



THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM EDITION 2 • 2026



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



As we start 2026 at Stewards I want to report some of the really important positive news that has come from our recent surveys of parents, carers and students. Feedback from our school community forms such a vital part of our work and gives us a real sense of where we are doing things well and where we need to improve our work. For me the job is never done, and whatever progress we make in any area simply means that we have new heights to aspire to so that we can deliver the best possible educational experience for all our young people.

In May 2024, at the time of the last Ofsted inspection of Stewards Academy, just 49% of parents and carers said that they would recommend Stewards to other parents and carers. This was a very disappointing and chastening position for the school to be in. That fewer than half of those whose children attended the school would feel able to tell others that they should send their child to the school certainly sent a very clear message to us regarding the success of our work as a school. Fast forward to November 2025 and we have a new set of data from our latest parent and carer survey which shows a very different picture. It is now the case that 85% of parents and carers would recommend Stewards to other families. Whilst I would like the figure to be even closer to 100%, I think that moving from 49% to 85% in around eighteen months represents a dramatic shift in the sense of trust and confidence that parents and carers of students at Stewards have in their children's school.

Of course as well as having the trust and confidence of parents and carers, it is important that the young people who attend our school also feel positive about Stewards. The data from student surveys that we have doesn't go back as far as the parent and carer data, but we can see a shift in the space of a year. At the end of 2024, 75% of students said they would recommend their school to other young people as a good place to attend. Whilst this is a reasonable position to be in, it does also mean that one in four of the students would not recommend the school to others. We have surveyed the students again in December 2025 and it is now the position that 90% of our students would recommend their school to other young people. This is a really strong position to be in, and whilst we do still need to work on the remaining 10% of students to understand why they wouldn't recommend the school, I think we can be pleased that 90% are positive enough about the school that they would recommend it to others.

There are many areas of school life where we have clearly made huge progress over the last eighteen months, and our recent survey data from parents, carers and students shows this. We know we need to work on other areas as highlighted by our school community. Ensuring the impact of our wider curriculum for personal development for students is an area which has been highlighted. We also need to work more on how we communicate progress and successes of students to parents and carers based on the responses we have received. Whilst our young people report very strong improvement and satisfaction regarding behaviour around the school, I believe that their views still show that further improvement needs to be made regarding behaviour in classrooms. Students are much more positive, but this still needs to be better. We will continue to work on all these things.

Stewards Learner

End of Term Pastoral Updates

As we come to the end of another successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils and parents for your continued support. Your partnership with the academy plays a vital role in helping our children thrive both academically and personally.

We are very pleased to say that behaviour across the academy has continued to improve. As I mentioned in the first half-term, we have continued to see a vast improvement in standards with this being reflected in the recent pupil and parental surveys. An example of this would be the significant reduction in fixed term suspensions which have reduced by 30% compared to this point last year. This reflects the hard work of our pupils, the commitment of our staff, and the strong support we receive from families at home.

We have also seen encouraging outcomes following the introduction of the new one-way system around the academy. This has improved pupil movement between lessons and reduced congestion at busy times of the day. Student survey results again indicate that pupils feel movement around the building is now calmer, safer and more organised, which has had a positive impact on the school day and the atmosphere around the academy.

As we look ahead to next term, one of our key priorities will be punctuality. Arriving at school on time is essential for learning, allowing pupils to start lessons in a calm and focused way without missing important learning opportunities. We kindly ask parents and carers to continue supporting us by ensuring pupils arrive on time each day. We have already implemented the new lates protocol and early signs have been positive with a sharp reduction in the numbers of students arriving late each morning. I feel it is also important that students that have a 100% punctuality record, including lessons are rewarded each week. Part of this strategy will see these students awarded 2 achievement points each week to help support their house as well as potentially accessing any rewards trips.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment, it is much appreciated. We wish you a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another positive and productive start.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Welcome to our December Teaching and Learning article

Reflecting on the Term and Looking Ahead

As we come to the end of the term, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect on teaching and learning at Stewards Academy and to share how we are preparing for the year ahead. We are very proud of the high quality teaching that takes place across the school. Throughout the Autumn term, our teachers have worked hard to deliver well structured, engaging lessons that support students to make strong progress, develop independence and build confidence in their learning.

Supporting Effective Teaching

This term, we have continued to invest in staff through our ongoing professional development programme, guided by the Stewards Teaching Framework. This framework supports consistency across subjects and helps our teachers reflect on how to improve their classroom practice. Professional development has focused on areas such as effective questioning, strengthening literacy across the curriculum and providing clear feedback so students understand how to improve and take responsibility for their progress.

Preparing Students for Exams

Preparing students for assessments and exams is a key focus, particularly for those in examination year groups. Throughout this term, teachers have supported students through regular low-stakes assessments, exam-style questions and opportunities to practice and apply their knowledge. Students are being taught effective revision strategies in lessons and are encouraged to reflect on feedback to identify areas for improvement. As we look ahead, this focus will continue to ensure students feel confident, well prepared and supported as they move towards upcoming exams.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

We know that students achieve their best when school and home work closely together. Throughout the term, we have encouraged students to develop positive study habits, resilience and a sense of responsibility for their learning. Simple routines such as reading regularly, discussing learning and supporting revision where appropriate can make a real difference. We are grateful for the ongoing support of parents and carers in helping students stay motivated and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the successes of this term, we are also looking ahead with confidence to 2026. We will continue to build on the strong foundations already in place, with a focus on high expectations, purposeful lessons and supporting all students to achieve their best.

Thank you for your continued support this term. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about teaching and learning at Stewards Academy, please do not hesitate to contact the Teaching and Learning Team.

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

HOUSE



ATTENDANCE

www.stewardsacademy.org



- 7JLS - 93.8%
- 7KCS - 94.8%
- 8ACN - 93.7%
- 8TLG - 87.5%
- 9RNN - 90.9%
- 9SHT - 95.5%
- 10CNN - 91.0%
- 10ETS - 93.7%
- 11CHK - 91.5%
- 11THN - 86.1%



- 7LTO - 90.7%
- 7PDA - 94.0%
- 8BPR - 91.2%
- 9UMK - 88.0%
- 9VSH - 91.1%
- 10AMN - 84.2%
- 10DRY - 90.8%
- 11KDG - 87.3%
- 11KSU - 86.9%

- 7KHV - 93.7%
- 7SFS - 93.7%
- 8NAD - 87.9%
- 8ROY - 94.0%
- 9KBL - 91.7%
- 9LNH - 92.0%
- 10JMN - 80.7%
- 10TMY - 93.2%
- 11ACS - 89.1%
- 11FSU - 93.6%

- 7PHN - 93.9%
- 7SMI - 90.8%
- 8MRW - 91.4%
- 8EGN - 91.8%
- 9RMH - 91.6%
- 10DCR - 90.2%
- 10ITH - 94.8%
- 11EOE - 91.3%
- 11SSE - 91.6%



Year 11 Students Explore the Sweet Side of Business at Cadbury World

On Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 41 Year 11 GCSE Business Studies and Retail Business students enjoyed an engaging and educational trip to Cadbury World, gaining a firsthand insight into the operations of a major global brand.

The day began with a self-guided tour of the factory, where students explored the fascinating history of Cadbury and the evolution of chocolate. Highlights included tasting chocolate with their favourite toppings and participating in hands-on activities such as piping and chocolate tempering under the guidance of Cadbury's expert team. Students also observed the production process live, including a special demonstration of chocolate being prepared for Halloween. Additionally, they enjoyed an adventurous journey in the 4D cinema experience. Beyond the fun, the tour provided valuable educational insights into the operations of an international business.



Following the tour, students attended an educational marketing session focused on the Marketing Mix. They explored how Cadbury applies the 4Ps; Product, Price, Place, and Promotion to expand its product lines. The session also examined historical Cadbury products, their life cycles, and extension strategies. Students evaluated competitors, advertising campaigns, and social media initiatives while gaining practical experience in research, data analysis, and SWOT analysis. The discussion illustrated how Cadbury uses strategic frameworks to achieve marketing objectives across multiple channels and international markets.

This immersive experience allowed students to connect classroom theory with real-world practice, providing a tangible understanding of how a global brand executes successful marketing strategies.

Overall, the visit was a resounding success, combining creativity, fun, and learning. Both students and staff left with a deeper appreciation of business operations and marketing in a global context.



Silver Medal Jiu-Jitsu Winner!

One of our wonderful year 10 students, Ruby Billingham had her first Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competition at the beginning of November and after only doing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for 4 months, she won a silver medal!

Well done Ruby! We are very proud of you!

Pre-Plan B Programme

Since the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year, 9 of our brilliant year 11 students have been completing the Pre-Plan B Programme.

The Pre-Plan B programme is delivered by Essex Youth Service and is designed to support young people in exploring and deciding on their post-16 options and helping them build the skills and confidence needed for their next steps in education or training. The students have completed all three modules to complete their Level 1 Employability Skills qualification, showing great commitment and teamwork throughout.

In addition to their qualification work, they've taken part in a wide range of engaging and practical activities. These include a cooking session with Cookstars, where they prepared a main and side dish from scratch, Firebreak training, a CV writing workshop and a certified First Aid course, just to name a few.

They have also developed personal safety awareness in a self-defense session and challenged themselves with archery, canoeing and high ropes at Harlow Outdoors. Each experience has helped them grow in confidence, build transferable skills and reflect on their future goals.

On 18th December, the students graduated from the programme and received their certificate of completion (as well as their very own toastie maker!) and we could not be prouder of them. Family, friends and teachers gathered to witness the graduation and the students were also selling handmade gifts and sweet treats to raise money for St Clare Hospice. They raised over £220!

We are so proud of you all! Congratulations on this huge achievement.

We would also like to add a special shout out to Mr Price, who donated all of the prizes for the raffle, thank you!

Damien and James from Essex Youth Service said: Stewards Academy students have successfully completed the Pre-Plan B Harlow programme, delivered by Essex Youth Service, building confidence, communication and employability through real-world experiences. Learners completed accredited portfolio work to a high standard, strengthened communication (including blindfolded scavenger hunts that demanded clarity and trust) and took part in employer-linked tasters with Cookstars (culinary), Rock School (music) and a two-day Firebreak with Harlow Fire Department. For their social action unit, students visited St Clare Hospice, designed and produced items for sale at the celebration, and raised funds to support local care. Alongside these experiences, participants achieved First Aid, Food Hygiene and Health & Safety certificates, plus a Level 1 in Employability Skills – valuable additions to their CVs. The programme was marked by outstanding maturity, teamwork and ambition from Stewards Academy learners, and we're excited to see their next steps.



Remembrance Service

On 11th November at 10:45am, the entire Stewards community gathered in the quad for the annual Remembrance Service. This included poem readings by our Head boy - Fletcher Groat, Head Girl - Gracia Manzambi, Deputy Head Boy - Hayden Lawless and Deputy Head Girl - Angel Meguille Soyam. Mr Drew spoke about the importance of Remembrance day and how there are parts of the world that are still suffering from wars today. Then at 11am, the Stewards community conducted a 2 minutes silence with The Last Post being performed.

After the service, Mr Drew, Mrs C. Keys-Kidd, Noah Jones - Air Cadet, Alex Kryzel - Air Cadet and Patrick Reape - Army Cadet went to Great Parndon Memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of Stewards Academy.

The students did an official march to the memorial and payed their respects.



Stewards Academy Celebrates its Vibrant Culture and Wonderful Diversity

On Friday 7th November, we held our annual celebration of culture and diversity.

The afternoon began in the dining room, with a selection of foods from across the world. From Ghana to Bulgaria to India. After that, a packed hall was entertained with dancing, fashion and flags from around the world. If there is one event that highlights what a diverse community Stewards Academy is, then this is it.

Likewise, it also reflects what a diverse community we have here in Harlow. The school also produced a film where dozens of staff and students spoke in other languages. From Polish, Spanish, Italian, Urdu and Irish to name just a few.



Jack Petchey Awards

September 2025 - Lexi Cartwright



Lexi has been nominated by her peers as she is one of the “kindest and most caring” people they know. She is a supportive friend and will help anyone that needs it either in lessons or around school. She is respectful to others, very hard-working and always has a smile. Lexi makes others feel a sense of happiness in her presence and they appreciate her for being so lovely. Truly wonderful qualities to have. Congratulations.

October 2025 - Isabella Gold



Isabella’s peers describe her as a wonderful friend, someone that is incredibly helpful and someone that shows great courage and commitment on a daily basis. They appreciate her commitment to her studies and her involvement in the performing arts enrichment programme. She is a great mentor to younger students and supports their development in rehearsals and performances. Isabella is a very worthy winner, well done.

