



Stewards Academy Newsletter February 2019



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I address you in this Spring Newsletter. It continues to be a joy to lead our remarkable school. As I walk around the school on my daily **climate walks**, my favourite part of the day, I never cease to be amazed by the quality of learning; the commitment of our teachers and the polite and kind manner of our pupils. A recent visitor was heard to say 'Is it always like this?', as she was taken on a tour of the school during lesson time. The calm, purposeful learning culture continues to impress all visitors to our school.

I have enjoyed sharing the learning and successes of our pupils via **twitter**, with pupils very keen to be included in daily tweets. Please do follow us @StewardsAcademy and @Stewards_Head.

Our Year 11 pupils have been working very hard this half-term, with the second round of their **Pre-public Examinations** (PPEs). This essential practice and final preparation for the forthcoming examinations will ensure that Year 11 feel prepared, confident and calm for the real examinations in the summer. I would like to congratulate Year 11 on their excellent attitude to three weeks of exams and focused study.

Our '**Excellence with Integrity**' is further exemplified by the range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities that enhance the academic curriculum. To name but a few: we have had numerous sports fixtures (with considerable success); the UKMT Maths Challenge; art and photography day trips; an Honours Programme Magistrate experience and of course the infamous New York Residential. I hope you have found the recently sent overview of the residential trips on offer helpful in deciding which may suit your son or daughter.

I would like to particularly mention the success of our **Year 10 Honours Programme pupils**. The Stewards Honours Programme is designed to extend and enrich the experiences of our High Attaining Pupils. As part of this, Year 10 pupils took part in an archaeological dig in association with Cambridge University, and wrote up a degree-style dissertation marked by the university. Their results were truly outstanding—you can see them pictured below.



We were also very pleased to announce that our **Year 9 Basketball Team** recently won the West Essex Basketball Finals, which is testament to their hard work and commitment to the sport.

Assemblies at Stewards Academy have always been an important part of the curriculum, embedding the character and culture of our school and ensuring that our values (The 5Rs)

Respect, Responsibility, Reflection, Resilience and Resourcefulness are demonstrated by all pupils every day. This half-term we have been considering Respect for the Community and our school site and Respect for others, including conflict resolution and our zero-tolerance for bullying. These important messages ensure that our pupils truly have '...safe, fulfilling and purposeful lives', as our vision statement says.

I would finally like to wish you all a wonderful half-term break.

Kind regards, Helen Ginger

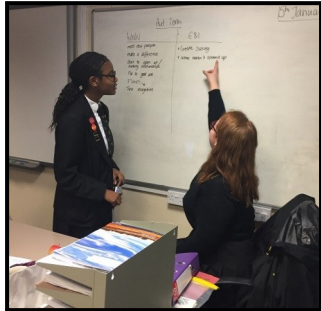
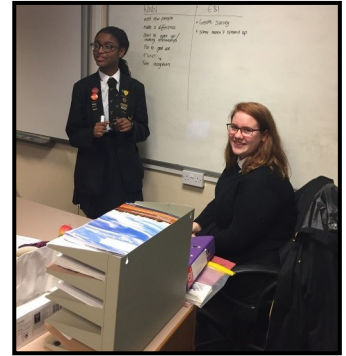


Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

Peer Mentors

The Peer Mentors continue their great work with Years 7 and 8 this term. In addition to working with pupils to support daily life in and around the academy, the team are thinking about ways in which they might support our *Kindness* initiative.

Over the coming weeks, the Peer Mentors will be working with their groups on our *Kindness Challenge*, helping pupils to consider acts of kindness (however small!). They will also assist with tutor group challenges; the first of which is to compose a poem about what *Kindness* means to us.



Already well established in their roles, the Peer Mentors are now ready and willing to take on even greater responsibility and so, this term they will lead our meetings. Their first focus will be exploring ways in which they might develop their role further, and to consider how they might make improvements to their already impressive provision for younger members of our school community. I am very much looking forward to supporting them in their endeavours and will continue to update you through our newsletter.

Mrs Ramsey: Assistant Headteacher responsible for Safeguarding, Culture and Character

School Council

Some excellent discussions have taken place this half term with the School Council members. For the first time we have held an all girls meeting and an all boys meeting with the focus being life at school throughout the different ages. This information has been fed back to the PSHCE and SEP team who are developing the curriculum in these areas. It has been an empowering experience for the pupils and it has allowed those in KS3 to see that they are not the only ones that have experienced issues for example, with their friends. The KS4 pupils, led by Year 11, have been able to support the younger pupils and offer advice and ideas.

