

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent,

I am sure that my colleagues will agree that the past twelve weeks have flown by! I know that staff are looking forward to a well-deserved holiday. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and hard work this term i.e. both inside and outside of the classroom. The Spring term has been exceptionally busy in terms of both events and achievements.

Pupils in Year 11 sit their first written exam on Thursday 9th May. I do hope that they use the break wisely in terms of revision - including attending the RISE sessions taking place in school. Alongside this, it is important that they find some time to relax and unwind! A balanced and organised approach is essential so that they can return both refreshed and ready to confidently meet the challenge of the GCSE examinations.

As you read the newsletter you will find countless achievements of pupils both inside and outside of school. We are very fortunate to have so many busy and talented individuals. In terms of activities and events, this term has seen several including: concerts; coffee mornings; charity events; competitions; fixtures; quizzes; parents' evenings; and trips. We are very lucky to have so many enthusiastic staff and pupils who give of their own time to enrich the busy life of the school.

The Summer term is equally packed. We have the selection of prefects, two Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, concerts, Sports day, various information and open evenings and, of course, the GCSE examinations.

As always if there are questions or comments please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I wish you, and your family, a relaxing break and look forward to seeing the pupils again on Monday 15th April.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Exciting News Alert! We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Instagram account! Follow us for updates, behind the scenes glimpses, and all things Eastwood Academy! Stay connected with us as we share our journey together. @_theeastwoodacademy



ATTENDANCE

Across the academic year so far, overall attendance was 94.0 % vs. a current national average of 91.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	94.2
Bowland	94.0
Elveden	94.1
Kielder	94.3
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	94.5
Whinfell	93.7
Overall	94.0

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Over this half term, the Student Leadership Team have been involved with the start of the recruitment for the new cohort of prefects. The StLT have collated the applications, created duty rotas and supported the pupils on duty. The next stage of the process is shortlisting for the new StLT and the final prefects, which will be announced after Easter.

The StLT also met with Mr. D. Piercy to discuss the feedback from the Autumn round of Student Voice. The team identified the main areas pupils wanted to be improved and discussed action points with Mr. D. Piercy.

RED NOSE DAY



As a school, we supported the Comic Relief charity by celebrating the day and taking part in fundraising. First of all, we had a non-uniform day, in which everyone wore an item of red. It was lovely to see everyone take part and see everyone in bright colours. At break time, we held a bake sale and sold cakes that pupils had made themselves!



Thank you to everyone who brought cakes in - it was much appreciated! Next, at lunch time we hosted a staff netball match! Thank you to the few pupils who participated, and the many who came to support and cheer the

teams on! With a tight game, the final score was 4-3! We had massive amounts of team spirit and the teachers got really involved. Overall, it was a fantastic day, and the pupils had loads of fun! We raised a total of £639.56 for Red Nose Day. Written by Hettie S. (11R), Head Girl and photos by Farai T. (10B).



KUGB ENGLAND KUMITE SQUAD



A huge congratulations to Rio P. (10W) who was selected to participate in trials for The KUGB England Kumite Squad and was successful in getting into the England squad. An amazing achievement! Rio will be completing extra training throughout the year

from the England Sensei and coaches in Liverpool. Rio is a junior leader at his club and was given the opportunity to coach at the EKCC Championships in one of the older categories, watching on while his teammate was fighting, giving pointers and guidance as his teammate fought the opposition. Rio normally teaches and coaches the younger children at the Dojo.



SWIMMING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Harry H. (9A) who competed in a two-day swimming competition over February half term. Harry finished in the top 10 in Essex for most of his races - amazing work!



MARTIAL ARTS SUCCESS



Well done to Alex G. (8B) who successfully completed his Black/Silver Sash grading on Friday 8th March in the martial art of Wing Chun. A great achievement.

ESSEX CHAMPION

On March 3rd our very own Katie C. (7K) attended the Essex Indoor Athletics Championships. After an amazing race Katie was crowned Essex Champion in the 800m event. A huge accomplishment and something that both her parents and Academy are extremely proud of. Well done Katie!



Pupil Success

PALACE THEATRE PERFORMANCE

After 6 months of rehearsals, Aimee J. (9W) and Sophie M. (9E) have spent the whole of their Feb Half Term on stage at the Palace Theatre. The show, called **It's a Date!** brought



around 80 Scouts and Guides together. The Gang Show performed 2 full dress rehearsals and 7 live performances over half term. The cast were supported by over 50 adult volunteers who took bookings, sold tickets, arranged props, set the stage, organised the lights and designed show items. Aimee and Sophie were acting, singing and dancing, in front of a live audience, with each performance seating over 300 people. Their performance was nothing short of outstanding. The girls really have had the time of their lives and have grown in confidence as a result.



