



THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM EDITION 4 • 2026



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



Summer Uniform 2026

The summer term is always popular with everyone as the sun shines regularly and the temperatures rise. Of course there are always the days when the rain and cold come back, and indeed those days when the heat gets a bit too much and we all swelter. However, overall it is a good term to be in and I look forward to it starting on Monday 13th April.

We will be having the summer uniform approach that we had in 2025 again in 2026 as it was a great success and I have been asked many times by students, and indeed by parents and carers, if we will be doing it again. The summer uniform rules are a bit different from those in the rest of the year and are as follows:

- No requirement to wear a blazer at any time**
- No requirement to wear a tie at any time**
- No requirement to wear a jumper at any time**
- Shorts may be worn by anyone. These must be formal shorts not PE shorts. The simplest way to think of this is that they can be like trousers but shorter. Shorts end above the knee.**
- PE kit may be worn all day by any student who has a PE lesson on a specific day.**

Students are allowed to continue to wear their jumper, tie and blazer if they wish to do so. They are not required to wear summer uniform if they choose not to. Summer uniform is an option. What our approach does is removes the issues caused by constant changes throughout the term when it is hot for a few days and we say blazers and ties can be removed but then the next week it is not hot and they have to be worn again. This causes problems as students get it wrong or forget and we have unnecessary issues that are easily avoided.

Of course it will doubtless rain and be cold for the first two weeks of term and not look like summer. However, what I say to the students is that I declare it to be summer so it is!

I hope everyone enjoys a great two week holiday over the Easter period and returns safe and rested ready for the summer term.

The summer term lasts from Monday 13th April to Friday 17th July.

Stewards Learner

Behaviour Update – Spring Term

Behaviour has continued to improve throughout the spring term, with fixed-term suspensions falling significantly. This reflects the ongoing commitment of our pupils to meet the school's expectations and make positive choices each day. We have seen term on term improvement with fewer days and students receiving fixed term suspensions, these figures are currently 350 fewer days lost to suspension than this time last year, a remarkable improvement.

Pupils' positive behaviour has been recognised and celebrated in our recent house celebration assemblies. These events have provided a valuable opportunity to acknowledge the many pupils who consistently demonstrate respect, responsibility, and a positive attitude to learning. Many congratulations to all the prize winners. We are proud of the progress being made and look forward to building on this success in the months ahead.

A recent Yondr pouch spot check highlighted that the vast majority of our pupils are following the school's mobile phone policy. However, there remains a small minority of students who feel the rules do not apply to them. We would greatly appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this important expectation.

As you will be aware, we have had a focus on students arriving late to school and the negative impact this can have on their education and ability to access the curriculum. I'm pleased to say that improvements have been made by some who have responded in the right way and I would like to thank the parents concerned for their support. However, there are still a small group of students that are late on a regular basis and a review of how we ensure students arrive to school on time is currently taking place.

The school also completed a whole-school fire drill on Friday 20th March. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students, who conducted themselves brilliantly and evacuated the building in under five minutes. Well done to everyone.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Have a wonderful break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back at the start of the summer term. - Mr Scholtes and the Pastoral Team

TEACHING & LEARNING

Welcome to our latest Teaching and Learning update. We are continuing to develop high quality teaching across the school and remain focused on ensuring every student can learn successfully in every classroom.

Our Focus

This half term, our priority is consistency in the classroom. Research shows that strong routines and clear expectations help students feel confident and make progress.

We are focusing on:

- Well structured lessons that build knowledge over time
- Clear and consistent classroom routines
- High expectations for behaviour and effort
- Developing students' independent learning skills

Why Routines Matter

Consistent routines help students settle quickly, understand expectations and experience fewer disruptions. This ensures classrooms remain calm, focused and purposeful.

In the Classroom

Students are regularly using retrieval practice and structured questioning to strengthen memory and understanding. Teachers provide clear explanations and feedback so students can access learning and improve.

Focus on Year 11

Year 11 students are now at a key stage in their GCSE journey. The focus is on consolidating knowledge, practising exam skills and building confidence.

Students are supported through:

- Regular exam-style practice and feedback
- Targeted revision in lessons
- Guidance on effective revision strategies

We encourage students to maintain consistent revision routines at home.

Supporting students at home

Thank you for all your support with homework, revision, discussing learning and helping establish strong routines at home. If you have any questions on teaching and learning at Stewards please contact:

Mrs McGee: hmcgee@stewardsacademy.org

Ms James: kjames@Stewardsacademy.org

Mirs Miah: rmiah@stewardsacademy.org



HOUSE

STEWARDS
ACADEMY



ATTENDANCE

www.stewardsacademy.org



7JLS - 93.6%
 7KCS - 94.5%
 8ACN - 93.6%
 8TLG - 90.5%
 9RNN - 88.6%
 9SHT - 93.7%
 10CNN - 87.3%
 10ETS - 91.5%
 11CHK - 89.5%
 11THN - 83.6%



7LTO - 89.9%
 7PDA - 94.6%
 8BPR - 90.9%
 9UMK - 87.8%
 9VSH - 90.0%
 10AMN - 84.5%
 10KJO - 91.7%
 11KDG - 86.9%
 11KSU - 86.0%

7KHY - 91.5%
 7SFS - 93.2%
 8NAD - 87.0%
 8ROY - 92.8%
 9KBL - 92.8%
 9BDI - 89.3%
 10JMN - 83.9%
 10TMY - 92.7%
 11ACS - 90.1%
 11EWY - 91.4%

7PHN - 94.9%
 7SMI - 90.7%
 8MRW - 91.1%
 8EGN - 90.7%
 9RMH - 92.7%
 10DCR - 88.3%
 10ITH - 94.4%
 11EOE - 92.3%
 11SSE - 89.6%

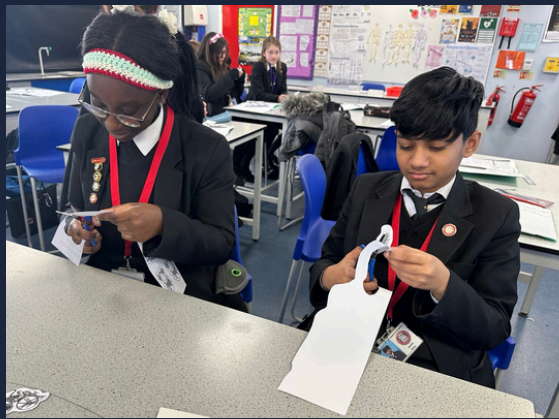
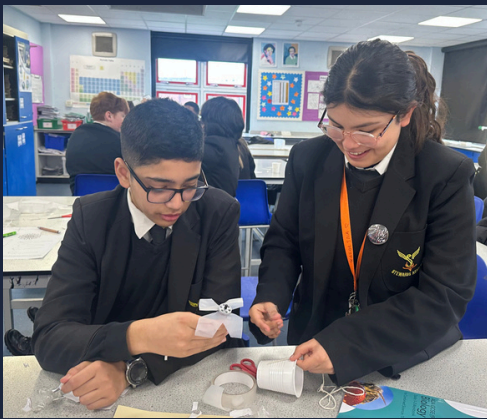


British Science Week

This year's British Science Week theme 'Curiosity' inspired our students to explore, question, and discover the world around them.

From building wind turbines and experimenting with computing, to creating food web mobiles that brought ecosystems to life; curiosity truly took centre stage. Students also investigated how muscles and joints work together through a fascinating chicken wing dissection, deepening their understanding of movement in living things.

The week was a lively celebration of scientific thinking, teamwork, and creativity — reminding us that curiosity is the spark that leads to discovery.



Paris Trip

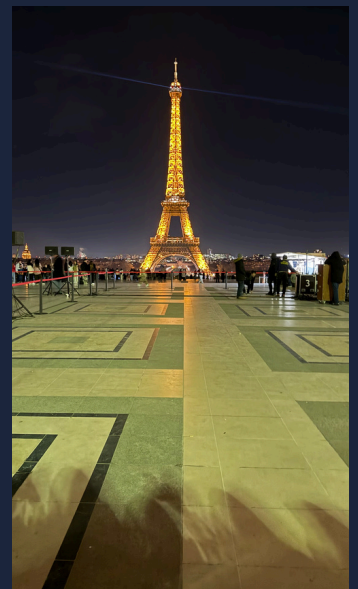
Our recent trip to Paris was a fantastic experience for both students and staff. Despite the Seine being flooded during our visit, the group still managed to see many of the famous sights and make the most of every moment.

One of the highlights was the trip up Montparnasse Tower, where students enjoyed spectacular views across the city. We also visited a nearby park where students were excited to spot the smaller Parisian Statue of Liberty, a surprising and memorable discovery.

A full day at Disneyland Paris was undoubtedly a highlight of the trip. The excitement, rides, and magical atmosphere made it a truly unforgettable experience. In fact, the magic was so strong that one student was moved to tears of joy and even declared that she now wants to change her future career plans to become Mickey Mouse!

Overall, it was a brilliant trip filled with culture, fun, and lasting memories. The students represented the school wonderfully and returned home with plenty of stories to tell.

Miss Thomas



Harry Potter Studios Trip

Students in Year 9 recently enjoyed an exciting trip to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour in London – ‘The Making of Harry Potter’.

During the visit, students explored many of the iconic sets, costumes and props used in the famous Harry Potter film series, gaining a fascinating behind-the-scenes insight into how the films were brought to life.

A highlight of the day was taking part in a hands-on set design workshop, where students learned about the creative process behind designing magical environments for the screen. They had the opportunity to think like real film designers, considering how colour, texture and layout can help tell a story and create atmosphere.

The trip was both inspiring and educational, giving students a deeper appreciation of the creativity, teamwork and technical skills involved in film production.

Miss Stylianou



Year 11 Shakespeare Workshop

Year 11 absolutely loved the Shakespeare workshop. All students actively engaged in the acting exercises and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Iain, the facilitator told us how impressed he has been with them.

An overall excellent session for them to consolidate knowledge and discuss and analyse theme whilst understanding the visual importance of the play.

I am very proud of them.

Mr Springthorpe



Young Citizens Mock Magistrates' Court Trial Inspires Students at Stevenage

On Thursday 7th March, students had the unique opportunity to step inside the justice system as they attended a Young Citizens Mock Magistrates' Court Trial at Stevenage Magistrates' Court. The event provided an engaging and educational experience, offering students a real insight into how the legal system operates in practice.

The mock trial was designed to mirror a real court proceeding, with students taking on key roles such as magistrates, legal advisers, prosecutors, defence solicitors, witnesses, and even members of the jury. Guided by legal professionals, participants were able to explore the responsibilities and challenges faced by those working within the justice system.

The case presented during the trial was both thought-provoking and relevant, encouraging students to consider evidence carefully, question witnesses, and apply critical thinking skills before reaching a verdict. Throughout the session, students demonstrated confidence and professionalism, particularly when presenting arguments and delivering statements in the courtroom setting.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity for students to sit in an authentic courtroom environment, which added a sense of realism and excitement to the experience. Many participants commented on how the event helped them better understand courtroom procedures, legal terminology, and the importance of fairness and impartiality in decision-making.

In addition to building knowledge of the legal system, the mock trial also helped students develop valuable transferable skills, including public speaking, teamwork, problem-solving, and analytical thinking. These skills will undoubtedly benefit them in both their academic journeys and future careers.

Overall, the Young Citizens Mock Magistrates' Court Trial was a highly successful and memorable experience. It not only brought the law to life but also inspired students to think more deeply about justice, responsibility, and the role they can play as active citizens in society.

We would like to thank the organisers and legal professionals involved for providing such an enriching and impactful opportunity for our students.



Poetry success at Harlow Playhouse

It is with great pleasure to inform that a wonderful afternoon was spent with the Poetry Society and public, at the Harlow Playhouse to celebrate the winners and shortlisted performances of the Harlow Open Poetry competition. Many schools were presented and it was lovely to see many young people and teachers there.

We are incredibly proud to say that our very own Betsy Wilson in year 7 has won the 11-17 category, beating all competition! Betsy read her poem about memory to the public with such confidence and grace that it was difficult for the eyes to stay dry. Betsy is a member of Stewards writing club and to achieve and experience such an event at age 11 was truly wonderful to see.

Her prizes included an analysis and breakdown from the poem that is in the anthology. She has been invited to perform again, alongside the other winners in the Essex book festival in June.

The overall poetry winner of the 18+ category was our very own English Teacher, Mr Springthorpe!

"It was a surreal afternoon to say the least, to perform live on the same stage as one of our students was an honour! I am so proud that the name Stewards Academy is making a mark in the community." - Mr Springthorpe.

**Dragon Club Presents –
Board Game Club
Every Tuesday after school
Room 11**



Are you ready to fight alongside Dragon Club against the forces of evil, and travel to far off worlds filled with Orcs, goblins, skeletons, kobolds, dragons, and Dungeon Masters? Or simply enjoy a game of chess, top trumps or monopoly?

Then visit Dragon Club board game afternoon- every Tuesday after school at Mr. Springthorpe's classroom 11 from 3:15 -4:45.

Get the chance to fight monsters, cast spells, and uncover secret treasure in the worlds of **D&D, Talisman, Warhammer, Pokémon, Yugioh and Heroquest**. Or play more traditional games such as **Chess and Top Trumps**.

See Chairman George Springthorpe 11CH or Mr. Springthorpe for more info.



Come along and make new friends.



Games Club

At our Tabletop Gaming Club, we have recently introduced many new games systems and events including Monster Mayhem, Judge Dredd, Muffin Time and the Dungeons and Dragons campaign 'Stranger Things' based on the popular T.V. series. We have also strengthened our connections to local gaming outlets including Geek Retreat in the Harvey Centre who have kindly donated several games.

Members have continued to enjoy the club, which has seen them make new friends, learn new skills such as decision making and team work as well as raising their confidence in running games.

Hollie Burbridge in year 8 has successfully planned and run her first ever Dungeons and Dragons campaign which has been a big success.

Club runs every Tuesday after school from 3:15pm-4:55pm, and we would love to see YOU there.

Mr. S. Springthorpe - ROOM 11.



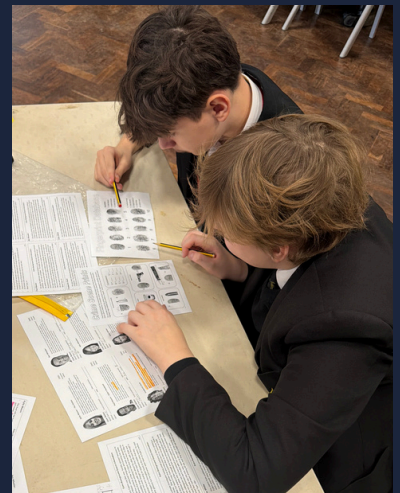
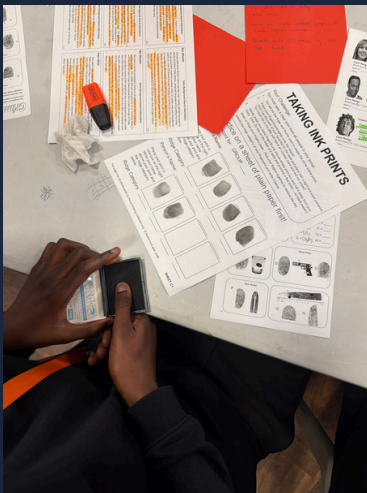
CSI Workshop

Students took part in an exciting and immersive CSI workshop, where they explored how forensic scientists use a range of techniques to solve complex cases. Working collaboratively in teams, they developed essential communication and teamwork skills while thinking critically and analytically to investigate a realistic murder scenario.

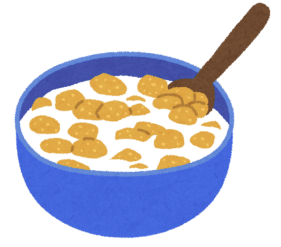
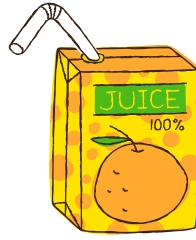
The experience was highly engaging, with students using A-level laboratory equipment to carry out electrophoresis, analyse fingerprints, and interpret key evidence to reach well-reasoned conclusions. This unforgettable experience not only deepened their understanding of DNA, blood analysis, and crime scene investigation, but also inspired them to think like real scientists.

Well done to all students who participated—the Science Department is immensely proud of your enthusiasm, skill, and dedication.

Mrs Marakli



Breakfast Club



8:15pm - 8:45am Everyday!

FREE bagels, juice and cereal as well as the option to purchase food ready for break-time to avoid queuing during your break.

Everyone welcome, it is a great atmosphere - we hope to see you there!



St Clare Hospice Summer Event 2026

St Clare Hospice is bringing an exciting event to Harlow, Epping and Loughton in summer 2026 – a vibrant celebration of art and community, brought to life in a truly memorable way.

Lions on the Loose is proudly presented by St Clare Hospice, in partnership with Wild in Art. This free, inclusive art trail is designed to bring colour, creativity, and community spirit to the streets of Harlow, Epping and Loughton — and it's something the whole family can enjoy.

Throughout the summer of 2026, Harlow, Epping and Loughton will be transformed by a pride of super-sized lion sculptures, each one uniquely decorated by talented artists from across the region and beyond. These eye-catching works of art will form an exciting, interactive trail for locals and visitors to explore.

Alongside the main trail, a collection of 'little lions'— created by local schools and community groups — will also be on display, showcasing the creativity of our young people.

Stewards Academy KS3 art club have been designing and painting our lion sculpture with pride, but we need all hands on deck to help raise money for this amazing cause!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/stewards-academy-1?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional_-_page_launched--campaign&utm_content=0f532bea-b0f7-4f54-8aeb-8d37e53c76d0&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1773325421771

The logo for ACL (Action Children's Learning) is a dark blue trapezoidal shape with the letters 'ACL' in white, bold, sans-serif font.A red, jagged-edged badge with the word 'FREE!' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Managing Big Emotions

Online Live Course

Join us for this adults only engaging session packed with advice and practical tips to help your child manage their big emotions. Learn strategies that bring calm and confidence to everyday family life.

**Date: 06/03/2026 Time: 12:30 - 14:30 OR
26/03/2026 Time: 9:30 -11:30**

To enrol please scan the QR code, or Visit our website acessex.com and type 'MANAGING BIG EMOTIONS' in the 'Find a course...' box



acessex.com

0345 603 7635



Essex County Council

Come to our Prom Event!



Come
along!

We will be giving away preloved dresses, suits and accessories

- Volunteer personal shoppers on hand to help you find the outfit of your dreams
- Photo opportunity to capture that special moment
- No booking - just turn up!

When:

Saturday 18th April 2026
11-2

Where:

The Link, Parsloe Road,
Harlow, CM19 4RT



For more information:

Tel: 01279 210 404

Email: donna@rainbowservices.org.uk

Essex Fire Museum

Open Day

2026



29th and 31st Of March

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now 
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk



essex
outdoors

AMAZING ADVENTURES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Exhilarating school holiday
activity days for kids age 8+

Water sports, high ropes, zip wire, archery,
bushcraft and more at four centres.

BRADWELL • DANBURY • HARLOW • MERSEA

**£40
PER DAY**

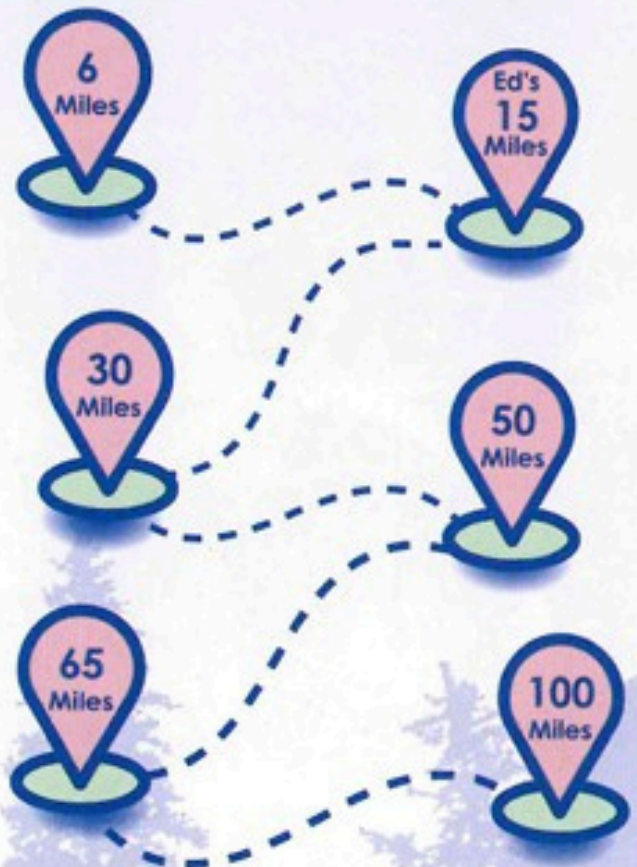
RIDE FOR HELEN 2026

SUNDAY 10th MAY



Join us for a truly breathtaking cycling event starting and finishing at The Crix in Hatfield Peverel.

Choose the distance that suits you and enjoy pedalling through the beautiful countryside of Essex and Hertfordshire, all while helping to support people living with cancer.



SCAN ME



BOOK YOUR PLACE AT
www.helenrollason.org.uk

Fundraising in aid of

Helen Rollason Cancer Charity



Registered Charity No: 1052861

RIDE FOR HELEN 2026

SUNDAY 10th MAY

6 MILE BIKE RIDE



SCAN ME



Get ready for a day of making memories by participating in a 6 mile charity bike ride.

Here's what you can expect:

- ✓ Medal for every rider
- ✓ Family day out
- ✓ Live entertainment

We have volunteer cycling chaperones



6 Mile child ticket includes a
FREE
ADULT PLACE

Visit
www.helenrollason.org.uk
for further details

Fundraising in aid of

Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

NOT FOR PROFIT

CLOTHING SWAP

Refresh your wardrobe sustainably and save money

First Saturday of the month 10.30am - 12.30pm

2026 Dates: 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June,

4th July, 1st August, 5th September,

3rd October, and 7th November

NEW LOCATION

St Stephens Church, Tawneys road, Harlow, CM18 6QR



How does it work?

1. Pay entry fee of £1 per adult, children free entry
2. Donate any clean clothes in good condition that you no longer need (optional)
3. Have a good rummage and take all you need



<https://heclothingswap.weebly.com>
heclothingswap@gmail.com
Facebook - Herts & Essex Clothing Swap

The holidays are fast-approaching

Are you *looking* for something for your child to do during this time?

Why not sign them up to one of our Bikeability Courses.

- Chelmsford
- Harlow
- Witham
- Colchester
- Uttlesford



Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses:
<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>



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

As part of our continued work to keep students and staff safe at school, we had the knife arch here at Stewards Academy again recently, accompanied by officers from Essex Police. Yet again, it all ran very smoothly and students behaved maturely and appropriately.

Essex Police were also here delivering assemblies for our Year 7 and 8 students on respect in the community, anti-social behaviour and racism. We're so proud of how well this was received by the students and of their intelligent participation.

Year 9 were lucky enough to have a talk from Fiona Egan from 'Travel Hacks' about remaining vigilant when traveling to and from school, especially when crossing the roads. This was an invaluable reminder considering how easy it is to become distracted by mobile phones. Fiona also addressed the consequences of taking unnecessary risks e.g. getting into cars with people who may be intoxicated and speaking up if someone's driving is erratic or makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

We are so lucky that our food pantry is sponsored by MCKS Charitable Foundation UK, who support many schools and families. We would like to remind parents that the food pantry is open to all families and is available throughout the academic year. Please email safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org or call the main school number on 01279 421951. You can ask to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team or any member of staff you are comfortable with.

We hope you and the young people enjoy the school holidays!



Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Atkinson
(Safeguarding V Office)

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Blake
(Safeguarding V Office)

safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

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

Safeguarding Officers: AHoH Office



Ms Morley



Mrs Bolt



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates



Mr Hughes
(AHT/Maths Office)

For Safeguarding updates and information please visit:

