



# **THE PHOENIX**

## **STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER**

**AUTUMN TERM EDITION 1 • 2025**



## **HEADTEACHER MESSAGE**



**One half-term down already, meaning eight of the thirty-nine weeks in a full school year have already been completed. We have already done so much at Stewards, with opportunities and experiences for all students across the school. The English, History, Drama, Business, ICT, PE, Music and Maths departments have all either taken students out of school on educational visits or have visited local primary schools to provide new experiences for younger children. We have hosted events for parents and carers in years 7, 8, 10 and 11, with the year 9 options evening coming up just after half-term. It has been wonderful to talk to so many parents and carers about their children's education and experiences at Stewards at the start of a new school year. In addition to this we have held our new enlarged awards evening in the sports hall, with around 800 people present including 265 students receiving awards for their excellence in 2024-2025. It has certainly been an exciting and busy start to the new school year.**

I want to thank parents and carers for your support and commitment to helping all our young people get into school on time each day so that period 1 can start at 8.45am and learning can progress for everyone. With the changed organisation of the school day seeing form moved to the middle of the day rather than the start, I know that some of our students have found the absolute requirement to be in school before 8.45am so they can benefit from every minute of their five lessons each day to be difficult. Punctuality is something that needs lots of work and that work has to be relentless from everyone involved so that we teach our students the habits they need for adult life as they go into the workplace and need to get to appointments and public transport on time. It has been interesting to hear of conversations with parents and carers who talk about how their children leave the house with vast amounts of time to spare in the morning yet somehow manage to make their journey to school take longer than it could be imagined was possible. I know house leaders and form tutors are in regular contact about timekeeping and we will continue our focus on this going forwards. Massive progress has been made by our young people in this area and I am confident it will continue as we go through the second half term of the year. Thank you to everyone for your support in this area of school life.

The new half-term sees year 11s taking their mocks for the first two weeks, and year 9s start the process of choosing their GCSE options for their final two years of their time at Stewards. We will also issue reports to all year groups in the final week of term reflecting on student progress during the autumn term. We will also hold our annual Remembrance event on 11th November, and finish the term on Friday 19th December with an early finish as well as the third annual Christmas singalong at break time. I am already being asked to confirm this new Stewards tradition by many students. I am delighted that this has become a popular event. Just eight weeks to go to the end of the autumn term!



MR DREW  
HEADTEACHER

## A Positive Start to the Academic Year

As the first half-term of the new academic year draws to a close, we are pleased to report that pupils at Stewards Academy have made a very positive start to the new academic year. One of the most encouraging indicators has been a significant reduction in the number of students receiving sanctions for poor behaviour. This reflects the efforts of our students and staff, as well as the continued support of parents and carers.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families. They have settled in well and are already showing great enthusiasm and commitment to academy life. We look forward to seeing them grow and thrive in the years ahead.

Pupils have responded well to several new systems introduced this term. The one-way system is helping to ensure safe and efficient movement around the academy, and the introduction of split lunches has created a much calmer atmosphere during social times. These changes are helping students feel safe and more able to enjoy positive interactions with their peers.

Our new uniform policy has also been well received. Students have embraced the more relaxed approach, particularly the opportunity to wear black trainers, which has contributed to a greater sense of comfort while maintaining high standards of presentation.

We would like to thank families for their ongoing support with the academy's mobile phone policy, which continues to contribute to a focused and respectful learning environment.

Finally, we kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that students arrive at school on time each morning. Although punctuality is improving, a number of students are still regularly arriving after the morning bell. This has a significant impact on both their learning and the smooth start of the day for others. Arriving on time ensures students are ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity.

We wish all our students, parents, and carers a restful and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the second half of the term.

# TEACHING & LEARNING

## The Quality of Teaching in the Classroom

Welcome to the first Teaching and Learning edition of the new school year!

As Mr. Drew mentioned in his recent Headteacher email, this year marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for teaching and learning at Stewards Academy. We are launching a refreshed programme of Continual Professional Development (CPD) for our staff, designed to ensure that every student receives the very best education possible.

At Stewards, we are incredibly proud of the consistently high-quality teaching that takes place across our classrooms every day. Our teachers are dedicated, creative, and passionate about helping students achieve their full potential.

## A New Era of Professional Growth

One of the most significant developments this year is the introduction of an updated CPD programme, carefully built around the Stewards Teaching Framework. This framework provides clear guidance and expectations for what great teaching looks like in our school. It encourages staff to reflect on their practice and continue developing their skills.

Every teacher will take part in personalised CPD sessions tailored to their individual needs and career stage. For example, some staff may focus on enhancing questioning techniques to stretch and challenge students, while others may explore new strategies to support literacy. This bespoke approach means that all teachers continue to grow in the areas that matter most to their students' learning.

## Collaboration and Support

In addition to our structured training, we will continue our half-termly "drop-in" lesson observations. These are informal, supportive visits that allow colleagues to share good practice, observe new ideas in action, and reflect on what makes lessons engaging and effective. The focus is always on professional growth, helping teachers to feel confident and part of a learning community.

## The Stewards Teaching Framework

At the heart of all we do is the Stewards Teaching Framework, which highlights five key areas that underpin high-quality teaching and learning:

**Lesson Structure** - ensuring lessons are well-planned, purposeful, and engaging from start to finish.

**Targeted Questioning** - using thoughtful questioning to check understanding and challenge students to think deeply.

**Literacy Development** - helping students strengthen their vocabulary, reading, and communication skills in every subject.

**Assessment for Learning** - providing regular feedback so students know what they've done well and how to improve further.

**Necessary Adaptations** - making sure lessons are accessible and inclusive for all learners. These principles help ensure that every lesson at Stewards provides opportunities for all students to feel challenged, supported, and successful.

## **Working Together for Student Success**

Our continued focus is to make every learning experience as engaging and effective as possible.

As always, we greatly value the partnership we have with parents and carers. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our teaching and learning initiatives, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the Teaching and Learning Team.

Mrs. McGee - [HMcgee@stewardsacademy.org](mailto:HMcgee@stewardsacademy.org), Ms. James - [KJames@stewardsacademy.org](mailto:KJames@stewardsacademy.org), Mrs. Miah - [RMiahestewardsacademy.org](mailto:RMiahestewardsacademy.org) - Thank you for your continued support.

# HOUSE



# ATTENDANCE

[www.stewardsacademy.org](http://www.stewardsacademy.org)



- 7JLS - 93.9%
- 7KCS - 94.8%
- 8ACN - 94.7%
- 8TLG - 89.1%
- 9RNN - 92.8%
- 9SHT - 95%
- 10CNN - 84.6%
- 10ETS - 93.2%
- 11CHK - 92.3%
- 11THN - 87%



- 7LTO - 93.8%
- 7PDA - 95.4%
- 8BPR - 92.6%
- 9UMK - 88.1%
- 9VSH - 89.2%
- 10AMN - 82.3%
- 10DRY - 91.7%
- 11KDG - 79.3%
- 11KSU - 85.7%

- 7KHY - 95.4%
- 7SFS - 94.5%
- 8NAD - 89.1%
- 8ROY - 93.9%
- 9KBL - 93.5%
- 9LNH - 93%
- 10JMN - 82.9%
- 10TMY - 94.1%
- 11ACS - 91.2%
- 11FSU - 93.8%

- 7PHN - 94.4%
- 7SMI - 95.3%
- 8MRW - 89.4%
- 8EGN - 94.5%
- 9RMH - 92.7%
- 10DCR - 93.1%
- 10ITH - 95%
- 11EOE - 90.8%
- 11SSE - 91.4%



# Stewards Supporting PACT for Autism

At the end of the last academic year, we raised £276.88 for our local charity, PACT for Autism by holding a non-uniform day.

PACT for Autism is a small charity based in Harlow, dedicated to connecting neurodiverse families, people with autism of all ages and the wider community across West Essex.

They have built links with the community and services over many years, working and advocating to promote acceptance, knowledge and strong working relationships.

Their aim is to improve living, working, social and leisure opportunities for people with autism of all ages and their families.



*Thank you!*



**Stewards Academy - Comfy Clothes Day**



**You are Amazing!**

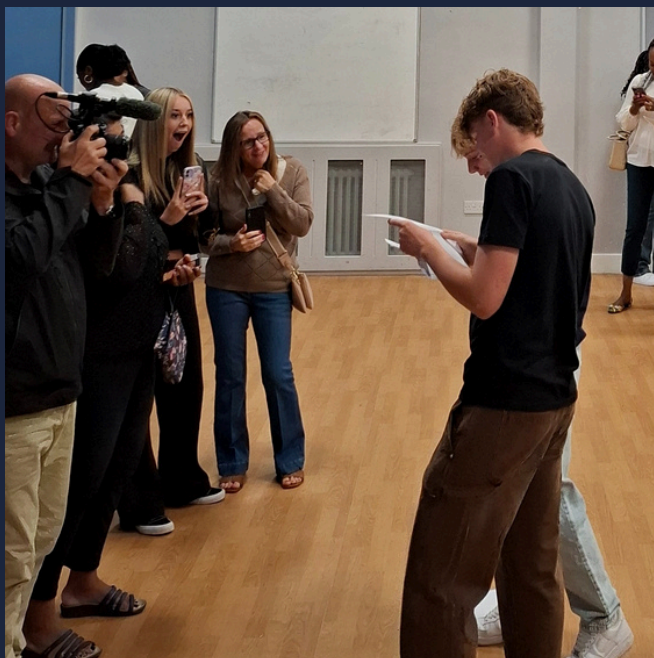
Thank you to all at Stewards Academy, for fundraising on behalf of PACT for Autism. We are delighted to have received a donation for the sum of £276.88. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for supporting our charity.

# Stewards Celebrate the Best GCSE Results in Almost a Decade

Our amazing year 11 students collected their GCSE results on Thursday 21st August, and it was wonderful to share their successes with them. The hard work and dedication of students and staff at Stewards in 2024-2025 has led to dramatic improvements in GCSE results across the full range of subjects. Crucially, results in English and Maths saw big increases leading to many more students achieving strong grades.

Although the statistics on school outcomes across England have not yet been published, based on historic performance data measuring school improvement over the last decade, we expect to find that Stewards are towards the top of the list of most improved schools in Essex, and indeed across the country as a whole. We are delighted to see our young people achieve such great success and are very proud of our teachers for the quality of teaching they have brought to Stewards this year.

It is great to be a school community which is so clearly on the up!



# Open Evening

Our 2025 Stewards Academy Open Evening was a huge success. Our Headteacher talks were busy and our classrooms were full of fun activities. A huge thank you to our amazing prefects who helped with tours throughout the evening; you made us very proud.

We hope everyone who came had a fantastic time and that we will see you again very soon!



# Duke of Edinburgh Residential Trip



Within our first two weeks back of a new academic year, a group of determined year 10 and 11 students braved the elements as they took part in their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze expedition. Despite facing strong winds, sunshine and unpredictable weather, the group all showed resilience, teamwork, and an adventurous spirit that made the weekend a resounding success.

The expedition took place not too far from home between Harlow and Chelmsford where students were challenged to navigate unfamiliar terrain with their newly developed map reading skills, carry all their equipment and camp overnight, all while contending with blustery conditions that tested both their patience and their tent-pegging skills and cooking in the wind abilities.

Despite the challenges, spirits remained high. The groups worked together to stay on track, cook warm meals at camp, and encourage one another through tired legs and winding trails to keep spirits high. Staff and local residents praised the students' determination and positive attitude throughout the weekend.

For many, this weekend was more than just a requirement for the award, it was a chance to grow in confidence, independence, and resilience. As the tents were packed away and the winds finally died down, the groups set off on their second days walk with sore feet, stronger friendships, and plenty of stories to tell.

Congratulations to all involved in making the weekend such a success. Whether it was mastering the map, making a mean camping meal, or simply pushing through the weather, every participant should be proud. You've shown exactly what the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is all about.

# Awards Evening

Stewards Academy celebrated the successes and achievements of over 250 prize winners on Monday 20th October at its new style Presentation of Awards Evening.

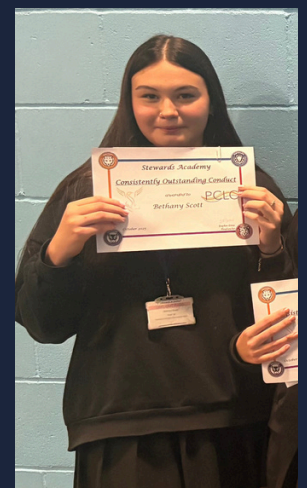
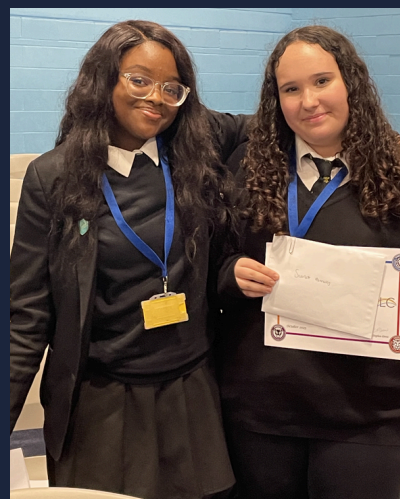
Earlier in the day, the premises team battled through the rain as they moved chairs, equipment, and beautiful plants over to the Sports Hall to set up for the evening.

Rehearsals followed to ensure our prize winners knew what to do and where to go, thus enabling the evening to run as smoothly as possible. The whole event was organised and managed by Mrs da Vighi who gathered together 357 prizes for 275 students, and organised for 400 parents and carers to attend.

Listening to the performers rehearse after-school, we knew there would be some stunning performances from Millar Thurston-Mcgowan, Hayden Lawless, Ivana Miksovic and Lara Miksovic, with support and accompaniment from Mrs Lysons, Subject Leader for Music.

A packed sports hall of winners, family members and staff, 357 prizes, speeches by Head Boy - Fletcher Groat, Head Girl - Gracia Manzambi, Tess Miller - Chair of Governors, Mr Drew - Headteacher, and Vic Goddard - CEO, three fabulous performances, and all within one hour twenty minutes. Well done, Team Stewards!

Mr Drew, Headteacher, said "I am incredibly proud of all our wonderful prize winners. They have been nominated by staff in a range of categories including, subject academic and progress, tutor, COURAGE, consistently outstanding conduct and pride in personal appearance.



# Bouncers-Shakers Theatre Trip

We took just short of forty students to The Harlow Playhouse to watch an amateur production of two John Godber plays Bouncers and Shakers. The shows follow a group of waitresses and bouncers telling stories of their experiences in the role. Each play has four actors who multirole to show the range of customers they deal with. Students were mesmerised at the fast-paced performances where actors switched from role to role. It was a pleasure to see the students respond so positively with local theatre.

## Coffee Morning

On Friday 3rd October 2025, Stewards Academy proudly hosted our first Reading and You Coffee Morning for Parents and Carers. The new incentive brought together our wonderful school community to celebrate a shared love of reading - and, of course, to enjoy a good cup of coffee!

The morning gave families a chance to explore our fantastic library and discover the many ways we're working to close the literacy gap. Staff shared practical tips and strategies for supporting reading at home, sparking plenty of inspiring conversations about how parents can help their children develop confidence and joy in reading.

A personal highlight of the morning was the performance of an original poem written and performed by George Springthorpe. George took centre stage with passion and confidence, delivering a powerful reminder of why books matter - declaring that without them, dungeons, dragons, mythical creatures, and adventure itself would cease to exist. It was a truly moving and motivational moment that captured the magic of reading perfectly.

Bringing the event together was truly a team effort! A huge thank-you goes to our dedicated SEND Team, Mrs O'Grady (KS3 Lead for English), PACT Autism, the Governors, Andy and the Catering Team for keeping everyone refreshed, and our brilliant Admin Team for helping everything run smoothly.

It must also be said that the staff and students at Stewards Academy are simply magnificent. Their generosity meant that families could take home book donations to help promote a love of reading beyond the classroom. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated. Your kindness, generosity, and support will never be forgotten.

It was a heart-warming start to the academic year at Stewards Academy, and we look forward to hosting similar events in the future. We have already discussed a potential Christmas Reading Extravaganza. Keep your eyes peeled for more details.

# **UKMT Senior Maths Challenge**

On Thursday 9th October 2025, Year 11 maths students from set 1 and 2 took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. This involved completing twenty-five challenging maths questions on many different topics intended to showcase their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills. Pupils were competing against students at a high level in Year 11, 12 and 13 across the country.

This is only the fourth time Stewards has participated in this challenge, and the pupils have done very well. This challenge is extremely difficult as students studying A-Levels also compete at this level and our pupils have done incredibly well with 14 of them achieving an award.

Our pupils showed great resilience throughout the challenge which is reflected in the results.

Special mentions go to:

Bronze award:

Alesha Stow, Daisy King, Millar Thurston-Mcgowan, Bertie Ramsay, Tristan Gjacaj, Lara Miksovic, George Springthorpe, Patrick Reape and Iyinmiposi Adisa.

Silver award:

Dawson Coare and Samuel Song (Best in School)

Both Dawson and Samuel are competing in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo challenge in November due to their fantastic scores and we all wish them the best of luck.

Next up will be the Junior and Intermediate challenges for Years 7 & 8 and Years 9 & 10 respectively. We will keep you updated on how they get on and hopefully more award news to follow.

# Gardening Club Wraps Up For The Season

With the start of the new term, the Gardening Club is taking a well-earned break for the colder months. We'll be back in action come spring, ready to dig, plant, and grow once again.

It's been a fantastic first year for the club. Thanks to the dedication and teamwork of our student gardeners, we enjoyed a bumper harvest of fruits and vegetables – especially tomatoes! Our tomato plants thrived, and we ended the season with more than enough to share.

From planting tiny seeds to picking ripe produce, it was a rewarding journey from start to finish. A big thank-you to everyone who took part – we're already looking forward to an even bigger and better season next year!



**GOOD VIBESZ  
AFTER  
SCHOOL CLUB**  
EVERY WEDNESDAY

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SPORTS  
FOOD

STARTING 24TH  
SEPTEMBER 2025

3:30pm-5pm

Meadows Delivery Site  
Harberts Road, Great Parndon CM19 4DL

For more details contact Gabriella  
07701260869 : Gabriella.dinapoli@barnardos.org.uk

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# EMPV

## CULTURAL

NOV 07, 2025

4:30 PM

STEWARDS ACADEMY MAIN HALL



FASHION SHOW



ART WORK



FOOD



LIVE PERFORMANCES

FOR MORE EVENT INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
[ETHOMAS@STEWARDSACADEMT.ORG](mailto:ETHOMAS@STEWARDSACADEMT.ORG)

# School Age Health Advice Drop-in for 5-19 year olds

Get advice and support for your school-aged child from our School Health team and chat about any concerns you may have.

This runs alongside the **FREE** Afterschool Club for ages 10–15.

## Areas of support

- Diet / Nutritional support
- Improving sleep
- Day and night wetting
- Behavioural concerns
- Support with emotional health and wellbeing and regulation
- Personal hygiene
- Sexual health
- Health needs assessment
- Managing health conditions
- And much more - signposting, advice, and support.

**Day:** Every Wednesday for parents and young people.

**Time:** 3pm-4:30pm

**Location:** Meadows Delivery Site, CM19 4DL

**w:** [essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk](http://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk)

Commissioned by

# Essex Fire Museum Halloween Open Day

2025



26th and 28th Of October

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS



**Book Now**   
**Free Entry**



[Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@essex-fire.gov.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.

## Safeguarding

This half term has been incredibly busy one in the world of Safeguarding at Stewards Academy. We continue to prioritise promoting a culture of safety, wellbeing, and respect for every child in our care.

### Supporting Our Young Carers

We are very fortunate to have worked closely with professionals who support our young carers this term. We currently have 40 young carers who take on a range of responsibilities at home from cooking, cleaning, and shopping to caring for siblings or interpreting for parents.

We recognise the huge roles these students play in their families and are committed to supporting them in school. We offer flexibility with homework, an open-door policy for any concerns and regular visits from the Young Carers support Agency. As we approach Christmas, there will be free activities available for our young carers, giving them time to simply relax and enjoy being young people, this is run by the Young Carers support agency. We will also host a small Christmas celebration to acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

### Promoting Equality and Respect

This term we also delivered assemblies focused on the important message that racism has no place at Stewards. We discussed the hurt and impact that racist behaviour can cause and reinforce our commitment to ensuring that every member of our community feels safe and respected. The assembly was shared with parents so that families could see what was discussed and continue these important conversations at home.

### Knife Arch

We again had the Harlow Partnership Community Knife Arch in school. This is a normal event now as the students and staff have become accustomed to walking through the knife arch.

### Promoting safety and Focusing on Mental Health and Wellbeing

We also held assemblies around mental health, encouraging students to think about how to care for their mental health and wellbeing just as they would their physical health. Discussions included, building and maintaining healthy relationships, coping with change and uncertainty and knowing where to go for support. Students were signposted to our in-school services - P2B and Mind as well as a range of free apps and helplines, including Childline, for those who may need additional help.

### Safeguarding at the Heart of School Life

Our safeguarding team continues to be visible and approachable around the school. We are proud that so many students feel comfortable coming to us with questions, worries, or concerns, whether for themselves or a friend. Their awareness and willingness to speak up makes our school community stronger and safer. As we reach the end of this half term, we would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support.

Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead



Mrs Atkinson  
(Safeguarding V Office)

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Blake  
(Safeguarding V Office)

[safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org](mailto: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:



# Pride in Place Harlow

The Pride in Place Programme relies on the power of local people and partnerships, bringing together residents, the local MP, councils, businesses and community organisations to produce a clear vision for their area. The Neighbourhood Board is responsible for producing the 10 year vision for a place, supported by interventions which are set out in the Regeneration Plan, to achieve the strategic objectives of the programme.

Neighbourhoods will decide how to prioritise funding, based on extensive community engagement, across three core objectives:

To build stronger communities – All places should have strong relationships and a collective sense of belonging to their community. This helps bring people together to build community cohesion and resilience, helping people to feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.

To create thriving places – Every part of the UK deserves to have vibrant neighbourhoods and communities with busy high streets, a good range of local amenities and high-quality physical infrastructure.

To empower people to take back control – Talent is spread equally but opportunity is not. Everybody should be empowered and in control of their lives and have a say over the future of their community.

A stakeholder survey can be found here for Harlow's for residents to complete and give their views about how the Pride in Place strategy should work in our town.

There is a long weblink and we have produced a short url if you need to type it in to your device.

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=a90h\\_cqYek6UWfq-mOEK2-nbcZ7EGlpKlax2D5BZLa1UMzZJTEVPQVc3S0ZBSTAyUkdDV0VQTIBUOC4u&origin=QRCode&route=shorturl](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=a90h_cqYek6UWfq-mOEK2-nbcZ7EGlpKlax2D5BZLa1UMzZJTEVPQVc3S0ZBSTAyUkdDV0VQTIBUOC4u&origin=QRCode&route=shorturl)

<https://shorturl.at/BAXrk>