THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM EDITION 5 • 2026



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

This is the fifth of our six newsletters for the school year 2025-2026. With year 11s now more than half way through their exams it certainly feels as if we are getting towards the end of the year. However, there is still so much more to happen at Stewards in the final seven weeks of term before we finish on Friday 17th July.

Sports Day will be on Friday 10th July and we will have the end of term whole school assembly to round the year off on Friday 17th July where we will celebrate successes in house competitions across the year before awarding the house trophy to the winning house at the end of the year. School will finish around 12.30pm on Friday 17th July with the final details being shared nearer to the final day.

We still have eight school trips to go in the last half-term of the year, offering chances for students in all year groups. These come on top of the forty-three school trips that have taken place so far this year, ranging from just a handful of students through to over two hundred in a single trip. Students have been on trips for maths, science, English, drama, art, history, geography, music, languages, technology, and PE. Places visited include Harlow Playhouse, Shoreditch, Cadbury World, Barcelona, Anglia Ruskin University, Disneyland Paris, Normandy, Hampton Court, Bletchley Park and various sites in central London. Some of these trips are part of the curriculum for key stage 4 courses, while others offer the chance to enrich curriculum experiences in key stage 3. We aim to offer a wide range of experiences to our young people and by the end of this school year we will have delivered more than one thousand six hundred places on school trips to our students.

The summer will see the building of the new astroturf pitch at Stewards. We aim for this to be ready by the end of September so that our young people have access to this amazing new facility for almost all the coming school year, and then of course for many years beyond that. Community groups and teams will be able to hire the facility, providing income to support our work at Stewards and further improving the education and experiences we offer to our students. Stewards has waited a long time for such a facility and I am delighted that we are going to be able to provide it in 2026. We are proud to be able to serve our community through the provision of the use of our swimming pool, sports hall and flex-suite over many years, the astroturf will enable even more local people to benefit from what their school has to offer.

Thank you for being part of the Stewards community and supporting our young people to achieve their potential.

MR DREW
HEADTEACHER

Stewards Learner

Thank you to all parents and students for their continued support throughout this term. Your commitment to our school community continues to make a significant difference and helps us maintain a positive learning environment for all students.

As with previous terms, we have continued to reduce the number of fixed-term suspensions, with 450 fewer days lost compared to this time last year. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work of both staff and students in promoting positive behaviour and respectful relationships across the school.

As you will also be aware, we have maintained a strong focus on students who are consistently late to school and to lessons. Although we have seen a reduction in the number of late arrivals, this remains an area of focus moving forward as we continue to promote positive habits and maximise learning time for all students.

Students have also continued to support the school's mobile phone policy. Recent spot checks have been very positive, and the vast majority of students are following expectations responsibly throughout the school day. However, there remains a small minority of students who continue to disregard the rules. We ask parents and carers to continue reinforcing the importance of adhering to the policy so that we can maintain a focused and productive learning environment for everyone.

We are already well into the Year 11 GCSE examination period, and I would like to wish all of our current Year 11 students the very best of luck. Please do remind them to hand in their Yondr pouches at the end of the Physics examination on 15th June.

Lastly, I would like to thank Michelle Ali, who leaves us today for pastures new. As Assistant Head of House for Fortitude, Miss Ali has played an important role in supporting the lives of so many of our young people. There have been lots of tears, but plenty of laughs along the way too. From all of us on the pastoral team, thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and support. We wish you every success and happiness in the future.

As always, have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next half-term.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Welcome to our first Teaching and Learning update of the Summer Term

As we continue to develop high quality teaching across the Academy, our focus remains on ensuring every student can learn successfully in every classroom.

This edition shines a spotlight on literacy and writing, highlighting the excellent work taking place across the school to develop students' confidence, creativity and communication skills. Through consistent classroom routines, high expectations and targeted literacy support, students are continuing to make strong progress in their writing across the curriculum.

Mr Springthorpe, English teacher and Writing Champion, shares an exciting update on the many opportunities and successes students have experienced this year. "At Stewards Academy, our continued focus on teaching and learning places literacy and writing at the heart of student success. As writing champion, I am proud to support students and staff in developing the confidence, creativity and communication skills that strong writing provides - not only for academic achievement, but for future pathways and self-expression.

This year has seen fantastic work across the academy, with staff and students working together to create a culture that values literacy, creativity and high-quality written communication. Our successful 'Writing Token' scheme, which rewards exceptional effort and achievement, has already seen over 2,000 tokens awarded, with Houses competing each term for the Writing Trophy.

The Creative Writing Club has continued to flourish, welcoming enthusiastic new Year 7 members and inspiring even greater creativity across the school. Club ambassadors have helped promote whole-school poetry and short story competitions, and since September more than 60 students have achieved publication nationally. We are also developing specialist writing workshops focusing on figurative language, imagery, setting and character creation.

We are especially proud of Year 7 student Betsy Wilson, winner of the Harlow Open Poetry competition for her poem Rust, which she performed at the Harlow Playhouse. Alongside student opportunities, staff CPD and literacy-focused classroom strategies have strengthened writing support across lessons. This includes the use of key vocabulary, sentence starters, connective maps and structured writing approaches that help students build confidence and develop their written responses effectively.

Another key success this year has been the expansion of handwriting intervention sessions. Over two hundred key stage 3 students have attended weekly sessions, improving handwriting fluency, presentation and overall confidence in writing.

Overall, we are seeing clear progress in writing confidence and outcomes across KS3 and KS4, and we look forward to building on this success even further."

Thank you for your continued support in helping students develop strong learning habits, confidence and independence both in school and at home. Working together, we are continuing to build a positive culture of learning and success across the Academy.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about teaching and learning at Stewards, please contact the Teaching and Learning team:

Mrs. McGee – HMcgee@stewardsacademy.org
Ms. James – KJames@stewardsacademy.org
Mrs. Miah – RMiah@stewardsacademy.org

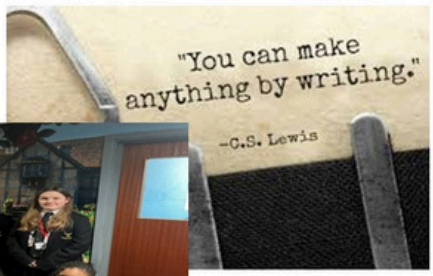






Our Writing Champion!
Mr Springthorpe

THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Calling all writers years 7 – 11.
Come along and enjoy good company, learn about exciting publishing opportunities and national competitions, learn new writing skills, and develop your creativity.

Every Friday 3:20 – 4:10
Mr. Springthorpe Room 11
Writers of all levels welcome!



HOUSE ATTENDANCE

STEWARDS ACADEMY

www.stewardsacademy.org

7JLS - 93.6%
7KCS - 94.4%
8ACN - 93.9%
8TLG - 91.5%
9RNN - 87.8%
9SHT - 93.6%
10CNN - 86.3%
10ETS - 91.2%
11CHK - 89.5%
11THN - 82.1%

7LTO - 89.9%
7PDA - 94.61%
8BPR - 90.1%
9UMK - 87.8%
9VSH - 89.8%
10AMN - 84.9%
10KJO - 91.5%
11KDG - 86.8%
11KSU - 85.9%

7KHY - 92.2%
7SFS - 92.9%
8NAD - 87.1%
8ROY - 92.9%
9KBL - 92.7%
9BDI - 88.6%
10JMN - 85.3%
10TMY - 92.6%
11ACS - 89.6%
11EWY - 90.4%

7PHN - 94.8%
7SMI - 91.3%
8MRW - 91.1%
8EGN - 90.3%
9RMH - 89.9%
10DCR - 88.0%
10ITH - 94.2%
11EOE - 92.1%
11SSE - 89.9%

Bletchley Park Visit

On Friday 17th April, forty students from years 8 and 9 attended a visit to Bletchley Park.

