



Key Stage 5 Newsletter

COMMUNITY LEARNING

Community Learning continues to be a great success, with students developing vital independence skills through hands-on experiences in the local community. From buying items in shops to catching buses and exploring a variety of locations, students are gaining confidence and practical experience.

This term, students have taken part in a wide range of meaningful activities. These have included finding a complete outfit within a set budget, locating breakfast items in a busy supermarket, finding prices of items, and navigating public transport — including trains to Colchester, buses to Stansted Airport, and using the Park and Ride service. Along the way, students have learned to read timetables, use the First Bus app, and have demonstrated fantastic teamwork and resilience. Some highlights include a tour of Stanton's Farm — where one of our students is carrying out work experience and had the opportunity to practise leading a tour — and visiting Hackers in Billericay, a new location for us, where students enjoyed indoor crazy golf as part of their community engagement. These experiences have helped students build practical life skills and confidence in everyday environments.

We're incredibly proud to share that several students have now progressed from the Community Learning programme to the Home Study Programme. They have acquired the skills they need to take their next steps toward greater independence. Their achievements are a true reflection of the impact of this learning approach.



ACCREDITATION

We're pleased to share that all of our Year 13 students — along with some of our Year 12s — have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their English and Maths assessments and exams, including Entry Level Certificates, Functional Skills, and GCSEs.

We're delighted to confirm that the Entry Level and Functional Skills assessments are now complete, with just a couple of GCSE exams remaining. Throughout this period, students have shown great focus and determination, and we're extremely proud of the effort, resilience, and commitment they've demonstrated during this challenging but rewarding process.

Please refer to the recent correspondence from our Exams Officer for more information about results and how students will receive them.



THE WASHCLUB

Parks Class have been hard at work this year through their exciting collaboration with The WashClub.

Students have been involved in every stage of the product creation journey – from measuring, temperature checking, and using equipment like microwaves and hobs, to packaging, marketing, labelling, and assigning batch numbers for stock control. They've also taken part in regular stocktaking, all while handcrafting a range of soaps and wax melts.

This project has provided many opportunities for students to develop key skills including maths, problem solving, communication, teamwork, time management, and attention to detail.

Their dedication has truly paid off, with great success selling their products at Galleywood Market and our Open Mic Night.

If you'd like to support their fantastic work, you can find their products [here](https://thewashclub.co.uk/collections/thriftwood).

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Work Experience

Following some successful initial placements, we're very pleased to share that several of our students have now secured regular weekly work experience. These ongoing opportunities include roles at Meadgate Primary School, Seesaw Nursery, Maldon Promenade Zoo, Reach Equine Therapy, and an Oxfam Charity Shop.

These experiences are helping students build valuable workplace skills, gain confidence, and explore potential career paths – all fantastic steps toward their future goals.

Well done to all the students involved!

College ENRICH Code

E- Enterprise

N- Nurture

R- Respect

I- Integrity

C- Compassion

H- Honesty

IMPORTANT DATES

Inset Day- 6th June 2025

Leavers Assembly - 19th June 2025

Leavers Last Day - 20th June 2025

Last day of the Year - 18th July 2025 at 1pm

If you have any queries please contact Rachael Collins on 01245 262779 or rachael.collins@thriftwoodcollege.com



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