

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent,

I cannot believe that the last six weeks have passed so quickly. As always, my first task is to thank the staff who have worked so hard this half term to ensure that we continue to do all that we can to support your children as they face and enjoy the challenge of school and growing up in today's complex world.

Secondly, I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support. Statistically (!) as a group you are now more willing and confident to e mail or talk to staff to ensure that we are always in the best position to support your child. Please never hesitate to contact the school if there are questions or concerns. I promise you we want to know!

Thirdly, this half term, although short, has been filled with several achievements and activities:

We have a new cohort of prefects.

We were overwhelmed by the number of parents who supported us at the Year 9 Parental Information Evening.

Pupils were able to sample and enjoy Paris and Disneyland Paris.

Year 10 pupils have just completed a week's work experience with various employers in and around Southend.

Finally, hundreds of pupils have succeeded in completing their Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. (I am about the drive to Danbury to join a group of Year 9 pupils who, after a day's hike will be camping at Riffhams).

I cannot end this introduction without mentioning our wonderful group of Year 11 pupils who are now halfway through their GCSE examinations. We could not be prouder of how they have conducted themselves since exams started on May 9th. I know that several will be attending revision sessions over half term. I do hope that they are able to find a balance of rest and revision. They have done brilliantly, and I look forward to enjoying their Leaver's Day with them.

I wish you all a relaxing half term.

Best wishes

David Piercy
Principal

ATTENDANCE

Across the academic year so far, overall attendance was 93.9% vs. a current national average of 91.1%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	94.2
Bowland	94.0
Elveden	94.1
Kielder	94.2
Richmond	93.0
Sherwood	94.3
Whinfell	93.5
Overall	93.9

INSTAGRAM

@_THEEASTWOODACADEMY

_theeastwoodacademy

40 posts

1,192 followers

156 following

The Eastwood Academy

Welcome to The Eastwood Academy
'Believe, Succeed, Together!'
Join our vibrant community of learners

www.eastwoodacademy.co.uk

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OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

We are thrilled to announce that our social media page is growing by the minute! Our community is expanding, and our connections are getting stronger every day. Thank you to each and every one of you who has followed us, supported us, and been a part of our journey. Together, we are building something truly special!

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

On Friday 26th April, the 2024 Student Leadership Team (StLT) and Lead Prefects were announced. Pupils have already started work on the handover from the 2023 StLT cohort. On Friday 10th May, the remaining 40 Prefects were congratulated. Mr. D. Piercy met with the teams to present ties and badges and congratulated each pupil. The recruitment and selection process is both lengthy and rigorous. This has included application forms, feedback from staff, consulting pupils', involvement in the academy, punctuality, attendance, and commitment to learning, culminating in a staff vote. In addition, those shortlisted for the StLT underwent interviews with the current team:



These pupils will be representing the Academy and carrying out duties which involve maintaining high standards of behaviour and supporting pupils at the school.



Senior Leadership Team:

Head Boy: Meer I. (10S)
Head Girl: Freya M. (10A)
Deputy Head Boy: George W. (10A)
Deputy Head Girl: Jess W. (10W)



Senior Leadership Team:

Senior Prefects:

Milo B. (10S)
Triumf S. (10S)
Max S. (10S)
Stef I. (10R)
Dulcie G. (10A)
Emma B. (10R)

StLT with the Lead Prefects:



Prefect Team:



JACK PETCHEY WINNERS



Congratulations to our Jack Petchey Winners of 2023/24!

Maryse F. (11K) Caitlin D. (11B) Lucia T. (11W) and Maliyah W. (11S) organised an amazing event of entertainment to raise money for the Essex Deaf Children's Society.

Finlay R. (9A) swam over forty kilometres to raise money for Little Havens in honour of his godson.

Finlay B. (8A) rode over one thousand miles around the country to raise money for cancer research – he has currently raised over £2000!

Macy R. (9W) was nominated by the pupils around the school for being kind, helpful, approachable, and friendly as well as always trying her hardest in lessons and taking part in **many** extra-curricular activities in the school.

Joseph B. (9W) for completing an insane amount of 'keepie -uppies' which has resulted in him raising over £1000 for charity. (may need to check amount as this may have gone up!)