Bletchley Park is an English country estate in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, that became the principal centre for Allied codebreaking during World War II. It housed the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), where teams of mathematicians, linguists, and cryptanalysts, including Alan Turing, Gordon Welchman, and Hugh Alexander, decrypted secret communications from the Axis powers, most notably the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. The work carried out here is credited with potentially shortening the war by up to two years.

The students enjoyed a tour of the grounds where the very knowledgeable tour guide described what the lives of the people who worked there during World War II would have been like. Our very own Alex G gave the tour guide a run of her money with his impressive Bletchley Park knowledge; they almost offered him a job there and then!

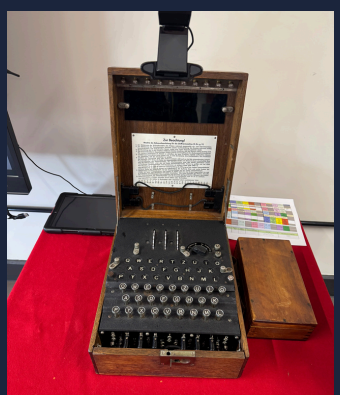
The students also took part in a code breaking session where they learnt some Morse code and had to work out encrypted messages. This was definitely a highlight of the trip! The students behaved immaculately and were a credit to the school.













Mrs Keys-Kidd

Harlow RFC Under 13's



We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of some of our Year 8 students, who had great success at the Harlow Rugby Clubs Under 13's Awards Day on 11th May.

A huge congratulations
to:
Forward of the Year – Taylor Jackson
Most Improved Player – Lennon Dilloway
Best Attitude Award – Noah Stubbings

The boys have worked incredibly hard throughout the season, showing dedication, teamwork, and commitment both on and off the pitch. These awards are thoroughly deserved, and we are delighted to celebrate their success, Well done boys!

Mr Ford

Jack Petchey Awards



March 2026 Winner - Lara Miksovic

Lara is an incredibly talented young lady that excels in all she does. She recently had the lead role of Sandy in 'Grease the musical' and delivered her role superbly. Members of the cast nominated Lara for a Jack Petchey Achievement Award due to her support and kindness to them at rehearsals and for being the brilliant role model she is. She has been an excellent ambassador for performing arts throughout her time at Stewards and a fabulous mentor to the younger students. A very worthy recipient, well done!



April 2026 Winner - Astin Lawrence Gould

Astin is an inspirational young man that, despite undergoing difficult personal circumstances, arrives to school with determination and a consistently strong work ethic. He treats others with kindness, patience, and respect, offering encouragement to classmates who may be struggling. Astin's positive outlook, even during challenging times, has had a powerful impact on both peers and staff. His quiet strength and humility set an example that goes far beyond academic achievement. Astin embodies the spirit of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award: resilience, leadership through example, and making a positive difference in their community.



May 2026 Winner - Alexander Gornicki

Alex is a natural leader who brings a spirit of positive live affirmation to all he does at Stewards. He always has a sense of excitement about his time in our school and seeks to encourage others to adopt the same approach. Alex is a student that goes above and beyond when set a task, an example of this was when he was Duty Student and received high praise for his mature, organised and diligent attitude. He is a very kind and polite student that is an excellent role model to others. Congratulations.

UKROC – South-East Regionals Stowe Maries aerodrome

Since September 2025 our Rocket Club students from all year groups have been busy designing and building a metre tall model rocket to compete in the International Youth Rocketry Competition.

This was our 14th year taking part in this competition, one in which we have twice come in as runners up in the national finals. This was at a time when 10 teams from across the south-east met to compete, now the same event is run over 3 days to accommodate the 46 teams that currently participate, and that's just from the South-East.

The mission brief changes each year, and this year the rules stipulated a rocket that could gain an altitude of 750 feet (227 metres), with a raw hen's egg as payload, deploy a parachute and return intact. Each deviation from the rules gain points, so the goal is as low a score as possible. Hence our team name the Aeronoughts.

Our team consisted of a dedicated group of young people from our newest recruits Betsy Wilson (Year 7) and Antonia Bodnar (Year 8) to our veteran engineers in Year 10, Oskaras Krencius, Oliver Fearn and our New Deputy Head Boy, Samuel Nottingham. Each have played a vital role in the design, build and launch of the rocket.

We got to the launch site in plenty of time and set to work. After the safety briefing (these rockets are not toys!) we were ready to launch. Our first flight was the highest altitude we had ever achieved at 807 feet (245 metres), but since we were aiming for 750 feet that actually worked against us this time!

With a score of 94 we were beaten by other teams, despite the fact that this score would have seen us at the nationals less than 10 years ago!

I want to give my huge respect to the crew. Their resilience, ingenuity, dedication, good humour and their ability to work as a team was appreciated by all of us, and is no doubt the same reasons that the event was sponsored by Airbus Industries and ADS, the trade body that represents the aerospace and defence industry. This competition really does carry weight in STEM industries and is a great addition to our student's CV's.

Massive thanks as well to all in Tech and Mrs Keys-Kidd for their help with the laser cutting and in preparation for the trip!

Mr Rew

Until next year...







Year 9 History Visit to the Battlefields of France and Belgium

Exploring the Battlefields of the Somme

A major focus of the trip was our visit to the battlefields of the Somme, where students explored several key sites linked to some of the most significant battles of the First World War.

At the Thiepval Memorial, students reflected on the immense human cost of the Battle of the Somme. The memorial commemorates more than 72,000 British and South African soldiers who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave. Standing beneath the vast arches of the memorial gave students a powerful sense of the scale of loss experienced during the war and highlighted the lasting impact the conflict had on families and communities across Britain and the Commonwealth.

The group also visited the Lochnagar Crater, one of the largest surviving mine craters on the Western Front. Students learned how enormous underground explosives were detonated on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 in an attempt to destroy German defensive positions. Seeing the sheer size of the crater helped students appreciate both the destructive power of modern warfare and the dangerous conditions faced by soldiers during the offensive.

Another memorable visit was to Vimy Ridge, where students explored the impressive Canadian National Memorial and surrounding battlefield area. They learned about the significance of the Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge in 1917 and how it became an important moment in Canada's national identity. The preserved trenches, tunnels, and battlefield landscape provided students with a valuable insight into trench warfare and the strategic challenges faced by troops on the Western Front.

Together, these visits allowed students to deepen their understanding of the First World War while engaging directly with sites that continue to preserve the memory of those who fought and died there.







Ypres and the Menin Gate

The group spent time in the historic Belgian town of Ypres, which was almost completely destroyed during the war and later rebuilt. Students explored the town and visited museums that helped tell the story of the conflict in the Ypres Salient.

A particularly memorable moment was attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial. The ceremony, held every evening since 1928 (with only a brief interruption during the Second World War), honours the soldiers of the British Empire who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

Students represented the school with maturity and respect throughout the ceremony, recognising the importance of remembrance and reflection.





Tyne Cot Cemetery and Passchendaele

Another important visit was to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world. Rows upon rows of white headstones made a lasting impression on students and prompted thoughtful discussions about the human impact of war.

At Passchendaele, students learned about the terrible conditions faced by soldiers fighting in deep mud and relentless shellfire. Museum exhibits, personal stories, and preserved artefacts helped students connect with the experiences of individuals who lived through the conflict.

The visit encouraged students to think critically about the causes, consequences, and human stories behind the First World War, while also recognising the importance of remembrance today.

A Sweet Stop in Belgium

Alongside the historical visits, students also enjoyed a visit to the P&J Chocolate Factory and Shop in Belgium. During the visit, students learned about the traditional chocolate-making process and had the opportunity to see how Belgian chocolates are produced. The stop proved to be a popular part of the trip, with many students sampling local chocolates and purchasing gifts and souvenirs to take home. It provided a lighter moment within the itinerary and an opportunity for students to experience another aspect of Belgian culture.



Student Reflections

Our students were excellent ambassadors for the school throughout the visit and demonstrated maturity, curiosity, and respect at every site we visited.

A selection of student comments included:

“Seeing the trenches in real life made me realise how difficult life was for soldiers.”

“The Menin Gate ceremony was very emotional and something I will always remember.”

“I learned more from being there than I ever could from reading about it.”

“The cemeteries really showed the scale of the war and how many lives were lost.”

A Valuable Educational Experience

Educational visits such as this provide students with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. By visiting historical sites in person, students develop a stronger connection to the past and a deeper understanding of the events they may go on to study if they take History as a GCSE subject.

The History Department would like to thank all students for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the trip. We would also like to thank parents and carers for their support in making the visit possible.

Finally, a special thank you goes to the staff who organised and accompanied the visit, ensuring that students had a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience.

We look forward to offering similar opportunities again in the future.

Mr Hawk



Jiu-Jitsu Success

Our very own Luke Todd in year 7 has won Bronze in the European Jiu-Jitsu finals in Ireland and now has a yellow belt. Well done Luke! We are all very proud of you!





HARLOW COLOUR FUN RUN

St Clare Hospice



SUNDAY 7 JUNE HARLOW RUGBY CLUB

SIGN UP NOW

01279 773750

In partnership with Harlow Rugby Club

HARLOW R.U.F.C.

stclarehospice
stclarehospice

stclarehospice.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1063631

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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

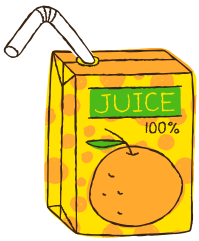
£40 PER DAY

Essex County Council

essexoutdoors.com/school-holiday-activities

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!



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

Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do as a school, and this half term we have continued our commitment to ensuring students are equipped with the knowledge, understanding, and confidence to navigate the world safely.

This term, we were incredibly fortunate to welcome back the Stride Foundation, with Joe and Jack delivering two exceptionally powerful assemblies to our students.
Their honesty, courage, and willingness to share their own life experiences had a profound impact across all year groups.

Joe spoke openly about alcohol addiction, recovery, and the realities of how addiction can affect individuals and families. Her sessions encouraged students to think carefully about the many forms addiction can take in today's society — whether that is alcohol, vaping, energy drinks, social media, phones, or the pressures young people face around fitting in and seeking acceptance. Students were encouraged to reflect on how easily unhealthy habits can develop and how manipulation and coercion can often play a part in risky behaviours.

Jack's story was equally powerful and deeply moving. He shared his journey from being a talented young boxer for England and county cricketer with strong academic potential, to becoming curious about a group of older students standing in the "smokers' corner" at school. What began with accepting a cigarette led to drug use, addiction, criminal exploitation, gang involvement, county lines activity, violence, and ultimately serious harm to both his physical and mental health.

Students listened in complete silence throughout both assemblies, showing maturity, respect, and empathy. The thoughtful and insightful questions asked afterwards demonstrated just how deeply the messages resonated with them. Importantly, both Joe and Jack spoke not only about the dangers and consequences of addiction, but also about recovery, resilience, and the fact that people can rebuild their lives with the right support.

These assemblies form a vital part of our safeguarding curriculum. They are designed to give students the tools, awareness, and confidence to make safe choices, recognise risks, and understand how quickly young people can become vulnerable to exploitation, manipulation, and harmful influences.

Alongside this work, we also continued our ongoing partnership with Harlow Police and local schools through the use of the knife arch in school. This regular safeguarding measure is not about creating fear, but about maintaining awareness, reassurance, and vigilance. It reinforces our collective responsibility to keep our school community safe and reminds students that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are incredibly proud of how our students engaged with these important sessions and discussions this half term. Their maturity, respect, and willingness to ask questions reflected the caring and thoughtful young people they are becoming.

As always, safeguarding our children remains our highest priority, and we will continue to work proactively with families, external agencies, and our wider community to ensure our students feel safe, supported, informed, and protected.

MCKS continue to support of food pantry, this service is for our community who need some support with store cupboard basics.



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: Arbor