



Stewards Academy

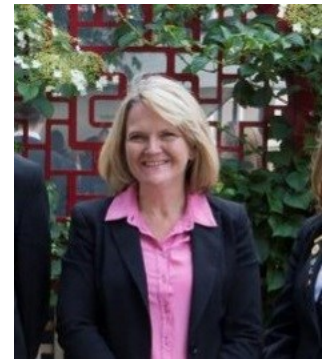
Newsletter March 2018



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this letter, it is **Curriculum Day in Stewards Academy**. Our Performers are busy rehearsing for Popstars the Musical. I have overheard the music and excitement coming from the hall and I am very much looking forward to watching our production next week. There are a whole host of other activities going on around school: Year 7 and 9 are taking part in English and maths workshops; Year 8 are spending an exciting day in science; Year 9 and 10 are focusing on Humanities and Study skills, with some of our historians spending the day at the Imperial War Museum. Finally, Year 11 are enjoying spending the day working on their option subjects, with their GCSE examinations now in sight. I took particular delight in walking round the school today and seeing our pupils engagement and enthusiasm for their learning.



Last week, I was very pleased to attend the **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge** with Year 10. It was amazing to see the progress our pupils made in one day with their public speaking skills, many of them overcoming considerable reluctance to speak in front of a group of people. I was particularly impressed with the content of their two minute speeches. They had learnt to speak with passion about subjects that were very important to them and to question the status quo. I would like to congratulate all those students that took part, but particular recognition must go to our finalists: **Amelia Anastasi, Bradley Rimmel, Olamide Nduka, Lennon Hickey, Sara Illet and Shade Sutherland** and to those that received Highly Commended certificates - **Ben Hood and Katie Jones**.



As always, our newsletter contains a whole range of exciting articles for you to enjoy. I would like to draw your attention to the information on pages 2 and 3 regarding changes to the **Pastoral Structure** in 2018-19. We are going to begin to introduce these to the pupils after the spring holiday. Over the next few newsletters we are going to share further updates with you.

I would also like to ask for your support in **maintaining high standards of dress** at Stewards Academy. A small minority of pupils are having to be reminded of our rules regarding this. The planner clearly outlines our school rule with regard to jewellery, which is not allowed. We would also like to remind everyone that skirt lengths should be at least to the knee and no shorter. Make-up should not be worn as it is not appropriate for school. Thank you for your support in this regard.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Easter weekend.

Kind regards,

Helen Ginger, Headteacher





Chair of Governors

As I look back over the second half of the Spring Term, I can't help feeling that "Spring" is hardly appropriate considering the weather we have been having. I would like to express my thanks to all the staff who worked hard to ensure that the school was able to remain open during the inclement weather, for those who had to make a special effort to get to work so that we continue as usual and of course the parents and pupils who had to make the effort to get in when many would probably preferred to be enjoying the snow.

As is often the case, I am writing this some time before the end of term so I have to anticipate events, in this case the school production, which I greatly enjoy each year. On this occasion I am particularly pleased to hear that the music will be provided by a pupil band. May I wish all who are participating in this event a success; I am sure that it will be well up to the usual high standard.

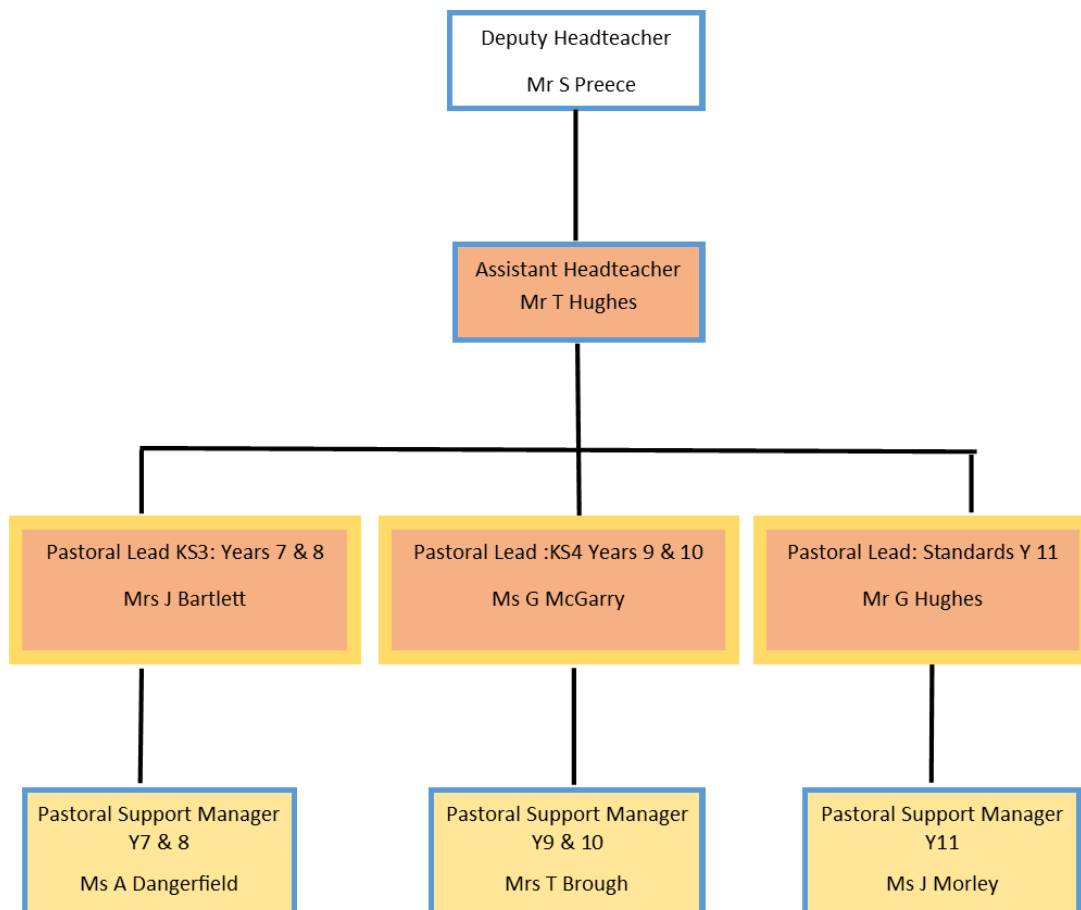
Finally I would like to wish you a restful time over the Easter holiday.

Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors

Changes to Pastoral Structure 2018-19

As parents, I am sure you are aware that Stewards Academy has always been committed to continuous improvement. Whilst we are incredibly proud of our school and its achievements, we are always striving to improve our provision each year. With this in mind, we are making some changes to the Pastoral Structure for the next academic year.

As has always been the case, where possible, your child's tutor will remain with them for all their five years at Stewards Academy. To support the tutors, however, we will now instead have three Pastoral Leads in place of our previous Heads of Year. Each Pastoral Lead will be supported by a Pastoral Support Manager and together they will be experts in the development and wellbeing of the year groups under their care. They will not move within the structure as the children move through the year groups, but instead remain in the same Key Stage.





Changes to Pastoral Structure 2018-19

The children will start their journey at Stewards with Mrs Bartlett, as their Pastoral Lead and Miss Dangerfield as their Pastoral Support Manager. In years 7 and 8, Mrs Bartlett and Ms Dangerfield will ensure the transition process is smooth and seamless and that the pupils have embedded the essential skills of the Stewards Learner.



Respect

As the children move into Y9 and 10, Ms McGarry will become the Pastoral Lead, together with Mrs Brough as the Pastoral Support Manager; their roles will be to support the pupils as their studies become more demanding and the rigours of homework and personal study increase.



Resilience

Finally, in Y11, Mr G Hughes will take the role of Pastoral Lead, with Ms Morley as Pastoral Support Manager, supporting the pupils in this important final year of GCSE examinations and applications for Further Education.



Responsibility

This model will provide the consistency of support from tutors and expert leadership from our new Pastoral Leads. The Pastoral Leads and Pastoral Support Managers will be lead by Assistant Headteacher, Mr T Hughes together with Deputy Headteacher, Mr S Preece.



Resourcefulness

In preparation for this change, which will come into effect in September, there will be a handover process in the Summer Term. The pupils will be introduced to the new structure and to the staff that will be working with them in the new academic year.

Mrs Atkinson and Mr Ford will be moving into new roles within the Pastoral Structure and further information will follow next term.

Reflection



Mr S Preece, Deputy Headteacher Pastoral Care



Stewards Learner

In a survey conducted by Ofsted in April 2013, 82% of students stated that they were very anxious at the prospect of revising and sitting exams that year. Anxiety affects children in different ways, and as parents and teachers we are keen to support them in any way we can. Anxiety reveals itself in many ways. Some students develop nervous energy, others become quiet and isolated, others become agitated and irritable. Some become tearful and feel unwell or react with small scale illness such as flu-like symptoms.

We can't always stop anxiety, but as teachers and parents we can work with it. It's up to us to help support and manage anxiety by ensuring our children do not over-revise. Maintaining good health and well-being can be embedded in how much rest and sleep children have. Sleep patterns need to be managed. Time to relax must also become part of the routine for children during the exam season.

Mr King and I have been tasked with researching the best ways to help our students in the lead up to their GCSEs in May and June. Revision can take many different forms and in the past there have been years in which revision is extremely varied. We have had people that have not stopped revising and others that have completed very little revision at all.

With this in mind we would like to introduce a structure that makes revision more efficient. Our aim is to make the best use of your time. It is simply not practical, or healthy, to revise every subject for two hours a night. I am sure some of our students felt overwhelmed by the amount of revision they had to complete in the last round of PPEs. No amount of energy drinks will help you retain any more information.

The revision method that we feel best suits the needs of our students at Stewards Academy is a technique called the 'Pomodoro' technique. The following information is a background on the method and the steps to carry it out effectively; talk to your children about it and if you have any further questions please get in contact with either myself or Mr King.




The Pomodoro Technique and How It Works

The Pomodoro technique is a proven and popular time management life hack and revision strategy.

The main premise behind the technique is to work in blocks of time, typically 25 minutes long (called Pomodoro sessions), followed by a 5 minute break. Each Pomodoro session should demand your full attention on one task; every break requires you to step away from your work to rest.

The result is greatly improved productivity during focused work sessions that can be maintained through effectively managing distractions and taking regular breaks.

Mr T Hughes - Head of Year 11

PLAN 	
FOCUS	After a distraction it can take 25 minutes to get back on track so managing distractions is vital to productivity. Shut down your email, social media, put your phone on do not disturb, ask friends to call back later.
WORK 	Pick your first task, hit start on the timer and focus. 25 minute sessions are the recommended length. Pause is not an option. This is your motivation to deal with interruptions effectively.
SHORT BREAK	Step away from your revision space, five minutes is the recommended break length. Clear your mind of the task you have just been working on, stretch your legs or grab a drink or snack.
REPEAT 	A round of Pomodoro is generally 4 sessions but we are going to work with 3 so revision doesn't take up all of your free time. By following these patterns you will build good habits. At the start of each new session look at revision planner and see what subject and topic are next and focus all your energy into your session.
LONG BREAK	After three Pomodoro sessions take a longer break, 20 minutes is recommended. Make sure you step away from your revision space, get some food or a drink and clear your mind.

Pupil Reports Update

Year 11 reports have been improved this year to better resemble the familiar IPR. You will find a record of your child's progress over the year, both sets of their PPE results and a Projected Grade. You will also see an overview of attitude to learning. As part of the college application process, tutors have also written individual references for pupils. **Years 7 - 10 reports** have also been improved to illustrate details of pupil progress, attitudes to learning, attendance, merits and behaviour points. Tutors have also written individual comments for tutees. **Mrs C O'Sullivan, Deputy Headteacher**



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.

In order to realise this vision our partnership schools have made a commitment to work together through the School Direct programme with our provider TES Institute to provide the very best school-based teacher training programmes in the Secondary sector.

The programme will seek to maximise time spent in the classroom by ensuring that the face-to-face professional studies programme is of the highest quality and delivered within our locality.

There are 18 schools in the partnership, all judged to be outstanding or good (Grade 1 or 2) by Ofsted and managed by Davenant Foundation School as the 'lead school'. Davenant is one of a small number of 'Teaching Schools' in the country and it was

previously a 'Training School' from 2008 - 2012. The unique blended learning programme combines school based training, on-line learning materials, a network of experienced subject specialists to deliver pedagogy and subject knowledge and a number of off-site visits to special schools, primary schools and Leading Teacher days.

All of the schools have a track record of working with university PGCE providers and Essex ITT. The working partnership has been in existence for over 6 years which ensures that cooperation between the schools is established and is a strength of the partnership. Each school provides a fully trained Mentor for each trainee, supported by a Pathway Tutor from TES Institute who visits each half-term.

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/page_viewer.asp?page=Vacancies&pid=139

or contact Mrs S Goddard for more information.



Mrs S Goddard: Deputy Headteacher—Teaching and Learning

Vacancies

Every year, work begins early to ensure we have a full complement of highly effective teachers and associate staff ready for the next academic year. We are currently advertising the following vacancies for September:

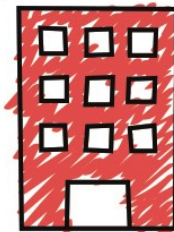
- Technology Teacher
- Maths Teacher (with responsibility for the right candidate)
- Science Teacher

We pride ourselves at Stewards for being a great place to work. Our staff are highly-valued and we are committed to good working practices that support a healthy work-life balance.

Further details can be found on our website:

http://www.stewardsacademy.org/page_viewer.asp?page=Vacancies&pid=139

Visits to the Academy are welcome by prior appointment.



GREAT
PLACE TO
WORK

Deborah Souter—HR Manager



Spotlight on Art and Photography

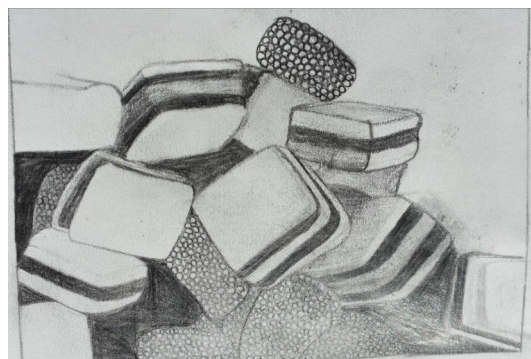
This year is set to be the busiest year for Art and Photography at the Academy and so far I can honestly say the standard of work from each year group seems to be progressing in the right direction with some outstanding pieces of work in both subject areas.

Mr White, Mr Scholtes, Mrs Leech and I have been busy teaching varying schemes of work, organising Options evening, running after school clubs and organising future educational excursions and we all believe that the department is moving towards a successful conclusion as we edge closer to the final term.

Year 7 have completed their drawing and painting work and have produced 3-D Mythical Creatures through a big homework set earlier this term. The focus was to use a sustainable element when creating their models and then present their creature to the class (focus on literacy) I am sure you would agree that the photographs display a plethora of ideas and exceptional imagination from our youngest students- well done year 7!



During this term the Year 8's are making their options choices and there was a great enthusiasm for the Art and Photography stalls during the Options Evening. As illustrated by the photographs Year 8 have captured and improved their drawing, printing and research skills throughout this year.



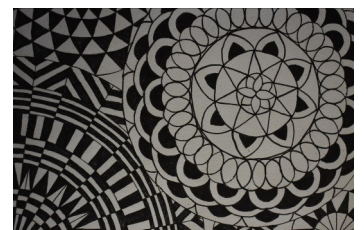
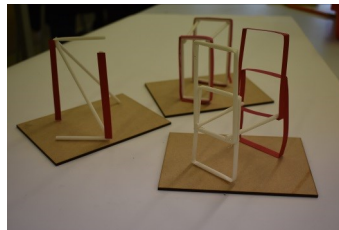


Spotlight on Art and Photography

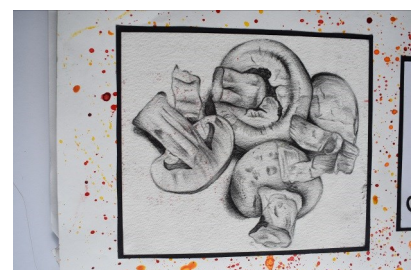
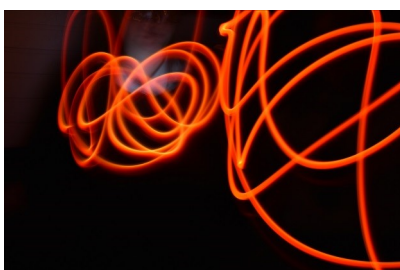
Year 9 has been so promising this year with many students creating some of the best 2-D and 3-D work we have seen at the Academy for a number of years. In art, Mr White with his two groups of Year 9 have focused on Abstraction and Extraction to create their modernist models. As a fan of modernity I believe this work sets the tone for our critical thinkers for the future. Photography has been a runaway success with some fantastic images being produced in school and at home. With an injection of new cameras, a laser printer and other specialist accessories the photography department are looking to improve their results and portfolios. Well done to Year 9 who are working at a 100% capacity in the visual arts.



Our future leaders in school are enjoying a productive year in both areas of the arts, Year 10 have delved into the theme 'Identity' this year in photography and they have explored with success the thought provoking themes of racism, gender, ageism and sexism. I believe the success of their work has allowed them to realise the diverse world we live in and the opportunities it has to offer them. In art, the Year 10 portfolios include still life drawings, artist research, graffiti art and dynamic sculptures which illustrate the variation we deliver at the Academy.



It is nearing the end for our Year 11 art and photography cohort but the work produced in their coursework and more recently their exam has been generally excellent with individual ideas being executed to some of the highest standards witnessed at Stewards. Year 11 photography continues to show the diversity and inspirational work from a bright and energetic group of artists- their photographs are developing towards some excellent final pieces. Keep up the good work Year 11, you have just a few more weeks of work left so do everything you can with the remaining time given to you.



As Head of Art and Photography it has been another great year in the visual arts and the standard of work just keeps on improving. Thank you to all of my staff for their support and positivity. On the horizon we have many projects and trips to look forward to including trips to the Henry Moore foundation and a walking tour of London. The School production is in its final stages and Mr White has created the most visually outstanding set that will transport you back to colourful era of the 90s. We also have a competition connected to the Multi-Cultural event In May and not forgetting our final exams in April.

I hope you enjoyed looking at all of our fantastic Art and Photography work.

Mr Li , Head of Art and Photography



English

Well, Spring has finally sprung and we are fast approaching the Easter holidays. The English department has had another extremely busy term – it only seems like five minutes ago that we were singing Christmas carols and watching the Christmas specials on TV!

I wanted to outline some of the activities that have taken place this term, starting with Year 7 who have been studying Conan Doyle’s ‘The Sign of Four’, which is a great introduction to detective fiction, and creating their own non-fiction writing around the topic of pet ownership.

Year 8 have been learning about the big six Romantic poets (Shelley, Keats, Byron, Wordsworth, Blake and Coleridge) and have also studied transactional writing and the use of grammar to support and improve their own writing.

Year 9 has covered an eclectic mix of topics this term, ranging from speech writing to understanding poetic form through studying Shakespeare’s Sonnet 130 and Wilde’s The Ballad of Reading Gaol. They are currently studying the very emotionally charged topic of war letters and poetry.

Year 10 have continued preparations for their GCSE exams next year by studying creative and transactional writing and the JB Priestley play “An Inspector Calls” and have undertaken two sets of mock examinations.

Year 11 are now well into their revision for their forthcoming GCSE exams and have also sat two full sets of mock examinations. Period 6 support sessions are well underway to boost English language and literature knowledge to help our pupils achieve the best GCSE results they can.

Have a wonderful Easter break!

Mr Ginger, English Department

Reading News

Stewards Academy also took part in the ESSEX BOOK AWARDS 2018, which involved 5 Yr.8 pupils reading a variety of books and writing reviews. We are very proud to announce that one of our Pupils Mia Todd 8CH won the award for her review on a book called ‘Kick’ by Mitch Johnson. Mia was presented with a certificate and book token.

Incredibly so far this school year, 5831 books have been read totalling 210,337,713 words! Pupils are busy reading books and taking quizzes to earn points towards their target. Pupils are expected to read for 30 minutes every day and have a very clear target based on their ability.

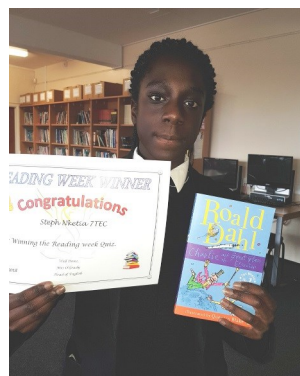
The second Reading Week of the school year has taken place in Stewards Academy. This is an event which promotes reading, as well as literacy in general. *Phenomenal Women* was the most recent theme and was the perfect complement to International Women’s Day the following week on March 8th. ‘It was the ideal opportunity to discuss gender disparities in reviewing (amongst other areas) which exist in the world of publishing.’

Phenomenal Women celebrated influential females throughout history as well as some amazing female authors. Students were invited to write essays and create posters about a phenomenal woman of their own choosing. The overall winner of this competition was Amy Coombes, Year 7. Amy chose to make a poster about Emmeline Pankhurst, a political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement. Our runners up were Niamh Stock, Year 7, who wrote about Malala Yousafzai, and Elsie Pudney, also in Year 7, who wrote about Emma Watson.

Mrs R O’Grady, Subject Leader for English



Winners of the writing competition, Amy Coombes of 7SPL, Niamh Stock of 7SPL, Elsie Pudney of 7AF with Mrs O’Grady.



Winner of Author Quiz, Steph Nketia 7TEC



Winner of Essex Book Award 2018, Mia Todd 8CH



Maths

2018 UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Last month a group of pupils from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. The challenge involves answering a series of multiple choice questions focussed on mathematical problem-solving which challenges pupils to think creatively and logically. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are awarded to the top 40% of participants entered nationally.

This year's results were amazing, and we are very proud to announce that 30 talented mathematicians have been awarded certificates.

Gold award: **Joshua Golding** – Also awarded Best in Year 10
 Molly Fincham – Also awarded Best in Year 9 and Best in School

Joshua and Molly also qualified for the Intermediate Kangaroo Challenge, an extension to the Intermediate Challenge. This took place on Thursday 15th March and we look forward to receiving their results.

Silver award: **Aleasa Ali, Lewis Calvert, Corey Jackson-Hoare, Jamie Munslow, Olamide Nduka, Holly Perrett, William Rolfe-Doyle and Owen Smith**

Bronze award: Marija Bogdanova, Katie-Mae Braham, Chloe Bull, Mattenai Chigavazira, Paige Cooper, Cameron Cuthbert, Emma Galloway, Seven Hassan, Steven Ma, Lauren Miller, Aimee Monk, Esther Ntow, Kane O'Connor, Kian O'Mahony, Raqeeb Salami, Katie Smith, Evan Sontag, Charlotte Spriggs, Taisia Tiron and Darcy Wylie

Well done to all the pupils who participated in this year's challenge and congratulations to our award winners.

2018 UKMT Intermediate Team Challenge

In addition to this fantastic achievement, last year's winners from Year 7 recently completed the UKMT team challenge at Bancroft school. The pupils had an exciting and enjoyable day out and competed against some very talented mathematicians. Their problem solving and team work skills were put to the test and proved to be very successful. Our amazing mathematicians finished in an outstanding 12th place, finishing in the top half of all schools competing!!

We are already looking forward to attending next year and stealing the winner's crown!!!!



Miss L McDevitt, Subject Leader for Maths



Performing Arts

POPSTARS

THE 90's MUSICAL

Popstars! The 90s Musical

This year's production is 'Popstars', a story where girl band meets boy band set to the pop soundtrack of the 1990s, featuring the songs of East 17, the Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, Christina Aguilera and many more.

It's set in a school in the 1990s where Mark is head over heels in love with his girlfriend, Queen Bee, Shannon Van de Witt.

When Shannon learns that pop-band impresario Simon Austin is the surprise judge at the State Talent Show she dumps him for her chance at showbiz stardom.

Mark rapidly goes from High School hero to High School zero. His garage band buddies rally around him and soon a plan for revenge is hatched to change their grunge band to a boy-band and snatch the Talent Show title from Shannon's Candy Girls.

There's just one small problem... the boys can't dance. Mark enlists the help of the ultra-talented new girl Ella to help with their boy band make over and sparks soon fly.

Can Mark get the girl, get the Grand Prize and get even with the scheming Shannon closing in? It's anyone's guess as the countdown to the Grand Finale begins. It's sure to be one to remember.

Don't miss this fantastic production - tickets are on sale at Reception, Finance and via Parent Pay at a cost of £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for concessions. **All tickets for the opening performance are £3.00.**

'Popstars' will be performed at Stewards Academy on **26th, 27th and 28th March 2018**. Follow us on Twitter @stewardspa for updates, photos, news and more.

Stewards Music School

Reminder: The next enrolment date for Music School is **Wednesday 18th April**, after school in the Music Room.

Theatre Trip - Wicked

We took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students to see 'Wicked' at the London Apollo Victoria Theatre. The 'untold story of the Witches of Oz' was a big hit with our students, who were unanimous in their praise for the musical and have been singing songs from the show ever since!

Wicked tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two young women who first meet as sorcery students at Shiz University: the blonde and very popular Glinda and a misunderstood green girl named Elphaba. Following an encounter with



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. Glinda's unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.



Miss Doughty, Performing Arts Technician & Music Tutor



Year 8 & 9 Boys Basketball

The boys have enjoyed a very successful season, winning all of their games against the Harlow schools, which qualified them for the West Essex and Harlow Schools final against Davenant. Unfortunately on the day, Davenant proved too strong and ran out comfortable winners. However the boys should be proud of their achievements this year and it bodes well for future years. The players who played throughout the season include; **Kilian Tebith, Franklin Nzeh, Kai Jordan, Nathan Luckin, James Patten, Morgan Arnold, Tony Carr, Patrick Snowden and Wisdom Idehen.**

Tournament Opponents	Result(s)
St Johns	Won 16-6
Mark Hall	Won 49-11
Burnt Mill	Won 19-5
St Marks	Won 24-17
Passmores	Won 22-18



Boys Year 8 Football

The Year 8 boys have been training hard in preparation of the upcoming football fixtures this term. Football is always very popular and this year is no different, with over 30 boys having already attended training this year, making selection very difficult.

The boys' first game was against Mark Hall on their astro-turf pitch, a larger than usual surface made the transition from defence to attack very difficult. The boys performed well and created numerous chances and despite scoring 4 goals still ended up losing 6-4. More practice on defending obviously required! Goals were scored by **Nosa Osayande, Liam Short and Danny Raymond.**

In their second game, they lost 2-1 to Burnt Mill in a match they dominated from start to finish but could not take the numerous chances that were created. **Jack Willis** was the goal scorer.

In the most recent game, the boys were totally outplayed against a very strong Passmores team.

With further fixtures against St Mark's and St Nicholas' still to be played, hopefully the boys can string together a couple of wins that their overall play has warranted.

Year 10 Football

Congratulations to the Year 10 Football team who have put in two great performances so far this half term. Our first game was against Passmores and it ended 2-2. It was a great end to end game with many chances for both teams. I would like to congratulate **Ben Parker** with a solid game in defence.

Their second game this season ended in a loss against St Nicholas from Old Harlow. The game was very competitive, however we did play well against a team that had a number of Year 11s in it. **Joe Padbury** was very strong upfront and challenged their back four a number of times. Well done boys!

Mr Sanders, Subject Leader—PE



Work Related Learning

College Interviews

Representatives from Harlow College attended the school on Wednesday 7th February to interview our Year 11 applicants.

The interviews took place over one day and the students all looked and acted very professionally. Students had submitted an application form and personal statement to the college prior to interview. This was the students' opportunity to meet with the Heads of Department and discuss why they would like to study their chosen course at Harlow College and to ask any questions they may have.

Students left the interview with knowledge about their course and a conditional offer in place. The feedback received from students highlighted how useful they found the Mock Interviews in December, and how it helped prepare them for their College Interviews. All representatives from Harlow College were impressed with the attitude of our students and how well presented they were.

Work Experience

Our annual Work Experience for Year 10 is fast approaching. Students are encouraged to use their home networks, or local research to locate an employer who can offer a suitable placement. These work experience placements can offer invaluable benefits for our students to find out what it is like to be in the workplace and will gain skills that can be used in the future beyond Stewards Academy.

Well done to all students who have secured a placement. If anyone is having difficulty in securing a placement, please come and see me, Miss Care, as soon as possible and I will assist. The work experience dates are Monday 21st May – Friday 25th May.

Miss H Care, Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator

IET Faraday Challenge 2018

Two teams of Year 8 students along with Mrs C Brough and Miss Ellis recently took part in this year's IET Faraday Challenge STEM event, competing against St Mark's and Passmores at St Mark's West Essex Catholic School.

The IET Faraday challenge is a National competition developed by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Europe's largest professional engineering & technology organisation. The challenge days are supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

The teams were challenged to design a new attraction for Thorpe Park. Each team had to coin three ideas considering: accessibility, target audience and environmental impact. They went on to develop one concept, producing a working prototype with electronic circuits. The teams also had to produce a scaled plan to present to the panel of judges. The teams were judged on teamwork, communication, engineering skills, creativity, innovation and effective budgeting.

As the day progressed, the students commented that it was challenging but a great teambuilding experience.

"Whether considering engineering or not, the day will definitely provide you with fun and knowledge" **Mia Todd 8CH**

"It takes your creativity to your upper limits" **Omar Ahmati 8MSW**



Mr R Perrin, Subject Leader for Science



New York 2018

Stewards Academy's annual trip to New York was an eventful one this year. After a 6am meet on the day of travel the students were very excited to touch down in New York hours later. The weather was kind to us this year with temperature of only minus!

We awoke on the first morning for a day of Ice skating, shopping, bowling and batting cages. The 47 pupils and 5 staff braved the elements on their excursion of the famous city.

The trip included a visit to many of the key sites that often feature on TV and film; the Staten Island Ferry with a great view of the Statue of



Liberty, the World Trade Centre Memorial, Brooklyn Bridge, Times Square, Strawberry Fields and Ice Skating in Central Park. There was also plenty of retail therapy with students exploring Canal Street and 5th Avenue. One highlight of the trip was Ellen's Stardust Diner where the staff performed to diners throughout the meal!

"New York was out of this world, it was amazing, and I can't wait to go back. It was the best trip I've ever been on. The shopping and even the walking was fun. The experience was amazing." - **Eva Fordham**

Mark Harman, trip leader, said: "The pupils had a fantastic time and we managed to fit a lot in for the period of time that we were there."

Mr Harman, Trip Leader

Speak Out Challenge

On Friday 16th March, Year 10 students were invited to take part in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out Challenge' workshop. The pupils were shown how to present themselves effectively whilst speaking and took part in various tasks to improve their confidence. At the end of the day, pupils spoke about a topic that was important to them and they were judged by myself and Mrs Ginger. Everyone spoke extremely well and used the skills they had learnt throughout the day.

Pupils said the following:

Billy: I enjoyed the Speak Out Challenge because it gave me a voice and gave me the confidence to speak about an issue that was important to me.

Ben: I thought it was brilliant. I found all the trainer's tips for speaking helpful. He was funny and relatable, which put me at ease.

Our workshop finalists are: **Olamide Nduka, Bradley Rimell, Sara Ilett, Shade Sutherland, Amelia Anastasi and Lennon Hickey.** Well done to all of the Year 10s who took part in the Speak Out Challenge! The six finalists will compete for a spot at the Regional Final in an assembly after Easter. The overall finalist will be speaking at the Regional Final at Epping St John's on Thursday 10th May. I will let you know how the finalist does in the next newsletter!

I am looking forward to seeing the talents of year 9 next year!

Miss Brigenshaw, English Department



Year Groups

Year 7

Year 7

Another term down and another term successfully completed by the majority of our Year 7 pupils at Stewards Academy. As I walk the school I can see the students working hard and applying all their efforts. The atmosphere in the tutor groups is excellent. The students really are finding their feet, building up their confidence and working well as a team. I'm very pleased to see so many students taking up the

wonderful extra-curricular activities we have on offer too.

If you have done so yet, then please start to explore the clubs on offer. There is certainly something for you to enjoy, or something new so you can challenge yourself.

Enjoy your well-earned break and well done on your successes so far!

Mr G Hughes, Head of Year 7

Year 8

Year 8 Option choices has been the major focus this half term and pupils have been introduced to, and talked through the different option pathways available to them. An options booklet was distributed near the beginning of March for pupils to begin to look at the different courses on offer, and an options evening was held following this to explore (in more detail) what the various subject choices would look like. The options evening was highly successful and well attended by the majority of the year group and I was pleased to learn of some very mature, sensible and relevant questions raised by Year 8 on the night. Since this informative evening, option forms have been distributed to all pupils in Year 8, and pupils, in collaboration with parents/carers and tutors are now required to think about what options they would like to study next year.

Year 8

There is no obligation for pupils to hand back this form immediately as this process does NOT operate a first come first served policy, however the **final deadline for submission of this form is by Friday 20th April**, so I would appreciate your full support in meeting this deadline.

When completing your child's option form it is imperative that they record their subject choices in a 1-4 rank order, with 1 being their most favourite/preferred option and 4 being their least favourite choice. Pupils should then hand this form to their form tutor who will pass it through to myself, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Scholtes (Deputy Head-teacher—Curriculum) to be reviewed.

Please be aware that although every effort will be made to allocate your child their first or second choice, option requests can be limited by timetabling restrictions and cannot always be guaranteed. Decisions will predominantly be based on pupil's strengths and interests in subjects identified, but factors such as course suitability, prospective class sizes, timetabling logistics and general attitude and behaviour across the curriculum, will be considered when designing your child's personalised learning curriculum for next year.

This is a very important time for Year 8 because the choices they make now will shape their learning journey over the next three years, so please take the time to talk through your child's options and help them to make the right decision **for them**.

If you do have any worries or queries about this process, please don't hesitate to contact either myself, Mrs Atkinson or your child's form tutor and we will be more than happy to assist you.

Well done Year 8 on completing your second full term. I hope you have a lovely Easter break and a well-deserved rest!

Mrs Bartlett, Head of Year 8

Year 9

It has been a very busy half term and Year 9 have been involved in it all! We have had 4 students attend the firebreak course at Harlow fire Station, several students competing in the UK Maths Challenge, loads of budding actors and actresses performing in the school production and over 50 students taking part in the Public Health England science conference!

We are now two terms into our GCSE courses and the students are beginning to understand the importance of revision and deadlines. I recently had the opportunity to spend some time with the pupils in their option classes, from trying the Chelsea buns in food preparation, watching pupils develop their trampolining skills in PE to understanding the complexity of photography. The dedication to their option choices was a pleasure to see!

YEAR 9

I hope you all enjoy your well earned Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in the summer term!

