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Penalty shoot-out settles football match

CHIGWELL School's Under 13 and Under 11 football teams both qualified for the Independent Association of Prep Schools tournament. The Under 11's team came third in their event after losing on penalties in the semi-final, while the Under 13s came top with a win against Bishops Stortford College.

Both teams scored a goal each, which meant that it had to be settled with a penalty shoot-out. Once again Chigwell were victorious and progress to the national finals as regional champions.

Head of boys' games, Kevin Farrant, said the boys were magnificent throughout and a credit to themselves and the school.

Head of football Andy Bruce added that he was very



Chigwell School's U13 football team

proud of the teams for reaching the national finals and for the

manner in which they conducted themselves.

School's pledge to unite people

Dedicated area of reflection for pupils

By Hannah Hastings

A CHURCH school reconnecting with its Christian faith is urging the school community to get on board.

Epping St John's Church of England School, in Bury Lane, Epping, has opened a chaplaincy room to provide a dedicated area for reflection for all students regardless of faith and beliefs.

Eposi Ewome, senior acting assistant head teacher, said: "We want the community, parents and students to know who we are and what we are about.

"One of our drivers is to live well together as a family and so we want to emphasise the importance of building on those relationships. We are here for our students and for their families.

"We are practising some of the things that are linked to Christian beliefs, including reflection and prayer. We want students to understand that Christians accept when things go wrong and ask for forgiveness

through prayer.

"We want them to understand that if they do something wrong, they have to acknowledge it, ask for forgiveness and accept the consequences. That is our way of supporting their growth."

Clergy based within the district are now spending time in the school every week to give an opportunity for students, staff and parents to ask questions. Rev John Fry, vicar of Theydon parish, and Rev Lee Batson, rector of Epping and area dean, represent the church in school twice a week.

Rev Fry said: "We feel quite honoured to be trusted by the school and we value that. We hope the young people will realise vicars are normal people and that we provide a safe space to complement the existing pastoral support they receive in school.

Rev Fry will be visiting the school twice a week.

He said: "It's recognising there is a spiritual dimension to every human being and

enabling people to access that. It's about having a positive encounter with Christianity and seeing there is something in the value of religion.

"It is not for everyone. But, for young people exploring themselves and growing their spiritual identity, this is an opportunity for them to discover what might provide fulfilment for them."

Assemblies will be held to celebrate all religious festivals, with students asked to bow their heads in respect when it is the turn of a faith they do not follow.

The school has also introduced a new motto – Aspirational, Courageous, Exceptional (ACE) – with a rewards system to further encourage students to behave in a positive way.

Students can collect ACE points to swap for trips, vouchers and stationery.

Mrs Ewome added: "We want to take the focus away from negative behaviour and instead acknowledge when students do something positive.

Pupils' take on climate debate

THE necessity and productivity of climate change protests will be debated by students.

Eight schools from across Epping will be represented at this year's Epping Forest Schools Parliamentary Debating Competition being held by Epping Forest MP Dame Eleanor Laing on Friday, November 15.

The motion to be debated is: "This house believes that

mass protests about climate change are unnecessary and counterproductive as the danger to the planet has already been recognised".

Debden Park, West Hatch, Epping St John's, Chigwell, Davenant, King Harold, Rodding Valley and Braeside - are taking part this year with the competition being held at Debden Park High School in Loughton.

Debden Park's team of Year 11 students, Max Bolton and Amelie Ashton, won last year's competition.

West Hatch High School's team of Year 12 students Hannah Saunders and Luke Drummond-Poynter were runners-up while a prize for the most promising newcomer was awarded to Epping St John's School student Lewis Martin.