Newsletter

Improving upon our best

Friday 11th July 2025 Issue 37

PASSMORES ACADEMY









ASSEMBLIES





Dear Parent/Carers,

It has been a Wonka fantastic week. What a phenomenal effort from everyone involved in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, it was a remarkable show. I had high expectations after the Jack Petchey performance, but those were exceeded last night when I had the privilege of seeing the whole production; a standing ovation at the end says everything. Congratulations to all involved, and thanks to you for making sure the performers attended all rehearsals and for your support on the night. We will give the team a little time to relax and absorb the adulation before we start pestering for a decision about next year's choice!

There have been some exhausted people in the building today (even more so than the rest of us are feeling already). Fatigue always needs feeding, so what better timing for our Cultural Appreciation Day and the chance to sample the culinary delights on offer. Our break times were abuzz with steel pans, drumming and aromas galore. Amidst our wave of blue uniform, a spray of colour from young people and staff proudly wearing an array of clothing from around the world, from Harlow to St Lucia and beyond.

And so, to next week and the excitement that is building for the Celebration Assemblies. We are looking forward to welcoming many of you across the four days, a chance for us all to celebrate our young people together. There may even be a few more tears of joy!

Natalie Christie Principal of Passmores Academy

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www.passmoresacademy.com

TOP PASSMORES POINTS ACHIEVERS

4th to 10th July 2025

Hartgrove, Charis	Year 7	58
Stryczek, Calum	Year 7	54
Owen, Amelie	Year 7	47
Howe, Tate	Year 7	46
Spiewak, Filip	Year 7	44
Rouse, Elijah	Year 7	43
Mahon, Charlie	Year 7	39
Sava-Luchian, Eric	Year 7	39
Aley, Dylan	Year 7	38
Ford, Grayson	Year 7	38

Cudmore, Samuel	Year 9	46
Brown, Charlie	Year 9	34
Chambers, Callum	Year 9	31
Sowunmi, Ronel	Year 9	29
Cerek, Krystian	Year 9	28
Hills, Ronnie	Year 9	28
Defor, Othniel	Year 9	26
Kiss, Ruben	Year 9	26
Watters, Katie	Year 9	24
Andersons, Erik	Year 9	23
Benge, Maddie	Year 9	23

Wright, Megan	Year 8	41
Jackson, Annie	Year 8	40
Brandle, Aiden	Year 8	39
Brooks, Bobby	Year 8	38
Addison, Anyia-Joan	Year 8	36
Evans, Tillie	Year 8	33
Green, Lewis	Year 8	32
Morgan, Dexter	Year 8	28
Steel, Kayla-Rose	Year 8	28

Meager, Ellen	Year 10	21
Kamara, Abdul	Year 10	18
Sestavickaite, Arune	Year 10	18
Ball-Parrish, Maizie	Year 10	16
Clemente, Brian	Year 10	16
Cruickshank, Beau	Year 10	15
Munns, Xander	Year 10	15
Man, Charlotte	Year 10	14

Year Group Attendance (30 th June to 4 th July 2025)		
Year 7	89.74%	
Year 8	84.49%	
Year 9	83.38%	
Year 10	83.46%	
All Students	85.31%	

PASTORAL UPDATE



Thought for the Week: Cultural Appreciation Day

This week's *Thought for the Week* focused on celebrating Cultural Appreciation Day, a powerful opportunity for our school to embrace the richness of our community. Students explored how recognising and valuing diverse backgrounds strengthens us as individuals and as a school. The intended outcomes of the session included:

- Promoting Inclusion and Respect: Celebrating the cultures within our school helps reduce prejudice, fosters understanding, and builds a sense of belonging for all students.
- ➤ Building Community Cohesion: Sharing food, dress, music, and traditions helps develop empathy and positive relationships.
- Enriching the Curriculum: Students explored real-world links to subjects like RE, History, Art, Geography, and Languages.
- > Preparing for a Global Society: In today's world, cultural awareness is an essential skill for life and the workplace.
- Empowering Student Voice: Students led parts of the day's events and were encouraged to take pride in their own identities while celebrating others.
- > Reinforcing British Values: Mutual respect and tolerance were front and centre throughout the day.
- Challenging Discrimination: Open discussions promoted anti-racism and an inclusive mindset across the school.

It was a vibrant and meaningful day that reflected the very best of what it means to be part of the Passmores community.

In the News: Managing Worry About the News

- > This week, students looked at how to manage difficult emotions when faced with worrying news stories. In a media-saturated world, this important session helped students build resilience and critical awareness. Key outcomes included:
- > Understanding that it's normal to feel worried or overwhelmed by current events.
- > Recognising that some stories are selected for their shock value or rarity not because they reflect everyday life.
- Learning strategies to manage worry: limiting exposure, seeking support, focusing on what we *can* control, and prioritising wellbeing.
- Encouraging action: students were reminded that taking positive steps (like fundraising, volunteering or raising awareness) can ease anxiety and create change.

This session offered timely support and practical guidance to help students feel empowered, not overwhelmed.

Other News

This week was packed with activity, achievements, and community spirit:

- ➤ Year 10 students transitioned into their Year 11 tutor groups, beginning a bespoke programme to support them with revision, careers, post-16 options, and applications. They also heard from F2 Academy in a careers-focused assembly and completed revision task 1 in English, Maths and Science.
- Year 9 students attended an assembly focused on apprenticeships, helping them consider alternative post-16 pathways.
- Year 10 photography students enjoyed a creative and inspiring trip to Borough Market, capturing culture and life through the lens.
- And finally, a huge congratulations to the cast, crew, and staff involved in the school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The performances were a triumph—full of talent, heart, and hard work. We are immensely proud of everyone who contributed to this magical production!

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

Our final full week of the year promises to be just as special:

- Thought for the Week will focus on staying healthy over the summer, giving students tips on physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing during the break.
- In the News will encourage students to make the most of their summer, reflecting on rest, creativity, and time with loved ones.
- Wednesday is a busy day: we'll host the Principal's Challenge Trip, welcome Year 6 students for their induction day, and celebrate with a BBQ, rounders and disco in the evening.
- The week will culminate with our highly anticipated Celebration Assemblies, where we reflect on the achievements of the year and recognise those students who have gone above and beyond.

Let's finish the year on a high, together.



This week's lucky recipients in the prize draw are...

Aiden Brandle
Maxwell Coleman
Braedon Hussey
Mia Adams
Gemma Scott
Leo Gregory
Anyia-Joan Addison

SUBJECT/INFORMATION UPDATES



Charlie & The Chocolate Factory Round-up

And so we have reached the end of another successful school production. Current emotional status: happy, sad, proud, exhausted – all at once!

As we start to return borrowed items, equipment and costumes (the bit no one thinks about when they start a show!), we are so unbelievably chuffed with the audience response to the production this year. Sold out on two nights, with only a handful of seats left empty on the first night (target for next year already forming!). The beautiful comments coming in from those that came to watch are just lovely. And a reminder why we all do it!

We couldn't be prouder of this year's cast and crew. It's been an immense journey and it's always an absolute privilege seeing performers that start the process nervous and unsure, develop the skills and confidence, often supported by their peers, to step out on that stage and deliver top class characterisation and entertainment for delighted audiences.

We have discovered some new, fresh performers this year and are devastated to be bidding our senior cast members a farewell. This year's show featured so many of our wonderful Year 11s that have attended and committed to rehearsals during exams and after the rest of their year group signed off back in June. We will miss them dearly. However, we remain optimistic that they will come back and help us out next year, like so many of our previous students did this year. It's fabulous to be able to welcome alumni back and work alongside them as colleagues; we rarely see or hear from so many of them once they finish their GCSEs. To have a team of ex-students supporting the staff team, leading direction and choreography in rehearsals and managing the backstage and technical aspects of the show is a wonderful testament to the relationships we build whilst they are here and the passion they maintain for the arts beyond a secondary curriculum.

There have definitely been some weary faces around the building today, but behind that is a smile and sense of pride from everyone involved, kids all the way through to adults! For us, it's always the best week of the school year, but we are looking forward to having a two-day weekend, free of the need to get up and drag ourselves in for a long sweaty rehearsal on Sunday.

We will assemble some of the positive comments we've received from audience members into an article for next week, in the meantime, we bid you adieu and ask you to pass on thanks and congratulations to every child who set foot on that stage this week. You have been amazing!

A last honour roll for our 11s, who we are looking forward to spending some time with on Friday next week as we all go for a picnic in Regent's Park, before going to see Noughts and Crosses at the open-air theatre there. What a nice segue into a reminder for those that are attending to pay for the trip. Phone calls to come this week!

Year 11 drama roll of honour:
Korban Doyle – Willy Wonka
Harrison Houghton – Grandpa Joe
Daisy Wilson – Violet Beauregarde
Molly Croome – Mrs Gloop
Lizzy Panagi – Grandma Josephine
Austeja Garmata – Grandma Georgina
Katie Holmes – senior ensemble
Izzy Sheard – senior ensemble
Angel Fernandes – senior ensemble
Rhoda Adesina – senior ensemble

Special mention – Dana Kasa, who did all the hard work in rehearsals and then was unable to take part due to injury. Thank you for all your help with set building and painting. You have been excellent role models for our younger cast members and it has been a real treat to see you develop leadership skills and inspire others. We will miss you all so very much!

A reminder that all cast and crew members are invited to a viewing of the show on Thursday after school. There will be prizes! And possibly more tears – we just don't know!

































SPORTS/PE UPDATES

This week saw our last fixtures of this year, and it was Year 7 and Seniors Harlow Rounders Finals hosted by Burnt Mill.

Well done to all students who took part, there was some fantastic batting, fielding and teamwork shown on the pitch.

On behalf of the PE Department, we would like to thank everyone for their hard work this year and we wish you all a lovely Summer!





CAREERS NEWS



The army foundation college invites you to a virtual Harrogate open event on Wednesday 9th July at 6.00pm. To book your place register on <u>Army Foundation College Harrogate Virtual Open Day</u>

New Courses for year 11s at Hertford Regional College to start Sept 2025

Level 1 Plastering Course:

This is a new course, which aims to progress students either to a Level 2 Plastering course after completion of our Level 1 course or to apply to an apprenticeship programme. They can also apply for another study programme course in construction or a different industry completely. The level will be determined by their tutor and based on grades.

T level foundation course in science and engineering

The T level foundation courses are for students who want to complete a T Level course but have not achieved their English and/or Maths GCSE. The foundation course provides them with the underpinning knowledge towards starting their T Level, whilst giving them time to resit and attain their Maths and/or English.

Here is a government link explaining the foundation courses.

https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/5622112789138-What-is-the-T-Level-Foundation-Year

Here is the link to our foundation course in science:

https://hrc.ac.uk/our-courses/t-level-foundation-applied-science-and-technology/

Here is the link to our foundation course in engineering:

https://hrc.ac.uk/our-courses/t-level-foundation-year/

Year 11 Apprenticeship Opportunities:

Apprentice Hairdresser's, Salary £15,704, currently being advertised at Avant Garde in Harlow, HOBS Salon in Epping and Loughton and Clique in Sawbridgeworth on <u>Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK</u>.

Summer Support Programme

Essex Youth Service are offering a 5-day course for any student who has just finished year 11 including home educated young people, to help with CV writing, interview techniques, budgeting, first aid, job searching and employability skills. (please see poster attached).

