

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy half term: Year 11 mock examinations; pupil leadership training; Grease; music concert; sporting successes; and several trips. I am sure that the pupils will be as exhausted as the staff!

Firstly, I would like to say an enormous “thank you” to staff. I know that colleagues are very much looking forward to a well-earned, relaxing break. I am very proud of the difference they make each day. Secondly, I would like to thank the school's Trustees and members of the Local Governing Body for their ongoing support. It is often an unsung role, but it is much appreciated. Thirdly, thank you - our parents - for your support. Modern life continually changes, as do the challenges that our children, society face each day. As we successfully move forward, overcoming these obstacles, it is essential that the school continues to work in harmony with parents. It is only with your continued support that we can progress together ensuring that your most precious gift (i.e. your children - in case you missed it!) succeed and thrive.

I do wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas.

Best regards

David Piercy

ATTENDANCE

Across the Autumn Term, overall attendance was 93.6 % vs. a current national average of 91.8%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.5
Bowland	94.9
Elveden	93.5
Kielder	93.2
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	94.2
Whinfell	92.9
Overall	93.6

During w/c 9th January, the Academy will e-mail individual pupil Attendance Reports covering the Autumn Term.

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)

JACK PETCHEY

On Thursday 30th November three pupils were awarded the Jack Petchey Achievement Award by the Principal.



Lucia T, (11W) and Maliyah W, (11W) along with friends,

held an event in the Main Hall to raise money for the Essex Deaf Children Society. The girls worked really hard as a team and put a lot of time and effort into the event.

Lucia herself worked hard at home on the computer to design and create the tickets, posters and leaflets for the event using her great media skills. Maliyah helped to find out information and collate responses to surveys to see how the group could have the greatest impact raising money for the chosen charity and both sold cakes at the bake sale. All the pupils involved were amazing and raised a lot of money for an excellent cause.

Finlay R, (9A) won the Achievement Award for completing a swimming challenge for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Finlay is a competitive swimmer outside of school and when he saw this challenge for Great Ormond Street, he thought he would put his swimming training to a worthy cause. The challenge was to swim 8km in October, but he decided to up the challenge and swim 8km each week in October!

He set a target to raise £500 but has nearly raised **£700 and swam nearly 40k**. An amazing achievement.



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



On Friday 17th November, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) co-ordinated events for Children in Need. The StLT created resources and activities for an extended form time, including a PowerPoint about the charity for tutors to discuss with pupils. At break time, there was a bake sale to



raise further funds. The final fundraising event of the day was a teacher donut eating challenge. The day was hugely successful and the Academy raised an amazing **£1,225!** Thank you to everyone involved from



planning, participating in baking cakes and activities, and donating. Thank you to the Creative i-media team for taking photos of the day.



In the week commencing 20th November, the StLT held the first round of feedback of Student Voice. The areas of focus for the team were mental wellbeing and charity involvement.

Form Captains from each form collated the views of the class and met with the StLT to feedback on the two areas. The team will then identify the key areas to discuss with Mr. Piercy in the Spring Term.



NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION

Over the last two weeks the Year 7/8 table tennis team have been competing in the National Table Tennis Competition. Max M. (8B), Tom B. (8S), Samuel M. (7E) and George B. (8W) came first in the borough competing against local schools. They progressed into the Essex schools qualifier where they narrowly missed out on qualifying coming 2nd, only one point behind KEGS. A big congratulations on this achievement and making it so far despite such tough competition.



ART DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS



1st – Amelia P. (8R)

The Art Department hosted its annual Christmas card competition. All entries, submitted this year encompassed the Christmas spirit, were full of creativity and imagination.

Our winner, Amelia P. (8R), will have her design featured on this year's Christmas card. A huge congratulations to our winners this year and a big thank you to all pupils who took the time to produce a submission. The Academy looks forward to hosting the competition again next year.



2nd – Amelia N. (7R)



3rd – Cassandra B. (10S)

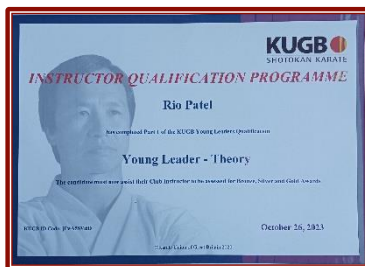
Pupil Success

KARATE SUCCESS



In previous newsletters we have celebrated the success of Rio P. (10W) in karate. He has now joined a new club, KUGB Stock Shotokan Karate Club. Rio's head Sensei asked if he was interested in becoming a young leader which will progress him to becoming an assistant instructor and onto becoming a Sensei himself at an appropriate age. Rio has just completed his Young Leader Theory and will then go on to be assessed to

earn his Bronze award by going to the junior classes and helping the Sensei's with the children. This will involve taking the warm-ups and teaching the lower grades their basic moves in Kata. He will need to complete 10 hours of coaching and teaching to achieve his bronze award. He will then need to complete another 20 hours for his silver award, and another 30 hours for the gold award! Rio also recently completed his second competition for the club and is a triple medallist at The KUGB Tigers Cup karate competition in the age bracket of 14 years to 16 years achieving Individual Kumite Gold, Team Kata Silver and Individual Kata Bronze. A fantastic achievement Rio, well done.



SWIMMING CHALLENGE



Finlay R. (9A) is a competitive swimmer outside of school. When he saw this challenge for Great Ormond Street, he thought, why not put my swimming training to a worthy cause. The challenge was to swim 8km in October, but he decided to up the challenge and swim 8km a week. He set a target to raise £500 but has raised £765 and swam 40,475m. Congratulations!

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Well done to Layla M. (9W) who battled the rain and completed two parades on Remembrance Day. One in Southend and one in Leigh.

In addition, 2 pupils from the Academy took part in the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Sunday event in Rayleigh. The



photo shows Teddy B. (8A) and Mateo M-S. (8S) standing proud in their academy uniform. The pupils stood in the cold and rain for three hours!



SINGING FESTIVAL SUCCESS



Peyton J. (9E) is a hugely talented singer who has recently achieved great success in the 'Southend Festival of Performing Arts'. This festival was Peyton's first and she was entered for four different

categories. Peyton achieved huge success in all of her entries, most notably receiving two gold medals,



two trophies and being awarded the David Amess memorial cup for one of her performances. What an outstanding achievement. Well done Peyton!



BOXING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Archie C. (10R) who had a boxing bout at his club's home show on Saturday 11th November in Hullbridge and won.



Pupil Success

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the U14 Girls Football team who made a great start to their Essex Cup campaign on Monday 16th October. The girls showed excellent skill and determination as they beat Southend High School for Girls 3-0. Well done to the goal scorers: Camille C. (8R) x2 and Sofia S. (9A).



Left to right: Alice B. (9A), Sofia S. (9A), Olivia T. (9E), Chloe B. (9R), Millie M. (9R), Ava M. (9E), Heidi W. (8E), Cameo H. (8E),

Daisy M.C. (9B), Camille C. (8R), Erin R. (9S), Isla F. (9E), Sofia T. (9K)

NETBALL



We have had several netball fixtures this half term, with our Years 7, 8, 9 and U16 teams competing in multiple fixtures. Our Year 7 A-team, as pictured below, defeated Belfairs away 11-0, with Emmie P. (7W) being awarded player of the match. Our Year 9 team have

absolutely dominated the Essex Cup so far, beating King John 23-7, with Freya W. (9R) being awarded player of the match and winning against Brentwood Ursuline 27-8, with Violet B. (9B) being awarded player of the match. The girls are pictured sporting their brand-new netball dresses. They face Barking Abbey in the next round of the Essex Cup as one of the last 16 teams. This is the furthest we've got to date! Although the cold and wet weather has taken its toll, our Year 7 and 8 cohort have put in huge efforts each training session – a big thank you to our Year 9 girls for helping coach and organise these sessions, and Violet B. (9B) for her excellent umpiring in the Year 7 fixtures. League fixtures will continue to take place throughout next half term -

keep an eye on the PE board for fixtures and team sheets.



JACK PETCHEY SPEAKOUT! CHALLENGE



On Thursday 16th and Friday 17th November, fifty of our Year 10 cohort participated in the Jack Petchey Speakout! Challenge, a day's workshop

designed to enhance and promote public speaking skills in front of an audience. Various activities were undertaken during each day with Ore, our Jack Petchey representative. The intention was to then find two of our best speakers within the group to go forward to a regional competition in April, but Miss. Malliff, Ore and Mr. S. Howard could only reduce the number to ten!



BOROUGH CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS!



On Wednesday 8th November the annual Borough Cross Country Championships took place at Blenheim

Park. After a long hard season of training the Eastwood pupils managed to make their own little bit of Eastwood history. Last year both boys and girls secured joint wins in the competition but for the first time this year not only did the Eastwood boys win their Borough Competition outright, but the girls once again secured a joint win with SHSG. These results ended a **45-year-old tradition** making the staff and pupils extremely proud. On the day we crowned 3 Borough Champions! Ronnie G. (7R) Camille C. (8R) and Jessica W. (10W). An unbelievable achievement for the pupils and the Academy. Well done to all, a great day at the office.



