co.uk](https://getadapt.co.uk) to set up your account in school. This is the web portal, but when you have your mobile phone outside of school you can download the mobile app from the App Store or Play Store. 
- 2) Tap "Get started" and add your subjects and choose your preferences – You must select at least **3 sessions** and **5 days** a week or more – you can find the names of your subjects, exam board and topic on the print outs along with some hints and tips.
- 3) Create your new premium account using your school email address - This would be the year you joined along with your surname and first letter of your forename in lower case - 21bloggsf@passmoresacademy.com
- 4) Your password will be: **ADAPT2425teacherstudent**  
Please change this when you have logged in.



# YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS

## HALF TERM - FEBRUARY 2026



### MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**MUSIC - MUSIC COMPOSING WORKSHOP TO COMPLETE C/W**

9AM - 1PM

L110

**ENGLISH - ENGLISH LANGUAGE MOCK PREP**

10AM - 12PM

U105

**ENGLISH - ENGLISH LANGUAGE MOCK PREP**

10AM - 12PM

U108

### TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**DRAMA - PERFORMANCE REHEARSAL**

10AM - 12PM

HALL

**DRAMA - PRO-FORMA CATCH UP**

12PM - 1PM

FISHBOWL

**ENGLISH - ENGLISH LANGUAGE MOCK PREP**

10AM - 12PM

U106

**BIOLOGY - HIGHER AND FOUNDATION PAPERS**

10AM - 12PM

LION

**PHYSICS - PAPER 1&2 FOCUS AREAS**

10AM - 12PM

LION

**CHEMISTRY - HIGHER PAPER**

10AM - 12PM

LION

### THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**ENGLISH - ENGLISH LANGUAGE MOCK PREP**

10AM - 12PM

U101

### FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**ART - ALL THINGS ART**

10AM - 2PM

ART

**MATHS - HIGHER PAPER**

10AM - 12PM

G004

**MATHS - FOUNDATION PAPER 3+**

10AM - 12PM

G002

**MATHS - FOUNDATION PAPER 4/5+**

10AM - 12PM

G003

# Maths Homework Club

Join us for any help,  
questions or a quiet  
space to get your maths  
homework done!

Tuesdays



3:15-4 pm



Y005



# ENGLISH PERIOD 6

TUESDAY

EBG, EPE, BPS, LKG,  
MMR, DLM, NVH, RKG  
SKS (Y11)

WEDNESDAY

SKS (Y10)

FRIDAY

ALL



# ENGLISH

## HOMework CLUB

**WHEN**  
**EVERY TUESDAY - 3.15PM TO 3.45PM**  
**WHERE**  
**Y101**

### Careers Day – 02/07/26

On Thursday 2nd July, we will be holding a Careers Day for students in Years 7 and 8.

The key objective of the day is to help students make meaningful links between the subjects they study in school and the wider world of work. We also aim to develop important life skills such as organisation and time management, a strong work ethic, and enthusiasm and passion for their subjects and future pathways.

We are currently planning to invite a range of external agencies and professionals into school to speak with students about their careers. At present, this includes roles such as paramedics, the armed forces, construction professionals, and others.

We would be delighted to welcome parents, local businesses, and members of our community who may be willing to come into school to present or speak to students about their career journey. All industries and roles are welcome — hearing about different pathways, experiences and opportunities is incredibly valuable for our young people.

The format of the day is still being finalised; however, we would be grateful for even an hour of your time to help make this a memorable and inspiring day for our students.

If you are interested in supporting this event, please contact [passmores@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:passmores@passmoresacademy.com) by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Passmores Girls Shine at GO Lead Leadership Programme!

On Tuesday 10th February, fourteen KS3 girls from Passmores Academy travelled to Saffron Walden County High School to take part in the inspirational Go Lead – Developing Life Skills and Leadership Through Football programme. They joined other students from across the district, representing the school with maturity, enthusiasm, and confidence. This event is part of the Barclays Game On – GO Lead initiative, a national programme designed to develop leadership qualities in girls through football in a supportive, empowering environment.

### What Was the Aim of the Day?

The GO Lead programme recognises that many girls lose confidence in taking on leadership roles as they progress through school. To combat this, the course offers girls meaningful opportunities to lead, design, and deliver football-related activities in a space that is created for them, by them.

The training focuses on **three** key outcomes:

#### 1. Empowering Girls as Leaders

The girls learnt how to plan, organise, officiate, and run football sessions, with the goal of delivering activities to peers and local primary school pupils. This helps them develop confidence, creativity, and ownership over the sessions they lead.