Jack & Jills Nursery, Harlow, are advertising for a nursery apprentice, closing date 18th July, <u>Assistant Nursery Nurse</u> Apprenticeship – Find an apprenticeship – GOV.UK

CAREERS NEWS

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Year 9 Assembly - Apprenticeships

On Monday, Get Set UK representing the ASK programme, came into school to deliver an assembly to our year 9 students on apprenticeships. This was an informative presentation on what an apprenticeship is, the range of sectors that offer apprenticeships, salaries (which are generally very good), and how students can find more information. Part way through an employer joined the meeting on teams to explain how they support apprentices in the workplace.

The aim of this assembly was to inform students of one of the post 16 pathways they can consider when they leave Passmores, having already learnt about full time college at the Harlow College taster day the previous week. This will help them to make an informed decision based on factual information and prepare them for their future. To learn more about apprenticeships, students can use Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK and What is an apprenticeship?.

Year 10 Assembly - F2 Academy

On Friday our year 10's interested in a career in football and sport were invited to an assembly delivered by the F2 Academy. This gave them an insight into the range of Post 16 courses they offer and at what levels. They also learnt about the wide range of careers linked to football and sport including coaching, instructing, outdoor pursuits, media, broadcasting, talent spotting, journalism, physiotherapy, sports therapies, sport development and many more.

The F2 Academy will also be attending our Careers Fair on the 9th October. More details of this will follow nearer the time.

College and Sixth Form Open Days Autumn Term

Hertford Regional College Tuesday 30th September 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Writtle College Saturday 11th October 10:00am - 3:00pm

Harlow College Thursday 16th October 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Cambridge Regional College Wednesday 22nd October 4.30pm - 7:00pm



SUMMER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

For young people finishing Year 11

5 full days of practical support to help young people feel ready for what's next.

- Starting w/c 28 July or w/c 4 August
- 10am 4pm, Monday to Friday
- · Loughton and Harlow
- Open to all Year 11 leavers (including home-educated young people)
- CV writing
- Interview techniques
- Budgeting and finance
- First aid qualification
- Job searching tips
- Employability skills to boost confidence





in property

SCAN HERE TO REFER



SUMMER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

FAQs

What is the Summer Support Programme?

A 5-day programme where you will:

- Create a CV
- Apply for jobs
- · Practise interview skills
- Gain a First Aid qualification

How long will I receive support for?

The programme runs for 1 week. You will also receive a follow-up call after results day to see if there is anything else we can help with.

Can I get help with transport?

Yes, we can provide bus tickets if needed.

What qualifications could I achieve?

You will gain a First Aid qualification.

What's the aim of the Summer Support Programme?

To help you move into employment, an apprenticeship, or further training.

What times does it run?

10am to 4pm each day.

Do I need to attend for the full 5 days?

Yes, you will need to attend all 5 days.

Do I need to bring lunch?

No, lunch is provided.

I feel a bit anxious — can you help?

We understand it can feel daunting. If it helps, you are very welcome to meet us beforehand to talk through any worries or concerns.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

REMINDER...

Don't forget to <u>renew</u> your locker ready for September or <u>empty</u> it so that it can be reallocated to another student.



If you need any assistance, please contact Kelly Kemsley in our Student Services office.



There are lots of old padlocks in our bike sheds that don't appear to belong to any bikes!

Over the summer holidays, any unclaimed padlocks will be cut off and disposed of, so if you currently have a padlock in the bike sheds that is still used, please ensure that this is removed prior to the end of the school year.

Thank you!

LOST PROPERTY



Lost property will be left out on the tables in the Heart Space on **Tuesday 22**nd **July**.

Anything unclaimed will be going to charity.

Friends of Passmores

Friends of Passmores have signed up to the Parents Lottery via ParentKind and for just £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping us raise money for the school.

Follow the link below, click play and search for Friends of Passmores, then buy your tickets!

https://www.theparentslottery.org/

Any questions contact the team at fop@passmoresacademy.com and good luck!