Esme S. (11K) for her commitment to the school community; her involvement in maths club, eco club and gardening club has helped many pupils over the years and Esme has continued all this as well as achieving the highest academic standards.

WEST HAM FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Florence T. (7B) who has signed for West Ham Under 14s! This incredible achievement is a testament to the effort, hard work, and commitment you have put into football. We are extremely proud of you and cannot wait to hear about your upcoming season! Good luck and well done!

Pupil Success

TCS MINI LONDON MARATHON



Congratulations to Savannah M. (7E) who completed the TCS Mini London Marathon. The TCS Mini London Marathon invites children and young people to run, jog, walk or wheel 2.6km around London. Savannah smashed her PB achieving an incredible time of 13 minutes. Well-done Savannah-what a great achievement!

KUGB SOUTHERN REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS



A huge congratulations to Rio P. (10W) who has recently completed his biggest competition for his new club, the KUGB Southern Region Championships. Rio is regional champion in Individual kumite and received gold medal & cup. He is also regional champion Individual kata and received a

gold medal and a cup. He also has a Team kata Silver Medal. In addition, Rio was chosen as The Junior Outstanding Competitor of the day! Rio then received the KUGB Southern Region Cup for this, which his club will get his name and date engraved on. Rio will keep it for a year to then be handed back for next year's competitor of the day. This is the first time anyone at Rio's club has won this cup! This is the first time Rio has competed in this competition and he has only been at this club for eight months.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Sofia S. (9A) and Olivia T. (9E) who's footballing achievements have made national headlines this week. Sofia and Olivia's U14 Girls Football Team, Concord Rangers, have become champions of their division in a boys' grassroots league. Whilst playing in the Southend Junior League, the girls have achieved impressive scorelines of 13-0 and finished the season unbeaten. Well done to both Sofia and Olivia for your achievements this football season!

Concord Rangers Girls football team win Essex boys' league

15 April



FAMILY PHOTO

A girls' under-14s football team has triumphed in an all-boys' grassroots league

By Shivani Chaudhari

BBC News, Essex

A girls' under-14 football team have become champions of their division in a boys' grassroots league.

MUSIC EXAM

Congratulations to our Deputy-Head Girl, Jess W. (10W) who has recently passed her Grade 4 clarinet exam with merit! Well done.

ESSEX TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A huge well done to Jess W. (10W) who was one of a number of pupils from The Eastwood Academy who competed in the Essex Track and Field Championships in Chelmsford on Saturday 12th May. Jess won silver in the U17G 1500m and bronze in the U17G 800m.



Pupil Success

MODEL SOLAR SYSTEM



As the topic of 'The Earth and the Solar System' came to an end, the pupils of 8Y2 were challenged to make their own model solar systems! Armed with newfound knowledge about the planets, moons and stars that populate our solar system, pupils embraced the challenge with determination and created the most brilliant and unique designs. All pupils should be very proud of themselves!

Teachers and pupils voted on their favourites and in third place came Cioban A. (8K) with his design of a glowing sun being orbited by planets. In second place came Haskins S. (8S) with his mechanical design and in first place came Salem L. (8A) with her design which was lit up with a circuit of fairy lights representing the stars.

YEAR 7 BOYS AT THE DOUBLE

The Year 7 Football team were victorious yesterday evening in the South East Cup Final, defeating Fitzwimarc 3-1. They added this cup to the Southend Borough Cup which they won on Saturday, beating Southend High School for Boys 4-1.

In a strong region for football, there have been few teams that have managed to win both cups in the same year. This is testament to the quality, commitment and endeavour that the boys have demonstrated this year.



Congratulations to the team:

Rafe D. (7S), Jude S. (7K), Ronnie G. (7R), Rudy P.-K. (7A), Ryder V. (7S), Mateo M. (7A), Luis A. (7A), Stan S. (7S), Jake B. (7S), George R. (7S), Stan S. (7A), Devon C. (7E), Harry M. (7K)

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

Albie L. (8K), Tom B. (8S), Theo C. (8W), Toby M. (9S) were all part of the Southend Scorpions U14 Boys national league team



who have now been announced as League winners winning nineteen out of twenty games. This result has then led to this age group winning the league 2 years on the run. Toby has had the opportunity this year to also compete at the U16 level within the club playing for the Southend Scorpions II team - playing numerous games throughout the year and having a key role within the team leading to some close and exciting games. A massive well done to all players within the team and good luck to Tom and Toby as they continue to trial to play for Essex in the intercounty tournament next month.



Rosie M. (7S) and Jasmyn N.-M. (9K) were both part of the Southend Scorpions U14 Girls national

league team who have now been announced as league winners who are also undefeated this season. Both players have shown continuous improvement which has led Jasmyn to play numerous games in the Southend Scorpions U16 girls (playing a key part in multiple games throughout the year). Rosie has also had the call up to play multiple games within the U16 team and has been able to have an impact within the game despite being a Year 7 playing against Year 11 pupils. Both players are in the process of trying out for Essex to complete in the intercounty tournament next month.

As a teacher (and their basketball coach), Mr. R. Gunn is pleased to see the change basketball has had on these pupils throughout the year. They dedicate so much time to not only improve their own craft, but also those around them as well as younger age groups. Truly valuable pupils to have at the school and a great asset.

Pupil Success

FRENCH MERITS

Congratulation to the following pupils who have achieved their 10-merit award postcard in French. This is a great achievement, well done!

Callum N. (7A), Evie S. (7E), Abbigal Q. (7W), Riley H. (8B), Georgie B. (8K), Poppy B. (8K), Leyton P. (8S), Marshall H. (8W), Annabelle J. (8W), Brooke M. (8W), Josie S. (9B), Kitty C. (7W), Siena S. (7R), Emily M. (7K), Ruby J. (7R), Emilia S. (7E), Bronte B. (8A), Charlotte B. (8A)

A huge well done to the pupils below who have been awarded their French merit award badge. These pupils have achieved twenty merits in French. This shows great commitment and effort to their work and homework. Well done!

Kateryna P. (7A),
Savanna P. (7A),
Poonam P. (7B),
Isabella H. (7K),
Amelia N. (7R),
George B. (7S),
Sophia X. (7S),
Hannah M. (8K).

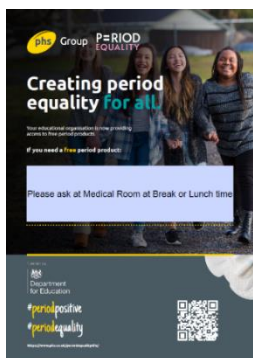


ESU

On the evening of Wednesday 8th May, Rosie W. (9A) took part in the ESU Regional Finals Shakespeare Competition at the Perse School in Cambridge. Her representation of Shylock's famous monologue (If you prick us, do we not bleed?) was fantastic, and comfortably within the calibre of the other competitors, all of whom were amazing.

Unfortunately, Rosie did not win in spite of her incredible effort, but it was still an amazing experience and we are very proud of her performance.

PERIOD EQUALITY



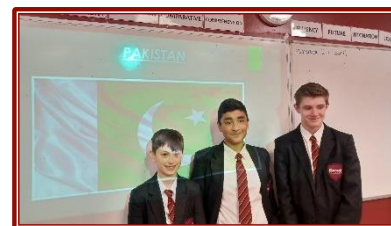
The Academy is taking part in the Period Equality Scheme. We can supply a variety of sanitary products including packs of Towels and Period Knickers. These can be collected from the Medical room at Break and Lunch times.

LANGUAGE CLUB



During this half-term, language club has been focusing on languages from around the world. Irfan U. (9S) and Ameera N. (9W) gave a fascinating

presentation on the languages of Pakistan and Bangladesh delivering an engaging and informative session. I enjoyed introducing the Korean language, one of the oldest living languages, sharing common daily words and interesting facts about their unique culture.



Next, Riley W. (9A), Logan C (9A) and Oscar H. (9K) presented "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" We learnt some numbers and German greetings as well as looking at the German Flag timelines. We were honoured to have Mrs. A. Ashley-Chelton as our Guest speaker this term who talked passionately about her native language: Polish. Derived from the Slavic family of languages, she

also helped us with the pronunciation of some basic greetings – "Cześć!" We even got introduced to the famous Pierogi and other delicious Polish foods.



We finished the term with our own Eurovision Song Contest listening to and judging a selection of songs from the Grand final and voicing our true opinions in French!

If you would like to get involved, we meet every Wednesday in MFL 3. By Angelina B (9K)



Events

MANKIND GROUP



This summer term a group of male pupils have once a week participated in the Mankind sessions. These collaborative sessions led by Mr. W. Piercy, Mr. J. Clark and Mr. B. Foley are dedicated to empowering young men to be the best versions of themselves. Through activities, discussions, and the power of positive affirmations, pupils are learning to celebrate their individuality, improve their mental health, and positively impact their lives. Within these sessions all the young men have “got stuck in” and talked about the following important topics: Positivity, Diversity, The future, Bullying.

BANK OF ENGLAND VISITING SPEAKER



On Thursday 2nd May, we hosted a guest speaker from the Bank of England to deliver a speech to Year 10 pupils who study GCSE Business. The topic of the

speech was ‘What does the Bank of England do?’ and covered:

- The role the Bank of England plays in the UK economy.
- What the Bank of England does.
- How they are different to other high street banks.



The session was very interactive, and the pupils had lots of questions to ask him. In exchange for the question, they received a ball of shredded up old money! After the speech, the pupils got into small groups and completed an activity which related to inflation and interest rates. They explored how these can have an impact on daily expenses which helped to develop their budgeting skills. The guest speaker commented on how the pupils were some of the best-behaved pupils he had given his speech to and how they were a credit to the school.



Have you changed your contact details recently?

If so, please make sure you come in and tell us or email enquiries@eastwood.southend.sch.uk

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



On Wednesday 1st May, 22 musicians from all year groups took part in the first ever Eastwood Battle of the Bands competition! The stage was set,

the lights were on, and the amps turned up to eleven for an epic night of rock music. The calibre of musicianship was some of the highest we have seen and each band wowed the judges with cover songs and original compositions. Some bands had planned outfits, others dance moves. However, all bands owned the stage! It was a tight competition with judges impressed by each member of the bands, giving personal feedback and praise between songs. Bradley E. (9E) was dubbed a 'Rock God' on several occasions and Amaya W. (9B) was perfectly on brand as Avril Lavigne. Lewis H. (11B), Gabi H. (11K), Tatianna B.-M. (11A) and Luke P. (11W) helped the judges relive their earlier noughties emo days with their brilliant rendition of Paramore's Misery Business. As the bands continued to impress the judges nobody could decide who had performed their way to the top. Once the final act had played the judges retired to deliberate and make a very tough call on who to crown as the first Battle of the Bands winner. It was a tense wait that seemed to go on forever. Finally, the judges returned with the verdict. They had decided to award three prizes as they had such a difficult job. The two runners up were announced: The Will Me (William E. (10E), Bradley E. (9B) and Harry D. (9E)) playing 'The Real Me' and Guitarz (Ash E. (8K), Leo W. (11K) and William E. (10E)) who played an original composition 'Won't you be mine?' Now the moment everybody had waited for... the winners. JUST GEORGE! George R. (7S) who performed an original composition called 'Good Day' which was an instant hit that the judges asked if it was being released on Spotify! George impressed the judges with his singing and his stage presence, he is already a real showman. The judges further commended George because his band members had changed at the last minute. An initial plan was drawn up! Originally, George was destined to play with Mr. W. Piercy and Mr. S. Harrison but was saved from that torment just an hour before when Leo W. (11K) and Adam S. (9A) stepped up to play! A huge thank you to our incredible judging panel, Miss. A. Searle, Mr. B. Foley, Ms. H. Walden, and head judge Mrs. J. Schmid. Thank you also to all the staff who came and showed their support. A special thank you to Mr. L. Clare for helping backstage and getting the bands ready to play.

Battle of the Bands will be back next year!

Extra-Curricular

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



From the 11th - 15th March over 320 Year 9s and 10s completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice walk in the local area. The Year 9 pupils have been working hard in their lessons and for the Year 10s volunteering their free time after school on a Tuesday to learn the skills needed for the DofE. We have spent weeks practising map reading and navigation skills ready for the real test.



There was a lot of mud and so many large puddles that they seemed to morph into one giant lake and our pupils seemed to find them all! The temperature on day 1 for our Year 9s was only 8 degrees - it was bitterly cold.

Despite the poor weather the groups were very vocal, and we were treated to three rounds of Rick Astley's "Never going to give you up". This was then followed by some serious dancing and singing at Cherry Orchard to keep us all warm. Day 2's weather was 6 degrees warmer which completely changed the atmosphere and the quality of muddy puddles. Despite this we still had two pupils getting stuck in the mud and some wonderful volunteers who went in to retrieve the shoes.



We completed a much longer walk on day 2 and 3 and really pushed the Year 10s on the final day. By the end of each day, we had certainly challenged the pupils with their navigating and route planning. It really was a pleasure to run the trips over the three days. We have never completed the DofE practice in this way so we were all a little hesitant as to how it would go – to sum up I have copied part of an email that was sent to the governors from a member of the public who came across our merry band.: "Today I took my elderly mother out. During our visit there was a field trip from your academy with a very large group of pupils present. I would like to compliment your pupils on their behaviour and manners which are a credit to your academy and teaching staff. All too often people complain about our younger generation but certainly not in this case!"

YEAR 8 GIRLS' DROP DOWN

The Year 8 girls entered the summer term by attending multiple drop-down sessions ran by Miss. A. Bishop, Miss. A. Searle, and Mrs. A. Goldsmith-Clark. They were based on a variety of current topics that the majority of the year group have experienced, such as appearance ideals and building positive relationships with other females, and how we can incorporate The Eastwood Way values such as courage and respect into our everyday life.

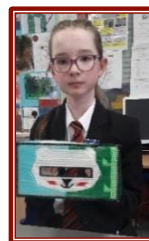


Pupils worked alongside peers they may not have known before, and shared their own experiences about how young females should look and act in today's society. Along with

some deep discussions, Miss. A. Bishop and Miss. A. Searle shared their memories and experiences of being at school, paired with some embarrassing pictures of their questionable fashion choices back in their day... Although educational, it was inspiring to sit back and observe such strong female characters create a positive environment for everyone to share their stories. We look forward to hosting the last drop-down session for the Year 8 girls before half term!



CROSS STITCH CLUB



Some of our pupils have been meeting each week, Amelia N. (7R), Ethan C. (9K), Lexi L. (7R) and Roxy W. (7S) for cross stitch club. This is a chance for them to socialise, relax and create some brilliant craft pieces. Cross stitch takes a great deal of practice, skill and patience. Well done everyone.

Extra-Curricular

ZOOLOGY CLUB



At Zoology Club we are all about animals! Since spring has (somewhat) arrived to breathe fresh life into nature, we have decided to conduct an ecological survey on the small population of Smooth Newt that we have in our school pond. This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils, as it is providing them with technical scientific skills that they may use in the future if they choose to pursue a career in wildlife conservation, ecological surveying, or biological research – to name a few. An ecological survey on a population of any animal requires the collection of certain data, and for our newt survey this includes: date of survey, time of capture, biological sex, body length, and tail length. The pupils are capturing individual newts with dipping nets, and are responsible for data collection and animal welfare. At the end of each survey these newts are released back into their habitat.

Lastly, we are photographing the belly of each newt to use their underside spots as a unique marker to identify individuals! This is a fantastic, state-of-the-art method that is being used more often in conservation and ecology to reduce the stress and harm caused to animals from otherwise more invasive methods of marking. These belly spots are like fingerprints, so after a few weeks the pupils will be hand-sorting all the images to see if we can recognise any repeats (i.e., recaptures). After the application of some nifty statistics, we will hopefully have an estimate of the true size of this population: a hallmark of any respectable ecological survey.



EASTWOOD ACADEMY CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORM AT THE JACK PETCHEY CEREMONY




On the evening of Monday 13th May the Academy Chamber Choir had the privilege of performing during The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards at The Palace Theatre for the second year running. The Achievement Award Scheme is a reward and recognition initiative which enables schools and youth organisations to celebrate the achievements of their young people and receive additional funding. Twenty-one members of the Academy Chamber Choir represented the Academy to the highest of standards, both musically and professionally. They sang the beautiful song 'The Rose' to a capacity audience with members of our own Senior Management Team on the front row cheering us on! Congratulations to all the pupils who took part.

KS4 PDE SPEAKERS

This half term in PDE, Year 10 and 11 pupils have engaged in sessions delivered by Officers from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. Topics have included gangs, knife crime, healthy relationships, cyber-crime and hate crime. The officers have educated pupils on keeping themselves safe, examples in Essex, signs to be aware of and how they can seek support at school through the safeguarding team or through external organisations such as ChildLine and Crimestoppers. Pupils were also informed about the 'What3words' app, used by the emergency services which can help identify where they are.



 what3words

Extra-Curricular

PARIS 2024



On Friday 3rd May, 46 Year 9 pupils and six members of staff set off to France. We boarded the ferry and travelled across the channel, then had a long drive down to the PGL

centre, the Château de Grande Romaine. When we arrived, we settled into our rooms, had dinner and then did a 'snapshot' challenge where we had to take photos following different prompts in French which was really

fun. It was Rosie's birthday that day and the PGL staff sang her happy birthday and got her a cake. On the second day, we climbed all the way up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower. The view was amazing, even in the rain, as you could see all around Paris. Afterwards we went on a boat trip down the River Seine to see the sights of the city then we continued our tour on the coach where we saw the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées. That evening, we made crêpes, played football and enjoyed the games room at the château. On Sunday, we headed to Disneyland which was a magical day. We explored the Disneyland Park in the morning and went to Walt Disney Studios in the afternoon. That evening at the château, we were served escargots – not everybody tried them but some brave people did! On Monday, we left bright and early to go home.



We were tired, but really sad to leave as we loved seeing the landmarks and learning more about French culture, and it was so nice to create new friendships with other pupils and get to know the teachers better – thank you to Mrs. J. Haslett, Miss. C. Wilkinson, Mr. S. Mason, Mrs. M. Haiser, Mrs. G. Cassidy and Mr. T. Howard for taking us. We hope other year groups in the future will be able to have this amazing experience too! By Sophie C. (9K), Leanise T. (9K), Amaya W. (9B) and Rosie W. (9A)



LIBRARY

In anticipation of our new library, we have had some very important visitors into the Academy to talk all things stories, shelves and seating. Recently, we had the pleasure of inviting two Librarians from Southend Libraries - Toby and Liz. They were shown our new library space and provided us with a multitude of tips and tricks for making the library as full and engaging as possible. This was a fantastic opportunity to build connections between The Eastwood Academy Library and Southend Libraries and we will continue to flourish and grow this new relationship. We also had the pleasure of hosting Dr Jacqueline Johnson from the Jacqson Diego Story Emporium store in Southend. Dr Jacqueline is passionate about books and has committed to sourcing our school library with a wide range of new reading books. We are excited about the future of the new Eastwood Academy Library!

THE BRILLIANT CLUB

Over the past two weeks the Brilliant club members attended trips to Kings College London and a Houses of Parliament. This was to mark their graduation following a course which included writing an essay on "Cultural Genocide". This was graded to degree level with many of our pupils achieving a first! In addition, the tour of the Houses of Parliament was inspirational and insightful, our pupils especially appreciated the architecture and history behind the building.

An interesting moment just before our tour started when our group was approached by a pro-life advocate who was protesting in Westminster. Our pupils took a really mature and interested approach when discussing the issue and really took a lot from the experience. We look forward to running the Brilliant Club again next year!



Pupils in the Brilliant Club: Poppy B. (10W), Milo B. (10S), Phoebe B. (10W), Emma B. (10R), Thomas C. (10W), Mosfique C. (10W), Ruby F. (10K), Aidan H. (10A), Stefana I. (10R), Meer I. (10S), Jensen J. (10B), Freya M. (10A), Cruz M. (10W), Ava O. (10B), Triumph S. (10S) and Jessica W. (10W).