#### 2. Becoming Confident 'Activators'

Participants explored what leadership means, what challenges girls often face, and how to work together to overcome those barriers. They practised applying leadership skills both on and off the pitch, helping them grow as young role models within their school community.

### A Fantastic Experience

Our students represented Passmores brilliantly. They engaged fully in every task, supported each other, and demonstrated excellent teamwork and confidence throughout the event. The staff leading the programme were incredibly impressed with their positivity and willingness to step outside their comfort zone.

We are extremely proud of how well they embraced the challenge and cannot wait to see them put their new leadership skills into action back at school



### Bishops Stortford Football Academy February Introduction Presentations

**BSFC Academy** are a launchpad for future careers across sport and the creative industries. Alongside their football pathway, students can immerse themselves in a range of non-playing routes, including:

➤ **Coaching & leadership; Media, content creation & digital production; Sports journalism & communications**

#### February Event Details

**Location:** Woodside Stadium, Dunmow Road, CM23 5RG, Monday 16th February, 9:00am – 9:45am

**Talent ID Session,** Woodside Stadium, Dunmow Road, CM23 5RG

**Male Players:** 10:00am – 11:30am

**Female Players:** 11:30am – 1:00pm



#### What to Expect

➤ Meet their coaching and academy staff, showcase football ability, learn about the programmes & progression. To confirm attendance, please click [here](#) to complete the registration form prior to the event.

### Are you interested in Medicine or Dentistry?

If you're a student with aspirations of becoming a doctor or dentist, then the Medic Mentor Virtual Work Experience Programme is an incredible opportunity that you won't want to miss.



Developed in partnership with the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, this programme provides a comprehensive and immersive virtual experience that will give you a real insight into the world of medicine and/or dentistry.

All you need to do is attend a **Get Into Medicine Conference** to start accessing the Virtual Work Experience straight away!

This is free and can lead to free virtual work experience. Students can find out more and register on:

[University Hospitals Birmingham Trust Virtual Work Experience - Medic Mentor](#)

### Free Online Courses...

Are you age 19+?

The UK Government fund a wide range of free courses for adults, in a wide range of sectors.

To learn more go to [Free online courses with certificates UK - Free Courses in England](#).

Fantastic courses to enhance your own skills and qualifications.



## Explore Careers In the NHS - FREE In Person Events During Half-Term

The Health and Care Academy is providing a fantastic hands-on workshop where young people can explore careers in the NHS as well as step into the shoes of healthcare professionals and try some practical skills.



### Activities include...

- Record and print an ECG from your heart
- Use a needle to take fake blood from a dummy arm
- Try your hand at keyhole surgery
- See inside your body with an ultrasound machine.
- Scan your retina with an ophthalmoscope.
- Listen to your pulse with a pulse doppler.
- See your veins under a vein scanner.
- Take basic medical obs.

This opportunity is available to young people in Years 10 - 13 and is being held on the training ward at Brentwood Community Hospital. *Participants can book to attend one of the following sessions:*

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Morning session: 9:30 am – 12pm. [Register here for 17/02/26 - AM Session](#)

Afternoon session: 1pm – 3:30pm. [Register here for 17/02/26 - PM Session](#)

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Morning session: 9:30 am – 12pm. [Register here for 18/02/26 - AM Session](#)

Afternoon session: 1pm – 3:30pm. [Register here for 18/02/26 - PM Session](#)

## Introduction & Taster Events at CRE8

Designed for students considering post-16 pathways in the creative industries. CRE8 is a specialist **post-16 Creative Media College Programme**. The programme is designed to equip students with the technical, creative, and professional skills required for industry, higher education, and apprenticeships.

Our February events provide an opportunity to gain a clear understanding of:

- Our industry-focused Creative Media programme; How learning is delivered through real-world, practical projects; Progression routes into creative careers, apprenticeships, and higher education.

The online introduction evening will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm. There will also be an on-campus taster workshop on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February:

### Bishops Stortford – 10:00am

Woodside Stadium, CM23 5RG

### Ware – 1:30pm

Wodson Park Sports Centre, SG12 0UQ



To attend any of the above sessions, please [click here](#) to complete the registration form.

## Land Your Dream Apprenticeship in Law

Hear from law apprentices about their roles, from paralegals to solicitors. Learn how they prepared, and what advice they wish they'd had before applying. Thursday 5th March 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#).

## Your Guide To Apprenticeships

This guide has been designed to help parents & carers explore the exciting world of apprenticeships with their young person, to understand the range of resources and support services available to them, and how to access them. Hints and Tips for Parents and Carers. Apprenticeships: Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers - Amazing Apprenticeships

## British Army Careers

A chance to explore the range of career opportunities within the Army. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm.