Discussions and planning are also underway for the Celebration of Culture week in March. The Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have drawn up a list of ideas for both the celebration of the arts and celebration of multiculturalism—both fundamental parts of academy life. Rehearsals for the music and dance showcases that will take place in this week are now underway. Lots of exciting activities ahead!

Charity news

The charity team worked tirelessly in the lead up to Christmas, collecting donations for the Stewards Christmas Appeal and raising money for St Clare Hospice. The Stewards Family donated enough items to fill 17 boxes of food, Christmas treats and other items, which were prepared by The Bridge team. Through the sale of the 'flumps', lucky dip and Christmas Jumper Day, the academy raised approximately £300 for the local charity, St Clare Hospice. An absolutely fantastic effort; thank you to everyone that participated, your generosity was greatly appreciated.

The Charity reps are busy coordinating activities for Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March, more info to follow...



Jack Petchey

The next round of nominations are now open for the Jack Petchey awards. This is an excellent rewards scheme that celebrates the achievements of nine pupils and one leader from Stewards Academy each year. Pupils and staff are able to nominate any of their peers/ pupils that they feel deserve recognition for something they have succeeded in during their time at the academy. Examples of this are commitment to charity work, dedication to sports or the performing arts, resilience with academic studies, or being superb role models to younger pupils. Pupils can also nominate a member of staff for the Leadership award.

The nomination forms and box are available in the Library for pupils.

I look forward to reading the nomination forms before discussing with the student leadership team and making the final selection.

Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher



Spotlight on Technology

Technology has changed a great deal this year, starting with the new Design Technology 9-1 course. The new course brings together all the previous strands of Design and Technology into one exam: Resistant Materials, Product Design and Textiles. Pupils can still choose their coursework project to suit their preferred discipline and skill set.

There has been a change to the course content and also to the weighting of the coursework/exam ratio. Previously, the courses were weighted 60% coursework to 40% exam, but now both coursework and exam are weighted at 50%. Furthermore, there are now maths questions in the exam. Despite the challenges of a new specification pupils continue to enjoy the subject, and can see that the new style of examination gives them an insight into the whole process of designing, manufacturing and marketing a product.

A new exam with a new curriculum needs new projects and schemes of work, which have been written and have already enhanced both key stages. The photo frame project has been redesigned, **see photo**, to give students the opportunity to learn how to use the pillar drill, coping saw and tenon saw, and more CAD/CAM (computer aided design and manufacture) has been added to key stage 3.



Key stage 4 covers the breadth of the new curriculum, with students needing to study 6 material areas. (This means projects in wood, metal, plastics, textiles, electronics and paper). The Year 9 pupils grappled with wood in the first term and are now designing products on the computer which they will make in metal. Year 10 have spent a whole term learning about polymers (plastics). *And to digress a little, it is extraordinary how wood, polymers, metals and textiles are all divided into two main groups. Which I have always found a very odd truth.*



Now the Year 10 pupils have experience of designing and making an acrylic box using the laser cutter.

They are learning about electronics, by designing a mono speaker from the inside out. This means that they have soldered the electronic components, have built a sound board frame from MDF and will use the computer to design an acrylic casing with a removeable battery compartment.

You can see them hard at work in the photos, left and right.



Food technology continues to go from strength to strength, being a very popular choice at GCSE. Mrs Ellis has supported pupils in creating some delicious and nutritious fare!



Schools never stand still, and it is with some regret that I have to tell you that our technician, Mr Fiddes, has left and started a new job as a technician working on a new course for apprentices at Stansted Airport. This new job suits Mr Fiddes' skills as he is an engineer. As kind and generous-hearted as he is, he came and spent a day with us helping our new technician Mr Mignot settle in (a day of much cake!). However, be not discouraged, as Mr Mignot has more than stepped up to the plate, he has excelled in all areas and could not be a better replacement for Mr Fiddes.

So we have three new members of staff in technology this year: Mr Mignot our new technician, Mrs Edwards who specialises in textiles and myself, Mr Butler, who specialises in Resistant Materials and Design. Mrs Ellis, of course, has been with us for many years, and continues to lead on Food Technology.

Mr Butler, Head of Technology



The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme 2018

Ten Year 9 and two Year 10 pupils have been participating in the Scholars Programme over the last term. Pupils enjoyed a trip to Clare College at the University in Cambridge in November for the launch event where they enjoyed a tour round the grounds by a current student and experienced their first tutorial by a PhD tutor; Finn Schulze-Feldmann.



Since the initial visit, pupils have enjoyed five further tutorials covering different aspects of the topic: Peace between Faiths? Christian Encounters with Islam in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries. Pupils have had the chance to develop note taking skills, source analysis and understanding how to present work in the style of a university dissertation.



Over the Christmas holidays, pupils have written 2000 word dissertations and will be receiving feedback on these in early February. All pupils involved have really impressed myself and Mr Cooper with their determination, confidence and hard work.

Mrs Sherwood, Assistant Headteacher

Governor's Report

Among the things that have happened during this half term is one that has affected many of us associated with Stewards. Just before Christmas, Gordon Hewlett, a former governor for over 40 years and one of my predecessors as Chair, passed away. His funeral was held on 18th January and was attended by many staff and governors both past and present as well as the current Head Boy and Head Girl. The service was a celebration of his wide interests and community involvement in Harlow. On behalf of the governors, I would like to congratulate both pupils on their impeccable demeanour during the service particularly as they had to stand throughout.

At a recent governor's meeting, we marked the upcoming retirement of Andy Bower who will be leaving us after over 20 years as a governor when term of office ends in March. We were able to thank him for his contribution to the work of the governors and wish him well for the future.

Earlier this term, David Guest and I were able to conduct a number of mock interviews with year 11 students, most of these had happened before Christmas but some pupils were not able to participate on that occasion so we were back in January. As usual the pupils were well prepared and although most had nerves performed well. We would like to congratulate them and the staff involved in preparing them. On behalf of the governors may I wish you a relaxing half term holiday.

Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors

Teacher Training

Stewards Academy, in collaboration with The West Essex School Direct Partnership, is committed to attracting, training and developing graduates to enable all schools within our area to reach the same level of excellence and quality of provision, thus ensuring that all our trainees achieve their full potential.

For information on School Direct please visit the DfE website: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

For enquiries about the various routes into teaching through Davenant Foundation School: schooldirect@davenant.org

Alternatively please see the Academy Website: <http://www.stewardsacademy.org> or contact Mrs S Goddard for more information.



Futsal

The Year 7 boys were entered in to their first football tournament at Passmores before Christmas. They competed against St Marks, St Johns and Passmores in a league format with the top 2 teams qualifying for the final.

The Stewards team defeated Passmores (3-1) in their first game before they had two 2-2 draws against St Marks and St Johns to qualify for the final against Passmores. There were no goals scored by either team in the final with Stewards eventually running out winners after defeating Passmores 3-2 on penalties.

The victorious Stewards team was made up of; Caleb Johnson, Charlie Jenkins, Freddie Ashton, Albie Marsden, James Evans, Billy Fishenden, Charlie Cripps and Freddie Witham.

Congratulations on an excellent team effort.

Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 9 basketball team for their recent victory –this story made the front cover of our newsletter!

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Football

In January, Kennedy Mupomba travelled to the Czech Republic for a football tournament. Kenny's team won the tournament and Kenny was voted man of the tournament out of 12 participating teams. Unfortunately, it was not all fun when he fell out their sledge and bruised his left cheek a day before the tournament!



Cross Country

Danny Raymond competed in the Essex Schools Cross Country at Hockley on a cold Saturday morning. He produced an amazing performance placing an incredible 7th place in the junior boys race. This performance has now earned him Essex selection for South East Of England Champs at Popham on Sat 2nd Feb.

Congratulations to Danny and good luck for the upcoming competition.

Swimming

The school continues to be blessed with an array of talented swimmers. A selection of those competed in Block A of the Essex County Champs at Basildon: Daniel Monk, Phoebe White, William White, Carys Brealey and Max Arnold.

Daniel, Phoebe and Will all competed in the 1500m freestyle race. Daniel got a personal best and won a bronze medal. Phoebe placed 6th and Will 5th, both securing excellent personal best times. Daniel then secured personal bests in 100m back crawl and 100m butterfly. Will placed 3rd in 100m back crawl and 4th in 100m butterfly. Phoebe placed 5th in 400 individual medley. Max won 2 bronze medals for 100m and 200m back crawl, and Carys won a bronze medal in the 200 individual medley and placed 5th in 100m breast stroke.

They still have Block B to compete in, which takes place at the Olympic pool and then they return to Basildon for Block C in February. All of them will then be competing in the Regional competitions held in May.

Good luck to all for the upcoming competitions.

Mr Sanders , Subject Leader



Performing Arts

Christmas Concert

Hosted by Dylan Clark and Kai Henson (pictured) the Christmas Concert was a festive treat for families and friends of the Stewards community. The concert was packed with live performances of Christmas hits including 'One More Sleep' and 'All I Want for Christmas is You' performed by musicians from Years 8, 9 and 10. Other highlights were Ashlin Rabie (Year 9) playing a solo piano piece 'A River Flows in You' and 'California Dreamin'' sung by a choir made up of staff and students.

Upper and Lower School Dance clubs performed with passion and energy and gave some of our new Year 7 students their first opportunity to take part in a public event at Stewards, showcasing the routines they have been working on since September.

Throughout the evening our hosts Dylan and Kai entertained the crowd with jokes and selected audience members to take part in games.

Thank you to all who attended and supported the Christmas Concert and thank you to all of our wonderful performers. It was a fantastic evening.



Drama Trip

Students from GCSE Drama visited the Piccadilly Theatre to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', a play adapted from the Mark Haddon novel.



Performing Arts Events

For Year 8 students: Visit us at Upper School Courses Evening if you are interested in taking a performing arts subject for GCSE - Thursday 7th March 2019.

Celebration of Culture Event - Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March 2019

Summer Concert - Thursday 18th July 2019



Miss Doughty, Performing Arts Technician

Year Group News

Year 7

After much consultation and assessment of our current Parents' Evening structure, we have decided to use a **new model for Year 7** in March of this year. Our new model, we believe, will improve the evening and give a balanced, informative overview of your child's progress. The event will be split over two evenings (**Thursday 14th March & Tuesday 19th March 2019**); you will be able to make **one 10-minute appointment** on one of the two dates with your child's tutor. We hope that by offering two evenings, this will give more flexibility for parents and ensure all are able to attend this important meeting. It will also avoid an evening of queuing and possibly disappointment when it is not possible to see all staff, due to the number of pupils they teach.

During your appointment, your child's tutor will take you through your child's progress in all subjects, their attitude to learning and attendance, and their homework record. You will also be able to discuss your child's general well-being and set some challenging targets for the future. We hope this will ensure that you have a well-rounded view of your child's overall progress at school.

More information will be going out in a ParentMail after half term so please keep an eye out for this

Mr Hughes, Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral

Year 8

Next half-term we will begin the options process with Year 8—pupils will need to start thinking about their subject choices. The Upper School Courses evening will be taking place on Thursday 7th March 2019. Please put this date in your diary.

Mr Scholtes, Senior Deputy Headteacher



Year Group News

Year 9

Yet another great half term! The Christmas break certainly paid off, as the majority of the Year 9s have come back to school in the right frame of mind. They are working hard, showing a great attitude towards their learning and are meeting demanding deadlines. If they maintain this attitude throughout their GCSE years, I am confident that they will be very successful.

One of our key themes this half term has been **Resilience**, which is one of the Stewards 5Rs to lifelong learning. The more they seek advice from staff,

use books and take up new opportunities, the likelihood is, they will be more successful in the future. Keep trying and never give up! Take the Stewards staff for example, we have nearly 3000 years of life experience! As a team of people, we have probably travelled to most countries in world, met people from all walks of life and have worked in some very interesting places! These experiences can be shared with the students to guide them in the right direction.

If you do need support; all you have to do is ask. We are here to help!

For those going on the ski trip, have a wonderful time. It is a trip that you'll never forget. Enjoy your half term.



Year 10

Time is flying by... This time next year you will be sitting your Y11 mock exams, as well as applying for College and Sixth Form placements. Are you ready? The work you do now is paramount in your preparation for success. If you want that place at the College, then you'll need the best grades that you can possibly achieve. Remember, there are over a thousand students in Harlow wanting that college placement, so you need to be better than they are!

Work with your teachers, because I know just how hard they work for you. Let's make it a team effort. You don't have long left here at Stewards Academy, so make every minute count.

Work experience: Please remember - You **MUST** organise your own work experience placement. All placements are invaluable as they will be able to highlight the skills that you excel at and may want to pursue in the future. All experiences look great on your CV and can be a great talking point in an interview. If you haven't already organised your placement, speak to your family, friends and other relatives for ideas.

For those going on the ski trip, or to New York, have a wonderful time. They are trips that you'll never forget. Have a great half term.

