THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 4 • 2025



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

This newsletter marks two-thirds of the way through the school year 2024-2025. When we return after the holidays our year 11s will be just eleven school days away from the first of the sports hall exams. Our senior students have already completed exams in subjects such as Drama and Hospitality and will soon be in full flow as the exam season arrives.

MR DREW
HEADTEACHER

Kind regards,

The summer term marks a really exciting time for us at Stewards as some significant changes arrive which will mark a different direction in some areas of school life in order to improve the experience of our young people. The removal of the need for blazers and ties for the whole summer term marks a relaxation of the dress code in that area and having talked to lots of students about this I know that they are looking forward to this change. Alongside this we will relax our rules regarding fake eyelashes and nose studs in order to reflect a wide range of conversations with parents, carers and students over the last six months. We will be balancing this with stricter enforcement of other aspects of our dress code related to jewellery in particular. We will be working hard to keep a smart image for our students during the summer term, and I have no doubt my conversations about tucking in of shirts and the wearing of non-school uniform items of clothing will continue in the new term!

I think that listening to the views of our school community is important, and you will soon receive a survey link from PCLC regarding your views about the future of our school uniform with everything open for comment. Finding the right balance of smartness, practicality, cost and comfort is important to us, and it will be interesting to see how everyone in the Stewards community feels about the future of our school uniform.

It has saddened me since my arrival at Stewards that our students do not have access to the school field during break and lunchtimes. I understand that it is more difficult for us to manage students in a larger area during free times, but I think that the general behaviour and attitudes of the vast majority of our students has markedly improved over the last six months in particular. Whilst some of our students haven't needed to improve their behaviour, others have certainly caught up with their peers in their approach to school. We remain on our journey of improvement as a school, but I believe we can be positive and hopeful for the future already. Therefore, in the summer term we will open up the school field at break and lunchtime for students to use. We will put a rope fence around the centre of the field, and this will be the area that is open to students and will cover the majority of the space. I trust our students to respond positively to this and look forward to seeing them enjoy the open space of the field that will be available to them in the sunshine of the summer. Although of course this does depend on the sunshine arriving.

I hope that the summer term brings real joy and progress for us all. I am confident it will.

Stewards Learner - Behaviour and Standards

As another busy Term draws to a close, I would once again like to thank all pupils, staff and parents for their support, it really has made such a massive difference. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our year 11 students the very best of luck with their up-and-coming GCSE examinations which begin next term.

Thank you to all parents that have supported us with ensuring that attendance and punctuality remain a key focus for the school, we all know that this is key to future success. This strategy will continue into the next half-term and as I have said previously, your support is crucial in ensuring that pupils arrive to school everyday and are punctual.

Next term will see the school move to a no mobile phone policy with the introduction of the Yondr programme. Thank you to all those parents that attended our recent parents' evening and the positive response we received. For those that missed the presentation I will place it on the school website for you to view at your convenience.

As well as the parents evening, we have spoken with the students themselves via their house assemblies and once again the response was very positive with 50 students volunteering to be part of a trial as we move towards the whole school launch on April 22nd. We recognise that for some this will be a difficult transition, but we truly believe that it will make a significant difference and that our students deserve a learning environment where they can thrive, free from the distractions of phones and social media. Yondr schools report dramatic improvements in student wellbeing, academic performance, classroom engagement, and social connection. We want these improvements for our students as we know you do too.

Summer Term Uniform

As we move into the summer term and the warmer weather, it has been agreed that from the start of next term students will no longer be expected to wear their school ties or blazers to school. However, could we be quite clear that this does not mean that students can replace these items with hoodies and other inappropriate garments, if this is the case the normal school policy will apply with these items being confiscated if necessary. Likewise, jewellery will remain a prohibited item. Please can I also remind students that lanyards still need to be worn at all times around the school. It is important that we remember that although there is a relaxation in certain areas of uniform for the summer term that we as a school continue to maintain standards around the school.

I would also like to inform you that an area of the school playing field will be made accessible to students during the summer term (weather permitting). This will provide students with opportunities to socialise with friends during their lunch breaks. Staff will be placed on duty and expectations regarding conduct and behaviour will obviously apply.

Once again, thank you so much for all your hard work and support. Have a lovely holiday, take care and stay safe.

Mr Scholtes

TEACHING & LEARNING

Embracing a New Era of Assessment: Mastering, Securing, Developing, and Acquiring

Welcome to our teaching and learning update:

As part of our continued commitment to improving teaching and learning, Stewards Academy has recently adopted a new assessment framework. This framework introduces four key stages of progress: Mastering, Securing, Developing, and Acquiring. We are working hard to provide clearer feedback to students, parents, carers and teachers while fostering a more personalised and supportive learning journey.

Understanding the new assessment criteria

Our new assessment model is built around four distinct stages that reflect a student's level of understanding and skill development:

Mastering – Students who reach this stage have demonstrated a deep understanding of the subject. They can apply their knowledge confidently in a variety of contexts and show a high level of independence in their learning. Mastering reflects excellence and a readiness to extend learning beyond the curriculum.

Securing – Students at this stage have a solid grasp of key concepts and skills. They can apply their learning effectively in familiar contexts and show consistent performance across tasks. Securing represents a strong foundation for future progress.

Developing – At this stage, students are beginning to understand the key ideas but may still require guidance and additional practice to consolidate their knowledge. Developing suggests that students are on the right path but need further support to secure their learning.

Acquiring – This stage applies to students who are in the early stages of learning new concepts or skills. They may be building initial understanding and require significant support to progress further. Acquiring reflects the starting point of the learning journey.

Why the change?

We have moved to this new assessment model to improve communication and progression.

Clearer Communication: Traditional grading systems often fail to provide meaningful feedback on how a student is progressing. The new criteria allow our teachers to describe student achievement more clearly.

Focus on progression: By emphasising stages of development, we can track each student's learning journey more effectively. This encourages continuous improvement and provides students with clear goals to work towards.

What does this mean for students, parents and carers?

Students will receive detailed feedback that outlines their current stage of understanding in each subject. This change allows parents and carers to better understand how their child is progressing and what steps they can take to support learning at home.

If you have any questions about our new assessment model or how it will affect your child's learning experience, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or our school leadership team.



Ms James, Mrs McGee and Mrs Miah

HOUSE ATTENDANCE

STEWARDS ACADEMY

www.stewardsacademy.org

7ACN- 95.3%
7TLG - 90.9%
8RNN - 91.1%
8SHT - 93%
9ETS - 92.7%
9CNN - 79.9%
10THN - 89.1%
10CHK - 89.2%
11CVS - 80.4%
11JLS - 83.4%

7ECI- 93%
8UMK - 92.7%
8VSH - 87.2%
9AMN - 89.4%
9DRY - 92.8%
10KDG - 89.9%
10KSU - 92%
11ADN - 86.4%
11SSE - 93.4%

7NAD - 92%
7ROY - 93.3%
8KBL - 91.9%
9TMY - 92%
9JMN - 82%
10KHY - 87.8%
10FSU - 89.8%
11KJS - 89.8%
11ACS - 91.8%

7EKG - 93.3%
7MRW - 92.7%
8RMH - 92.3%
9DCR - 91.4%
9ITH - 89.8%
10EOE - 89.1%
10SMI - 89.9%
11PHN 87.8%

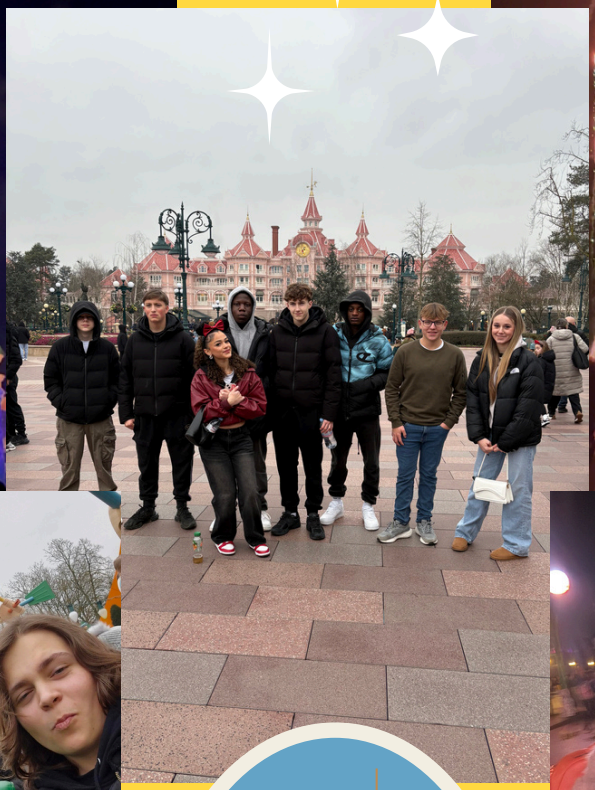
Design and Technology Students Visit Disneyland Paris

The technology department took 37 year 10 pupils to Disneyland Paris before last half term and it was an absolute success. They had the opportunity to see all the hard work that goes into costume design, food menus, rollercoasters and set design. They enjoyed the travelling, the ferry and of course the excitement of getting to stay with their friends for two nights!

They were able to explore both entire Disney parks for the day, enjoying the rollercoasters, shopping and eating Mickey shaped goods! At the end of the day they were able to watch the firework and light display show on the castle, with some students saying 'it was the best day of their lives' and 'they had the best day ever'. The Year 10s are already begging for another residential trip and we have only been back a few weeks! It was wonderful as teachers to see their faces light up with joy after a brilliant trip and they represented Stewards Academy incredibly well and we are extremely proud of them as a department.

Ms Stylianou













Rising Futures Programme Graduation

On 13th February 2025 some of our amazing students graduated from the Rising Futures programme.

They started off the session by completing a quiz on what they had learnt throughout their time on the Rising Futures programme and the winning team won a prize!

They then answered different questions such as 'what talent did I most improved in?' and 'what was my favourite part of the programme?'. Their answers showed that taking part in Rising Futures has helped the students improved their confidence, communication skills, resilience and awareness.

The session ended with the students watching a PowerPoint presentation full of photos of their time on the programme and all students really enjoyed looking back at all of their accomplishments.

They were then presented with their certificates and all students were beaming with pride. Well done to all of you, we are very proud of you all.

Mrs Keys-Kidd











WEST ESSEX & HARLOW FOOTBALL FINALE

The Year 11 football team finished the football season and indeed their last ever football match for Stewards, by playing against St Marks in the West Essex & Harlow League on a lovely sunny spring afternoon. Our thanks go to Miss Dorling for taking time out of her professional refereeing duties to referee the football match. There was a great team spirit and they needed to show both resilience and determination to keep out the St Marks opposition.

The first half of the game was a very cagey affair as both teams were testing each other out with Lewis forced into making a string of great saves. The boys were quite disheartened at half-time not to be ahead as they had the greater chances but had not taken them and then they got caught on the counter-attack just before half-time.

After a quick pep talk at half-time by Mr Rayney and Miss Venables the team took to the pitch to seek to convert their chances into goals. However, due to a momentarily lapse in concentration at the back it led to St Marks extending their lead. Stewards kept pushing forward and had a number of chances to get back in the game but alas it wasn't to be their day. At least they enjoyed their last moments of representing Stewards.

Mr Rayney



The Year 7 football team finished their first football season as runners up in the West Essex & Harlow League. They played their league matches over at Passmores for three consecutive weeks and only lost to St Marks on points. There are signs of a good team for next year and the places are very competitive for the starting line-ups.

Special mentions must go to both Oscars for their work rate, Aaron for his comeback from injury, Harry for his superb goalkeeping skills, Delight with his pace and pressure up front, Jayden for his goalscoring as well as super sub Jack netting a couple and last but perhaps best were our two Charlies one in the midfield leading the team as captain and our other Charlie who was magnificent in defence. Well done Year 7.

The Year 8s lost their first game of the league to Passmores but then went on to beat St Marks 8-2. They needed to show real determination as when warming up they were subjected to an intense hail storm which quickly moved away so that they could get on and play the match. Kaelan managed to score the first goal from a great corner from Rayen and then the floodgates opened with James getting a hat-trick, Tiaarn with a 20 yard shot and Teddy managed to lob the keeper from the wing for the best goal of the game. Josh also managed to get on the scoresheet. Well done Year 8.

The Year 9 football team also lost their first game of the league to Passmores but put up a much more competitive performance against St.Marks when playing at home with Braden scoring the goals before St Marks ended up winning.

The FA Leadership Course

On Wednesday 26th February, some of our year 8 and 9 girls football team had the opportunity to take part in a FA Leadership Course run by The FA at Passmores Academy to start to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

The morning was made up of interactive discussions with each other about the role they could play as a leader and coach to younger players. The girls had to think about the skills and attributes they already have to start to develop themselves into a football coach and leader as well as learning about new skills they can begin to develop in to their role as coaches before putting these in to practice later in the day through practical activities.

Mini games and variations of the traditional skills and techniques used in football were then put into practice through practical activities led by the girls themselves alongside the guidance of The FA coaches and lots of resources to support in their delivery and confidence of football activities.

For lots of the girls this was the first time they had stepped in to the role of a coach and used their confidence, communication and teamwork skills to ensure they delivered a safe, enjoyable and fun activity to their peers and other girls on the course. All of the girls that took part did extremely well and are already looking to put their new skills to the test both in lessons and at football club.







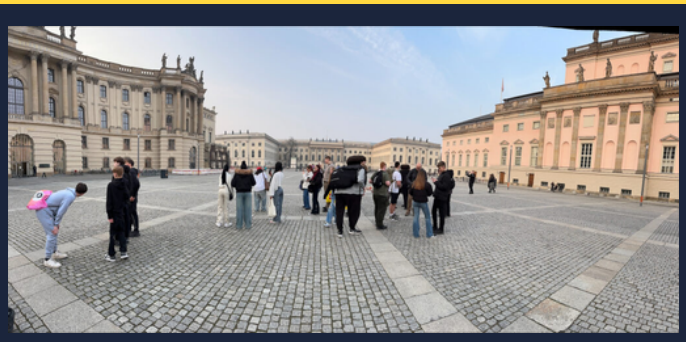
Miss Venables

History Students Visit Berlin

After the overwhelming success of last year's Berlin trip, Mr Hawk led Mrs Goddard, Miss Venables and Mr Dalton, alongside 29 very tired Year 10s to the German capital on a cold March morning. Our travel plans had hit a snag before we even left, as our outbound flight was cancelled. However, Mr Hawk and our travel company NST worked swiftly together to find a solution, sending us from Stansted to Wroclaw in Poland. The diversion meant that we ended up traversing three countries in a single day – a first for many - when our 4 hour coach journey crossed us over into Germany and to the hotel.

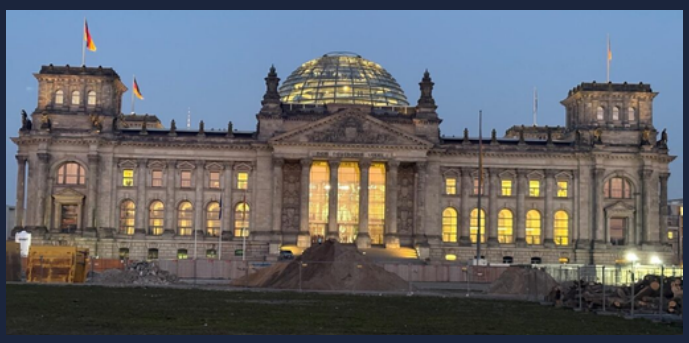
























Garry, our trustworthy tour guide from last year, was there to meet us on arrival, and got us out of the hotel and immediately onto Berlin's underground network to take us around some of the key sights of the city. We walked above where Hitler's last few months were spent in his vast underground bunker, experienced the disorienting and thought-provoking Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and crossed under the Brandenburg Gate during a beautiful sunset. Dinner was hastily eaten by all, desperate to lie down and get some rest before the busy days ahead.

After a good sleep we headed to Sachsenhausen Memorial, located where one of the first concentration camps was in Nazi Germany. This was a moving and powerful experience to stand where those who perished in the Holocaust once were. Many of the students shared their thoughts as we walked round, fully appreciating the scale and significance of what we were seeing. We returned to the city for lunch at the Mall of Berlin, with Garry then leading us to see some more relics of the Nazi rule. We walked past the imposing former German Ministry of Aviation and onto the Topography of Terror Museum. This housed a massive museum documenting the entirety of the Nazi rule, alongside an outdoor timeline exhibit set along an intact section of the Berlin Wall. From here, we shot up the TV Tower, the tallest structure in Berlin, and had some fantastic panoramic views of the city from over 200 metres above. Our day ended with another visit to a traditional German restaurant Der Alte Fritz, for a well-deserved three course meal. The currywurst, a staple dish in Berlin, went down well with the group, and we headed back to the hotel full and satisfied.

Wednesday's chilly morning signalled another busy day, starting at the Tranenpalast, or Palace of Tears. This former border crossing between East and West Berlin during the Cold War is now an exhibition showing how Berlin went from unified, to split, to unified once again. From there, a visit to the highly interactive DDR Museum, detailing life in East Germany after the division in 1949. Garry then took us to Hackescher Markt for a quick lunch, before jumping on the tram out to the Stasi Prison Museum. Guided by academics specialising in the post-WWII period of Germany, we were taken through the various interrogation rooms, prison cells, and courtyards that would have had thousands of political prisoners passing through between 1951 and 1990. The Berlin Wall Memorial came next, where we were told of the various attempts at crossing the wall Berliners attempted, even seeing the remnants of the tunnels that were dug in desperation. With heads full of knowledge and aching feet we travelled back to the hotel for our final dinner, and a chance to look at Berlin's lights from the rooftop terrace.

Unfortunately, our time in Berlin was up. After one last sleep, we said our goodbyes to Garry, thanking him for his time and expertise, and departed to the airport. Our journey home was smooth, aside from the usual M25 rush hour traffic, and everyone was safely bundled off back home for a well-deserved rest (and late start at school on the Friday!). This was a fantastic experience for students and staff alike, and all credit is due to Mr Hawk for planning and leading the trip, with invaluable assistance from Mrs Goddard and Miss Venables.

Mr Dalton

World Book Day 2025







This year, our World Book Day celebrations were truly spectacular, with the theme "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" bringing creativity and excitement to the English department.

Students had the opportunity to write their own stories inspired by the theme, sparking their imaginations, and showcasing their storytelling skills. In class, they also discussed their reading habits, focusing on the importance of reading as a lifelong skill. Throughout the day, students took part in exciting competitions run by the English department, testing their knowledge of their teachers and their creativity!

Adding to the fun, the English team fully embraced the theme, dressing up as beloved characters from The Wizard of Oz! From Dorothy to the Wicked Witch, the corridors were filled with colour and enthusiasm, making the day even more memorable.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part—we can't wait for next year's celebration!

Mrs Little

Modern Foreign Languages Trip to Normandy

This term, our Modern Foreign Languages department embarked on its first residential trip since COVID, taking students on a memorable journey to Normandy. The trip was carefully planned to tie in with History, offering students a deeper understanding of the past through immersive experiences.

One of the most significant visits was to the British Normandy War Memorial, where students gained valuable insight into the role Britain played in helping France reclaim its land. Our History teacher, Mr. Meehan, provided an excellent historical context, making the visit even more impactful. This theme continued with a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry, where students listened to an audio guide bringing the famous story to life before their eyes.

Of course, it wasn't all serious! Students indulged their sweet tooth at a chocolate factory and the Caramel d'Isigny factory, enjoying a well-deserved treat. A trip to a cider farm provided an opportunity to learn about traditional apple juice production—complete with a tasting session of freshly pressed juice.

Other highlights included exploring the beautiful Bayeux Cathedral, experiencing the lively atmosphere of a local market while enjoying crêpes, and even a beach visit!

Throughout the trip, our students demonstrated curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm, making it a truly rewarding experience. A fantastic first MFL residential—here's to many more to come!











Miss Thomas

Year 9 Options Taster Day

Year 9 students at Stewards Academy enjoyed a personal development day designed around their initial options choices.

Each student was given a bespoke timetable for the day, and they got to experience four different sessions. Stewards has 25 subjects available to choose from this year, spanning across the arts, humanities, languages, science, sports, technology, as well as introducing vocational subjects and those taught at GCSE only including business studies, computer science and sociology.

One student said: "This was the best day ever! I really enjoyed trying out all the subjects I want to take next year."

Another student said: "Thank you for organising this day. It has been amazing! I definitely want to take all the subjects I've tried."

The next stage of the options process will be an interview with senior staff before students make their final choices.

Mr Drew, Headteacher, said: "We want to support our young people to make the best choices for them. Opening up the options process earlier and allowing them to select from a broader range of options is enabling them to start taking ownership of their learning. This process is fully structured with lots of support and guidance along the way for students, parents and carers. The students fully embraced their taster day opportunity, and it was wonderful to hear about their experiences of the day."

Mrs da Vighi



Year 10 Students Shine at Poetry Live in London!

25 of our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to attend Poetry Live in London, an event that brought some of the UK's most renowned poets to the stage. Throughout the day, students listened attentively to Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, and John Agard (a firm favourite!), gaining valuable insights into the poems they are studying for their GCSEs.

Armed with their anthologies, students made detailed notes, picking up expert tips on analysis and interpretation from a lead examiner. Their enthusiasm was clear, as they engaged with the poets' discussions and enjoyed hearing the works brought to life.

We are incredibly proud of how exceptionally well-behaved our students were, representing Stewards Academy with maturity and respect. It was a truly inspiring and enriching experience, and we hope it has deepened their appreciation of poetry ahead of their exams!





Mrs Little



‘Matilda’ Theatre Trip

Following Stewards Academy's successful involvement in the London Musical Theatre Orchestra (LMTO) project during the autumn term, participants were invited along to a matinee performance of Matilda. 60 KS3 students, with accompanying staff, travelled to the Cambridge Theatre, London for a very enjoyable and entertaining performance. There were plenty of standout moments throughout the show with pin drop silence, audible gasps, laughter, clapping along and momentous cheering at the end! One student said: "I really loved the performance! Watching some of my favourite Matilda songs brought to life on stage was fantastic." Another student said: "The show was fabulous, and I enjoyed the talk afterwards where I was able to ask a question about being part of the band. It was a great afternoon." Mrs Lysons, Subject Leader for Music said: "The joy of bringing students to the theatre, and particularly a show such as Matilda with so many young performers in, really shows our young people the opportunities that are out there for those wishing to pursue a career in the theatre. Having the opportunity to listen and pose questions to the musical director and other musicians too, was an excellent opportunity. The students really got to understand how 'music is a live thing' and 'how they get to feed off the performers and audience reactions'. It has been amazing working with the LMTO staff again this year and we look forward to the final session in June."

Mrs da Vighi

Creative Writing Club - Poems Written by Students

Mountain Escape

As I step upon the mountain's face,
The world below begins to erase.
The path ahead,
So rocky and steep,
Leads me where my soul can leap.

The echoes call,
Haunting memories,
But higher still,
They lose their ground.
Each step I take,
The chains break,
Ascending where no fear remains.

I feel shamed,
I need a way to escape.
I thrive my greatness,
But deep inside,
I want to die.
I'm shamed for looks,
I'm shamed for style,
No escape,
I follow the mountains trace.

My body's light,
My spirits new,
The sky unfolds in endless blue,
Above the clouds,
I've made my way,
To the dawn of freedom's day.

My arms outstretched,
I feel the breeze,
Its steady whisper puts me at ease.
My eyes now open,
The world I see,
A boundless place where I am free.

Kaydee Brown – year 7

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

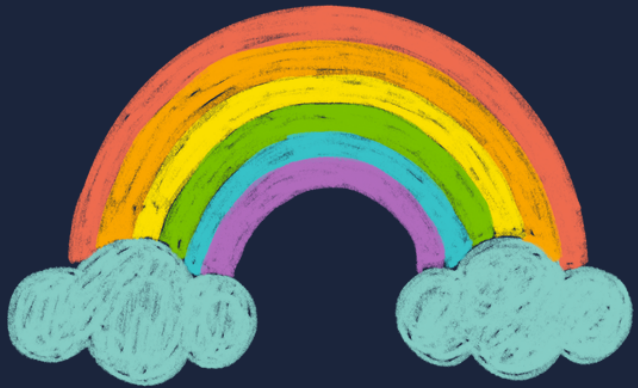
somewhere over the rainbow,
far away
behind all the thunder and rain,
behind all the worries,
behind all the pain.

there is a place for happiness
a place of peace
a place of love
a place of hope

but that rainbow won't be far away
like the fairytales that people wrote
it won't be over the hills and far away
it's somewhere that you love
your rainbow could be at home
your rainbow could be when you are alone
your rainbow could be anywhere

over the rainbow
not so far away
you found peace, not pain
happiness, not worries
hope, not rain

by Ellie-May Burnall - Year 7



With Love...

On February 14th, four of our Year 10 EAL students covered the world with messages of joy and love. In a lesson about the effects of kindness and benevolence, Taisia, Nicole, Hollie and Aiswarya looked at the ways kindness is expressed and celebrated across the world, such as the Wall of Benevolence in Iran and tea ceremonies in Japan. They wrote these uplifting messages onto a selection of paper hearts and stuck them to the huge map of the world in our Humanities block. Hollie shared a beautiful philosophy from Zimbabwe. She wrote "Everyone gives food, clothes and money to the vulnerable, and they say love is not love until you give it away."

Mrs Annetts





Are you ready to fight alongside Dragon Club against the forces of evil, and travel to far off worlds filled with Orcs, goblins, skeletons, kobolds, dragons, and Dungeon Masters?

Then visit Dragon Club board game afternoon- every Tuesday after school at Mr. Springthorpe's classroom 11 from 3:15 -4:30.

Get the chance to fight monsters, cast spells, and uncover secret treasure in the worlds of D&D, Talisman, Warhammer, Pokémon, Yugioh and Heroquest.

See Chairman George Springthorpe 10CH or Mr. Springthorpe for more info.



Where can I store my bike at school?

We have a large bike shed by the back entrance to the school where we lock the bikes behind gates until the end of the day. Please use this and do not keep your bikes anywhere else.



Lost and Found

Reminder to please put your children's names in their uniforms and bags so that we can reunite them if lost.



Recording an Absence via Arbor

To record an absence, click on the **Quick Actions** button and then click **Attendance.** From here, click the green **Log Absence** button in the top-right of the page. Here you can input the start and end time for the absence. By default, the absence start and end times reflect the student's full day, but these can be adjusted as needed. Once you have filled in this data, click **Log Absence**. This will then be visible to school staff. School staff can then accept or reject the absence. Approved absences appear in the **Attendance** tab of the Parent Portal or Arbor App.

STEWARDS SAFEGUARDING TEAM 2025

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Atkinson
(Safeguarding V Office)

safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

If you have any worries about your safety or wellbeing, speak to a member of the Safeguarding team, or any adult in the School

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Miss Blake
Mr Myatt
(V Office / Admin Office)

Safeguarding Officers: PSM Office



Ms Morley



Mrs Bolt



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates



Mr Hughes
(AHT/Maths Office)

For Safeguarding updates and information please visit: Arbor

Safeguarding

As we approach the end of another term at Stewards Academy and welcome this wonderful Spring sunshine, I'm sure we all hope it continues into the Easter holidays!

The fine weather draws us out to enjoy parks and other public spaces, but it is important that we remain aware of where our children and young people are, and what they are doing.

Let's encourage conversations about the importance of appropriate conduct and remembering that parks and public spaces are for the whole community to enjoy, young and old. Please ask your children to be mindful of this and to behave in a way that makes us all proud.

Mobile phones

The issues surrounding inappropriate content, communication and bullying via mobile phones remain a constant challenge to keep young people safe. As you are aware, we are introducing the YONDR pouches after Easter and we hope this will go some way to reduce this, at least in the school day when the focus should be on learning.

Please be aware of the content on your child's phone and how they are communicating with others.

We wish you a very pleasant Easter break.