November 2025 - Gisele Saunders



Gisele is a truly exceptional young person who embodies strength, perseverance, and passion. Gisele is an award-winning Irish dancer and has won countless trophies over the last year. However, she is more than a dancer — she is a role model. She reminds everyone around her that no matter the circumstances you’re born into or the personal battles you face, you are never limited by them. Through her resilience, quiet leadership, and excellence in dance, she uplifts and inspires her peers, her school, and her wider community. Congratulations.



Together, we can
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Children in Need 2025

On 14th November we held our annual non-uniform day for Children in Need. Children in Need is a UK charity established by the BBC, dedicated to supporting disadvantaged children and young people across the country through fundraising and various programs.

Our staff members joined in with the fun and wore the Stewards Academy uniform! Needless to say that this really entertained our students! Staff had to prove that they could keep their uniform perfect all day, just as we expect the students to do everyday.



Hampton Court Palace Trip

On October 16th 50 Year 8 pupils visited Hampton Court Palace. Students toured the historic Tudor Kitchens and took part in a lively workshop on the power struggles that followed Elizabeth I's death. The joint English-History trip brought 500 years of history into vivid focus.

The Tudor kitchens were a big hit with pupils. They learned that at one time they were the engine room of Henry VIII's court. Walking through the cavernous spaces, you can almost hear the clang of ladles and the chatter of cooks preparing meals for hundreds of courtiers each day. The crackling sounds and the cosy smell of the huge open fire had everyone mesmerised!

One of the most fascinating discoveries was the Tudors' creative use of sugar. Far from being merely a sweetener, sugar was a luxury ingredient used to craft entire serving dishes made from hardened sugar paste. These edible "subtleties" were shaped, sculpted, and painted with natural dyes. They weren't just for eating; they were status symbols, used to impress visiting dignitaries with both wealth and artistry.

After exploring the kitchens, pupils took part in a dynamic workshop that tackled a dramatic question: What happened when Elizabeth I died without an heir?

The session walked us through the complex web of claimants, alliances, and political anxieties that shaped England's future at the end of the Tudor era. Pupils presented impressive arguments during the debate and their knowledge impressed even the seasoned workshop presenter!

The workshop made clear just how fragile stability can be when the throne is up for grabs and how fortunate England was to avoid chaos in 1603.

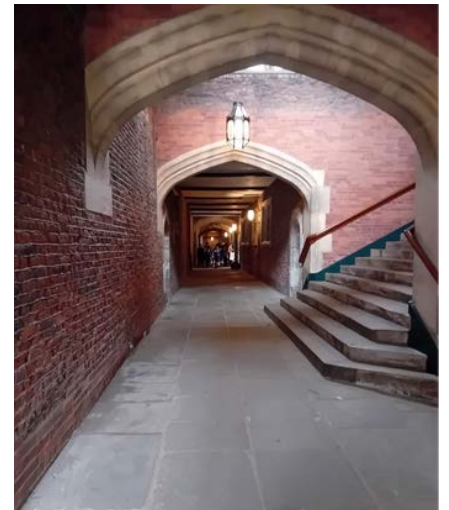
Our visit to Hampton Court Palace blended immersive history with hands-on learning. From the grandeur of Tudor feasts to the high-stakes diplomacy of succession politics, every part of the day offered a deeper understanding of the people and power structures that shaped early modern England.

We look forward to bringing our current Year 7s next year – watch this space!

We are also pleased to announce the joint winners of our trip photo competition:

Evie Campling (Valour) for her photo of the atmospheric corridors alongside the Tudor kitchens.

Ella Gibbins (Bravery), for her stunning capture of the Royal Chapel. Well done girls!



Tree of Remembrance



This December, young people, staff, and parents came to join us around the Remembrance Christmas tree for the turning on of the Christmas lights and to take a quiet moment to remember those who we have loved and lost. Many people wrote a personal tribute or message to a loved one on a paper heart (which we then laminated to protect against the elements) and were then hung on the tree before the service. As always, it was magical.

Christmas Fete



On the 5th December we held our annual Christmas Fete. Students and their families were invited to join in the fun and wander around the amazing stalls we had on offer. Everything from homemade cakes to hand poured candles were on offer.

The event was a great success!

We hope everyone had a wonderful time.



Attendance and Punctuality

We believe that all students are only able to achieve their potential if they attend school punctually and avoid missing lessons.

We expect students to achieve a minimum of 97% attendance and punctuality.

What constitutes good attendance?

Attendance percentages are not like examination results: an attendance percentage needs to be in the high nineties before it can be considered good.

We grade attendance as follows: -

- 100% = excellent attendance
- 98% = very good attendance
- 97% = good attendance

Each year, several students in every year group achieve 100% attendance records, showing that this is an achievable target.

In addition, several children have achieved this level of attendance in successive years. Attendance figures below 90% are of real concern. Consider the following examples:

- 90% is the equivalent to missing one day per fortnight which equates to missing half a year's education during Years 7-11
- 80% is the equivalent to missing one day per week which equates to missing one full year during Years 7- 11

Parents/carers make a vital contribution to their child's attendance by:

- Supporting their child in achieving 100% attendance
- Monitoring their child's attendance via Arbor Parent App and by checking the report provided at parents evenings
- Avoiding dental/medical appointments during school time where possible
- Ensuring their child arrives punctually at school
- Encouraging their child to catch up on work missed through absence
- Informing the school in the morning if their child will be absent
- Taking vacations during school holidays and NOT in term time

ACL

FREE



Support your Child to Attend and Enjoy School

This engaging and supportive 6-week course is designed for parents and carers who want to help their children develop the skills and confidence needed to thrive in school. Through interactive sessions, practical strategies, and expert guidance participants will learn how to create a positive and encouraging environment that fosters enthusiasm for learning and regular school attendance.

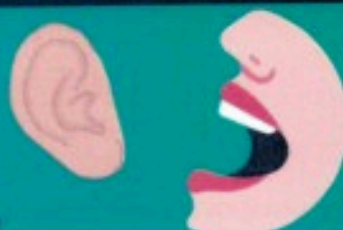
If you would like to attend this course, please speak with your child's school so that they may fill out an application form for you.

Any questions?

email us - aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk

COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING

ACLESSEX.COM / FAMILY LEARNING



ACL





CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET



SOFT BALL CRICKET

BE ACTIVE
MAKE FRIENDS
DEVELOP SKILLS
PAY NOTHING!



\$

WEEKLY INDOOR SESSIONS

FUN, FAST AND FREE

NO EXPERIENCE OR EQUIPMENT NEEDED

WEAR WHAT YOU WANT

QUALIFIED COACHES

FUN INDOOR CRICKET ACTIVITIES AND GAMES
5.00-6.00PM EVERY THURSDAY DURING TERM TIME
FOR AGES 8-16
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

PASSMORES ACADEMY SPORTS HALL
TRACYES ROAD, HARLOW
CM18 6JH

RUN BY ESSEX CRICKET IN THE COMMUNITY, FUNDED BY CHANCE TO SHINE

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT
IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.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.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

This term we have focused on student safeguarding, wellbeing and personal safety.

We have welcomed several outside agencies into school, including the police, who have worked with students to develop their understanding of staying safe in a variety of contexts. Sessions delivered by the Child Abuse Investigation Team and Domestic Abuse Investigation Team explore topics such as consent, healthy and unhealthy relationships, recognising controlling or manipulative behaviour and knowing where to seek help.

The sessions were particularly impactful for the older students, many of whom shared that they now feel more confident in recognising warning signs and understanding how to protect themselves in relationships.

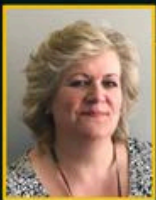
Following the visit of the knife arch earlier in the term, students also received further advice from the police around personal safety and the importance of not carrying weapons. These discussions reinforced key messages about making positive changes and keeping themselves and other safe.

Our safeguarding works this term has been centered on ensuring students are not only safe in school, but also prepared for life beyond it. We are committed to giving our children the tools, knowledge and confidence they need to look after themselves when they are not at school or at home.

This work will continue next term with another wave of safeguarding education and support.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.
We wish you a very happy Christmas and safe and healthy New Year.

Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Atkinson
(Safeguarding V Office)

safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

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

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Blake
(Safeguarding V Office)

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:

