



THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM EDITION 6 • 2025



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



It is always amazing when the end of the school year arrives. When the school year begins at the start of September each year, it is hard to see the end of the same school year ten and half months later. However, as with everything in life, it arrives and what truly matters is whether we have collectively used the time we have been given in a positive and constructive way that means the lives of the young people who attend Stewards have been improved by the experience.

**MR DREW
HEADTEACHER**

Having been at the centre of our school for the first of what I intend to be many years at Stewards, I am confident in saying that this has been a good year. The young people in our school have shown amazing character, hard work and engagement with what their teachers have sought to do across the year. Visitors to our school coming back for the first time in months or years have repeatedly commented on how polite, well-behaved and hard working the students they have encountered are. Throughout the year we have been taking families on tours around the school when they have been looking to move their children to Stewards to join our school. Senior staff leading these tours have taken great pride in the experience of showing families into classrooms and allowing them the opportunity to see our teachers and students at work.

I believe that the school year 2024-2025 will mark the turnaround year for Stewards. It is the year in which we have reasserted our place in the local community as trusted partners. We have re-established the expectations and implementation of high standards in all that we do so that we can enable our students to achieve the success they deserve. The idea that Stewards is a school where everyone will be supported, protected, enabled and enthused to be the very best they can be is now once again at the centre of all that we do. I know that we still have a long way to go to be the exceptional school in all areas of our work that we need to be, but we have turned the corner and already started to progress in all areas. I look forward to working with our amazing young people, parents, carers, staff, governors and local community in the coming years as we all work together on that journey.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer holidays. You have all earned this break and as we head off into the sun on Tuesday 22nd July, I think we can all look back on a year of hard work and achievement.

When September comes we look forward to seeing our new year 7s on Tuesday 2nd September and then all of our wonderful young people at 8.45am on Wednesday 3rd September.

Stewards Learner

As another busy and hectic year at Stewards Academy comes to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all and wish you a pleasant summer break. This year as you will be aware has seen many changes as the school continues to strive to improve standards of behaviour as well as teaching and learning across the Academy.

One such change has been the introduction of the Yondr pouches and I really should thank you all for your continued support with this initiative. It has made such a positive difference to attitudes and behaviour across the school. Please could I ask parents that if students have lost or damaged their pouch that this is replaced via ParentPay in preparation for the start of the new term. Those students that have handed in their pouch to their tutor at the end of term will have them returned in September. By doing this we will minimise any unnecessary disruption at the start of the new term.

It has been so pleasing to see the new house system up and running and so many pupils participating in events such as chess, baking and of course sports. This competition concluded on sports day.

I would like to end by thanking all the staff that work so hard to support the pastoral process. I know many of you will have developed positive relations with many of them throughout the year. The Heads of House and the Assistant Heads of House who all work tirelessly to support the students with all the trials and tribulations that school life brings, Mr Naunton for all the work that he has done in organising and co-ordinating the house programme and Mr Hughes and Mr Myatt our KS3 and KS4 leads.

Lastly, I would like to thank you - the parents and the support that you provide not only for the pupils, but us as staff. I have noticed a real change this year and I cannot emphasise enough the difference this has made in implementing new systems and strategies when managing the behaviours of the pupils.

Have a wonderful summer break and stay safe.

Mr Scholtes

TEACHING & LEARNING

As we wrap up this school year and get ready for the next, we are taking steps forward in how we teach, how we assess students, and how we support our staff to keep developing and improving.

Next year, we will be rolling out a refreshed continuing professional development (CPD) programme. This is the training, coaching and learning staff complete to keep getting better at what they do. CPD is one way we help staff to grow and learn too.

A New Era of Assessment - This year, we introduced a new way of grading students. For those in Key Stage 3 the focus is about helping students understand where they are and how to move forward. Instead of traditional grades, we talk about four stages: Acquiring, Developing, Securing and Mastering. These stages give a clearer picture of how students are doing, what they are confident with, and what they still need to work on. It helps students, parents and carers understand what is going well and where there is room to grow. Meanwhile, our Year 10 students recently received their mock exam results, which gave them a valuable chance to reflect on their progress and set goals ahead of Year 11.

Teaching That Adapts to Every Student - Alongside the new grading system, we have been developing our approach to adaptive teaching. This means adjusting lessons and support so every student can succeed. In practice, this might mean changing how a question is asked, using quick checks like thumbs up/down or mini whiteboards, or giving different kinds of tasks to suit different learners. It helps teachers respond in the moment and make sure everyone stays on track.

What Is Coming Next: Supporting Great Teaching at Stewards - From September, we will be launching a refreshed training programme for our staff to make sure teaching at Stewards continues to go from strength to strength. This is how we help our teachers stay up to date with the latest strategies and make learning even better for our young people. A key part of CPD will focus on areas directly linked to the classroom; for example how lessons are structured, how we check students' understanding during learning, and how we make sure that every student, no matter their starting point, is supported to succeed.

What is especially exciting is that these training sessions will be led by our own staff, who will be sharing their expertise and great practice with each other. The areas we will be focusing on next year include:

- Planning and structuring lessons
- Adaptive teaching strategies
- Assessment for learning
- Building literacy skills
- Effective questioning in lessons
- Support for our associate teaching staff and early career teachers

Looking Ahead - With a clearer approach to assessment, more inclusive teaching strategies and a CPD programme built around staff expertise, Stewards Academy is working hard for even greater success for our young people.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact the Teaching and Learning team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. McGee – HMCGEE@stewardsacademy.org, Ms. James – KJAMES@stewardsacademy.org, Mrs. Miah – RMIAH@stewardsacademy.org

Ms James

HOUSE

STEWARDS
ACADEMY



ATTENDANCE

www.stewardsacademy.org



7ACN - 94.8%

7TLG - 89.3%

8RNN - 90.5%

8SHT - 92.9%

9ETS - 91.1%

9CNN - 81.9%

10THN - 88.6%

10CHK - 88.9%



7ECI - 91.7%

8UMK - 92.6%

8VSH - 87.2%

9AMN - 87.7%

9DRY - 91.9%

10KDG - 88.2%

10KSU - 91.8%

7NAD - 90.5%

7ROY - 92.3%

8KBL - 90.5%

9TMY - 91.2%

9JMN - 80.6%

10KHY - 87.8%

10FSU - 88.5%

7EGN - 91.6%

7MRW - 91.6%

8RMH - 91.2%

9DCR - 91.1%

9ITH - 91.2%

10EOE - 88.1%

10SMI - 90.5%



Year 7 East Mersea Trip 2025

On Sunday 22nd June, 90 of our Year 7 students enjoyed an unforgettable adventure to East Mersea for four days of activities, team building and dancing in the glorious heatwave and what a brilliant trip it was! From the moment we arrived, the air buzzed with excitement, curiosity and a touch of nervous energy about being away from home for the first time for some of our year 7s. This was soon replaced by laughter, teamwork and new friendships forming.

Each day was packed with exciting activities that challenged students to step out of their comfort zones. Whether they were scaling the climbing wall, tackling the high ropes course or learning archery, everyone gave it their all. The kit kart sessions were a highlight, with some very creative designs launched down the Mersea hills at great speed.

The trip wasn't just about adventure – it was a chance for students to build confidence, work together and develop resilience. From helping each other across obstacle courses to cheering on teammates from the sidelines or splashing them in the pool to cool down, it was heartening to see such positive support and encouragement from everyone who went.

Evenings brought a chance to relax and reflect. A disco, BBQ and team challenges brought everyone together, with plenty of laughs and some impressive dance skills seen from both students and staff involved.

As we packed up on the final day, tired but happy, it was clear the trip had made a lasting impact. Students returned with stronger friendships, a deeper sense of independence and memories they'll carry with them for years to come.

A big thank you to the staff who attended and the students for their on going amusement and entertainment with their warmth and encouragement towards each other to make the week such a success. Well done, Year 7 – you were amazing!

Miss Venables



Year 11 Leavers' Day and Prom 2025

On 20th June, Stewards Academy held the 2025 year 11 leavers day. This included shirt signing, inflatables, a full English breakfast, a BBQ, ice-cream and the annual leavers' assembly that always means a lot to our pupils.