Mr D Tremer, Head of Year 9



Year Groups

Year 10

What a busy term it has been for all of Year 10. With preparation for PPEs and lots of extra-curricular activities on top of the normal school day, it has felt like a hectic but fun 12 weeks.

I myself had the pleasure of taking 47 year 10 pupils away to New York in February. It was a fantastic trip which was enjoyed by all. The experience included lots of sightseeing, shopping and walking. The other main trip for Year 10 is the ski trip which is currently happening as you are reading this newsletter.

Another highlight for the year group was a visit to one of our assemblies organised by 10OM. The tutor group are looking to raise money to support Guide Dogs UK and arranged for them to visit us with one of their dogs. It was a very informative assembly which pupils were intrigued by, especially the interesting facts on how they are trained and the £50,000 it cost to train a dog. 10OM are looking at fundraising in the next term which hopefully will be well supported. One pupil actually offered to give his money to the guide dog trainer at the end of the assembly.

The PPE (mock) exams have been a main focus for the pupils in the second half of this term. After their success in the first exams back in November it was nice to see how organised and focused they were for the second round of exams this half-term. They may be able to relax a little now that they are finished but will be expected to continue with the same positive attitude next term. They will sit two more sets of mock exams next year to help prepare them before their real GCSE exams in May next year.

Miss Brigenshaw helped organise the Jack Petchey Speak-Out Challenge for the year group towards the end of this half-term. It involved pupils taking part in a presentation and public speaking work-shop before writing about a topic they chose and presenting to a panel of judges all in the same day. 25 year 10 pupils took part in the day. After a very tense and emotional few hours, six pupils have been selected as finalist for the regional competition. Ben Hood and Katie Jones were also highly commended and awarded certificates.

The focus now moves to next term. Ms Care has been tirelessly organising visits and risk assessment checks for Year 10 work experience. Thank you to those who have organised their placements and returned the necessary paperwork. If you son or daughter has not yet found a placement or returned their forms please could I encourage them to organise something during the two week Easter break.

Have a great holiday.

Mr Harman, Head of Year 10



Year 11

Excellent work!

2018 is progressing well; coursework is being finished and revision schedules are in full swing. College applications are being completed and interviews taking place; it is so pleasing to see the vast array of different colleges and 6th Forms being applied to for all sorts of qualifications.

The time you have left is very short and very precious, and I really can't express how important it is to take every opportunity available. When you return after Easter, you will have just over 3 weeks until your real GCSE exams so reflect on your time here and treasure

the memories over the last few months.

Mrs Wilson and I would like you all to remember that in the build-up and throughout the exams routine is essential. Make sure that you have good routines at home and in school; get plenty of sleep, get up on time, eat breakfast and drink plenty of water. Having a good work / life balance will also help and taking time out to exercise and see friends will always benefit you.

Something I would like you to think about over the coming weeks...

Now is the time to remember 'WHY' you are doing all of this. It isn't just to get a number or letter on a piece of paper but to give yourself the best opportunity to be successful in the future. I know it can get a bit monotonous hearing 'Successful in the future' on a daily basis, and especially if you don't know what success looks like for you just yet but, knowing your 'WHY' will help you understand and will give you a greater edge during school and exam time. So before you start getting frustrated and annoyed at all the extra time you have to spend in school and the constant reference to revision schedules and revision methods, sit down and have a long think about your 'WHY'. **Don't let time pass you by;** knowing and understanding what it is all for will give you determination, help you find your edge and hopefully everything will start feeling a lot easier.

Mr T Hughes, Head of Year 11



Key Dates

MARCH 2018

29th March - Term ends 1pm

APRIL 2018

Monday 16th April - Summer Term Starts - Week 2

Wednesday 18th April - Music School Enrolment

Monday 23rd April - Vaccinations - Year 9 girls

Tuesday 24th April - Ski Trip Awards Evening

Wednesday 25th April - Music School Starts

Wednesday 25th April - School of Rock Theatre Trip

Monday 30th April - Vaccinations - Year 9 boys



MAY 2018

Tuesday 1st May - Weymouth Information Evening

Thursday 3rd May - Presentation Evening

Monday 7th May - Bank Holiday

Monday 14th May - Weymouth trip departs

Monday 14th May - GCSE Exams begin

Thursday 17th May - Year 9 Parents Evening

Friday 18th May - Weymouth trip returns

Saturday 19th May - Ardèche trip departs

Monday 21st May - Friday 25th May - Year 10 Work Experience

Sunday 27th May - Ardèche trip returns

Monday 28th - Friday 1st June - Half Term

June 2018

Friday 22nd June - GCSE Exams finish

Thursday 28th June - Leavers Day and Prom

JULY 2018

Tuesday 3rd July - Vaccinations - Year 9 girls

Tuesday 3rd July - New Parents Evening

Wednesday 4th July - Year 6 taster day

Thursday 5th July - Year 6 taster day

Monday 9th July - New parents interviews

Tuesday 10th July - Sports Presentation Evening

Thursday 12th July - Summer Concert

Friday 13th July - Calais trip

Friday 13th July - Vaccinations - Year 8 girls

Friday 20th July - Term ends 1pm

