



February  
2017

# Stewards Academy

## Newsletter



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

### HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents / Carers

The Governors have advertised for the post of Headteacher at Stewards Academy from September 2017 and are currently involved in a shortlisting process. The final day scheduled for interviews is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and if an appointment is made it will be announced shortly after that.

Congratulations to all Art students (past and present) whose work is currently on display at the Gibberd Gallery in the Civic Centre, and will be shown until the end of the "Harlow Open 17" Exhibition on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Megan Reynolds received a "Highly Commended" in recognition of her exhibit in the sculpture/model section. My thanks to the Young Curators who helped to organise the Art work for the exhibition: Ryan Lynch, Rosi Pite, Courtney Kelly, Emily Oliver, Laura Bracey-Currey and Karolina Mikolayova.



HARLOW OPEN 17

19<sup>th</sup> January 17 - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 17

Monday to Friday

There was a time when Harlow had a flourishing Music School provision in each secondary school however times have changed and few schools retain such provision today. Stewards does have a Music School, held on Wednesday evenings and we are currently in discussion with Essex Music Hub about how we may expand in future to incorporate more ensemble work, theory work and develop music technology.

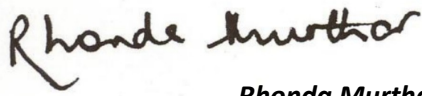
Parents may have heard in the media about the funding difficulties facing schools in the future as a result of underfunding education. Essex Headteachers have written to their MP to make them aware of the concerns. Stewards is no different from other schools in that we have been actioning efficiency savings and reducing costs over the last 18 months. While we are not facing the prospect of any drastic action at this point, governors are acutely aware of the financial constraints ahead and seeking to ensure government and parents are fully informed of the situation.

Stewards Sports Hall is scheduled to be ready in mid-March. The building is spacious and we are very pleased with the facilities. We are currently in the process of finalising the equipment order with a fully fitted Multi-Gym a popular addition to our overall sports provision. Like Stewards Swim Centre, it has always been our intention to open our facilities to the local community for lettings in the evenings, weekends and holidays. The official grand opening is planned for late April, after which the Sports Hall should be fully operational. Any enquiries about use of this facility should be addressed to Mrs Avis, Business Manager, at the school.

In the last Newsletter I informed parents that Stewards has received the acclaimed Recognition of Quality Award for Careers, Education, Information and Guidance and Work Related Learning. This term we have been working with Essex to develop specific links with a key employer as part of the National Careers and Enterprise Network programme. The idea behind it is to increase employer engagement activities within a school. Hopefully the business that we will be linked with will be able to support our work still further as a centre of excellence in preparing young people for the world of work.

Nominations have been received for the position of parent governor and an election will be held shortly.

Have a good half term.



**Rhonda Murthar**  
**Headteacher**

## **Governors Report**

As you will be aware Ms Murthar has decided, after over 27 years as Head of Stewards, to retire at the end of this academic year in July. I have known about this for some time and along with a group of governors have been making preparations to appoint her successor. We hope to do this before the end of this term, with a view to the new Head starting in September.

The work on the Sports Hall is progressing and we hope that it will be completed during the second half of this term with a planned formal opening after Easter. The governors are pleased to have been able to complete this facility and know that it will prove a valuable asset to both the school and the wider community.

**Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors**

## **School Closure Guidance**

Essex County Council has introduced a new system to allow parents/carers to access information about school closures faster and more effectively via the internet. The link to the relevant page is <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

Alternatively you can access the information by selecting the Essex County Council website, click on 'Education and Schools' at the bottom of the page, then select 'schools', 'dates' and 'emergency closures'. The Essex County Council website will be updated by Stewards Academy as soon as any decision to close has been made. The radio stations will still continue to support schools in advertising closures and will also refer listeners to the new Essex County Council website.

Any school closure will also be advertised on the Stewards Academy website and by e-mail via 'parent mail'. Please note that any decision to close the Academy will only be made in extreme circumstances.

# ParentMail

Our main method of communicating with parents is now ParentMail. If you are not already connected it is vitally important that you provide us with an up to date email address or mobile phone number in order for us to get you connected, so that you do not miss out on any important letters or messages.

## Lunch Overdrafts

Please ensure your child comes to school with either a packed lunch or has enough money in their cashless catering account to buy lunch. Pupils who have genuinely lost or forgotten their lunch money can come to the Academy's Finance Office to ask for a £1 overdraft on their account. Pupils must repay the £1 into their account the next working day. Persistent non-payers will not be allowed further overdrafts if money is still owed. Overdrafts are for emergencies only and are not to be used as a means for your child to buy 'extras' at break or lunchtime.

## ParentPay

**For those parents/carers who have not yet registered to use our secure on-line payment provider ParentPay, please contact our Finance Department for more information.**

This payment system enables you to securely top up your child's dinner money account and pay for school trips etc, via bank transfer so saving the time and inconvenience of having to write cheques or locate exact money. Processing payments this way also saves your child from having to spend time queuing to make payments during their break and lunchtime, when they would rather spend time with their friends.

**Mrs Avis, School Business Manager**

## Lost Property



As winter approaches and winter coats come out, Please remember to label all items that your child brings into school.

# Contact Details



If you have changed your telephone number or moved house please remember to inform the school office.

[studentsupport@stewardsacademy.org](mailto:studentsupport@stewardsacademy.org)

## Bike Shed



Please can I remind you that pupils who park their bicycle in the Academy bike shed do so at their own risk.

To ensure that their bike remains as secure as possible it is recommended that the bike is locked using a good quality D-lock.

## Charity News



Christmas Jumper Day - Staff and pupils wore their Christmas Jumpers to School on Thursday 15th December. A total of £289.37 was donated.