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

Pupil Success

U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM:

The U13 Girls kicked their season off to a great start with a 3-0 victory over Belfairs. Throughout the game, the girls maintained a high level of composure on the ball and displayed great skill and determination to achieve the win. Despite being the girls' first match together, the confidence and effort levels shown by every single player was outstanding. Well done to our goal scorers Florence T. (7B) and Camille C. (7R), as well as our goalkeepers Skye B. (7B) and Hayleigh C. (7B) who together made some incredible saves to keep a clean sheet. Thank you to all the supporters who came down to watch the girls' first game. We look forward to the rest of the season!



Team: Olivia L. (8E), Florence T. (7B), Phoebe C. (7R), Skye B. (7B), Savannah M. (7E), Amelia T. (7W), Cameo H. (8E), Heidi W. (8E), Camille C. (8R), Lillia N. (7K), Hayleigh C. (7B), Olivia B. (7R), Emmeline R. (7W), Harmony Q. (7E).

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS



Congratulations to Robbie-Jay N. 10E and Ashwita S. 10E who have recently received their Language Ambassador awards. This award is given out to pupils who go above and beyond in the MFL department.



Both Robbie-Jay and Ashwita have been instrumental in organising and running the Language club on a Wednesday - they fully deserve this recognition. Well done!

FRENCH 10 MERIT AWARD

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved their 10-merit award in French this half term. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done and keep up the excellent effort and work:

Aadhav K-R. (7A), Savanna P. (7A), Rudy P-K. (7A), Isabella H. (7K), Yuvan P. (7K), Isla-Grace S. (7K), Phoebe C. (7R), Isla H. (7R), Amelia N. (7R), George B. (7S), Rafe D. (7S), Rosie M. (7S), Stanislav S. (7S), Michael C. (7W), Zaryab I. (8A), Alex S. (8B), Maryam A. (8K), Hannah M. (8K), Amelia P. (8R), Arun P. (9B)

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Following an application and recruitment process Mr. D. Piercy and Mr. Harrison selected 26 pupils across Year 9 and 10 to fulfil three pupil leadership roles: Wellbeing-Lead,



Enrichment-Lead, and Reading-Lead. The standard of applications was extremely high and there were over 40 pupils who applied.



The selected pupils undertook a six-week training program that focused on the core values of inclusion, positivity, kindness, and confidence. After Christmas, the pupil leaders will continue with their training and begin to implement this through 1-2-1 mentoring sessions, reading with other pupils and by planning and delivering extra-curricular activities.



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP TO EASTWOOD PARK



Towards the end of this half term, Year 8 pupils have been investigating a hypothetical project; whether Eastwood Park is an appropriate site for a housing development? Through field sketches, pedestrian counts and noise readings, pupils gained an insight into the aspects of a successful fieldwork project. The pupils also enjoyed getting out into the community and being close to nature, which included petting some dogs and naming squirrels!

Pupil Success

CADET OF THE YEAR 2023



A huge congratulations to Layla M. (9W) who has won the prestigious award of Cadet of the Year at an awards ceremony. Layla won the gold brass sailor which is the only gold award. Layla has participated in many events with cadets which have been celebrated in previous school newsletters and this award is well deserved.

GARDENING CLUB

Over the last few weeks, members of the gardening club have been working really hard to reline the pond. The pond is home to the school's newt colony and as such we needed to get it repaired before Spring. As a thank you to the pupils, Ms. Potts hosted a congratulatory pizza party.



PANTOMINE

Congratulation to Emma D. (9W) who successfully auditioned for Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at the Thameside Theatre in Grays. She is one of the children's cast. She had her first show on the 2nd December and her last show will be on the 3rd January. She is thoroughly enjoying the experiences of performing in panto for the 2nd year running.



NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY FINAL

On Saturday 2nd December, the Junior Boys travelled to The Woodbridge School for the National Cross-Country Final. Spirits were high based on the previous results from both the first round and the Regional round where the team qualified and progressed to the next round in second position. Other than the weather being sub-zero, and parts of the course being frozen, the conditions were perfect for running. The team walked the course knowing that they had to complete 2 full laps. Most of it was flat with some gradual declines. However, one part of the course was a short, but incredibly steep, incline which would take a herculean effort to overcome. Following an extensive warm up, the team took to the start line next to the other 156 athletes from the 26 schools who also qualified for the National Final. Throughout the race, the team showed true grit and determination to manoeuvre and navigate their way to the finish line. All 6 boys finished the race and overall, the team placed 8th nationally which is an outstanding achievement considering well over a thousand schools enter this competition. The team were a true credit to themselves and the school and they show great potential moving forward considering that half of the running team that competed at the National Final, were Year 7 pupils. Back row: Rafe D. (7S), Beau S. (8S), Remy M. (8A), Charlie S. (8R), Theo C. (8W), George V. (8R), Front row: Rudy PK. (7A), Ronnie G. (7R), Connor P. (8B)



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT EMAIL

The Academy has an email address to allow parents to report any achievements of pupils outside of school. This can take the form of sporting achievements, dance/drama, community-based activities or indeed any other form of success parents would like the Academy to celebrate and recognise.

A short explanation of the achievement and photos should be emailed to the Academy, which will then be shared in the half-termly Newsletter.

E-mail: achievements@eastwood.southend.sch.uk

Events

GEOGRAPHY STRATFORD TRIP



On Thursday 12th and Friday 13th October, the Academy's Year 10 Geography pupils (plus 5 Year 11s) travelled to Stratford to complete their human geography coursework.

Despite a lot of rain and traffic the pupils remained positive and quickly got to grips with their chosen sites. Several field sketches, environmental surveys, and photographs later we unleashed the pupils onto the unsuspecting public who, through interviews, were able to give a personal response to the impact of the regeneration of the area.



Our pupils were comparing the impact of regeneration on three separate sites – the Olympic park, Carpenter's lock; which is close to the infamous fridge mountain, and finally White Post Lane in Hackney Wick.



There is a great deal of walking on the day which was wonderful for a target of 10,000 steps a day but it also enabled staff to show

the pupils how the regeneration has had an impact socially, economically and environmentally for the locals.

Our final destination was Westfield which provided a lovely warm and dry venue for lunch and a chance to collect our thoughts.

Thank you to the pupils for being so wonderfully behaved and representing the Academy in such a superb manner and to the staff: Mr Clare; Mr Cox; Mr T. Howard; Mrs Philp; Ms Potts; and Ms Searle for assisting pupils and Mrs. Lillywhite on the day.



THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



On the evening of Tuesday 5th December, a capacity audience attended the Christmas 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 included the



stunning vocal solo 'All of Me' performed by Harry D. (9E), a haunting rendition of 'Mary Did You Know?' performed by the chamber

choir, the captivating vocal solo 'Once Upon a December' by Miley H. (7W) and our fantastic school band who performed 'Use



Somebody'. Following the concert, the audience enjoyed refreshments whilst liaising with parents, pupils, staff and invited guests. The Music Concerts throughout the year are designed to showcase the musical talent within the school, together with providing an opportunity to reward the commitment that pupils have shown throughout the term by attending the musical enrichment groups that operate within the music department. Live performance allows pupils to express themselves, to experience nerves and how to control these, and to make the brave step of standing on the stage, committing to their performance and believing in themselves! The next Academy Concert will be the Spring Concert held on the evening of Tuesday 19th March 2024. Please also make a note in your diary of the date for Eastwood Academy's 'Night at the Musicals' on the evening of Friday 28th June – an event not to be missed! For more information about any of the musical enrichment groups and how you can get involved please contact Mrs. Stanley or Mr. Harrison.



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Extra-Curricular

LANGUAGE CLUB



At Language Club this half-term, we were astonished by how many words and phrases we had learnt in different languages! Olivia L. (8A) taught us the alphabet in

British Sign Language. Next up, we learnt about a Formula 1 World Champion, Sebastian Vettel, presented by myself, Robbie-Jay N. (10E) and Ryan N. (8E), and how his knowledge of different languages helped him to travel the world, competing in F1 races! Gracie-Rose B. (9K) did an excellent job on presenting Japanese greetings, followed by the Greek alphabet, facts and traditions. Then it was the turn of Angelina B (9K)



teaching us Spanish including a catchy song about the Spanish alphabet! We even watched one of the famous Top Gear races from London to Monte Carlo, as they messed up on the easiest of French sentences, even with translators! This made us all appreciate the usefulness of learning a language. To conclude this half-term, we sampled some international festive treats, played language games and all together wrote 'Merry Christmas' in as many languages as we could! If you would like to get involved in all the fun, we meet every Wednesday at lunchtime in MFL3 starting Wednesday 10th January 2024. Joyeux Noël! Fröhles Weihnachten! Feliz Navidad!



Kala Christouyenna!
Sheng Dan Kuai Le (生日快乐)!
Meri Kurisumasu! Merry Christmas!
Written by Robbie-Jay N. (10E).

RELIGIOUS ARTEFACTS

Mrs. Marchant would like to express her thanks to Years 7 and 8, who have kindly been bringing in lots of religious artefacts for her classroom. Please do keep bringing them in, as we look at them in our Religious Education lessons and you will also gain yourself two merits!



GEOGRAPHY CLUB GOES GLOBAL



Our passionate Geography Club pupils (Years 7 – 11) have been creating papier mache masterpieces of the globe. HU6 has become buried under a sea of newspaper, glue and balloons as our works of art have taken shape. We have welcomed

many new members who are keen to share their passion for the subject and myself (Mrs Lillywhite), Ms Searle and Mr Cox have been very impressed with the quality of work being produced. Our aim is to create a class display that we can not only use in the Key Stage 3 lessons but one worthy to showcase the commitment, effort and enthusiasm that our amazing pupils put in.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION



During Black History Month this October the History department has run a competition for pupils to locate hidden black icons around the school and find out information about them. Many pupils between Year 7-9 took part in the competition and the lucky winner of the Nando's voucher was Jake R. (7E). Many thanks to all the pupils who took part in the competition.

PRINCE CHARMING TOUR

Our Year 8 pupils recently took part in the Prince Charming tour on promoting positive relationships. We are very lucky to have worked with this group for many years alongside the organisation "Break the cycle". After watching a short production the pupils participated in a workshop on the difficult topic of controlling and abusive relationships. Pupils had the opportunity to actively participate with the actors to discuss the impact of toxic relationships and how pupils can keep themselves safe. It was a great opportunity for the pupils to engage with professional artists and experts from the support group.

Extra-Curricular

YEAR 10 PGL



At the start of November 144 pupils and 15 staff spent a weekend away on a PGL trip at Marchant's Hill in Surrey.

Over the course of the weekend, pupils were able to challenge themselves on a range of outdoor activities, including archery, Jacob's ladder, trapeze, and team problem solving. Although the weather appeared to threaten participation at times, the hardy PGL staff were resolute on the decision that, unless the storm did not come down in biblical proportions, pupils could wrap up and persevere. Impressively, they all did.

On rock climbing, pupils could be seen flying up the wall, giving Spider-man a run for his money. The same could not be said for their descent: Samuel J. (10K) accidentally mastered the art of doing the splits vertically each time he came back down. Aside from Samuel's impromptu gymnastic manoeuvres, it was great to see a number of keen and ambitious pupils head up the wall repeatedly to beat their (and others') previous timings. Abseiling – or as some might say, letting yourself willingly fall off a ledge backwards – was one of the site's obstacles that proved to be the most satisfying to complete. The contagious energy and enthusiasm from PGL staff really did play a part in luring pupils up to the top of the tower. After securing the harness, all that was left was a slip



through the safety railings, lean backwards and dangle. Just don't look down! Kane W. (10S) did, and the entire county of Surrey heard his regrets. While Kane didn't manage to give his trust over to the abseil harness, he did succeed at the Giant Swing, which is always a favourite of the weekend. However, the evening entertainment was the highlight of the trip for the majority on the excursion. Ms Steed and Ms Hodgson-Clark led a fantastic Karaoke night, dredging up old-time classics which, to their astonishment, were well known by the teenage singers. Beside the blaring harmonies of six girls with two microphones, Olivia P. (10R) topped the singing event with her fluid worm dance moves.



In the sports hall, Mr Clark, Mr Foley, Mr Oakley and Mr. W. Piercy launched a footsal tournament between pupils and staff. Within seconds, emotions were high. Sam N. (10R) showed off his outstanding goalkeeper skills while Ollie C. (10R) and Olly H. (10E) vehemently disputed the referee's decisions to no avail. Good try lads. A special mention must go out to Mia F. who stepped up for the girls, playing a cracking few matches against her peers as well as teachers. A huge thank you to all who went on the trip and made it into a great weekend. Roll on PGL 2024!



YEARS 11S REACH FOR NEW HEIGHTS



Since September, 28 of our wonderful Year 11 pupils have been undertaking the training for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. It

takes a lot to persuade 15 -16 year olds to give up their time on a Friday afterschool but this wonderful group of pupils have tirelessly turned up to my class and worked really hard every week. Whether it has been route cards, map reading or learning how to navigate with a compass they have embraced every activity with continued commitment and enthusiasm. Our intrepid explorers will join our year 10s on their expedition to Danbury as part of their continued training before they descend on the New Forest; after their GCSEs, for a week long hike in the stunning national park. We are very lucky to be able to offer the silver award at Eastwood and it has been a real pleasure watching our pupils' progress.



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates in the end of term House assemblies.

ASHDOWN



BOWLAND



ELVEDEN



KIELDER



RICHMOND



SHERWOOD



WHINFELL