Mr D Treamer Pastoral Lead Year 10

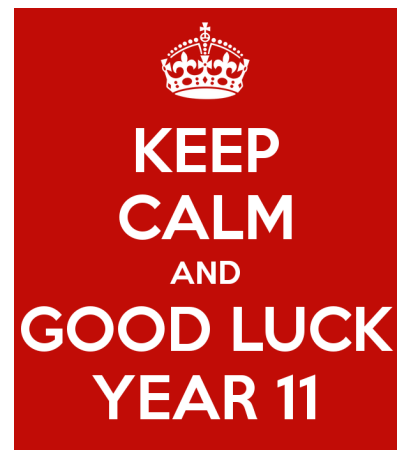
Year 11

What a great way to start 2019 – sitting the second round of PPEs! The majority of you, however, have been fantastic and have been very mature and well behaved throughout. The exams have been a real test for you and I hope your results will help you to prepare and plan for the ones that start in only 10 weeks time! If you're disappointed this time, remember that getting things wrong and making mistakes is okay; you just need to plan and prepare so that you don't make the same mistakes again.

The time you have left is very short here at Stewards, and I really can't express how important it is to make every week a priority. Use your time, calendar and revision guides to help you to organise your weeks wisely. Work out a plan so that you revise for each subject accordingly. If you need any support, please remember that we are here to help.

Also not to be forgotten are your college applications! You can apply for as many different educational establishments as you like, but we do like everyone to put an application in for Harlow College. You need to do this so you can keep your options open. Again, if you are unsure about what to do, please come and see us.

Mr G Hughes – Pastoral Lead Year 11





Pre Public Examinations (PPEs)

The start of the Spring Term has been a busy time for Years 7, 8 and 11. All three year groups have sat PPE (mock) exams since we returned.

For Years 7 and 8, it is an opportunity for them to be assessed on their learning in the first term and to reflect on areas that they may need to develop. These exams also allow pupils to understand the importance of examinations and the expectations in an examination environment. Both Years 7 and 8 conducted themselves well, bearing in mind that it was the first time that they have been asked to sit exams in the hall, as they will in Year 11. Well done!

Year 11 have just finished their second set of PPE exams this academic year. With the real GCSE exams starting in May, this round of exams allows teachers and pupils to look at a full suite of exams across all subjects studied. The results will help teachers identify gaps in pupils' knowledge and to plan lessons to support the revision process, fill the gaps and strive for the best possible outcomes.

It is a difficult time for Year 11 pupils as they are finalising coursework, completing lessons and revising for exams, all at the same time. It is important that they show resilience and build stamina over the next few months. The exam season is very trying on both the body and mind. Please support your son or daughter by encouraging them to revise every day, eat the right foods, get enough sleep and speak to them about how they are feeling heading into their exams.

There will be a mock exam results afternoon on Tuesday 26th February for Year 11. An assembly will be held to inform pupils of the expectations heading in to exam season and then results given out to individual pupils. These results will show a realistic prediction of the grade pupils could achieve in each subject they study if they put in the work needed. I hope that this will encourage one last push from all pupils to achieve the best results they can, giving more opportunities to follow the path they want to in the future.

Mr. Harman, Assistant Headteacher



Key Dates

February 2019

Monday 18th	Half Term
Tuesday 19th	Year 11 Drama Exam practice
Wednesday 27th	Year 11 Parents Support Evening
Monday 25th	Year 11 MFL Orals exams—all week

March 2019

Monday 4th	Reading Week
Tuesday 5th	UKMT Team Challenge
Thursday 7th	Upper School Courses evening
Friday 8th	Year 9 boys injections
Saturday 9th	Magistrates Court Competition
Thursday 14th	Year 11 Drama Exam Prep Day
Thursday 14th	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 15th	Year 11 Drama Exam
Friday 15th	Jack Petchey Speak out challenge
Friday 15th	Year 9 Science event
Monday 18th	Year 11 MFL Orals exams
Wednesday 20th	Pixl 'Strive for 5' Conference
Thursday 21st	Year 11 Practical Dance Exam
Monday 25th	Celebration of Culture Week
Tuesday 26th	Music showcase
Wednesday 27th	Dance showcase
Friday 29th	Ski trip leaves

Happy Half Term!



April 2019

Monday 1st	Year 8 Science Crest in a day
Tuesday 2nd	Year 8 Enterprise week
Thursday 4th	Battlefields trip leaves
Friday 5th	School finishes at 1pm

HAPPY EASTER

Tuesday 23rd

Summer Term Starts