Be part of something special!

Join The Parents Lottery and help us create a thriving school community.

Every ticket you buy funds vital projects, from library books to new playground equipment, helping to enrich the lives of our children.

Each £1 ticket also gives you the chance to win £25,000 every Friday along with various other prizes.

We understand that everyone is busy, and finding time to support your school can be challenging. That's why The Parents Lottery makes it so easy to make a real difference. Purchase a ticket online in just a few steps and you'll be automatically entered into the draw. Every ticket sold helps us provide the enriching educational experiences our children deserve. Play The Parents Lottery today and help us empower the next generation.

How to play

- Choose the school you'd like your tickets to support by entering the name or school's postcode
- 2. Decide how many entries you'd like and fill in your details to sign up
- 3. You've now entered next month's weekly draws, good luck!





How does it work?

There will be various prizes up for grabs each week including the chance to win the £25,000 jackpot! Keep your eyes on the Friday weekly draw to find out if you'll be a winner this week. And remember 60%* of each ticket you purchase goes to your chosen PTA/school.

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list £1 ticket entry into each weekly draw

Prize draw every Friday Each ticket supports our school

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 14 th July	DRAGON Celebration Assembly 9:30am – 11:00am
Tuesday 15 th July	GRIFFIN Celebration Assembly 9:30am – 11:00am
Wednesday 16 th July	Principal's Challenge Trip; Year 6-8 Rounders, BBQ & Disco
Thursday 17 th July	LION Celebration Assembly 9:30am – 11:00am
Friday 18 th July	UNICORN Celebration Assembly 9:30am – 11:00am
Monday 21 st July	PACT Non-Uniform Day; Inflatables Day
Tuesday 22 nd July	Early Closure for Students (12:30pm)



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



CHHAT Groupwork (Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team)

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The Children's Society East

Our CHHAT groups focus on promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing for 8 – 18 yr olds, with these particular sessions focussing on children in **years 8 & 9**.

The team use a range of techniques tailored to support each young person to develop their emotional resilience; with the group programme aiming to help young people build self-esteem and confidence.

The service is open to children and young people who have parents or family members who are misusing substances or have been impacted by a family member's mental health.

We aim to create a safe, confidential space for these children and young people and will signpost/support additional referrals if appropriate.

Venue:

Passmores Academy, Memorial Hall in the Heart Space

Session Dates:

Tuesday 29th July – 10:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesday 30th July - 1:00pm to 3:15pm

Thursday 31st July – 10:00am to 12:30pm

Tuesday 5th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesday 6th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm

Thursday 7th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesday 20th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm

Tuesday 26th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

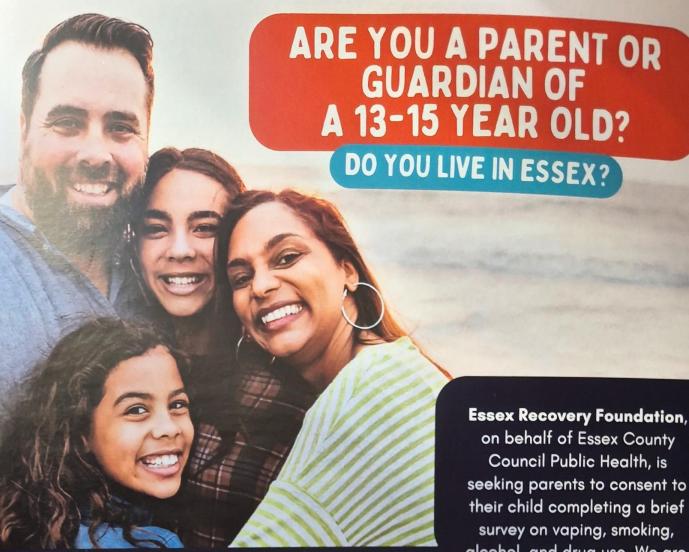
Wednesday 27th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm

Thursday 28th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

If you would like to find out more, or book a young person in to attend our group, then please contact one of our CHHAT practitioners on **01245 493311** or email kim.stayt@childrenssociety.org.uk

childrenssocietyeast.org.ukCharity Registration No. 221124





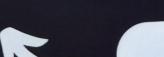
WHY TAKE PART?

By sharing their experiences, they will contribute to Essex County Council providing better advice and support in Essex around children and young peoples substance use.

on behalf of Essex County Council Public Health, is seeking parents to consent to their child completing a brief survey on vaping, smoking, alcohol, and drug use. We are interested in the opinions of ALL young people Essex, including those who do not vape, smoke drink or take drugs.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?





You will need to complete the consent form, featured in the QR code and, if you agree, your child will be sent an information sheet and consent form before they complete the survey which can be done online at home. All responses will be confidential and secure.

> SCAN THE QR CODE TO COMPLETE A SHORT SURVEY! TAKES LESS THAN 10 MINS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's IPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unitie some child-friendly lablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling, its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent eccidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps almed at shildren still share personal data. Over 42% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through appt, advertisements or online secreties. Even recommended content

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS



exercide restrictions, especially with the newer test-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without saleguards in place.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Pads can be highly immersive, and escessive screen time may affect a child's emotional o behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, initiability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with gaming or consuming media on toblets may struggle with language development and securities functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple 10 for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time Emits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in IOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.



USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

allows you to block occess during key times — such as before bed or during homework — while App Limits sats daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're mode.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Ferties, TechRadar, and Tex. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



The National College[®]

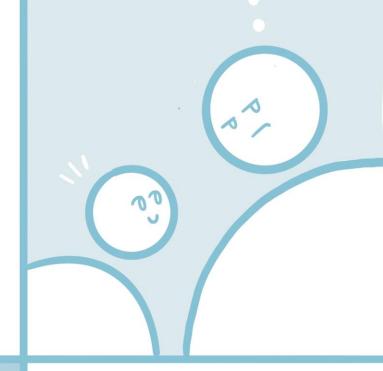




Child Care Costs

On universal credit you may be entitled to up to 85% of child care costs if both parents or single parent are in paid work or about to go into paid work. There is a full list of elements that make you entitled for help with child care costs, scan the QR code below for all the information. You can also ask our staff for a leaflet at front of house.

Can I get Help with child care costs?



Scan the QR Code

OR Go to Universal Credit childcare costs - GOV.UK

*You can also ask for a leaflet

Things YOU Need to Know about Child Care Costs

- Both parents or single parent needs to be in paid work OR starting work in the next month
- It does not matter how many hours you work there is no minimum
- O UC can also help with upfront costs
- The child OR children must attend an Ofsted approved childcare provider
- O UC can help with up to 85% of child care costs

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Every Saturday & Sunday 12 – 3pm August 2025

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, Harlow, Essex, CM20 4SF

Find out more & BOOK

> Place Be

ON AND WEAVING PRO Community willow sculpture building will age

all ages welcome



Eloise Pilbeam









JOIN HARLOW GIRLS RUGBY

Ages II+ | All Skill Levels Welcome

JOIN US ON | Wednesday: 7-8:30 PM THE PITCH |

Find out more: www.harlowrugby.club/rugby/











HARLOW SUMMER ACTIVITIES

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FEW DAYS FILLED WITH EXCITING ACTIVITIES. WHETHER YOU'RE INTO SPORTS, ARTS, COOKING OR GAMING, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

FOR AGES 11-19 AND UP TO 25 WITH SEND (SECONDARY SCHOOL ONLY)

BOOK NOW USING THE QR CODE





MONDAY 11TH -THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST



XPERIENCE YOUTH CENTRE, BROADLEY ROAD, HARLOW, CM19 5RD



11-2PM



BRADLEY.WALKER@ESSEX.GOV.UK