Several other Eastwood pupils also participated including Rosie W. (9A), Freya W. (7B), Ruby F. (10K), Annie F. (8K), Daisy L. (8R).

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

A huge congratulations to Holly Taylor, (11W), along with her football team, Leigh Ramblers under 18, who won the Essex County Cup final on Sunday 3rd March 2024. It was an amazing achievement for Holly and her team to not only reach the final but win it! It was played at Aveley FC.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC U15S



Congratulations to Dulcie G. (10A) who captained Charlton Athletic U15s on Sunday 17th March in the London Cup Final vs Teddington Athletic. After a competitive 90 minutes, the game finished 4-4 meaning extra time had to be played. Dulcie and her teammates continued to fight until the final whistle blew, eventually winning 6-4 in extra time. Well done Dulcie!

ESU SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

Although we didn't make it to the next round of the ESU Churchill Debating Competition we were still involved in the ESU Shakespeare competition - round 2 took place in the theatre last night and Rosie W. (9A), Lucia M. (7A) and Bridie Lawrence (7W) were our enthusiastic participants.



Lucia and Bridie presented a heartfelt extract from 'As You Like It'. These pupils had rehearsed their hearts out and it showed - they have loved this play since primary school and they knew exactly what every word meant to each character.

Rosie came in with Shylock's famous speech from 'The Merchant of Venice' – a really dramatic presentation, powerful and thought-provoking. She gave an eloquent explanation regarding her choice of extract and how the issues from 400 years ago still resonate with us today - plenty of topical news events at the moment...

The other schools' speeches were a delight - it was fantastic to watch ten Shakespeare extracts performed by KS3 pupils with such obvious love and enthusiasm: Brentwood High School, Harris Academy Romford, Colchester County High for Girls - quite a daunting list!

In short, Rosie has made it through to the next round!

I'm particularly delighted because this is the first time we've entered this competition and our pupils were brilliant - I am so proud of the three of them! The pupils must have impressed Miss Becks as she's coming back on a weekly basis to help support Rosie for the next round, even though she'll be back at Billericay!

MUSIC FESTIVAL SUCCESS



Well done to Jaleel M. (10S), who has previously achieved his Grade 5 in Piano, entered the Stratford and East London Music Festival 2024, in February. He received a 'Distinction' for his rendition in the Jazz Piano Solo class - 17 years and under - of Mr

Trumpet Man by Composer Gillock. His score of 89 was just below the overall winner who achieved 90.

Pupil Success

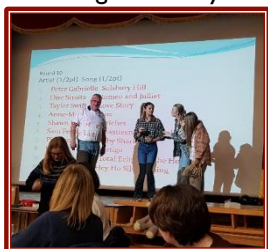
OUR VERY OWN INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN



What better way to celebrate International Women's Day than to attend an event organised by 4 inspirational young women in year 10. Over 110 members of the Eastwood community including pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school attended a charity quiz night on the 8th March to raise funds for a local animal sanctuary.

The girls; Emma, Evie, Lois and Olivia have spent the last 7 weeks planning their quiz night as part of their "citizenship action" which all Year 10 pupils complete as part of their Citizenship GCSE. The pupils select a topic that they want to make a change in, or raise awareness of, and from day one the girls knew exactly what they wanted to do. Despite multiple organisational meetings during their breaks and lunches the girls persisted to overcome many an obstacle. Their commitment, passion and drive resulted in the girls showing an educational PowerPoint, creating informative leaflets for the tables, a 10 round quiz and a raffle with the most prizes I think that I have ever seen. After several rounds we enjoyed a meal of burgers, fish and chips, sausages and chicken before the remaining rounds continued. We were treated to Mr. S. Watkins (our quiz master) singing the lyrics for songs in one round and very soon everyone got involved in a mass sing song of "High-ho silver lining" whilst the girls enjoyed a dance on the stage. The girls raised a vast amount of money - £906! In addition, they also ran a "name the highland cow" competition. So many people helped and supported the girls with this event so special thanks to: the caretakers for setting up the hall; Will in finance for selling tickets; Mr. S. Watkins for his amazing quiz; Mr. D. Piercy for allowing the event to run and for attending; Mr. S. Harrison for his technical skills on the night as well as the use of his car to collect rather a lot of food which, at one point I must admit, I didn't think would fit in; Ms. L. Rutter for greeting the guests; and both Ms. L. Rutter and Mr. S. Harrison again, for helping the girls with the scoring and handing out the hot food.

One of the ladies on the winning table summed up the night perfectly when she took the time to go up to the girls at the end of the evening and said: "You should be so proud of what you have achieved. It has been a fantastic night with everyone coming together to support the charity. But what I have enjoyed the most is seeing the 4 of you smile and enjoy the evening that you have worked so hard to put together. You girls exemplify what we want all of our young people to be. You have been given the opportunity to excel, to raise money and awareness for something that you are passionate about and you have allowed the whole community to come together – that is priceless and I hope that you remember this wonderful feeling of what you have accomplished for a very long time."



SEA CADET SUCCESS

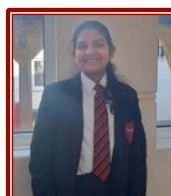


Congratulations to Layla M. (9W) who was among one of seven cadets from the London area invited to attend the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights on Thursday 7th March, to receive a certificate and a cash prize. This

was awarded because the cadets had been on an offshore voyage last year for a week. It acknowledged and rewarded the experience and skills that Layla gained on the voyage.



LANGUAGE AMBASSADOR AWARD



Congratulations to Angelina B. (9K) who has just received her Language Ambassador award badge. This is a special award given to pupils who show great commitment and enthusiasm in Languages. Angelina was nominated for her commitment to the Languages Club, often designing, presenting and running sessions for other pupils. This is a fabulous achievement. Well done!

10 MERITS AWARD IN FRENCH

A massive congratulations to the following pupils who have all received their 10 merit award in French this half term. This shows excellent effort and progress in their French lessons. Well done! Lucia M. (7A), Tyler B. (7B), Riley C. (7B), Jack C. (7E), Jessica M. (7E), Katie C. (7K), Mia F. (7R), Vincent M. (7S), Daisy O'R. (7S), Connie R. (7S), George R. (7S), Layla W. (7S), Sophie X. (7S), Amelia T. (7W), Harry P. (8B), Daisy N. (8E), Jack D. (8S), Seyoneesh M. (8W), Angelina B. (9K)

20 MERITS AWARD IN FRENCH



Congratulations to Phoebe C. (7R), Rosie M. (7S), Harmony Q. (7E) and Willow B. (7E) (not pictured) on receiving their 20 merit award badge in French. This is a fabulous achievement which demonstrates continued effort and commitment in lessons and homework. Well done!

Pupil Success

U14 NETBALL ESSEX CUP

Well done to our U14 Netball Essex Cup Squad on reaching the Quarter Finals for the first time in The Academy's history. The girls played amazingly against Brentwood Ursuline winning 40 – 2, with Freya W. (9R) getting player of the match. Next up was King John. After going behind in the first quarter they picked up their game and won 23 – 7, with Violet B. (9B) being awarded player of the match. In the quarter finals we came up against a very strong side in Bancroft's and unfortunately the goals weren't going in for us. Although they lost the game the girls fought hard up to the final whistle and did themselves proud. Player of the match was awarded to Felicity W. (8W).



Felicity W. (8W), Amy P. (9B), Violet B. (9B), Patience S. (9B), Isla F. (9E) Nancy A. (8R), Alice B. (9A), Isabelle B. (8K), Ruby E. (9W), Nell T. (9K)

U16 LEAGUE

A difficult year for the U16's, with GCSE mock exams and Duke of Edinburgh sessions meaning they couldn't train as much as they would have liked. They tried hard in every game and progressed as the season went on. Zarah F. (9B) made many interceptions when playing in defence and scored goals when given the responsibility of shooting. Megan V. (11E) worked the ball down the court well in her position as centre.



Katie S. (11E), Erin F. (11E), Megan V. (11E), Gabrielle H. (11K), Hettie S. (11R), Jessica W. (10W), Zarah F. (10B), Desire K. (10S), Nancy M. (10K), Sophie Mc. (10A)

YEAR 9 LEAGUE

The Year 9s had a great start to the league with big wins over Chase High, Belfairs and Westcliff. Unfortunately, due to factors out of our control, player positions had to be changed after Christmas and they struggled to cope with the change. Violet B. (9B) made many fantastic interceptions during the season and worked tirelessly up and down the court for the team. Patience S. (9B) was a whirlwind on court and scored many goals from all angles.



Violet B. (9B), Patience S. (8B), Amy P. (9B), Isla F. (9E), Emilia S. (8R), Nell T. (9K), Ruby E. (8W), Alice B. (9A), Grace P. (9E)

YEAR 8 LEAGUE

After starting the league with a heavy defeat to Belfairs the girls picked themselves up and came back fighting going on to be undefeated for the rest of the season. The most improved player of the season is Ruby R. (8W), who has also taken the challenge of playing a variety of positions throughout the season. Well done Ruby! They scored a fantastic 105 goals and only conceded 33 total across the whole season.



Alba N. (8B), Erin M (8B), Isabelle B. (8K), Nancy A (8R), Polly D (8A), Felicity W. (8B), Ruby R (8W), Amy W. (8A), Evie S. (8W)

YEAR 7 LEAGUE

Undefeated all season, meaning they are crowned Southend Borough League Champions!! Well done girls what a great start to your time at Eastwood Academy. We look forward to seeing how this strong team can progress next year...



They have scored an amazing 121 goals during the season and only conceded 23. This is despite us changing their positions during games.

Kitty C. (7W), Isla H. (7R), Rosie M. (7S), Savannah M. (7E), Amelia T. (7W), Florence T. (7B), Katie C. (7K), Elsie B. (7B), Emmie P. (7W).

RUGBY FESTIVAL

On Friday 8th March (International Women's Day), a group of Year 7 girls made their way to Westcliff Rugby Club for another Rugby Festival. Participating in 3 matches, they played against teams such as Thorpe Hall and Chase. One highlight of the day was beating Thorpe Hall B team 63-0! Special mentions to Rosie M. (7S) and Savannah M. (7E) for making some great tackles, and Elsie B. (7B) and Kadee W. (7W) for scoring some epic tries. Well done to all those involved - a fitting event to celebrate International Women's Day. Pictured from top left to bottom right - Kadee W. (7W), Dexi M. (7E), Amelia T. (7W), Savannah M. (7E), Florence T. (7B), Harmony Q. (7W), Olivia B. (7R), Skye B. (7B), Elsie B. (7B), Pheobe C. (7R), Chloe B. (7K), Rosie M. (7S), Florence R. (7A).



Events

SKI TRIP



On Friday 16th February, 45 pupils and 5 staff members travelled to Tonale, Italy for the 2024 Ski Trip. Our 23-hour journey went smoothly and everyone couldn't wait to hit the slopes. Throughout the week, we were treated to the most wonderful weather and the pupils thrived being out of their normal comfort zone, many of whom were on their first ski trip.

The pupils and staff were given the opportunity to ski for 6 hours every day, attempting challenging and fun runs. As is part of the fun with skiing, most pupils (and staff!) fell over from time to time, creating lots of laughs amongst the groups. Nevertheless, everyone was quick to bounce back up with a smile and carry on down the run. It was amazing and heart-warming to hear the pupils' stories at the end of each afternoon, especially when they spoke about how they had achieved something they didn't think was possible like skiing down challenging red and black runs.



Our evenings were filled with fun activities including visiting the local pizzeria and ice-cream parlour, bum-bouncing, and a disco in town. The progress made by all was fantastic and we couldn't be prouder with how our pupils represented the Academy throughout the week.



MULTI-CULTURAL DAY

On Thursday 15th February 2024, we held our annual Cultural Day, celebrating the diversity of our whole school community. Pupils and staff dressed in clothing that they associate with their culture, embracing national, international, and local heritage.



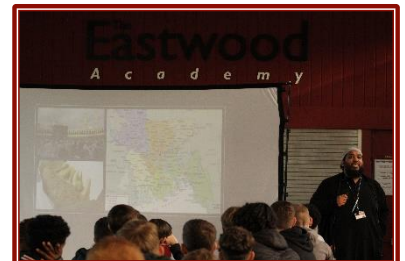
It was wonderful to see our pupils and staff embracing and celebrating the diversity of our whole school community. This annual event is very important to us, as cultural celebrations foster respect and open-mindedness for other cultures. Celebrating our differences, as well as our common interests, helps unite and educate us.



Gratitude and cultural diversity are two essential elements that contribute to the richness and vibrancy

of our society. By recognising and valuing the unique contributions of each culture, we can foster empathy, dismantle prejudices, and build bridges of understanding.

Multi-cultural Day is so important at the Academy. We are a school with so much diversity, which fosters inclusivity and helps pupils appreciate different cultures. We are helping to create memories of cultural exchange, deeper understanding, and vibrant celebration of our school community.



Events

LITERACY EVENING

It was so lovely to see so many parents and pupils at the recent 'Literacy Evening'. We had a huge turnout which set a fantastic mood for the night. Parents and pupils were able to understand what we do at the Academy to promote and encourage reading for pleasure. We heard from a whole host of staff with Mrs. J. Schmid introducing the evening and explaining the vitality of reading on growth, emotional resilience and confidence. Miss. L. Malliff then spoke about the range of Literacy provisions we have such as the Literacy Lessons, the Reading Room, Library visits and much more. This was followed by Mrs. A. Goldsmith-Clark who advertised the coffee table in Reception which has a range of books for pupils and parents to read whilst they wait. Ms. H. Walden informed parents on the 'That Reading Thing' scheme which is a supportive and beneficial way to help teenagers and young adults who find reading challenging or those who have anxieties around reading progress with their skills. Mr. M. Pearl also dedicated some time to speak about the 'Eastwood Skills' which is a 10-week Literacy programme designed to incorporate football and reading. Lastly, Mr. S. Howard finished the speeches off with a short section of the ESU Shakespeare Competition which has involved 3 of our Year 7 pupils.



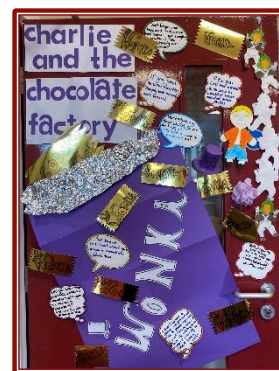
In between all that, parents and pupils worked together to write a creative, opening story which resulted in 10 parents winning Easter eggs and 10 pupils winning a new book! A very successful evening.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Over the course of a week, the Academy dedicated time to World Book Day. Each year group had an assembly led by a different member of staff: Mr. D. Piercy, Mr. P. Barratt, Mr M. Pearl, Mr J. Clark, Mr S. Howard and Mr. B. Foley. The assemblies focused on the importance of reading for academic and personal success. Different speakers informed the pupils about their favourite books, genres and ways to read; as well as the power reading has given them through acquiring knowledge through vocabulary and language.

DECORATE YOUR DOOR COMPETITION

We had a whole school 'Decorate Your Door Competition' in which Forms across the Academy joined together to re-create a favourite book or character on their doors. It was a fantastic achievement by all. The winners were 8E with Mrs. D. Kelsey's and the runners up were 8W with Miss. E. Potts and 9W with Miss. V. Lang. Very well done to the winners and all that took part.



SPORTS LEADERS

A group of 120 Year 8 pupils are working towards their Level 1 Sports Leaders Award. They have been developing and practising many skills including their communication, organisation and teamwork.



This half term they have had the brilliant opportunity of practising these skills with Year 5 pupils from Eastwood Primary School. They planned basketball sessions and then successfully delivered the sessions to small groups. All the Year 5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and wanted to come back for more. The leaders were a credit to the Academy giving clear instructions, visual demonstrations



sessions.

and helping motivate and encourage. The teachers from Eastwood Primary were very complimentary of how well they delivered their

Events

THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY SPRING CONCERT



On the evening of Tuesday 19th March, a capacity audience attended the Spring Music Concert in The Academy Concert Hall.

The audience were captivated by performances from the choir, chamber choir, orchestra, jazz band and percussion



ensemble, together with solo and ensemble items from key stage 3 and key stage 4 pupils. Highlights are almost too numerous to

mention! There were some truly outstanding vocal performances from Stef I. (10R), Tony L. (11A), Grace G. (8K), Hannah M. (11W) and Sophie H. (8W), captivating choral performances from the choir and chamber choir, toe-tapping energy from the jazz and percussion ensembles and an incredible performance from the school band under the leadership of Mr W Piercy. The quality of musicianship and the maturity of performances made for some truly spell-binding moments; what a fantastic way to end this short but incredibly busy term!



This concert also provided the last opportunity for our Year 11 students to perform. We enjoyed their final performances and were able to thank them for the years of dedication and commitment that they have given to the music department as both soloists and as part of our musical ensembles. We will miss them greatly and wish them every success as they enter the next stage of their education.



DATE FOR THE DIARY

We are incredibly lucky to have so many incredibly talented singers at The Eastwood Academy. On the evening of Friday 21st June commencing at 6pm in the theatre, the music department will once again be hosting 'Night at The Musicals' – this will be a sell-out event so please book your tickets as soon as you receive notification that they are available!

LANGUAGE CLUB



This half term Robbie-Jay N. (10E) and Billy S. (9A) presented their video of their trip to see the sleek Eurostar, such a symbol of the "entente cordiale" between France and England. British English vs America English was our next topic looking at the differences in spelling and words used such as trousers vs pants! It was also interesting to discover that sometimes words exist in British English but not in American English and vice versa! The BIG Quiz followed. We have also learnt about German culture and learnt some German greetings – "Wilkommen!"



If you would like to get involved, we meet Wednesday lunchtime in MFL3 – re-commencing 17th April in MFL3.