British Military Berets

Register at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



## Choices Magazine

The monthly choices magazine features information and resources to help you to support and guide your child with apprenticeship and technical education decisions.

[Choices Magazine – November Parent & Carers Guide - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



## Do you need help to find an apprenticeship?

Louise Fry is an employability and careers lead at Essex County Council. Her team are offering some face-to-face appointments in person or online where they can go through how your apprenticeship search is going and where you might need some help on CV's, interviews, assessment centres, where is the best place to search for apprenticeships, etc.



Please see the dates below if you'd like to book an appointment. This service is completely free and you can book by emailing them on [apprenticeship.hub@essex.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeship.hub@essex.gov.uk).

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Online 9-4pm

Harlow at Hare Street Youth Hub 10-2pm

Chelmsford Library 10-2pm

## ANY OTHER INFORMATION

### KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

#### School Address

Passmores Academy, Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JH

#### Main Telephone

01279 770800

[passmores@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:passmores@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Student Absence

Report via the  app



#### Change of Contact Details

[h.day@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:h.day@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Student Services

[pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com)

#### First Aid

[pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pafirstaid@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Extra-Curricular Clubs

[h.day@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:h.day@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Account / Trips

[s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:s.hodges@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Homework

[datateam@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:datateam@passmoresacademy.com)

#### Free School Meals

[pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:pastudentservices@passmoresacademy.com)

For a full list of staff contact details, click [here](#)

### USEFUL LINKS

[Parents/Carers Letters](#)

[Clubs and Activities](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[ParentPay](#)



[www.passmoresacademy.com](http://www.passmoresacademy.com)

## Reporting An Absence

If you need to report your child absent from school, please ensure you are following the correct procedure on Arbor.



### ***If notifying us via the app:***

- Click on the 3 lines (at the bottom left of the dashboard).
- Log Absence (green bar at the top)
- Complete the information and click 'Log Absence'

### **If notifying us from a web browser:**

- Click on the 'Quick Actions' button
- Click 'Attendance'

## Exam Invigilators... We're Hiring!

### ***Would you like to become an Exam Invigilator?***

We have dates available throughout the year with hours to suit you. The hourly rate is £13.03.

If you would like to apply, or would like more information, please contact Sally Beatty: [s.beatty@passmoresacademy.com](mailto:s.beatty@passmoresacademy.com)

### ***What is an Exam Invigilator?***

An exam invigilator is someone appointed by an educational institution to maintain proper conduct in an examination in accordance with exam regulations. Typically, the main duty of an exam invigilator is to watch examination candidates to prevent cheating. The purpose of exam invigilating is to ensure each candidate sits the examination under equal conditions.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half-Term</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Friends of Passmores Event <i>Passmores Got Talent</i>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Term 2
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Early Finish for Students 12:30pm</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term 1
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 & 8 Academic Tutorials
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half-Term</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term 2
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>End of Term Early Finish for Students</b>

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

### 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

### 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

### 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

### 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

### 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

### 6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

### 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

### 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

### 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

### 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# WARNING

## OFF-ROADERS BEWARE!

Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act prohibits all Mechanically Propelled Vehicles from driving on this land.



### Bikes will be seized without further warning

To report motorcycle nuisance call 101 or visit our website:

[www.essex.police.uk/doitonline](http://www.essex.police.uk/doitonline)

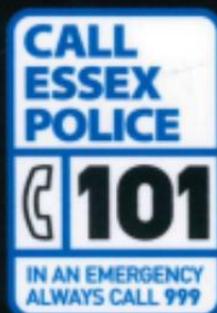
In an emergency always call 999.



**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.



# ACL

FREE!



# Family Wellbeing Online Course

Join us to discover simple, practical ways to:

- ✦ Reduce stress for you and your family
- ✦ Build healthier routines and habits
- ✦ Strengthen communication and family bonds
- ✦ Create a more peaceful, positive home environment

**Dates:** 24/02/26 7-9 pm 1 week only or  
24/06/26 12:30-14:30pm for 6 weeks

Scan the QR code, or  
Visit our website  
[www.aclessex.com](http://www.aclessex.com) and type  
'FAMILY WELLBEING' in the  
'Find a course...' box



[aclessex.com](http://aclessex.com)

0345 603 7635



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FREE COURSE

ADHD

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## Understanding ADHD & AUTISM in Children

5-weeks online course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodivergent children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

**Start Date & Time:** 24/02/26 9:30-11:30 mornings  
or 26/02/26 19:00-21:00 evenings

Scan the QR code, or visit  
our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and  
type "ADHD Autism children"  
in the 'Find a course...' box



[acessex.com](https://acessex.com)

0345 603 7635



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**FREE!**

## Building Positive Family Relationship

### Online Course

Strong family relationships make life happier, healthier, and more resilient for adults and children. Join us to learn practical ways to build robust connections and make the most of them for lasting success.

**Dates:** 24/02/26 9:45-11:45 am for 5 weeks

Scan the QR code, or visit our website [www.aclessex.com](http://www.aclessex.com) and type 'Positive Family Relationship' in the 'Find a course...' box



**aclessex.com**

**0345 603 7635**





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**FREE!**

# SEND Support for Families

## Online Live Course

This course provides the opportunity for parents and carers of SEN children to come together to look into a different topic each week, and exchange experiences, views, and advice.

**Date: 24/02/26 every Tuesdays for 6 weeks**

**Time: 19:00-21:00 (evenings)**

Scan the QR code, or visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type 'SEND SUPPORT' in the 'Find a course...' box



**acessex.com**

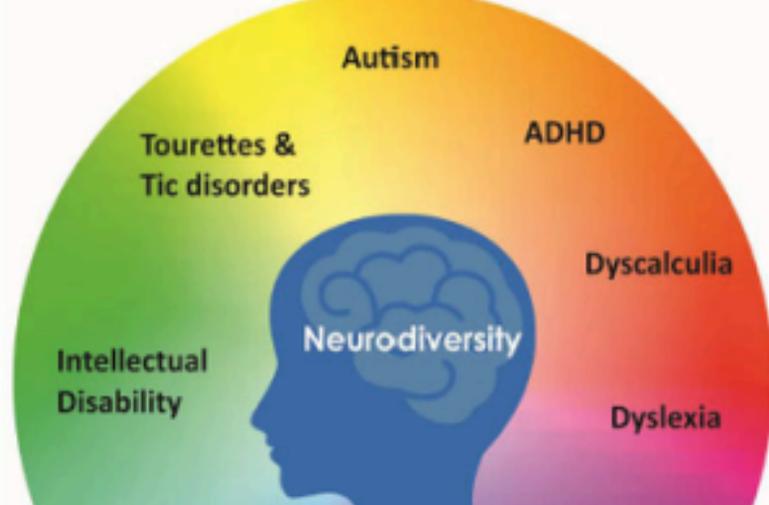
**0345 603 7635**



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FREE!

# Understanding Neurodivergent Children

## Online Live Course

This course is designed to support you to understand your neurodivergent child and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions.

**Dates:** 23/02/26-23/03/26 12:30-14:30 Mondays or  
25/02/26-15/04/26 10:00-12:00 Wednesdays

Scan the QR code, or visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type 'Neurodivergent' in the 'Search courses ...' box



**acessex.com**  
**0345 603 7635**



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## Support your Child Attend and Enjoy School

This adults-only course offers a supportive space to share experiences and discover practical tips to help children feel more confident, happy, and motivated to attend school.

 **ONLINE**

**Date:** please check website

**Time:** please check website

Scan the QR code, or visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type 'SUPPORT SCHOOL CHILD' in to the 'Find a course...' box



[acessex.com](https://acessex.com)

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# FAKE OR REAL? KNOW THE DEAL

Deepfakes may be fake, but  
their effects are not.



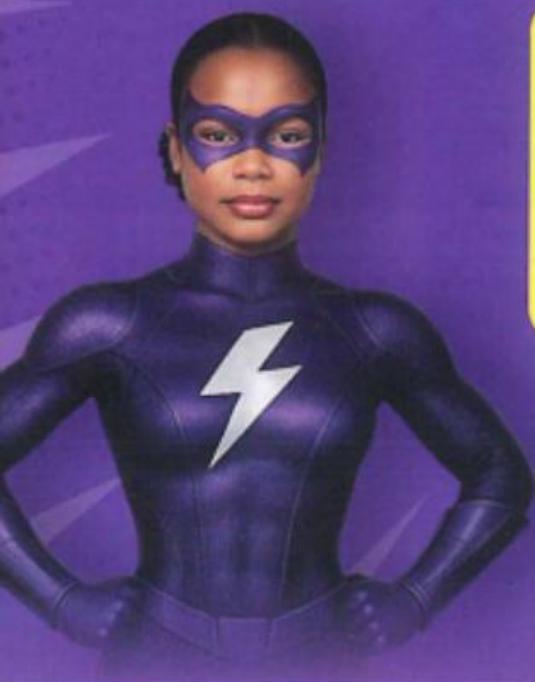
Scan here to learn more

# FAKE OR REAL? DO YOU KNOW THE DEAL?

Deepfake technology is a type of artificial intelligence that can spread misinformation and disinformation. Stay informed to help protect children and young people online.

Visit your local EE store today to speak with our Guides about staying safe online.

Scan the QR code below to book a free 30-minute session with an EE Guide to learn how to protect yourself from deepfakes.





Part of this project is funded by the Essex PFCC  
Community Safety Development Fund initiative



#STAYSAFEESEX

@billericayyouthsafetyproject



# Safer Buses Survey



**27th January – 2nd March 2026**

*This survey is aimed at young people aged 11 - 18 years old  
who live or attend a school in the county of Essex*



Have you ever witnessed a  
crime on a bus in Essex?



**We're researching safety on  
buses to prove it's really a  
concern that young people  
face, but to do so we need  
your opinions**

(Our survey is 100% anonymous)

**Have your say today 😊**



STRIKE ACADEMY



SA FOUNDATION



# FREE AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB

**FOOTBALL**

&

**MULTI-SPORT**

STARTING  
MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JAN

PASSMORES  
ACADEMY,  
CM18 6JH

YEAR 7 -  
YEAR 11

Free after school football and multi-sport club, e.g. dodgeball

Ages 15-16 can enroll on free FA Referee and Level 1 Coaching courses

**REGISTER  
BEFORE  
ATTENDING**



WWW.SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK  
HELLO@SAFOUNDATION.CO.UK  
07877 321859



# Harlow Poetry Open 2026 Competition

Celebrate World Poetry Day 2026

**Theme: Memory**

**Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**For adults, young people and children  
who live, work or learn in Harlow**

Categories: 7 - 10, 11 - 17, 18+

To enter and find out more go to:



# Essex Fire Museum

## Open Day

2026



17th and 22nd Of February

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS



**Book Now**   
**Free Entry**



[Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

# Work-Life Balance: Managing Workplace Stress and Burnout

**Do You Find It Hard to Switch Off After Work?**

**Do you worry about work when you want to focus on other things?**

**Feel burned out or want to make the most of your time at home?**

**This course is designed for you.**

## **Engage in What You Value**

Discover practical ways to focus on what truly matters outside of work.

## **Control Worry & Overthinking**

Learn techniques to manage racing thoughts and reduce mental clutter.

## **Manage Self-Critical Thoughts**

Build strategies to quiet your inner critic and boost your well-being.

## **Why Join?**

Improve work-life balance

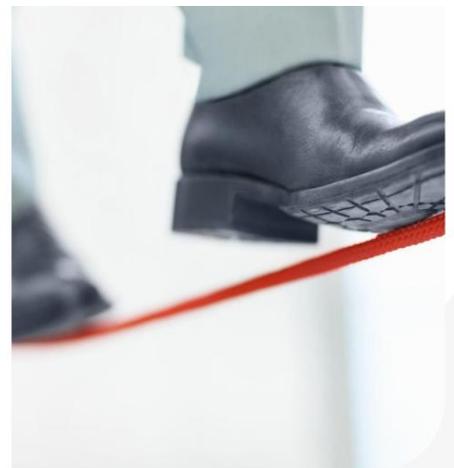
Reduce stress and burnout

Maximise quality time at home

**Take the first step toward a calmer, more fulfilling life.** *Start reclaiming your time and peace of mind.*

Length of Course: 4-week/4-session course Free NHS Treatment

Session Length: 1.5 hours (camera's will be off)



# Calm the Mind: Managing Worry & Overthinking

## Do You Find It Hard to Stop Your Mind from Racing?

Do you worry about things when you're trying to relax?

Do you find yourself going over the day, the past, or what might happen in the future?

Do you struggle to be 'present' or to concentrate and focus?

## What You'll Get from This Course

### Understand the Habit of Rumination, Overthinking & Worry

Learn why these patterns happen and how they affect your wellbeing.

### Break the Cycle & Build Healthier Habits

Practical strategies to calm the mind and create space for rest and activities you value.

### Shift 'Why' and 'What If' Thinking

Replace unhelpful thought patterns with techniques that give you respite and clarity.

### Transform Self-Critical Talk

Move from harsh inner dialogue to kind, motivating self-talk.

### Channel an Unfocused Mind

Learn how to stay on task and be present in the moment.

**Take the first step toward peace of mind and better focus.** *Sign up today and start reclaiming your mental space.*

Length of Course: 6-week/6-session course and is **FREE NHS Treatment offer**

Session Length: 1.5 hours (Cameras will be off)





# Spring Term The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and Basildon

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with