Year 7 girls did a collection and raised £62. This brings the total being donated to Save the Children over the festive period to £351.37.



A non uniform day was held on the last day of term, 21st December 2016, to raise extra funds for the charity supported by the year 11 boys who walked from Epping to Buckingham Palace, and in some cases walked back. A total of £439.72 was donated.



Rather than send Christmas cards to colleagues, staff donated £300 for St Clare Hospice.



The Senior Leadership Team donated £220 for Sightsavers which is a UK-based international charity which fights avoidable blindness and promotes equal opportunities for visually impaired people.



Year 8 Charity representatives decided to raise funds to support World Cancer Day. They baked and sold their cakes during break and lunchtime. Cakes were then sold at the Year 7 Parents Evening and all donations from refreshments on the evening have also been added to support the fundraising. The sum of £54.28 was raised.

Well done Year 8 for considering such a worthy charity.

# Charity News



On the 21<sup>st</sup> December Destiny Ayliffe delivered over 40 chocolate selection boxes and £120 donation to the local Harlow Charity, Streets2Homes. Keiran from the charity took delivery of the donations at the charity HQ in Wych Elm. Charity clients were going to be enjoying their

Christmas meal that day and each of them was given a selection box to finish their festive celebration. They were thoroughly enjoyed by all of the guests. Destiny Ayliffe and Daniel Mackenzie, both Year 10 Charity Reps, had worked hard to get the collection together, which came from both students and staff of our school.



## Stewards Christmas Appeal

School Council members rallied the Academy in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday with their 'Stewards Christmas Appeal'.

Six students, Amy Battelley, Hannah Donnan, Max Leijs, Freddie Mottram, Emily Oliver and Darcy Wylie, led the way with a PowerPoint presentation to each year group in assembly and the creation of posters that were put on display.

Other members of the School Council were on duty each day to collect items and to promote with their year groups. Items collected included food, toiletries and Christmas treats. In total the school community collected over 400 items in less than two weeks, a fantastic effort.

This was an excellent opportunity for the Academy to pull together and support those that are in need, particularly over the Christmas period. Max Leijs said: "I am proud of how our school supports the community and am pleased at the success of the collection."

We would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to the appeal either through their time or donations. In addition, we would like to thank Mrs Lucas, Mrs Larkin, Mrs Atkinson and the site staff for their support in gathering, sorting and delivering all of the items.

**Miss Johnson**





# SEN News

Welcome everyone,

My name is Joseph Greenaway I would like to make a short introduction to you in my new role as SENCO taking over from the former SENCO Chris Waters who has done, it must be said, a fantastic job running the SEN department. When the role came up for the position of SENCO I felt I was ready for a new challenge and believed I could make a valid contribution to this role.

One of the first things that I noticed when joining the department at the beginning of the year was how efficient and caring all the team are including LSA's and Learning Mentors. It was a real eye opener to see just how much work is done behind the scene in order to improve the academic and life chances of our pupils with Special Educational Needs. I would like to commend them all for their dedication and resilience and want to work with everyone to continue to develop and support the SEN team for the benefit of the department and pupils it supports.

Stewards Academy SEN department has achieved an awful lot and I want to continue this trend. Over the coming weeks, my aim is to put together a mission statement for the department and what we stand for, to look at our goals and see what it is we want to achieve over the coming years. One of the first initiatives will be the **Student Passport**. The Student Passport is a summary document about the individual pupil and this focusses on how both the teacher and the pupil themselves can maximise their learning and achievement. The passport adopts a very child centred approach and is created with the majority of input coming from the child themselves

I would like to leave you with these final words, each and every one of you has an important part to play in achieving our mission and goals and making a real difference to pupils' lives and it is important that we are inclusive of each individual.



# Food Technology

## Let's get cooking

### Afternoon Tea



The Food Technology Department have been running the Let's Get Cooking Club on a Thursday after school for the past two years. The club is open to selected year 7 pupils. They are invited to come along and widen their knowledge of food and nutrition and to develop their cooking skills. Each pupil produces a dish and is able to take it home to share with their family. On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the families of the year 7 pupils were invited to work alongside the pupils to produce an afternoon tea. They produced a wide variety of

sandwiches, scones and biscuits. Once all the preparation and cooking had been completed, the pupils and family members sat down together to sample their culinary delights. The afternoon was filled with fun, with a lovely atmosphere, and was a huge success. The family members that attended thanked the Food Technology Department and said how much they had all enjoyed it.



# Performing Arts

## Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge

Members of the school's first ever Glee Club, known collectively as 'Stewards Sound', are taking part in this year's Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge. With the help of Miss Thurley, Miss Trowsdale and Mr Barden, the students prepared a lively medley featuring the songs 'Don't Let Me Down' and 'Stitches', with a slick dance routine to match.

They were visited at school by an assessor who worked with them on specific sections of their routine and gave lots of useful guidance and feedback, before deciding that they were eligible for the boot camp stage of the competition. This took place at the end of November, and was an amazing opportunity for the students to work with industry professionals and receive lots of positive comments about their performance.

'Stewards Sound' performed at the Regional Final in Chelmsford on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Congratulations to all the finalists who sang and did so well.



## Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert took place at the end of last term and was a festive treat for the families and friends of Stewards who attended.

Students from the Lower School Dance Club opened the event with "It's the Most Beautiful Time of the Year" and this was followed by musical highlights from our GCSE Music students. The Year 9 Band played "Merry Christmas Everyone" and Year 10 bands played "Carol of the Bells", "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree".

Year 11 students appeared in smaller groups with duet performances of "Half the World Away", "Christmas Lights" and "Somewhere Only We Know". Also included was the Woodwind Ensemble led by Mr Reynolds, who performed the Wallace and Gromit theme tune and "Troika Wonderland".

Another highlight of the concert was the Glee Club, who showcased their entry to the Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge, "Don't Let Me Down/Stitches" and "Hold On" which they performed at the Regional Final.

The evening closed with a rendition of Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody", performed by the Rock Club and accompanied by the Glee Club singers.



# Performing Arts

## Music Success

Katie Swallow (7LCR) has recently taken her Grade 3 Saxophone exam and we are proud to announce that she has achieved a Pass with Merit at that grade. Katie has been attending lessons with Mr Reynolds and takes part in the Stewards Woodwind Ensemble, performing at school concerts and events.

## School Production

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*The Musical™*



*Legally Blonde JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle's high school boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, claiming she's not "serious" enough, Elle takes matters into her own hands, crafting a showy song-and-dance personal essay and charming her way into law school. Befriending classmate, Emmett, and spunky hairdresser, Paulette, along the way, Elle finds that books and looks aren't mutually exclusive. As Elle begins outsmarting her peers, she realises that law may be her natural calling after all.*

Cast and crew of this year's production have been working hard on making 'Legally Blonde Jr' a show to remember. Over the last few weeks the cast have been eagerly learning their lines, songs and dances with everything coming together for a full run through just before half term.

**'Legally Blonde Jr' will be performed on Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March 2017. You can follow Stewards Performing Arts on Twitter @stewardspa for the latest news and updates.**

Please keep an eye on the school website for further details.

# Work Related Learning

## Mock Interviews

Colleagues from local businesses and the community joined Governors at the annual Mock Interviews for our Year 11 students in December 2016.

These interviews took place over two days and the students dressed in smart attire and all looked very professional. In preparation for these interviews, students prepared a personal statement, ready for our interviewers to evaluate the content to then conduct an interview. Inviting students to share their ambitions for the future, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses, whilst also discussing their hobbies and personal interests can seem extremely daunting, but is invaluable practice for the future.

We prepare our students for the types of questions that they might be asked, along with practising handshakes, keeping eye contact and speaking with confidence. Our students are normally nervous before their interview, but leave feeling reassured and better prepared for future interviews.

All students are asked to complete an evaluation form, giving details of their experience, how they feel it went and where, perhaps, they could have improved. Some examples of these; *"I think that this experience has effectively shown me what a professional interview will be like"* and *"I think the interview went extremely well and I was very pleased with the feedback I received"*. These interviews are designed to prepare our students for future interviews they will have, including their upcoming College and Sixth Form interviews.

Our interviewers were extremely impressed with our students and their ambitions. We are sure that this practice will have given the students an insight into how an interview is conducted, along with helping their confidence and encouraging them to show themselves at their best. Some of the feedback we received from our interviewers' included: *"Excellent programme for students. Allows them to understand the process of interviews. Allows them to understand how to improve"* and *"All students made good eye contact and most were confident. They had clearly thought through the questions and their answers. All students were very polite"*.

Thank you to Stewards Academy friends for supporting our Year 11 students;

Steve Pope, John Taylor, David Guest, Jeff Tarling, Kim Allan, Mike Makai, Bob Crosby, Tom Jacobs, Andy Tomlinson, Aysha Riaz Idrees, John McCabe, Steve Dodd, Stewart Luck, Karen Kingsmill, Shahed Choudhury, Pat Hillier, Neil Banks, Barry Muncer, Tracy Eve, Leanne Bondy, Susan Goodwin and Karen Hughes.

## Work Experience

Judging by the conversations we have been having with Year 10 students during the past few weeks about their work experience placements, it seems there will be students enjoying opportunities with many different companies. We have had confirmed placements in restaurants, nurseries, accountancy firms, Primary Schools (to name a few). We look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they complete their placement (work experience takes place 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May). More details and final preparation for all students will take place next term.

**Any outstanding placement forms should be returned to Mrs Rogers, Mr Cooper or Miss Care ASAP.**

# Work Related Learning

## Writtle College Trip

Two groups of students who are currently studying the Land Based Course at Pets Corner, Harlow were given the opportunity to visit Writtle College for the day in December. Whilst we were at the College we were able to see lots of different animals as well as helping to change food and help feed the mammals and amphibians. The students were also shown around the campus, including the aviary and outside animal enclosures.

The students were also extremely fortunate that they were able to visit the equestrian centre which was just a small drive away. During their visit they were able to see students working with the horses and were able to visit the horses in their stables. They were also able to see the pig farm, and learn about the breeding programme and the importance of wearing protective clothing to minimise the risk of infection transfer. The instructor explained how this helps the farm to be self-financed, which enables the programme to continue for the benefit of the students at Writtle College.

Throughout the day the instructors were very informative about different animals and the correct care for them. The students had a fantastic day and learnt lots of useful information ready to take back to the classroom at Pets Corner.

A massive thank you to the staff at Pets Corner and Writtle College.



*Miss Care, Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator*

# Writers' Club

## Talented writers begin exciting work at Stewards.

Ms. Cadden and I were delighted to welcome some wonderful year 6 pupils from Milwards and Katherines to Stewards Academy on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. They were here for our first cross-phase writers' club.

The pupils worked incredibly hard during a challenging two hour session and we were extremely impressed with their creativity, collaboration and enthusiasm.

Year 6 pupils worked closely with some of our most talented year 7 writers during the session, who were specially selected to be writing mentors. Year 7 rose to the challenge impressively and could not have been more mature or helpful. Their former teachers were amazed at how brimming with confidence they are; they have really blossomed during their first term at Stewards. It was a pleasure to work with them.

During the session pupils discussed their favourite stories; devised a recipe for an amazing story; shared ideas to enhance their vocabulary and wrote a piece inspired by an iconic image. They also gave high quality constructive feedback.

After school sessions will take place on Tuesdays.

We are hoping to publish a cross-phase anthology before the end of the year and we are excited to continue our work together.

A huge thank you to the pupils involved.



*Miss Feeney (English Department)*

# STEM

It has been an exciting start to 2017 here at Stewards for all staff and students involved with our STEM clubs. Both our Raspberry Pi and Rocket Clubs are full steam ahead to do well in the competitions in April.

## Raspberry Pi

After their initial computer programming apprenticeship, our young computer whiz kids have started the design stage of their Raspberry Pi operated robot which will compete with other students at the Pi Wars Challenge in Cambridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. We're already well on the way after deciding what categories and challenges we will compete in, and we've also decided on the basic structure of our robot. In order to get a bit more research done the team, Mr. Cooper, and I decided to travel to the BETT show (British Education Training and Technology) event in London's Docklands on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Our students got to view and experience some of the most cutting edge educational tools available including the chance to speak to some of

the Raspberry Pi experts who were in attendance. One crucial bit of information that the students learned was to be very careful in choosing the right kind of wheels for the robot, as we noticed in a demonstration that some of the robots struggled to move quickly due to lack of grip with the floor surface. The students also got the opportunity to do some Minecraft coding using Raspberry Pi's, solve some geometry puzzles using virtual reality, experience space travel to the sounds of David Bowie



in an inflatable planetarium, oh and did I mention that they also got to build their very own Bloodhound rocket car (and test it!) with a little help from the RAF. As if the day couldn't get better all students were given a free BBC Microbit Go programmable computer after they attended a lecture on the importance of STEM career pathways today in the UK. An absolutely fantastic day and big congratulations to all the students whose attitude and behaviour all day was exemplary!

Quotes from the BETT show day:

Murat Sedovs: "The visit was both fun and educational and I got to talk to people that work in the same technology industry that I would like to work in eventually. I also went to a Raspberry Pi workshop and I was able to share my knowledge and learn something new".

Damion Wint: "I enjoyed going into the Planetarium as you could see everything all around you. I also learnt how to code in different ways. It was fun and I really want to go back next year".



# STEM

## Rocket Club

3...2...1...We're almost ready for lift off. Stewards Academy Rocket Club is well ahead of schedule thanks to some outstanding team work from our two teams and some help from our new STEM ambassador Mr. Dawson who has over 30 years engineering experience. The two teams have designed a total of 4 stable rockets which we predict will fully meet all requirements and criteria for the UK south-eastern finals on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. This year's rocket specifications and requirements have been the most challenging to date and have required some real creativity and ingenuity from our students. I've been flabbergasted by how well these two teams have stepped up to the challenge. I sense another fruitful competition for Stewards Academy in the wind!

Could I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Fiddes in Technology for his technical assistance to our STEM clubs.

**Mr Flood**

## CREST in a day

2017 is set to be an exciting year for Stewards Academy in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Upcoming activities include CREST in a day, Faraday Challenge, Rocketry Club and Little planes.

All year 8 students will have the opportunity to take part in the CREST challenge. It will be the *Practical Action challenge* called *Beat the Flood*. CREST is the British Science Association's flagship programme providing science enrichment activities designed to inspire and engage school pupils with hands-on science through investigations and enquiry-based learning. The day will give all the students the opportunity to take part in this team-based project with a real world context and to demonstrate problem solving, independent learning, organisation, teamwork, and communication skills.

**Mr Perrin – Head of Science**

**Mrs C. Brough – STEM Co-ordinator**



## Christmas Lectures

As part of the Stewards Enrichment Programme Year 7 students were amazed and enthralled when they took part in the science department's ever popular Christmas lecture series. The students took a trip to the Winter Wonderland Lab and observed flying teabags; expanding, foaming elephant toothpaste; the mysteries of the invisible test tubes as

well as exploding and flaming methane bubbles. In the Christmas Delight Lab the students heard the infamous screaming jelly babies; they witnessed icing sugar make a sweet tin explode and even found out how to set fire to money without burning it. In the Very Metal Christmas Lab students designed and created their own Christmas tree decorations using copper wire and beads, after learning about the properties of metals.



**Mr Perrin – Head of Science**

# Art and Design

## Gibberd Gallery

On Thursday 20th January the Gibberd Gallery hosted the Private View for the annual Open Exhibition. The Open was accompanied by a schools exhibition curated by this year's Young Curators (Emily Oliver, Laura Bracey-Curry, Karolina Mikolayova).

Stewards Academy entered work by year 10 students who have been developing sculptural pieces based on the title 'Ordinary and/or Extraordinary' in which pupils worked with a variety of different media including: card, wire, tissue paper and Modroc. Megan Roach (year 8) independently entered a still life painting into the exhibition.

I would like to congratulate Emily, Laura, Karolina and the other Young Curators for creating an impressive exhibition that looked professional and highly considered. The quality of the sculpture produced by the year 10 pupils and the independence and resourcefulness of Megan Roach is excellent and they should feel very proud of their work and what they have achieved.

Corrina Dunlea, the gallery's director took sculptures by Lois Brown and Carlie Smith to a Civic Event focusing on architecture as examples of what young people are studying in school. Megan Reynolds received a commendation (recognition for excellence) for her piece of sculpture based on orchids.



Come and see the wide variety of talent that helps drive the artistic hub of Essex

Harlow Open 17 features artwork selected purely on merit, making every Harlow Open a unique event.

**Exhibition Open 19th January – 3rd March**

Monday - Friday: 9am - 4:45pm

01279 446404 [www.gibberdgallery.co.uk](http://www.gibberdgallery.co.uk) [gallery@harlowarttrust.org.uk](mailto:gallery@harlowarttrust.org.uk) Gibberd Gallery, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow

Gibberd

Harlow

Essex

Essex

Essex

Essex

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Essex

Essex



Lois Brown



Carlie Smith



Emily Oliver, Laura Bracey-Curry and Karolina Mikolayova



Megan Roach



Shannon Hampson



# Art and Design

Congratulations to Courtney Kelly, Ryan Lynch and Rosi Pite for completing the Young Curators Course at the Gibberd Gallery. This is a huge undertaking with high levels of commitment. Courtney and Rosi also achieved the Silver Arts Award.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda Westbury (Education Officer) at the Gibberd Gallery and her amazing team for the hard work and opportunities they have given to the pupils at Stewards Academy. Exhibiting work in a gallery space is a crucial part of being an artist and allows pupils to explore the professional elements of the subject. The young Curators Course allows pupils to explore new and exciting concepts, the pupils involved have all grown as individuals and have developed a greater depth of knowledge and experience.

Congratulations to Hazel Cash (previous candidate of the Young Curators course) for successfully applying for a position at the Gibberd Gallery to assist artists offering workshops at the Gibberd Gallery. This is a part of the Harlow is 70 celebrations; activities and workshops are free and suitable for adults and young people.



Mr White, Art Department



# Art and Design - PTI

This year Stewards Academy has entered the P.T.I (Prince's Teaching Institute) Christmas Card Competition. I would like to congratulate the following year 8 pupils for the hard work and quality of their entries. The observational paintings and drawings have been developed from still lives in pencil, watercolour and colouring pencils.



Lauren Miller



Alise Horsta



Cherifa Hanouti



Matylda Szczerba



Molly Fincham



# PE

Over the last few weeks there haven't been many fixtures against other schools but that doesn't mean that we have stood still twiddling our thumbs in the PE Department; there has been a full timetable of practices and clubs going on every single evening after school ranging from football to trampolining and table tennis.

In February the football season starts and lots of boys and girls from every year group have been out in the cold (very cold!) and wet showcasing their talents with the hope that they get to don the Stewards shirt against other schools in the West Essex area. I know we are hoping for great success this year from all year groups but know the standard across the town is getting higher and higher which makes the task ahead of our students that little bit tougher. Good luck to all teams and I look forward to hearing about your games when they happen.

## **Year 8 Sports Council**

Our names are Skye Stevens, Emmie Harrison-Stent, Kye Hasler and Franklin Nzeh and we form the year 8 Sports Council. We organise inter-form events and prepare upcoming sport events during tutorials for our year group. We have been elected as Sport Captains for our form by our peers. This had led us to being interviewed by Ms McGarry and Mr Preece. We were chosen out of 16 other pupils. We are all so grateful to have this position and we try our best to succeed in our role of Sports Council. The first inter-form competition that we organised ourselves was a fitness challenge where students had to complete the bleep test. Emmie came up with the idea and it went forward. Each form has 4 girls and 4 boys nominated to do the bleep test. Each individual's scores were added together to get a total for each form group. We are now working on a new inter-form competition which is skipping; although that may sound easy you will not be able to succeed without teamwork and that is the message we are trying to give out. We use teamwork to make inter-forms fun and enjoyable and to lead warm ups for any sport activities. We are enjoying our time as Sports Council and we hope we will make a good sports role models for Stewards to be proud of.

## **Year 10 v 11 Annual Christmas Game**



# PE

A big well done to all the players who took part, a hugely entertaining game, played with great spirit!

The pitch was in fantastic condition which allowed for a free following game. Although the game finished 8-1 to year 11, the result doesn't do justice to how well the year 10s played throughout the whole game. Goal scorers were Ryan Lynch 4, Samir Ali 3 and Taylor Young 1 with Gift Osazee picking up the goal for the year 10 teams.

Year 11 have won every game played so far, will this always be the case...?

2014 result – 7-0

2015 result – 6-3

2016 result – 8-1

## **My Sporting Hero**

On Saturday 10 December 2016, I was lucky to be on a netball workshop run by Jo Harten, England's number one Netball shooter and Trans-Tasman league's Most Valuable Player and Serena Guthrie England's Wing Defence. Jo and Serena gave me tips, tricks and showed me how the England team warm up. One netball drill they showed me was called milkshake, which tests timing your run and throwing. The England team do this drill during training and before a match. Jo and Serena also had a Q&A session where they shared some of their experiences, such as the recent England v Jamaica series, which I watched on TV. After the workshop they posed for photos and signed my new netball. I am hoping to get autographs of some of the other England players when I go to the 'Super Ten' on Saturday 25 February 2017, when ten top netball teams all play on the same day.

Fact file

Name:	Jo Harten	Serena Guthrie
Age:	27	26
Height:	6ft 2"	5ft 11"
Hometown:	Harlow	Jersey
Positions played:	GS / GA	WD / WA
Netball teams:	Both play for England and Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Giants	

Name:	Megan Roach
Age:	12
Height:	5ft 4"
Hometown:	Harlow
Positions played:	GA / C
Netball teams:	Tegate and Stewards Academy Year 8

Megan Roach Year 8

# PE

## **Football**

This half term has seen the introduction of football in to the extra-curricular calendar. This has proven very popular with the year 7's. Numbers at training have exceeded 50 already during the initial sessions. This is likely to rise further with tournaments and fixtures commencing after the half term break.

## **Futsal**

We took 9 pupils to Passmores to compete in Futsal before half term. Futsal is a fast paced indoor football competition. Due to the high numbers we were able to field 2 teams on the evening. The two teams remained unbeaten when playing against rival schools. Their only defeat occurred when they faced off against each other. This meant that the two teams finished first and second.

The players who represented the school in the competition were; Mark Fulop, Wisdom Idehen, Danny Raymond, Kennedy Mupomba, Liam Short, Tom Whitefield, Jack Willis, Nosa Osayande and Louie Dodge.

Year 7 Futsal Results		
Tournament Opponents	Result(s)	Scorers
Passmores - Stewards A		
Passmores	Won 1-0	Kennedy
MarkHall	Won 1-0	Liam,
Stewards B	Won 3-2	Kennedy x2, Danny
Passmores - Stewards B		
Mark Hall	Drew 1-1	Tom W
Passmores	Won 1-0	Tom W
Stewards A	Lost 3-2	Nosa x2

## **Indoor Cricket**

The year 7 boys had their first experience of cricket at Stewards with the introduction of indoor cricket. Training was conducted alongside the year 8's and numbers have steadily improved, despite it being the wrong season for cricket.

The year 7/8's are entered in to an indoor cricket competition at Shenfield School. The winners will progress to the finals to be held at the Graham Gooch cricket centre at Essex cricket club. This will take place in the last week before half term.

## **Year 7 Girls Football**

The year 7 girls competed in their final tournament of the year at Passmores. Although starting slowly, losing their first match against St Marks, they remained unbeaten in the remaining fixtures, winning two and drawing one and finishing in a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Emily Kelsey in her first competitive matches finished top scorer with 3 goals and Josie Holloway scored the other.

# PE



**Year 7 Girls;** Emily Kelsey, Niamh Hanrahan, Katie Swallow, Lily Hill, Alina Cikuna-Zikuna, Ashleigh Snowdon, Josie Holloway, Willow Fry, Eva Hart, Shifah Raza, Jessica Purser, Charlotte Eels.

Due to the year 7's enthusiasm with football, they were rewarded with entry in to the English Schools 9 a side School's cup competition. This enthusiasm was put to the test with a two hour trip in to the centre of London to play Pimlico Academy. This match proved a step too far for the girls as they were comprehensively beaten against a more experienced side. There were some notable performances from the team, with Daisy Poole voted player of the match, Lili Hartgrove performing well in goal and Eva Fordham showing plenty of endeavour throughout.



**Year 7 Girls;** Ashleigh Snowdon, Jessica Purser, Niamh Hanrahan, Lili Hartgrove, Josie Holloway, Elise Smart, Willow Fry, Daisy Poole, Charlotte Eels, Megan Philpott, Eva Hart.

The numbers continue to increase and this added competition will ensure that the girls progress still further in the future. Thank you to Mr Davies for your continued time and support in coaching the girls team.



# PE

## Table Tennis

With the success of the U16 girls' team in winning the Essex competition, we had high hopes when entering the singles event.

For the qualifying event at Mark Hall, we provided two players in each age group for the U13's and U16's boys and girls. The standard was very good with players ranked as high as number 3 in Essex competing. Amie Stingemore and Sophie Willitt finished in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively and were the sole competitors from Stewards Academy to progress to Essex finals.

The next round of the competition was played at Batts Table Tennis Club, Norman Booth Centre and there was a big step up in the quality of table tennis being played, with the best players in Essex involved.

Amie won 5 and lost 2 of her games finishing in an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and therefore qualifying for the next round. Sophie Willitt won 2 and lost 5 of her games and finished in a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place overall, a superb achievement by both girls.



Amie Stingemore and Sophie Willitt pictured.



A special mention to the following pupils; Maksims Sokolov, Lewis Willitt, Daniel Monk, Thomas Whitefield, Josie Holloway, Holly Keys-Kidd and Jamie Law for umpiring throughout the tournament. They did a superb job and were rewarded with a lovely pink sports leaders t-shirt.

**Mr Sanders**

# Pool and Lettings

Stewards Academy is fortunate to have a swimming pool. The pool staff are all employees of the Academy and are committed to providing a great service to Stewards pupils and neighbouring Primary Schools during the day, with the pool being available to the wider community in the evening and at weekends.

Stewards Swim School offers a range of swimming sessions during the week, some of which are shown below.



## Swimming Lessons

We provide a complete programme of swimming lessons for children aged 5 to 16 years. Our team of fully qualified teachers are dedicated to delivering the best lessons for all our pupils.

We also have our own swim and reward scheme that dovetails with the ASA Learn to Swim Pathway, which uses fun and games to take children from their first splashes to full competence in the water.



## Birthday Parties

Every Saturday afternoon Stewards is opened to anyone who wants to have a birthday party at the pool. The children get one hour exclusive use of the pool and then time to get together for a feast provided by the birthday hosts.



## Aqua Aerobics

Stewards is not just about the children though, adults get their chance too.

Aqua Aerobics is a fun way to keep fit to music without putting stress on your joints and muscles. Kelly Church is our qualified instructor with many years of experience to deliver great sessions that will inspire you to continue on your journey to a fitter, healthier lifestyle.



## Adult Swimming Lessons

We also offer swimming lessons for adults. Our fully qualified teachers are in the water, helping to build confidence, enabling even the most nervous individuals to enjoy the water and learn to swim.



### From Stewards Academy Swim School pupil to County Champion

Ex Stewards Academy pupil Mason Arnold started his swimming journey with lessons at Stewards Pool. He has gone on to be a Harlow Penguins Champion in multiple events and also a County Champion at 200 Metres Butterfly. Mason also represented Harlow at the British National Championships coming a commendable 9th place in the 4 x 100 Metre Freestyle Relay.



If you would like to find out more about the sessions offered at the pool please phone 01279 772521.

# Year Group

## Year 7

As we draw a close to the first half of the second term in Year 7, I would like to highlight a few key events that have taken place this side of Christmas.

E-Safety has played a key focus in tutorial and assembly time and has covered an array of content including; privacy online, the dangers of the internet, internet safety, the law regarding possessing, sending and receiving images and videos and the consequences of breaking these laws. It has also explored sexting, tweeting and the meaning of the term 'digital footprint'. To develop knowledge and understanding of e-safety online, pupils have undertaken a range of activities linked to these topics, examples of which include; role play, poster making and whole class discussions. Pupils have also viewed a selection of e-safety resources online, endorsed by 'CEOP' –the official 'Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre'.

An emphasis on 'responsibility' has played a key role this half term and pupils were given the opportunity to demonstrate this in a 5R extra-curricular challenge. The challenge involved working together in teams to firstly explore the meaning of the term responsibility and then to select a responsibility task to promote this concept. Pupils could choose from an array of visual, verbal, kinaesthetic and auditory tasks and each individual had to take responsibility for planning/leading different aspects of the challenge. The evening was well attended by the majority of year 7 and all pupils participated willingly with great energy and enthusiasm. Pupils produced a range of work including posters, raps and drama pieces, all of which were very impressive, and this, alongside participation at all 5 challenges, will go towards receiving a prestigious 5R badge at the end of the year. Well done to all those who gave up their time after school to do this!

Learning walks across the curriculum, carried out by myself and Mrs Atkinson have proved to be very productive this half term and most pupils appear to have raised the bar, with regards to their attitude to learning and progress in lessons. Levels of attainment have continued to increase across the majority of the year group and pupils have developed a good level of maturity and professionalism towards their studies. The additional maths programme introduced this half term to help pupils identified as falling behind or having gaps in their learning is working very well and is proving extremely beneficial in raising attainment. Similarly, the Renaissance Reading scheme is also having a significant impact on reading levels and in turn, is having a positive effect on literacy across the curriculum.

To monitor pupil progress across the curriculum, Stewards operates a fortnightly yes/no checking system. This system is a simple tracking tool that teachers use to clearly identify what subjects pupils are behind in or what learning skills pupils need to improve upon. I am pleased to report that Year 7 are making good progress with their yes/no data and have worked hard over the last term and a half to close any gaps in their studies. Pupils are responding well to feedback provided from their teachers and I have seen a marked improvement over time in the quantity and quality of work produced and attitudes to learning across the curriculum. I would like to make a plea to all parents however, to support us every fortnight in our quest to get pupils off of their no's by firstly, talking with your child about what subjects they are on no's for and finding out the reasons why (page 27 in pupil planners) and secondly, encouraging your child to 'ACT' on this information and to RESPOND to advice given. The purpose of this system is to prevent pupils from falling behind or going off track in their learning, so the more conversations you can have with your child about keeping on top of their work and staying focused in lessons, the more likely they are to be successful in their studies.

# Year Group

## Year 7 Continued

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all parents who were able to take the time to attend your child's first ever parents evening at secondary school. The evening was very successful and I was pleased to see such a high turn-out for this event. It really does make such a difference to a child's learning prospects when parents work collaboratively with the school, so thank you for supporting your child to achieve the best that they can be, and thank you for supporting the staff who work tirelessly to give your child the best possible education.

**Miss Holden, Head of Year 7**

## Year 8

We are now half way through the school year and the enthusiasm, motivation and enjoyment to learn is still evident amongst the Year 8's. As I walk into tutor groups and lessons there is a great buzz in the air and it is clear to see that students are working hard in preparation for their options.

Although the standard of work is very pleasing amongst Year 8's, I am a little concerned about the quality of homework being handed in. Therefore, I would like all parents to support staff by checking planners and the finished articles to ensure deadlines are met. Homework is a key part to student life. Not only does homework support the classroom learning, but it also enhances life skills such as time management, organisation and dedication.

In life we all struggle with choices, however, you do not need to worry or panic. When the time comes to choose your options, you will have had plenty of advice from those around you. You will have assemblies from each subject area, myself, the careers advisers and students who were in your position last year. I'm sure by now you have an idea of what you would like to study but I would advise that you don't close your mind off to any option at this early stage. Upper schools courses evening will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> March but until then here are some helpful tips to help your thinking.

**Let the choices be yours** – don't let your parents or friends decide for you. Don't choose a subject just because your friends are.

**Think about your future** – Think about your 'A' levels and college course. Will your options support these courses?

**Choose the subject not the teacher** – The subject is more important than the teacher. In the long term teachers will change but the subject will carry you through.

**Interest** – What will keep you focused and enthusiastic?

Options can be a very stressful time. But remember that thousands of pupils get through this step and thrive. Options can open new doors and there is plenty of help along the way!

Enjoy your break.

**Miss Mc Garry, Head of Year 8**



# Year Group

## Year 9

This last half term seems to have flown by, and we have now already completed a half of the year. It was lovely to be able to send a letter home to 45 students who have received at least 75 merits since the beginning of the year. The highest number in the year group at the moment is 119, earned by Libby Morland - Banks, followed very closely by Matthew Hatchwell with 118. This doesn't surprise me as both students get fully involved in a number of extra – curricular activities, and offer to prefect at evening events.

On the other hand it is disappointing to note that in the last quick check 69 students had at least one No for not reaching the standards of work or behaviour required in lessons. These students now have to find out what to do to get onto a Yes and achieve this before the catch up session.

Students must remember to put all their homework in their planners, so that you as parents can check to see what is being set. Tutors will now be keeping a much closer eye on this, but please do not hesitate to contact tutors if you feel that not enough homework is being given.

**Mrs Ellis, Head of Year 9**

## Year 10

The preparations for Work Experience are well underway and I am pleased to report that pupils have put much thought and effort into making their selections. There are still a number of pupils who have yet to arrange this however and this must be done as a matter of urgency.

Over the coming weeks pupils will have their placements confirmed and may be expected to contact employers to arrange to attend an interview prior to embarking on their work experience. This will be an opportunity for pupils to introduce themselves and to ask any questions they may have about their placement. Being well organised is vital to a successful placement and pupils should start to prepare for the call to employers and the interview process in good time.

Organisation is also key to academic success and we ask for your continued support in making sure that independent study and homework is completed and submitted in good time. When signing your child's planner please discuss the tasks set. Ask them to explain what they need to do to ensure that they understand the task. Discuss how they plan to complete the task and confirm the deadline for the work to be submitted. This will allow you to build a clear picture of the work your child has been set and will be an opportunity for your child to discuss any issues with you. Should you have any questions regarding homework, please contact the relevant subject teacher, rather than your child's tutor, as they are the experts in that field.

The third of our 5Rs Challenge days, which focused on *Responsibility*, saw Yr10 pupils leading and supporting the younger members of our school community. There were a range of tasks and something to suit all tastes, including producing a blog or advice column, composing a rap or song, preparing a coaching session or presentation and using art, drama or poetry to explore what it means to be responsible. Those who chose to participate proved themselves to be ambassadors for the year group and mentors for younger pupils, evidence I think, of their maturity and dedication to school life.

**Mrs Ramsey, Head of Year 10**

# Year Group

## Year 11

Excellent work!

What a great way to start 2017 – sitting exams! All of you, however have been fantastic and have been very mature and well behaved throughout each one. The exams have been a real test for you and I hope your results will help you prepare and plan for the ones that start in only 10 weeks time. Remember, success is built upon failure. Getting things wrong and making mistakes is ok, you just need to plan and prepare so that you don't make the same mistakes again.

The time you have left is very short here at Stewards, and I really can't express how important it is to make every week a priority. Use your planner, calendar and revision guides to help you organise your time wisely. Work out a plan so that you revise for each subject accordingly. If you need any support, please remember we are here to help.

Don't forget about your College applications either please. You can apply for as many different educational establishments as you like, but we do like everyone to put an application in for Harlow College. You need to do this so you can keep your options open. Again, if you are unsure about what to do, please come and see us.

New Yorkers – have a fantastic time! Be safe, and enjoy every moment. It is one amazing place.

**Mr G Hughes, Head of Year 11**

# Voucher Collection

## SAINSBURY SCHOOL VOUCHERS



Sainsbury's  
**Active Kids 2017**  
Eat well • Move well • Live well

Sainsbury's have begun this year's 'Active Kids' voucher scheme. We would be very grateful if parents, carers, friends and family could donate their vouchers to our school. Vouchers can be brought into the Library.

# Attendance

## ATTENDANCE

### IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

#### PERSISTENT ABSENCE

- IF YOUR ATTENDANCE FALLS BELOW **90%** YOU ARE CLASSED AS BEING PERSISTENTLY ABSENT
- IN LINE WITH THIS THE ATTENDANCE TEAM WILL START **EARLY** INTERVENTION IF ANY PUPIL SHOWS A DECLINE IN THEIR ATTENDANCE AND THEY FALL BELOW OUR SCHOOL TARGET OF 96%

IN ORDER FOR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED AT SCHOOL IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY ATTEND ON A REGULAR BASIS AND BE PUNCTUAL

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL EVEN IF:

IT IS THEIR BIRTHDAY

THEY HAVE A HEADACHE

FEELING 'UNDER THE WEATHER'

(Should you child become unwell enough not to be in school – our Welfare Technician will contact you)

#### PUNCTUALITY

**8.40am** – ALL PUPILS EXPECTED TO BE IN SCHOOL

**8.45am** – PERIOD 1 BEGINS

Being late for school causes disruption to the learning of others and your child

*(pupils arriving late for school will be issued a detention)*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Term time is school time – please do not take your child out of school for a holiday.

#### ABSENCE

**(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**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THESE MATTERS**

**FROM THE ATTENDANCE TEAM**

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### FEBRUARY

##### 13TH - 17TH

##### HALF TERM

23rd

Yr 11 Parents Evening 4:00—7:00pm

28th

Yr 8 High Attainers Event 5:00—6:00pm

#### MARCH

2nd

GCSE Drama Y 9 & 10 Theatre Trip to see 'The Crucible' 1:00 - 6:00pm

6th

Y8 Faraday Challenge at St Marks

7th

Ski Trip Awards Evening

9th

Upper School Courses Evening

27th

Y10 History Trip to IWM Duxford

28th

Y7 Trip to Verulamium, St Albans

28th - 30th

Production

31st

TERM ENDS - 1pm

#### APRIL

18th

TERM STARTS

19th

Vaccinations Year 9 girls

Music School Enrolment 3:30 - 5:30

20th

Vaccinations Year 9 boys

Ardèche Parents Evening 6:00

26th

Music School Starts 3:15

Yr 10 New York Parents Evening 6:00

### ADVANCE NOTICE

#### INSET DAYS 2017 - 2018

INSET 1	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
INSET 2	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
INSET 3	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
INSET 4	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018
INSET 5	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018

### ABSENCE LINE

The absence line to report pupil absence is

**01279 772511**

Please give your child's name, tutor group and reason for their absence. Please follow up the absence with a note on the **first day back** explaining why your child has been absent from school

**Attendance Team**