On the 4th July, the year 11 students had their much-anticipated Prom – a fantastic evening of laughter, celebration, dancing and fun! Held at The Manor of Groves, the event marked the perfect end to their time at Stewards Academy, where students and staff celebrated achievements together.

From stylish suits to dazzling dresses, the students were dressed to impress –with interesting choices in footwear they danced the night away and enjoyed everything the venue had to offer. The pupils particularly enjoyed the garden, and many took the opportunity to gaze across the golf course and take everything in. The venue was beautifully decorated, setting the scene for a night of elegance and excitement.

Along with a delicious buffet and countless photos, both selfies and from the photo-booth, the dance floor quickly filled as the DJ played a mix of hits and student favourites. From group dances to heartfelt sing-alongs, the energy never dropped.

Staff and students alike celebrated together and it was lovely to see everyone come together to celebrate the end of GCSEs, after all their hard work the students truly deserved a night to enjoy themselves.

As they now look ahead to the next stage – whether Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships – I hope that they can look back and remember their prom as a highlight from their time at Stewards.

Miss Spowart



Strawberry Afternoon Tea - Celebrating Community at Stewards Academy

On Friday 27th June we hosted a truly special event at Stewards Academy - our Strawberry Afternoon Tea, designed to celebrate community, connection, and gratitude.

In preparation for the event, 7 of our students visited Cammas Hall for a sunny afternoon of strawberry picking. The children had a wonderful time gathering fresh strawberries, enjoying the outdoor experience and taking pride in their contributions to the event.

Back at school Miss Long and Tonia prepared a stunning spread of homemade treats, Victoria sponges, strawberry roulade and freshly baked scones with jam and cream. Each student was invited to bring along a parent or older sibling to join them the following day for the afternoon tea.



This event aimed to reignite the community spirit that is at the heart of Stewards Academy. We were delighted to welcome a number of guests, including; School Governors, retired leadership staff, local police officers, school nurse, in house P2B counsellors, MIND Mental Health charity team, Matt from Young Carers and more.

Many members of school staff also joined us throughout the afternoon to enjoy a slice of cake and connect with the students and guests.

It was a heartwarming atmosphere filled with conversation. One of our residents kindly attended and complimented the students on their excellent behaviour and the sense of togetherness the event created.

Among our guests was Bett a 94-year-old visitor whose late husband was once the chair of governors at the academy. Her presence added a special touch of history and continuity to the afternoon.

Events like this are more than a simple social gathering - they reflect the values at the heart of our school: community, inclusion, gratitude and wellbeing. It is through these moments that we celebrate not only our students but also the incredible network of professionals, parents and partners who support them.

We are proud of our students, especially those who helped pick the strawberries and shared the day with their loved ones. We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who joined us to make it a memorable occasion.

Mrs Atkinson



Stewards Academy Welcomes Future Year 7s for an Exciting Taster Day!

On Thursday 26th June, Stewards Academy proudly welcomed 203 enthusiastic year 6 pupils from a wide range of primary schools for a highly anticipated Taster Day. This special event was designed to give our new intake a real taste of life at secondary school, and it did not disappoint! Pupils were warmly greeted in the morning by senior staff and prefects before being placed in their new tutor groups—many for the very first time. Although a few nervous faces were seen early on, it didn't take long for those nerves to settle as the children began to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings and routines.

The day began with a short, formal assembly in the Flexi-Suite led by Mr Steele, Head of Year 7, and Mrs Bartlett, our dedicated KS2-3 Transition Lead. During this session, pupils were introduced to their Peer Mentors—friendly faces who supported them throughout the day—and were given an overview of what to expect and the key behaviours that would help them to make the most of their time at Stewards. From there, pupils made their way to the quad, ready to begin their first ever secondary school lessons.

Throughout the day, students took part in an exciting rotation of lessons across a range of subjects. In Modern Foreign Languages, pupils learned animal vocabulary through games and word searches—with Miss Thomas' class enjoying a fun twist as they triumphed in a lively teacher-versus-class contest! In Science, hands-on experiments exploring the properties of water thrilled our young learners. From floating and sinking investigations to launching a hydrogen rocket and creating a colourful density rainbow, there was no shortage of awe and wonder. In Art, students explored the expressive world of Wassily Kandinsky, creating beautiful abstract group paintings inspired by music and synaesthesia. Maths saw students diving into the world of Vedic squares, finding digital roots, identifying patterns and even creating mathematical artwork. Technology, History and other subjects also offered an engaging snapshot of the creative and dynamic learning environment that awaits in September.

To bring the day to a grand finale, all pupils came together for an outstanding Performing Arts Showcase featuring the incredible talents of our Year 7-10 performers. The music and dance acts were met with enthusiastic applause and an electric atmosphere filled the room. This memorable afternoon left a lasting impression on our visitors, many of whom departed feeling inspired and excited for the new school year ahead.

The behaviour, enthusiasm and maturity shown by our year 6 visitors was nothing short of exceptional. The effort and engagement across all sessions impressed staff and it's clear that our future Year 7s are ready to rise to the challenge of secondary school life.

Well done to all Year 6 pupils for your positive attitudes and outstanding contributions—you have already made us proud. We can't wait to welcome you fully into the Stewards Academy family in September!

Mrs Bartlett

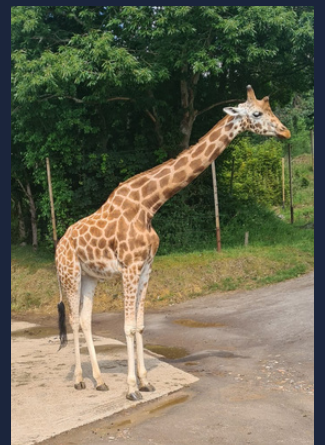
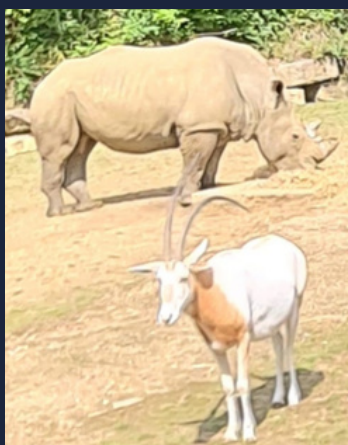
Chessington World of Adventures

Reward Trip

On Friday 6th June, 130 students who had received 300 reward points since September, went on a well-deserved reward trip to Chessington World of Adventures. We were very lucky with the weather and all students had a great time seeing the animals, going on rides, playing theme park games and enjoying all of the theme park snacks! One student even won a toy so big that it needed it's own seat on the coach on the way back home!

The students are still talking about what a great time they had! Thank you to all of the staff involved in making this trip possible for our well-deserved students.

Mrs C Keys-Kidd



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 1st May, seventy year 7 and year 8 students took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This involved completing 25 challenging maths questions on many different topics intended to showcase their problem-solving skills. Pupils were competing against students at a high level in year 7 and 8 across the United Kingdom. This is an annual challenge which Stewards has participated in for many years, and once again the pupils have done us exceptionally proud. This challenge is extremely difficult as students must apply excellent mathematical thinking to find solutions.

Our pupils showed great resilience throughout the challenge, which is reflected in the results and are the best Stewards Academy has ever had! Special mentions to:

Bronze award

Antonia Bodnar, Reggie Bull, Evie Campling, Nadia Mont, Lilly-Anne Munson, Harrison Palmer, Charles Zebrowski, Zachariah Ayoubi, Oliver Olma, Patrik Penzelik

Silver award

Tyler Gifford, Denzel-Howard Jackson, Albert Mitran, Manha Rashid

Gold award

Semi Hassan and Denis Dunajevs

A special mention goes to Semi Hassan and Denis Dunajevs who both achieved the 'Best in School' award by scoring 95 points. This high score meant both pupils were entered into a more complex challenge called the Junior Kangaroo. This was a first for Stewards and we are all extremely proud of the boys for representing the school. A further special mention to Denis Dunajevs who achieved a Bronze award at the Kangaroo level. These phenomenal results bring our mathematic challenges to a close for this year. The Maths department is exceedingly proud of all pupils who participated, and we wish year 7-10 good luck with their UKMT challenges next year.

Mrs Woolley



Sports Studies and GCSE PE Rewards Trip



Thanks to one of our Sport Studies pupils who received a Jack Petchey Award earlier on in the year, we were lucky enough to offer our year 10 GCSE PE and Sports Studies pupils the opportunity to celebrate students who have shown outstanding effort, progress and sportsmanship in PE this year. A group of well-deserving pupils enjoyed a fun-filled rewards trip to the local driving range and footgolf course at Golf World in Stansted – and it didn't disappoint!

Armed with buckets of balls and plenty of enthusiasm, students took to the driving range for some golf practice. For many, it was their first time swinging a club, but there were some impressive natural talents on show! From long drives to accurate chips, the group gave it their all – and even a few of the staff had a go (with mixed results!).

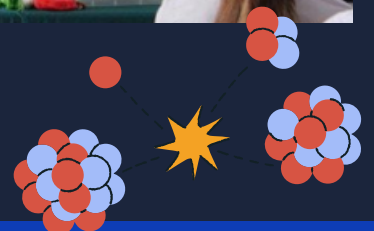
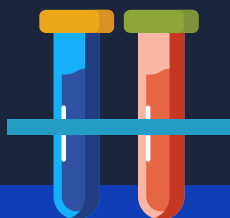
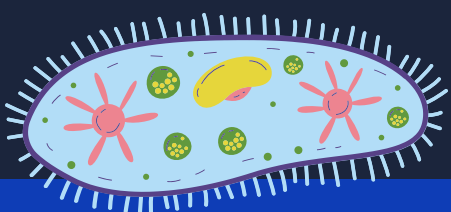
After a quick break, it was off to the footgolf course – a brilliant blend of football and golf that had everyone laughing and competing in equal measure. Whether aiming for a hole-in-one or navigating some tricky bunkers, students showed fantastic skill, patience and friendly competitiveness throughout.

The trip was a great way to reward those who have shown commitment and a positive attitude in PE, and their behaviour and energy on during the afternoon made it even more enjoyable.

Centre of the Cell

Centre of the Cell visited our Year 8 and Year 9 students as a special reward, delivering an engaging science experience through interactive shows and workshops. Students explored fascinating topics such as the circulatory system in "In a Heartbeat," genetics and natural selection in "Genes and Evolution," and the digestive process in "Gut Feeling." These sessions used hands-on activities and real-life case studies to make complex biology concepts accessible and memorable, inspiring students to learn more about the human body and cutting-edge medical research.

Mrs Manivchuk





Gardening Blooms at Stewards This Summer Term

The summer term has marked an exciting new beginning at Stewards Academy with the launch of our gardening initiative. We are incredibly fortunate to have access to a dedicated garden and pond area on school grounds—an outdoor space full of potential for learning, creativity and well-being.

A particularly inspiring part of this project has been the involvement of the Infinity students in the SEND department. These students have been at the heart of the gardening effort, taking pride in planting, watering and maintaining the growing space. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and care have brought both the garden and the school community to life.

Working in the garden offers many benefits beyond the physical results—it helps develop fine motor skills, supports emotional regulation and provides a calming, hands-on learning environment. For the Infinity students, it's been a valuable opportunity to connect with nature, work collaboratively and see their efforts flourish in real time.

The pond area, rich with wildlife, also serves as an engaging resource for sensory exploration and quiet reflection. As we move through the term, the garden is beginning to blossom into a vibrant, inclusive space where every student has a chance to grow—literally and figuratively.

We're proud of all the students involved and look forward to watching the garden (and our gardeners) continue to thrive.

Mrs Ahmad

Jack Petchey Awards 2025

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme recognises outstanding young people between the ages of 11-25 throughout London and Essex. The scheme is a reward and recognition initiative which enables schools and youth organisations to celebrate the achievements of their young people as well as receive additional funding. “We do it because we want to help young people raise their aspirations, believe in themselves and make a contribution to their society” said Sir Jack Petchey CBE.

At Stewards, all pupils have the opportunity to nominate their peers or a staff member to receive an award by completing a nomination form. Staff are also able to nominate the young people they work with. The Student Leadership Team help in the decision making process.

Nine pupils each year achieve this prestigious award and are recognised for various achievements including; their commitment to academy life, charity work and academic studies. Congratulations to this year’s winners.



The East London Science and Technology Challenge Day

11 students from Years 8 and 9 were selected to take part in the STEM Challenge Day at the University of East London's Royal Docks Centre for Sustainability on Friday 11th July.

The event provided an exciting opportunity for students to explore STEM subjects at an advanced level through a series of hands-on activities:

Robotics: Students built and programmed a robot to navigate a challenging obstacle course.

E-FIT: Using police software, they created a facial composite of a 'suspect.'

Vehicle Design: Teams designed, constructed and raced simple electric vehicles.

Medical Diagnostics: Students worked to diagnose two simulated 'patients.'

Throughout the day, each student represented the school with professionalism, demonstrating outstanding teamwork, enthusiasm and engagement.

We are extremely proud of every student who participated. A special congratulations goes to two of our students, who achieved first place in the Robotics Challenge.

Mrs Miah





The Children's Society East

Our CHHAT groups focus on promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing for 8 – 18 yr olds, with these particular sessions focussing on children in **years 8 & 9**.

The team use a range of techniques tailored to support each young person to develop their emotional resilience; with the group programme aiming to help young people build self-esteem and confidence.

The service is open to children and young people who have parents or family members who are misusing substances or have been impacted by a family member's mental health.

We aim to create a safe, confidential space for these children and young people and will signpost/support additional referrals if appropriate.

Venue:

Passmores Academy,
Memorial Hall in the Heart Space

Session Dates:

Tuesday 29th July – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 30th July – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 31st July – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Tuesday 5th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 6th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 7th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 20th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Tuesday 26th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday 27th August – 1:00pm to 3:15pm
Thursday 28th August – 10:00am to 12:30pm

If you would like to find out more, or book a young person in to attend our group, then please contact one of our CHHAT practitioners on **01245 493311** or email kim.stayt@childrenssociety.org.uk

Where can I store my bike at school?

We have a large bike shed by the back entrance to the school where we lock bikes and scooters behind gates until the end of the day. Please use this and do not keep your bikes anywhere else. If you arrive late, bring them to the front of the school and they can be put in the workshop if necessary.



Lost and Found

Reminder to please put your children's names in their uniforms and bags so that we can reunite them if lost. Please put full names and not just initials. Thank you.



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.

HOLIDAY COURSES

Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and 3 and Learn to ride courses

To book, please visit link
essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee



**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**



Essex County Council

Safeguarding

At Stewards safeguarding is in the foundation of everything we do. It sits in the heart of our culture.

The wellbeing and safety of our students and staff remain our highest priority and we are committed to maintaining a safe, nurturing environment where all members of our community can thrive.

This year we have seen more students in need of P2b mental health support. The students are also referred to YCT AND CAMHS. We will also be joined by MIND in September who will be working 1-1 with students. They will also be delivering two workshops for our new year 7s helping them settle into school.

In the day to day lives of our students, safeguarding is ever present - whether in the classroom, during social time or through pastoral support. We recognise the challenges young people face in today's world and we are dedicated to being a constant, trusted presence in their lives.

Our Safeguarding work doesn't stop at the school gates. We build strong partnerships with families, external agencies and the wider community to provide a network of care and protection that extends beyond the school day.

As we come to the end of the school year, we want every student to be able to enjoy their summer safely.

Please remind your child about water and rail safety - assemblies they have had this term - helping them to see the dangers around being near or playing around these areas.

Let's take everything we've learned about safety and looking after each other and ourselves throughout the summer holiday and put into practice when in the local community or out with friends.

There is a lot going on in Harlow and beyond to enjoy - and we want every single one of you to have a great time. But remember, your safety and wellbeing come first.

Have a wonderful summer

STEWARDS SAFEGUARDING TEAM 2025

Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Atkinson
(Safeguarding V Office)

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Blake
(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

Safeguarding Officers: AHoH Office



Ms Morley



Mrs Bolt



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates



Mr Hughes
(AHT/Maths Office)

For Safeguarding updates and information please visit:

