



Stewards Academy

Christmas
2012

Newsletter



Creative Partnerships



Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard



Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils

Achievement for all pupils across a wide spectrum of opportunities is what is at the heart of Stewards Academy. In this Newsletter you will read about achievements in the Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama) both in school and in the wider community; a wide range of Science events including lectures from leading scientists and trips to lead science institutions; practical Technology skills; Sports competitions and charity fundraising events. In education at the moment there is a relentless pressure on schools and academies to get results, measured in terms of English, Maths, Science, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities (the EBacc subjects). We believe this is important of course and our 2012 examination results show we are doing a very good job in terms of pupil progress. However, a pupil who attends this school will have a much broader education developing those abilities, skills and talents that build self-esteem and confidence and make a well rounded citizen able to make a very positive contribution to society in adult life. In talking to parents and governors (many of whom are parents of pupils who are or were educated at Stewards), I know that this is appreciated and has your full support. Sometimes our greatest successes are not something that is quantifiable or measured on an academic league table

- The Year 7 pupils whose reading and handwriting have improved significantly over this term
- The Year 11 pupils whose drama performances received public acclaim at a local theatre
- The singers in the choir who lifted the spirits of people in the community, especially the Christmas trip to St Clare Hospice
- The Year 11 boy who has special educational needs, excelling in his role as a prefect
- The students who have used entrepreneurial skills to raise funds for Charity this Christmas

NEW GOVERNORS

In the last Newsletter I informed parents that we had vacancies for parent governors on Stewards Academy Governing Body. I am pleased to report that these vacancies have now been filled. The two new parent governors are Mrs Hunt and Mrs Rushbrooke. We welcome them and wish them well in their new role.

STAFF NEWS

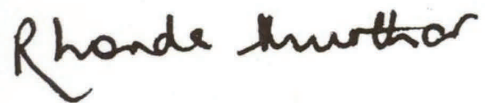
At the end of term we say farewell to Mrs Morrison (Science) Mr Home (Maths) and Mrs McClean (Maths). 7JGH will become 7MJ with Mr Jones as Form tutor, 7NLM will become 7OK with Ms King (Maths) and Mrs Waters will oversee 11DEM. As well as Ms King we also welcome Mr Chatfield (Food Technology) and Ms Cruz (English).

YEAR 11 PARENT EVENING SURVEY

The recent Year 11 parents evening was very well attended and the results of the first survey of the year are shown below.

	Respondents who strongly agreed or agreed with
	Year 11 22.11.12
Number of responses	97
Attendance	65%
My child is happy at this school.	97%
My child feels safe at this school.	99%
My child makes good progress at this school.	99%
My child is well looked after at this school.	99%
My child is taught well at this school.	98%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	93%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	94%
This school deals effectively with bullying.	91%
This school is well led and managed.	98%
This school responds well to any concern I raise.	94%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	91%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	94%

Christmas is often a time for reflection and I would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and hard work, constantly seeking to improve the quality of their lessons in order to encourage, motivate and challenge all learners. My thanks also to the dedicated associate staff who provide such excellent support in so many ways. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Governors News

This term seems to have flown by, it only seems a few days ago that the new school year had started and now Christmas is nearly with us again. Of course this term has been overshadowed by the sad events surrounding the Barn Mead fire. I was pleased that I was able to attend the planting of a tree in the school grounds a few days ago in memory of Hira who so sadly died in this incident, and even more encouraged that her tutor group have decided to raise money to support the education of a young girl in Pakistan in Hira's memory.

As governors, we consider many things often quite mundane, although important for the good of the school, but recently we have been looking at some exciting developments which we believe will be great for Stewards and its students. If our plans come to fruition, and I am confident that they will, I am sure that they will make a real difference to the academy - watch this space!

In closing may I on behalf of the governors wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Jeff Tarling
Chair of Governors

Important Information

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Year Group figures up to date are:

Year 7 = 98%

Year 8 – 97%

Year 9 – 96%

Year 10 – 95%

Year 11 – 95%

CONGRATULATIONS to all pupils who contributed to these totals -
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

PLEASE NOTE: Attendance Staff: Mrs Barker – Attendance Manager
Mrs Simkins – Attendance Officer
Mrs Brazier – Attendance Assistant

Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance/punctuality please do not
hesitate to contact one of us.

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

REGISTRATION

8.45am – REGISTRATION (AM) FOR ALL PUPILS

1.55pm – REGISTRATION (PM) FOR ALL PUPILS

**FAILURE TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR REGISTRATION WILL RESULT IN A
DETENTION BEING ISSUED**

ABSENCE

IN THE EVENT OF YOUR CHILD BEING ABSENT YOU **MUST** INFORM
THE SCHOOL **BY 10.00AM** (FOR **EVERY** DAY OF ABSENCE) – THE
NUMBER FOR REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE IS:

(01279) 772511 (please leave a message)

**FAILURE TO REPORT YOUR CHILD ABSENT WILL RESULT IN AN
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE BEING RECORDED AND FURTHER ACTION
WILL BE TAKEN**

HOLIDAYS

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ANY HOLIDAYS TAKEN **WILL NOT BE
AUTHORISED** AND COULD INVOLVE A PENALTY NOTICE BEING ISSUED
BY THE EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THESE MATTERS

Mrs Barker
Attendance Manager

Performing Arts News



GCSE DRAMA STUDENTS PRESENT SHAKESPEARE'S OTHELLO

As part of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival, we took 17 GCSE Drama students to perform a 30 minute version of 'Othello' at the Broxbourne Civic Hall. This marks the fifth time we have taken part in the festival, which works with 700 schools around the UK each year to give students the experience of performing Shakespeare in a professional theatre.



The evening featured two other Shakespeare plays presented by local schools with Stewards pupils performing last, supported by an audience of friends, parents and staff. In his assessment at the end of the evening, festival director Chris Grace praised the direction by Miss Johnson, Ms Batterham and Miss Thurley, and described the cast as *'strong and credible ... very talented'*. He concluded by saying that *'We are all going away with a real buzz! Well done to all concerned and well directed. One heck of a great evening.'*



STEWARDS PERFORMERS LIGHT UP HARLOW TOWN CENTRE

Miss Trowsdale and Miss Thurley took a group of dancers and singers to perform at Broad Walk in the town centre to celebrate the start of late-night shopping and the switching on of Christmas lights in Harlow.

Shoppers were treated to 'Let It Snow' and 'White Christmas' from the singing group and 'Christmas Nightmare' from the dancers.



Performing Arts News



UPPER SCHOOL SHOWCASE

This year's showcase once again displayed the many talents of our GCSE students, who presented some of their current work in Drama, Music and Dance.

The Year 10 Dance class started off the evening with the spooky 'Thriller' and Year 11 dancers showed us their own pieces of choreography, telling stories of insecurities, relationships and domestic violence.

Our musicians and singers gave us polished performances of popular songs such as 'Read All About It', 'Broken Strings' and 'Forget You'. Year 10 singers were accompanied entirely by their fellow students, showing how independent they have become.



Drama students explored the loss of a loved one with short play 'Lucy' and families affected by war in 'Love Letters' and 'Left Behind', while a catastrophic event brought people from all walks of life together in '2012'. There was, however, some light relief provided by the preparation for a blind date in 'The Set Up' and the bungling detectives in 'A Matter of Life and Death'.

The event closed with 'Born To Hand Jive', a lively and colourful performance by the dance chorus from our upcoming production of 'Grease'.



STEWARDS MUSIC SCHOOL

Music School is held in Stewards Music Department on Wednesdays after school. We offer individual tuition on the following instruments:

Singing, Flute, Piano, Keyboard, Drums, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric & Bass).

The next enrolment session will be held on **Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 3.00pm in the Music Room.**

Lessons are 15 minutes or 30 minutes and are booked per term in blocks of 10. Fees do apply, however families who are eligible for Free School Meals can apply for a substantial discount on the cost of lessons. We strongly recommend that students who are studying GCSE Music (or are considering choosing Music as an option for Year 9) should receive formal tuition on their chosen instrument, whether in or out of school.

Please contact Miss Wang at the school for information on fees and availability, or visit Essex Music Services at www.essexonlinemusic.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on **Wednesday 19th December at 6.00pm**. Tickets will be charged at £2.00 for adults/£1.00 for concessions and can be purchased on the door.

THE PERFORMING ARTS TEAM



Science Department News

COMMUNITY STAR WATCH EVENING: COMETS AND METEORS

People from the community and families from far and wide attended our first Community Star Watch evening for 2012. We have been running these meetings every month during the winter since 2009. Andy Gannon, a keen local astronomer and Allan Bell from Loughton Astronomical Society talked about comets and meteors. The evening started with Andrew Young, Stewards Chief Science Technician, making a comet in the lab. Comets are just dirty snowballs whizzing around the Sun, so he made ours using carbon, Lea and Perrin sauce, water and solid carbon dioxide. It looked just like a comet only a lot smaller. Comets can be about 10 km across. We played a fan across the surface, simulating the solar wind, and to our delight our comet formed the signature tail of vapour.



Extra chairs were brought in as the lab filled up with about 60

people, ages ranging from 5 to 70 years. Allan Bell talked about meteors which are re-named meteorites if they land on the Earth's surface. He talked about how scientists can track the meteor's path through the Earth's atmosphere using radio waves. We also learned how this signal can be used to monitor the changes in the upper reaches of the atmosphere.

Andy Gannon talked about comets, what they are made of, where they come from and why they look like they do. He talked about famous comets and how they have been seen over hundreds of years and recorded in ancient texts and tapestries. We might be able to see a comet sometime in March 2013.

Because the sky was clouded over we could not take the telescopes outside but instead the children took part in a seasonal bonfire night activity, burning metal salts in a Bunsen burner to see the flame change colour, indicating what happens in fireworks when you see the coloured sparks.

Mrs Wright

Science Curriculum Development Manager

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS EVENING LECTURE

Power for the People: Can Materials Science Save the World presented by Dr Rob Wallach, Senior Lecturer in the Cambridge University Dept Materials Science and Metallurgy.

A group of interested students ranging from Year 7 to Year 10 attended an Institute of Physics evening lecture on Materials Science at the prestigious Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

The audience found out that sustainable development is essential if the world, as we know it is not to be destroyed. Sustainable Development is a balancing act between developments that meet the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It has in the past been broken into 3 parts: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and socio-political sustainability. Dr Wallach summarised key issues, why society's attitudes have to change and how technology using Materials Science must provide solutions.

Alex Dodd 9MT: *'I really enjoyed the lecture. I am now really thinking about what I want to do later in life. I particularly enjoyed the arguments involving sustainability and alternative fuels.'*

Tegan Tukana 9DN: *'It was amazing! I loved it; he explained the concepts of material science so well!'*



Hazel Cash 7TS: *'I learnt that it takes 7000 litres of water to produce a hamburger, soda and fries! It was very interesting learning about global warming.'*

Students on the Trip: Hazel Cash 7TS, Shiv Sharma 8GM, William Payne 8GM, Alex Dodd 9MT, Joseph Thomas 9MT, Taonga Chabva-Shoperai 9RP, Philip Howlett 9RA, Jacob Juniper 9DN, Kerris Garbutt 9MT, Tegan Tukana 9DN, Chelsea Townsend 10MR, Tyler Hampson 10HS, Michael Whitting 10PM, Ashley Barnard 10MR.

Staff: Mrs Wright, Mr Young, Mr Cooper

Mrs Wright

Science Curriculum Development Manager

Science Department News

'NEUTRINOS'

Presented by Daniel Scully

A group of Year 7 and Year 10 students attended this talk and learnt a lot about neutrinos. Here are a few things they learnt about neutrinos.

- A neutrino is an electrically neutral, weakly interacting subatomic particle.
- All evidence suggests that neutrinos have mass but that their mass is tiny even by the standards of subatomic particles.
- Neutrinos do not carry electrical charge, which means that they are not affected by the electromagnetic forces that act on charged particles such as electrons and protons.
- A typical neutrino can pass through normal matter unimpeded.
- Neutrinos are created as a result of certain types of radioactive decay, or nuclear reactions such as those that take place in the Sun, in nuclear reactors, or when cosmic rays hit atoms.
- Most neutrinos passing through the Earth emanate from the Sun.

Ben Humphries 7NLM: *"I learnt a lot of things about quarks, electrons, protons and neutrinos."*

Filip Kusnir 8CH: *"The talk helped me understand particle physics. I enjoyed learning about matter and anti-matter and how it makes everything. An interesting and funny fact was that every scientist and physicist was proven wrong when they said that something was not possible, because it was."*

Students on the Trip: Ben Humphries 7NLM, Filip Kusnir 8CH, Daniel Coleman 10MR, Ashley Barnard 10MR, Michael Whitting 10PW, Bradley Smith 7KW, Eleanor Fleming 7DS, Shiv Sharma 8GM, Lily Stevens 7TS, Benedict Henstridge 8JK, Enny Nduka 7AS, Edward Thomas 7AS,
Staff on the trip: Mrs Wright, Mr Young



Mrs Wright, Science Curriculum Development Manager

'THE PHYSICS OF FINANCE'

Presented by Steve Kane, Associate Head of School for Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics

A group of Year 9 students went to listen to an Institute of Physics talk about how some of the principals of physics are used in the finance world. Mr Kane began by talking about Robert Brown, a biologist who in 1827 when looking through a microscope at pollen grains in water, noted that the grains moved randomly around the field of view. This motion was called Brownian motion in his honour.

In 1905, Einstein described the mathematics behind Brownian motion attracting the attention of physicist who used the theory to confirm the existence of atoms and molecules.

Mathematical models based on Brownian motion, has several real-world applications for example in the stock market where it is used to try to predict the rises and falls in stock values.

Taonga Chabva-Shoperai 9RP: *'I enjoyed the talk very much and was captivated. This was also my first insight and view into finance, a complex, yet interesting world. The main thing I learnt was however big the brain behind the graph it could never predict the next move in the market as it is unpredictable.'*

Daniel Coleman 10MR: *'very good, interesting and worthwhile coming to the talk. I've learnt a lot more about Isaac Newton than I already knew and have found out about Louis Jean-Baptiste, Alpose Bachelier and the Monte Carlo methods.'*

Students on the Trip: Joseph Thomas 9MT, Daniel Coleman 10MR, Tara Jeffreys 9RMP, Hollie Playle 9RMP, Taonga Chabva-Shoperai 9RP, Jordon Byford 9RMP, Isaac Lucia 9NF



Mrs Wright, Science Curriculum Development Manager

Science Department News

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS EVENING LECTURE

'Whacky things we could do if we only listened more carefully' presented by John Nunn

A group of Year 8 and Year 9 students went to the prestigious Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge to listen to a talk about sound. They found out how well they can hear, how age affects the hearing threshold and how strange applications of sound are used by scientists. They learnt about the Doppler Effect (think about police sirens changing tone as they whiz past you) they measured the acceleration of an object due to gravity using sound and they listened to a ball to find out the height from which it was dropped!



Student comments:

Emmanuel Sawadogo 9RP: *'It was very good and the part with the copper pole was interesting.'*

Chelsea Townsend 10MR: *'I liked it all especially the pipes and the magnet because it made me laugh.'*

Students on the trip: Isaac Lucia 9NF, Jay Moore 9MT, Joseph Thomas 9MT, Emmanuel Sawadogo 9RP, Chelsea Townsend 10MR

Mrs Wright Science Curriculum Development Manager

THE RASPBERRY PI EVENT

presented by James Dalley at the Science Alive Gallery, Harlow Leisure Zone

Four students went to the Raspberry Pi Event at Science Alive on Saturday 24th November 2012.

The Raspberry Pi is a credit card sized computer that plugs into your television and keyboard. It is a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that a desktop PC does (to find out more see www.raspberrypi.org). The Raspberry Pi Foundation has the aim of improving the number and skill level of young people interested in programming computers. The session at Science Alive introduced the project which is an exciting opportunity for young people to be a part of something that may be the blueprint for a nationwide initiative.



The focus of this pilot scheme, which has been started by a local teacher, has been to identify and promote a low cost route in to programming with the Raspberry Pi and then to see what projects genuinely interest them. At this stage the numbers of young people that want to get into Pi are small, so this community project is using Science Alive as a hub to encourage them to meet together, share ideas and progress with programming hobbies/projects.

By attending this workshop, the young people:

Learnt how to set up a Raspberry Pi at home or school.

Understood how to do this at zero/minimal cost.

Saw a demo of a game that had been modified by the existing Raspberry Pi members.

Collected project ideas via discussion with other participants.

Josh Winterbotham 9RP: *"I found this event very helpful, as I do computer science as an option. This club will improve my understanding of what these machines are capable of."*

Callum Winger 9DN: *"I really liked the Raspberry Pi and the event was amazing. You should get a Raspberry Pi!"*

Students on the Trip: Tyler Hampson 10HS, Jay Moore 9MT, Josh Winterbotham 9RP, Callum Winger 9DN

Mrs G Wright, Science Curriculum Development Manager

Technology Department News

YEAR 9 BOOKENDS

Year 9 Resistant Materials pupils have just completed their bookend project, where they had to produce bookends that were inspired by an art movement from the past 100 years.

"We researched ten different art movements and my final bookends were inspired by Pop Art because I like the bright colours" Chanel Cook, 9VM.

"My bookends were inspired by Art Deco as I liked the geometric shapes and symmetry" Nathan Stokes, 9VM.



CONSTRUCTION PUPILS DRESSED TO IMPRESS!

The Construction pupils have just taken delivery of their new overalls taking a professional approach to their studies. I'm sure you will agree that they all look very smart.

Mr Ford Construction Skills Tutor



KS3 DESIGN AND MAKE CLUB

The KS3 design and make club has been receiving increased popularity over recent weeks and has been producing some festive themed products. This is a great opportunity for pupils to further extend their knowledge and experience of technology.



Fish and Chip Baby Project

When the call came for assistance with a knitting project the staff at Stewards Academy were quick to get involved in the project. A local sewing group were asked to knit small jumpers and hats for babies born in Africa. Sadly many of these babies are born in areas of great poverty and sometimes born to parents with AIDS. As a result the mothers arrive at the hospital to give birth with no clothes for the babies to wear when they leave the hospital. Although it is warm in the day in Africa, it can be very cold at night. So, the babies were being sent home from the hospital wrapped in newspaper. As a result, they were called 'fish and chip babies'.

Staff at the school have knitted nearly 100 sets of hats and jumpers to send to Africa. Mrs Maureen Waters who is a member of the sewing group, asked me to pass on her thanks to all the staff at the school who have been involved in the project. The sewing group are now drawing the project to a close. However, if you are interested in knitting for charity, below are listed some websites that provide details of how you can knit for charity! Many good causes to get involved in.

http://www.ukhandknitting.com/knitting_for_charity.php

<http://simplyknitting.themakingspot.com/category/tags/charity-knitting>

knitforpeace.org.uk

Mrs Waters

P.E. Department News

YEAR 7 AND 8 HARLOW GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

A Team

Mollie Jarvis, Emily Mead, Becky Dodd, Phoebe Jewell, Casey Hendricks, Lauren Sykes, Alex Lubbock, Aishah Upton, Izzie Dorkin and Shannon Smith

**Results: Win vs Mark Hall 1-0, Draw vs Passmores 0-0, Win vs BurntMill 2-1, Win vs St Marks 3-0
1st overall**

B Team vs Passmores

Nicole Blake, Chloe Powell, Alison Newman, Erin Casey, Charlotte Whelton, Casey Holdcroft, Julia Noruwa, Courtney Kelly, Natasha Spencer, Justina Portrait

Results: 1 win and 1 loss

SENIOR HARLOW GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Louise Devlin, Som Pinkrum, Klaudia Babneista, Renata Kiraly, Charlotte Enver, Linda Mitchell, Louise Johnson, Whitney Akonedo, Priska Akonedo, Courtney Wallis and Shannon Andrews.

Results: Win vs Mark Hall 1-0, Win vs Passmores 2-1, Draw vs St Marks 0-0

Next Fixtures: 9th January and 24th January

GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

Junior A	Junior B	Senior
WIN vs Passmores 24-6	LOSS vs Mark Hall 4-18	WIN vs Passmores 28-26
WIN vs Junior B 38-3	LOSS vs Junior A 3-38	LOSS vs Burnt Mill 44-8

RECENT RESULTS

Due to the poor weather the boys' sports teams have been unable to compete to the usual extent against the other Harlow and West Essex Schools and Academies. However training has continued with large numbers of participants participating in various different sports in preparation for the improvement in the weather. Even with the poor weather some fixtures have been successfully run including football matches involving Year 7 who played Passmores and were able to draw 1-1 and the Year 10 Boys who also faced Passmores and finished with a 0-2 loss. In other sports the boys senior cricket team have enjoyed some success against new opponents, building a sporting relationship with Bower Park School in Romford. During that fixture the senior boys' team finished as winners with the winning margin of 50 runs and 1 wicket in hand. The team is hoping to build on this success in the New Year and continue to grow the relationship that has begun to develop. The schools Year 8 and 9 basketball team has also had fixtures against Burnt Mill, however were unable to secure the victory and ended the match with a 13-20 score line. Year 10 and 11 also had a fixture recently against Burnt Mill, unfortunately it resulted in a 46-16 loss as they were out muscled by a strong Burnt Mill squad.

SKI TRIP

In February 2014 Stewards Academy hopes to take a group of pupils to Italy on a skiing trip. The 2014 skiing trip to Folgaria Ski resort in Italy is the first of its kind for some time at Stewards Academy. The trip offers students a great opportunity to try out something new or to enhance their skiing technique. The Folgaria resort in Italy is situated in the highlands of Trentino, it is a great place for beginners to learn to ski, boasting a total of 19 exciting beginner and intermediate ski runs as well as having 14 ski runs for more experienced or advanced skiers. Whilst on the trip the group will be staying at the 3 star Hotel Romanda which is situated a small coach ride from the slopes in the small village of Lavarone. The village offers a warm and friendly welcome and with ice skating, a swimming pool and bowling alley all within close proximity the Hotel Romanda is in a fantastic location to meet the needs of all members of the group.

If you require more information please feel free to contact Mr J. Sanders or Mr R. Tremer from the PE department

NETBALL TRIP

10 talented sportswomen from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been selected to watch a live International Netball match between England and Australia at Wembley Arena. The trip is taking place on Wednesday 23rd January 2013. The pupils involved will be travelling by coach to the stadium, leaving Stewards Academy at 16.45pm and returning at approximately at 22.00pm.

RUGBY TRIP

10 talented sportsmen from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been selected to experience high level coaching and watch a live premiership Rugby Union match with the London Wasps. The trip is taking place on Saturday 30th March 2013. These pupils will be leaving Stewards Academy at 8.30am and will be returning at approximately 18.30pm.

Work Related Learning News

HAIRDRESSING OPTION

Year 10 students who chose hairdressing as one of their options have made a good start with their studies. Kelsie Hopkins, Courtney Rowlett, Shannon Lassen, Valentina Vasileva and Kornelia Lyson are enjoying the course so far.

Their Portfolios (including assessments in general health and safety and salon safety) are up to date and they continue to practice the techniques for washing and blow drying hair. Their trainer has been very impressed with their attitude

and motivation for the course and has invited them to attend a professional hairdressing exhibition in the New Year.

Well done to them and keep up the good work.



WORK EXPERIENCE

We were pleased to see so many parents and students at the work experience briefing for parents meeting held earlier this term, and thank you for your continued support. Please remember the final date for submitting placement forms to Mr Harman, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Hampstead is Friday 15th February.

Approach prospective placement providers politely, enthusiastically and prepared with information about the dates work placements take place – 24th June until 28th June (inclusive).

COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

Year 11 students have been preparing for the next stage of their careers by practising applications to Colleges, Sixth Forms, for Apprenticeships as well as for voluntary work, during PSHCE lessons. They have attended workshops from the Work Related Learning Team and as part of their Careers Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) students will participate in mock interviews with our business and community colleagues on Monday 11th February or Tuesday 12th February (details to follow to students).

St Mark's Partnership closing date for external applicants is Monday 11th February 2013.

Interviews for enrolment at Harlow College will take place on Tuesday 26th February in Stewards Academy Conference Room, parents are invited to attend also. The schedule will be circulated nearer the date.

Remember to look at the closing dates for applications to Colleges and Sixth Forms and to see Mrs Hampstead or Mr Cooper before or after school for any queries.

ARMED FORCES – NURSING.

BTEC Health and Social Care students welcomed Captain Giles Crabtree and Corporal David Morgan from the Queen Alexandra Nursing Regiment to their lesson, earlier this term.

Students listened to a presentation about life as a nurse in the Armed Forces and the rigorous training needed to be able to work in challenging environments like Afghanistan.

The presentation encompassed information about the qualifications necessary to join, salary scales as well as a short history of how the nursing regiments were formed (originally in 1902).

Intriguing questions from students about life on the front line and how to keep a sterile environment clean and germ free as well as what it was like being deployed anywhere in the world meant Corporal Morgan and Captain Crabtree left Stewards Academy feeling pleased that their short time with us was of interest to the students. They asked me to congratulate Mr Sanders students on their enthusiasm and attention.

Mrs Hampstead
Vocational Learning Mentor

Charity News

CHILDREN IN NEED

Monies have now been counted.
The Frog: gulped down £102.11
Sponsored Silence by pupils: collected £34.44
Tutor Group donations: £876.83.
Making a grant total for the whole school of: **£1,013.38.**

Well done everyone!



** POPPY APPEAL **

** RAISED £296.97 **



News from the Library

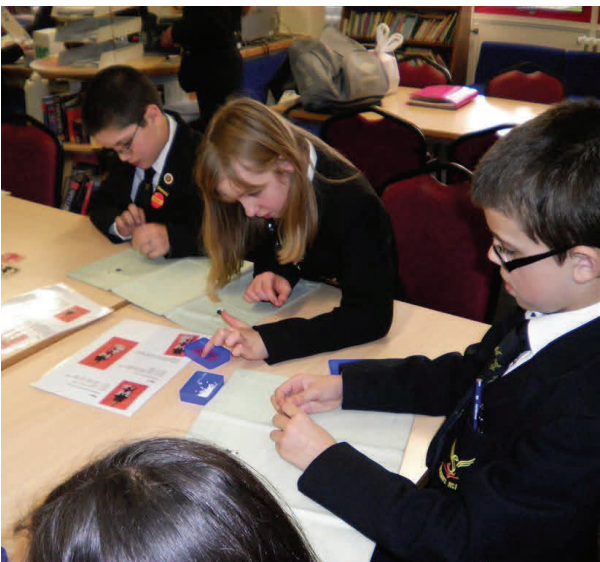
In the last week a very exciting scheme called Renaissance Reading has been launched with our Year 7s. All pupils will be reading books and taking a quiz when they have finished, earning themselves and their tutor group points.

Don't forget, points make prizes!

Also as shown in the photographs we have spent a fun-packed week making bead badges after school, look out for posters as we will be doing this again near Easter time.

I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and remember.....keep reading.

Mrs Armstrong
Librarian



'Show Racism the Red Card'

On Monday 3rd December the team from 'Show Racism the Red Card' came to our school to teach us the importance of not being racist, understanding what racism is and teaching this in a clear and fun way. During the day we had two workshops with Paul and a few others which made us think and we learned how racism starts as a stereotype – an over generalised grouping, to doing something that offends someone and finally hate crime. We learned these steps by following the story of a boy called James. There was also a teacher led session and an exercise session which made the day less tense as racism is a serious topic not to be laughed at.

The day was educational and enjoyable. I'm sure the whole of Year 7 would agree on that.

Eniola Nduka 7AS



Year Group Information Year 7

What a brilliant second half term for all Year 7's. Once again, students have excelled in a variety of areas from sporting achievements to charity fundraising and we've even welcomed parents back to school!

During our first week back, we had the 'Parent/Child Evening'. This event proved very popular and I think it's safe to say that all the participants had a great time. It was brilliant to see parents re-living their school days! So many of you came back to school to get a better understanding of how education has evolved and to gain an insight into how your child learns - proving just how much you care about their education.

Students have also experienced a day off from their normal timetable recently to work with the excellent team from 'Show Racism the Red Card' - an anti-racist educational charity whose aim is to combat racism through enabling role models, predominately but not exclusively footballers, to present an anti-racist message to young people and others. They did just that and students left with a refreshing attitude towards respect and living/working alongside each other. Something I hope will prove invaluable in their futures.

Not only have the Year 7's been working hard to improve their learning, they have also been fundraising for various charities. Most recently, Year 7 tutor groups have gone to town on a 'Dragon's Den' style project in which each group has had to face three 'Dragons', pitch their ideas and predict how they will make a profit from £20. Let's hope we have raised plenty of money for a well deserved charity of the winners choice. I will inform you of all the monies raised in the next Newsletter.

The last event for this busy half term was Parents Evening. This was the perfect opportunity to meet your child's tutor and teachers. If you were unable to attend, please contact me and I will get an update for you from the relevant member of staff.

Finally, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr G Hughes
Head of Year 7

Year Group Information

Year 8

Following the completion of your child's first full term in Year 8, I would like to offer my congratulations on a very positive and productive start to the year. It has not been easy over the last month, following the sad loss of our friend and fellow pupil Hira Shakoor, but everyone has pulled together as one and drawn strength from each other, and I am so proud of each and every one of you for the courage, kindness, compassion and resilience that you have shown at this very difficult time!

In memory of Hira, a Snake Bark Tree has been planted within the school grounds to commemorate the life and contribution that Hira made to Stewards. The tree will be surrounded by seating and flowers and will be open to all pupils, at break and lunchtime as a place for serene calm and reflection. Although Hira is no longer with us, she will never be forgotten and the tree represents a fitting symbol of the important role that she played within our community!

With every grey cloud that darkens our door there is always a silver lining, so following on from this tragic event, I would like to celebrate the success and contribution that your children have made to Stewards and share a snapshot of the many wonderful opportunities that Year 8 have had the privilege to experience this half term.

I would like to start by highlighting the excellent progress that many pupils have demonstrated in their recent IPR reports. Several pupils have moved off 0's and are on, or above target to achieve their end of year level so well done Year 8 for your hard work and commitment to your studies! I am also really pleased to see that several pupils have taken advantage of a range of leadership and extra-curricular opportunities this half term, some of which include: Prefecting, Harlow Youth Council, School Council, EMPV & various fundraising activities. All of these extra things are helping your child to build up their portfolio and become a more well-rounded citizen for the future so keep up the good work with this Year 8!

The number of pupils attending at least one homework club per week has similarly increased and this is encouraging also, however, this is one area that I would still like to improve upon as consolidating learning outside of the curriculum really can make a significant difference to the overall achievement of your child. Stewards offers a vast range of extra-curricular clubs outside of the school day and all pupils will be issued a fresh, up-to-date copy of this in the new year, so please, take a good look through your child's IPR data, identify areas for development and cross match their weaknesses with the subject provision available to support your child in overcoming these issues.

With regard to highlights this half term, I would like to start by recognising a recent inspirational assembly that was based on the concept of 'following your dreams'. A guest speaker, Kirstie Brough (who formerly attended Stewards) kindly volunteered her time to talk to Year 8 about her life as a pupil at Stewards, her goals and aspirations at school and how she realised these dreams as an adult and became a successful TV actress. Pupils learnt of her passion for Drama and how she started off starring in school productions such as Buggy Malone & Back to the 80's. She then left school with an A* in Drama and gained the accolade of achieving one of the highest results in the country. She went on to gain a scholarship at a top Drama Academy in New York and since achieving her qualifications in acting, has gained a wealth of experience in the acting world, starring in a number of west end shows and plays. Most recently, Kirstie made a debut appearance in EastEnders and following on from this assembly, she has since been successful in achieving a permanent role in Casualty, which will be filmed in the new year. The key message behind this assembly was that 'anything is possible in life' you just have to 'want it' and 'work hard to achieve it'. Thank you to Kirstie Brough for giving up her time to share her experiences - Year 8 were truly inspired by your story!

Finally, I would like to say a big well done to all pupils who have undertaken the role of 'Student of the Day' so far. Without a doubt, Year 8 have proved to be the most professional, hardworking and dedicated young people that our reception staff have ever had the pleasure to work with, so on behalf of Ms Penny, her team, Mrs Atkinson and myself, I would like to congratulate 8GM & 8LM on your excellent attitude and work ethic to this role. You are a credit to Stewards!

As we break up for a well-deserved rest, I would just like to thank parents for their on-going support of the school and wish everybody a very safe, prosperous and merry Christmas!

Miss Holden Head of Year 8

Year 9

It has been a busy term for Year 9 and I am impressed with the way they have generally settled in to their GCSE studies. By now you will have received your son or daughter's IPR and will have a clearer idea about how they are working in each subject. The Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place on February 7th and is an important opportunity for you to speak to your child's subject teachers.

As this term draws to a close, I hope that Year 9 are beginning to realise how important this year is and how much it can influence their future. Hard work and dedication now, builds the foundations for success in Year 11 and avoids the stress and strain of 'catching up' work missed or not fully understood. This, added to excellent attendance and good study habits, means part of the battle is won.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and to thank you for your on-going support.

Ms Batterham Head of Year 9

Year Group Information

Year 10

We have some cause for celebration that I would like to share with you all. Three students in the year group have already achieved fantastic results in GCSE's : Emilija Pazaksina achieved an A* in Russian, Joshua Ntow also got an A* in French, and Shannon Andrews got an A in French. They were all presented with their certificates in a recent assembly, and I hope their success will encourage others to work hard to get the best possible results.

Ms Morley also recently received a letter from the Fire Service regarding 2 students. Chloe Russell and Jack Sprigg attended a Firebreak course in Harlow. They were praised for their positive attitude, hard work and achievements throughout the course.

Thanks to all those parents and students who recently attended the meeting regarding Work Experience. The overall attendance was excellent, and I hope that everybody benefited from receiving the information that was given out. Mrs Hampstead has received a number of enquiries as a result of that meeting, so it is gratifying to know that students and parents are working hard to find placements. Can I just remind everybody that for private placements we need to have confirmation that the placement has Public Liability insurance, and this needs to be done as soon as possible to enable the places to be checked out. This is done to ensure the safety and well-being of the students.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 10

Year 11

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you all on a wonderful start to your final year here. You have stepped up to the mark and worked hard during this term. I have been very pleased to see the take up of the Extended School Sessions. For many of you it is now second nature to stay in school and attend sessions that have given both your Core and Options subjects a boost. Many of you have seen the benefits of attending these after school sessions and if you need a copy of the Extended School Timetable please see me.

Our Prefects have fulfilled their duties with dedication and doggedness this term. The Head Boy/Girl have led an exemplary group of Prefects this term. They have earned the respect of both students and staff alike.

As this term has gone on I have seen you grow and mature into a Year Group who are known for their kindness and for being a good example to lower year groups. Not only are you stepping up as good students but you are becoming a group of mature young men and women.

You should now be well under way with your College and Sixth Form Applications. If you need any help completing them please see Mrs Hampstead or Mr Cooper as soon as possible.

This term has seen our Drama Students perform brilliantly in a production of Othello. Joe Mulligan and Aaron Murphy were both outstanding. Some of our singers were involved in the turning on of the Christmas lights in Harlow Town Centre and rehearsals are under way for what will be an amazing production next Spring.

Nqoba Mvitsho and Ellie Thompson, our EMPV Representatives, helped to produce a marvellous Cultural Food Event this year. They worked very hard to ensure that the event ran smoothly. Yet again, the food and entertainment were amazing. For the first time we had a Year Group table, representing the food of India.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how pleased I have been with how you have started this year. You have such a short time left now to make your mark on this year, make sure that it counts. I have always said that I believe that you have enormous potential. There is no substitution for the hard work that you will need to put in during the next few months. As I told you in my Assembly, your education will open so many doors for you in the future, it is in your hands.

Please do not hesitate to see me if you have any issues or concerns. My role is to support you and to ensure that you are supported during this vital time.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas, enjoy your holiday. Come back in the New Year refreshed and ready for the final few months of your time here at Stewards. As a Year Group you have so much to look forward to.

It is lovely to see Mrs Ramsey returning to school. She will be making a phased return to school over the next few weeks and is making a good recovery.

2013 is going to be your year to shine and I am proud to be working with you all.

Ms Ewington
Pastoral Support Manager

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

19th Christmas Concert 6.00pm
 20th Christmas Dinner
21st TERM ENDS-1pm

JANUARY

7th TERM STARTS
 9th Music School Enrolment 4.00-6.00pm
 16th Music School Starts 3.00pm
 17th Ski Trip Parents Evening (years 8 & 9) 6.00pm
 18th Trip to the Ballet (Sleeping Beauty) 5.00pm

FEBRUARY

7th Year 9 Parents Evening 4.00pm
 13th-17th New York Trip
18th-22nd HALF TERM

Christmas Card Competition Winners

1st



Fatimah Oseni 9RA

2nd



Alarna Mace 9VM

3rd



Awwal Kazeem 9RA

