



Christmas  
2015

# Stewards Academy

## Newsletter



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

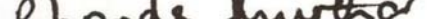
### HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils

The range of opportunities offered by our staff to Stewards pupils never ceases to amaze me. In the Christmas Newsletter here are some of the exciting educational events that we have organised this term:-



Our Place 2 Be Manager Sara Loveday will be moving to a promoted post in the New Year. Sara has been a wonderful supporter of our students and manager of the Place 2 Be service since the very beginning and I would like to thank her for her professionalism and commitment and wish her well. Sara will keep in touch with Stewards on a regular basis in her new role. We welcome Jo Diribe as Sara's replacement in the New Year. Best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas.



**Rhonda Murthar**  
**Headteacher**

**Rhonda Murthar**  
**Headteacher**

# Governors Report

In closing may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

**Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors**

# Charity News

★ The total raised for Children In Need  
★ was **£1,297.04** — nearly  
★ £300 more than last year!  
★ Well done and thank you to everyone  
★ who donated.





# Stewards Academy students meet HRH The Duchess of Cambridge

Stewards Academy was thrilled to accept the honour of being the only secondary school invited to present at the prestigious bi-ennial Headteachers' Conference in London for Place2Be, a children's mental health charity.

HRH The Duchess of Cambridge is the Patron of this charity and her attendance at the Conference was eagerly anticipated by one and all. Place2Be has been an integral part of the support network available to pupils at Stewards for several years. It has run under the guidance of School Project Manager Sara Loveday.

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Erwood, Inclusion Manager Mr Naunton and Sara Loveday attended the conference, accompanied by two pupils, Lucie and Harry, who had the privilege of addressing the delegates.

Lucie and Harry spoke with enormous confidence and sincerity about the importance of having such a service available to pupils in secondary schools. HRH The Duchess of Cambridge listened to their speeches attentively.

The Stewards party was allowed to greet The Duchess on her arrival and Lucie and Harry were given pride of place in the front row. During the afternoon break, the two pupils and their Deputy Headteacher were presented to The Duchess, who had herself already made a very powerful and moving speech about the importance of prioritising children's mental health issues.

Both Lucie and Harry and Mrs Erwood were later interviewed by ITV for the evening news. With forty years' experience of teaching in Harlow, the Deputy Headteacher spoke of how important it is to be mindful of the pressures which we place on children today:

*"We must ensure that we look to their mental well-being as much as their physical well-being, as they are the parents of tomorrow, and organisations such as Place2Be can play a vital role in this process."*

Catherine Roche, CEO of Place2Be said: *"Stewards Academy is doing excellent work to promote positive mental health and ensure that young people get the support they need at the earliest possible stage, and we were delighted to welcome them to our Headteacher Conference. We hope all schools across Harlow and beyond will follow suit and give pupils' well-being the attention it deserves."*



# Student & Parent Event

## YEAR 7 STUDENT AND PARENT TEACHING AND LEARNING EVENING

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 93 Year 7 parents had the opportunity to return to school to experience first-hand the quality of education delivered at Stewards Academy. Parents were able to select from a range of subjects from the curriculum and participate in a lesson with their son or daughter. The evening was a great success with parents commenting on how enjoyable and informative the evening was. As a school we recognise the importance of the transition process and always endeavour to build upon the pupils' primary school experience. A key part of this process is to build positive relations with our parents ensuring that they are fully informed about how best to support their son/daughter. Below are just a few quotes from the evening

*'Katie has settled very well even though she was very nervous. Really enjoying challenges and teachers. Hope she keeps it up, I know she will do well!'*

*'We have been well informed, inclusive programme of events, approachable staff and welcomed, both child and parent!'*

*'He has loved coming to school daily and loves getting involved in all activities.'*

*'I feel Megan's education has progressed hugely as she enjoys what she is learning.'*

Please note no parents were set any detentions or received any lines during the course of the evening. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



**Mr Scholtes, Deputy Headteacher**

## Technology News

The Technology Department asked pupils and staff to produce creative Christmas tree decorations and the competition was fierce with many entries. Thank you to everyone who entered, as you all helped to bring Christmas spirit to the Technology Department.



The winning pupils are: Libby Morland-Banks 8DJ, Amy Raymond 8MR, Daisy Burns 8EB, Rosie Smith 8EB and Megan Bailey 8EB, and well done to Ms Darling who showed her creativity in producing this decoration. I'm sure you will agree that they all look fantastic.

**Mrs Martin, Technology Department**



**Ms Darling's decoration**



# Freedom Parade

Students from Stewards Academy paid their respects to the Royal Anglian Regiment, for the resilience, service and sacrifice shown by our brave heroes and to welcome our troops back home at The Freedom March. The Royal Anglian Regiment is a battle group in the British Army who were given the right to march in the town since being given the freedom of Harlow in 2012. They formed up by Harlow Post Office and marched through the town centre amidst cheering crowds to finish with an inspection outside the council offices in the Water Gardens.



Waiting at the end of the parade the students cheered and waved their Union Flags as the soldiers smartly formed up for the inspection. The Mayor of Harlow reminded the audience of the resilience of the troops who lost comrades during their recent tour of duty.

The 24 Stewards students are all members of a uniformed youth organisation in and around Harlow and represented not only Stewards Academy but the Scouts, Guides, Sea/Air/Marine Cadets and Boys Brigade. They were all very happy to witness and celebrate the soldiers' safe return from recent tours in Afghanistan and Mali. Along with teacher Mr Ofori (Ex Royal Logistics Corps) the students wore their respective uniforms or Stewards Academy uniform with pride.

Membership of these youth organisations has given the students an understanding of how being part of a team and wider family (as in Scout Troop or Cadet Detachment/Squadron etc.) can benefit not only their own development but also the well-being of society as a whole. This was reflected in their attitude and behaviour on the day and around school.

*"The Marines pay for me to go on Adventure training trips where I get to meet people from all over the country. I really want a career in the Marines and cannot see myself doing anything else."* - Olivia Sullivan

*"Being a member of the cadets has given me a self-confidence I never knew I had and I have learnt to work as a member of a team to complete hard command tasks,"* said Conor Martin.

*"Being in the Scouts has showed us how we can be better citizens and this is why we wanted to be here to welcome our troops back, to show them we care and respect them and the job they do,"* - Ben Lavery and Amy Raymond.

**Mr Greenall**

# Normandy Veterans

Stewards Academy was very proud to be invited to attend the ceremony for the Laying Up of the Standard of the Hertfordshire Normandy Veterans Association at St Catherine and St Paul's church in Hoddesdon. Stewards has a very longstanding relationship with the war veterans and their families, and in 2014 three members of staff and four pupils went to Normandy to commemorate the D Day landings. It was a memorable, life changing trip for everyone who went, but the Normandy Veterans Association is now no more. The four Year 11 pupils who went on the Normandy trip, Becky, Izzy, Charlie and Stanley, were given the honour of following the veterans down the aisle of the church at the start of the service. Deputy Headteacher Mrs Erwood and Head of Year Mrs Ellis attended the service with their pupils. During the service the Standard was received into the church where it will remain forever as a reminder of those who served faithfully under it. Mrs Erwood said *'These pupils have become part of the legacy of World War Two by acknowledging the bravery of these men and taking their stories to a younger generation with pride and dignity. I am very proud of them.'*



# PE News

## PRIMARY TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

Due to the poor weather conditions, the tournament had to be postponed a day. Unfortunately Abbotsweld and Latton Green Primary schools had to withdraw due to the change of date, which meant that the festival ran with 6 teams. The standard of tag-rugby was extremely high and the games were closely contested despite being played in very blustery conditions which made 'tagging' very challenging. Congratulations to St James Primary School who finished as winners, by having a superior tries for/against record than Katherines Primary School.



*St James 1 pictured celebrating their Tag Rugby victory at Stewards Academy.*

## LEAGUE - (3 POINTS FOR A WIN AND 1 POINT FOR A DRAW)

School(s)	Katherines PS	Longwood PS	St James 2 PS	Water Lane PS	St James 1 PS	Milwards PS	Tries For / Against	PTS	Position
Katherines PS		3-1	3-2	3-3	3-3	4-3	16/12 (+4)	11	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Longwood PS	1-3		2-1	0-2	2-3	2-4	7/13 (-6)	3	5 <sup>th</sup>
St James 2 PS	2-3	1-2		2-4	1-1	2-5	8/15 (-7)	1	6 <sup>th</sup>
Water Lane PS	3-3	2-0	4-2		0-5	1-4	10/14 (-4)	7	4 <sup>th</sup>
St James 1 PS	3-3	3-2	1-1	5-0		3-2	15/8 (+7)	11	1 <sup>st</sup>
Milwards PS	3-4	4-2	5-2	4-1	2-3		18/12 (+6)	9	3 <sup>rd</sup>

# Well Done



Well done to all the Year 7's who spoke confidently in front of an audience of 400 on Open Day Evening; Dylan Ball 7NOC, Lewis Calvert 7RT, Mia Christie 7CD, Kai Henson 7CD, Myles Leverington-Poole 7RT, James Patten 7MH, Grace Pudney 7RT, Matylda Szczerba 7KED and Megan Taylor 7RT.

*Mrs Erwood  
Deputy Headteacher*





# Congratulations

On Saturday at Essex X-Country Champs at Colchester Joe received bronze in the U13's and also a gold for the U13's Team event - as a result of this he has been selected to run for Essex at the National XC Champs in Birmingham on 12th March. Also a few weeks ago he was selected to run for Essex at the Southern Counties Champs at Biggleswade on 12th December. Huge congratulations to Joe and we wish him well in his future competitions



**Joe Morgan 8PG**

Owen and Lewis Harknett recently attended the Harlow Active Sports Awards 2015.

Owen was nominated for Young Volunteer of the year and he won.

It was down to all his hard work with Epping & Harlow Council Healthworks scheme which promotes healthy eating/living as well as helping the community over the last year and being a hare for the primary schools cross country.

Lewis was nominated for Young Sports Personality of the year for all his excellent achievements in athletics this year. This was the most nominated category with ten to twelve of the very best athletes across all sports in Harlow. Unfortunately for Lewis he missed out but should still be very proud at being a finalist in this category.



**Lewis and Owen Harknett**

# Important Reminder

**PUPIL LUNCH OVERDRAFTS** - A reminder to all parents/guardians - 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 £1.00 overdraft on their cashless catering account. Pupils must ensure they repay the £1.00 into their account on the following working day. Persistent non-payers will not be allowed further overdrafts if money is still owed.

Please would parents/guardians be aware that lunch overdrafts are for EMERGENCIES ONLY, and are not to be used as a means for your child to buy 'extras' at break or lunch time.

**FINANCE OFFICE**

# Gifted & Talented News

## **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, EMMANUEL COLLEGE, 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

We were pleased to be able to visit Emmanuel College at Cambridge University with 23 Year 11 students. Our host for the day was Anita Magee, the Schools' Liaison Officer, and we were taken to the Harrods Room in Emmanuel College where we were able to refresh ourselves with drinks and biscuits before starting our day.

Anita started with a presentation called 'University-What are my Options?' It was fun, informative, and allowed us to ask questions. We learnt that Cambridge University is a collegiate university, consisting of 31 different colleges located around the city and that Emmanuel College is one of the larger colleges with currently around 500 undergraduate students.

The term times at the university are shorter than those at school, and lecture time may seem relatively short, but we could see the importance of having good independent study habits and research skills, and how key they are to success. The courses could be traditional or could be something completely new, and the decisions as to what to study are determined in some cases by the requirements of our actual career choice, or in many cases by the enthusiasm we may have for a particular subject. Many employers look for a degree level qualification, but may not specify a particular one. There are many transferable skills obtainable from a university education that can be attractive to a prospective employer. Preparation is recommended in subject choice for our A Levels so that an appropriate degree course can be accessed.

The presentation was followed by a tour of the college, and the buildings ranged from the medieval to the present day, and the gardens have extensive lawns, trees and ponds that are home to ducks and fish. It was a surprise just how close this traditional setting was to the busy city centre, just the other side of the walls surrounding the college grounds. After our tour, we had lunch in the student restaurant and relaxed in their dining room.

Our good fortune with the weather allowed us to walk to the nearby Cambridge University Library, where we were surprised to learn that each week 2000 new books are received. Unsurprisingly, a process of





# Gifted & Talented News

digitalising many books is proceeding. Interesting features were the rotating bronze book bollards along the front of the building.

We were then taken to Pembroke College, where we visited the College Chapel and also viewed the memorial to those former members of Pembroke College who died during the First World War.

This was a fascinating visit for us all, and gave us an informative and interesting insight into life at one of the top universities in the country and in the world. Our students were able to experience the unique atmosphere of this type of university and are now able to use this knowledge to assist them in making decisions for their future careers.

Comments from our students included:

*'I am considering changing my choice of university.'* (Kennedy Wayman).



*'I learnt what it is like at Cambridge University and gained an insight into the application process.'* (Cameron Wylie).

*'The visit showed me the opportunities I could have and what qualifications I would need.'* (Charlie Dowers).

Thanks to our drivers Mr Fiddes and Mr Cooper and accompanying staff Ms Murthar and Miss O'Neill.

In addition, a big thank you to Anita and her team at Cambridge University for making us feel so welcome and providing us with a detailed perspective about university life.

**Mr Cooper**  
**A,G&T Mentor/Guidance Officer**

## **'HIGH ACHIEVERS' YEAR 9 PARENTS' SUPPORT EVENING TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

During the evening, presentations were made by selected teachers and members of the Gifted and Talented Team including;

Mrs Sherwood, Lead Teacher Able, Gifted and Talented, Sociology and PSHCE/RE, who introduced us to P4C (Philosophy for Children), which is based on a community of enquiry, developing the ability to question and reason, and which benefits speaking and listening skills and for 'thinking outside the box'.

She showed us how to generate an open question and encouraged the skills to be practised at home. Miss Rafferty and Miss Speciale, Modern Foreign Language teachers, explained to us 'The Importance of Studying a Language'. We were shown the many languages around the world, the jobs that need languages, and the doors that can be opened when you have another language. We were amazed to learn that there are over 6500 different languages worldwide!

Mr King, Subject Leader for History, told us of his Journey as a High Achiever. Mr King attended Stewards as a student and had always had an ambition of becoming sports journalist, but it was his passion and love of Modern History that influenced his eventual career decision to become a History teacher.

Mr Cooper, Gifted and Talented Mentor, and Careers Guidance Officer, explained the importance of good preparation for a future career. He told us of the importance of researching our ideas to find out what the career may consist of, does it suit our personality, do we actually like the subjects that will need to be studied? This is the ideal time to start to look for possible work experience placements that will be required in Year 10. It is never too soon to start your careers exploration, and a useful new website that is highly recommended is, [www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk). Help and support as always can be obtained from Mr Cooper and Miss Care in the Careers Team.

**Mr Cooper**  
**A,G&T Mentor/Guidance Officer**



# Battle of Hastings

The Battle begins!!

Year 7 celebrated and commemorated the Battle of Hastings in style when 7VM, 7RT, 7NMK and 7CD donned their battle gear in October and marched off to Senlac Hill [Stewards Academy Field] with their battle co-ordinator Deputy Headteacher Mrs Erwood. Despite valiant efforts by the heroic Saxons – and 4 King Harold's – the outcome of the battle could not be changed and the victorious Normans marched off to celebrate their memorable victory in typical French style!

**Mrs Erwood**  
**Deputy Headteacher**





# STEM News

We are very pleased to record that in November, Stewards Academy won the Raytheon UK's 2015 Quadcopter Challenge Final held at the Stow Maries Great War Airfield near Chelmsford. The competition, promoted jointly by Raytheon UK and Essex County Council, included three other teams from Essex: Burnt Mill Academy, Boswells School, and Tabor Academy, and after a series of challenges, Stewards came out as winners of the Engineering prize and the Overall Challenge title. The two quadcopters were named Apollo 13 and Makam and the triumphant teams comprised of Year 11

students William Payne, Filip Kusnir, Shiv Sharma, James Clarke, Katy Briant, Anita Ogedengbe, Molly Galloway and Beth Rumsey. The Challenge ran from January and consisted of the building of two fully operational four-bladed multi rotor, remotely piloted air systems (quadcopters). Each school created unique quadcopters by tweaking the flight characteristics and customising various components such as frame design, undercarriage and canopy.

The Year 11 Assembly on Friday 11th December was chosen as the occasion for the presentation of the Awards and we were delighted to welcome representatives of Raytheon UK, Suzanne Jude (Head of Strategy and STEM), Jerome Johnson (project coordinator), Sophie Connors (Events Manager), and Alicia Teplow (Communications). Unfortunately, Jerome's co project coordinator, Sophie Woodrow was unable to join us, but both teams would like to acknowledge her and Jerome's help and support during the project.

Suzanne congratulated the teams on their success based on piloting skills and practical engineering acumen. She said that the challenges were designed to promote careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), and that Raytheon UK are actively inspiring the next generation into these careers and helping to create a future workforce that is employable and has the right skills for success.

In front of their year group and teachers, the teams were presented with their individual certificates and Shiv Sharma accepted the Award Plaque on behalf the whole team. Acknowledgements for their invaluable support were made to Miss O'Neill (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Cooper and Mr Flood who facilitated the school based activities, and Mr Young for his excellent technical back up.

A short video of the event was shown and this can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpfH-FsdKIs&feature=youtu.be>

The grand prize will be a flight in a 1930's-style Tiger Moth bi-plane at the aerodrome next year, which everyone is excitedly looking forward to.

Ms Murthar, Headteacher, congratulated the team and responded by thanking Raytheon UK for the opportunity to participate in the Challenge, which has given students of Stewards Academy the experience of learning new skills linked to the STEM based subjects. She also welcomed the kind opportunity for the school to join the 2016 Challenge and looked forward to further success in the future.

**Mr Cooper A, G&T Mentor/Guidance Officer**





# Remembrance Day

Stewards played host yet again to the Normandy war veterans and their families for a special afternoon of Remembrance, organised by English teacher and former Head Girl of Stewards, Miss Brigenshaw. Moving poetry in English and French, some written by the pupils themselves, stunning art work, superbly choreographed modern dance sequences and a sing-a-long of First World War classics - all made up a very touching programme of events. The veterans have been coming to Stewards for many years and are regarded by one and all as part of the Stewards extended family. Pupils who belong to the scouts, guides, army and sea cadets, all proudly wore their uniforms to school for the day and joined in the service at the end of the day. The sale of poppies was such that the British Legion had to deliver more boxes of poppies for the charity monitors to sell. The veterans were given a delicious high tea and younger pupils queued up to have the privilege of meeting the war veterans who mean so much to the children. The two minutes silence was held with great reverence across the school and every member of the Stewards community felt a huge sense of pride in the values and respect that all the children displayed throughout the day. Deputy Headteacher Mrs Erwood said *"Stewards ensures that all of our pupils understand the real meaning of Remembrance Day and the huge debt that we owe to our armed forces, both in a historical and a contemporary sense. The World War Two veterans who have been with us today are the proud embodiment of the values which Britain holds dear."*

**Mrs Erwood, Deputy Headteacher**









# English Department News

We have had another incredibly busy term in the English Department. Highlights this term included a real team effort at dressing up as various book characters for the Children in Need charity event. Most English teachers chose to dress up as characters from *A Christmas Carol* to complement our Year 10 scheme of work. Being quite the theatrical bunch, we have also dressed up as Shakespearean characters for the Stewards Academy Reading Week, this time to complement our KS3 schemes of work. Students from KS4 involved in the Shakespeare Schools Event put on a very impressive mini-performance of *The Tempest* in our lovely new library to finish up Reading Week. Our 100 Point Project homework initiative is working very well and has been recommended to other departments. We certainly have some extremely creative students here in Stewards, and we have had projects this year such as elaborate models, recorded news reports and diaries modelled to look as though they are from the 1600s!

The Year 7 Student-Parent Evening was another highlight, where we challenged parents to a high level lesson on iambic pentameter, a meter used by none other than Shakespeare himself, usually reserved for his more important characters and of course our students' parents are most important!

The newer and certainly more challenging GCSE English Literature and Language courses are well underway in the English Department. Year 10 have been reading *A Christmas Carol* which has not been without a certain charm this time of year, despite the challenging language.

Next term sees out lower school tackle nineteenth century novels including *Jane Eyre* and *Great Expectations*, which will be an exciting journey for all. Certainly, you should see your children reading a lot more!

As always, our clubs are running strong. With our Writer's Society, Film Club, Literacy Games Club and the hugely popular Latin and Classics Breakfast Clubs, there is certainly a lot to choose from. We encourage you to discuss extra-curricular clubs with your children, as it can add another whole dimension to their learning.

Our final week of the autumn term provides us with our the first departmental Stewards Enrichment Day, where we will inform Year 9 of the peculiar ways of Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*, through the lens of the poet Carol Ann Duffy. It should be an insightful and valuable day for Year 9 in lieu of their scheme of work for the spring term.

Merry Christmas from all in the English Department.



**Miss Lavelle, English Department**



# Reading News

## Renaissance Reading

Reading continues to go from strength to strength at Stewards with over 850 students from Year 7 to 10 on the scheme. The first term of the year is always particularly busy with the new Year 7s being inducted onto the scheme and taking their first quizzes. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the programme, a computer-based reading test is taken which provides several pieces of information, one of which allows students to target books in a particular range of levels from the library. These books are not overly challenging, but they do use some vocabulary which the student may not be familiar with. Once a book in their range is read, a comprehension quiz is taken (one of over 27,000) and another book can then be chosen and the cycle repeated.

There have also been several other reading related initiatives so far this term:

## Bookbuzz

Stewards has once again participated in this scheme which provides all Year 7 students with a free book of their choice from a list of 12. The most popular choice this year was *Jinx* by Sage Blackwood, followed closely by *Dandelion Clocks* by Rebecca Westcott. The students have really enjoyed selecting their books and the Christmas holidays are the ideal time to make some progress with them!

## Reading Week

The first of our three reading weeks has just completed. David Walliams' new book *Grandpa's Great Escape* was read daily in the library, with the opportunity for students to enter a competition to win a pass to the front of the lunch queue for a week. A version of Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) was also run this week with students and staff alike dropping everything and reading for 15 minutes every day at midday. Year 7s also



collected a list of staff favourite books and exchanged their list of ten for a lucky-dip prize in the library.

The Friday of reading week was designated as Shakespeare day and members of the English department came to school dressed as a Shakespeare character (see photo). A performance of extracts from *The Tempest* was held in the library at lunchtime by Stewards students who participated in the Shakespeare's School festival at the Harlow Playhouse earlier in the year. This was very well received by a large number of students who came to watch.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Mr Ginger, Reading Manager**

## CLASSICS BREAKFAST CLUB

Since September, every Wednesday just before 8am, I've waited in room 12, and thought, "*They won't come: it's too dark; it's too cold.*" And then I see them: eight or ten Year 8 pupils moving along the English corridor, chattering, cheerful: "*What are we doing today, Miss?*" This term we've made Classics Club posters and badges and are currently running a whole school Classics Art competition – winner to be announced before Christmas. We've played word games (using Latin-based English words); and memory games, mixing up Classical Roman history and mythology. We've watched short cartoon films about daily life for ancient Romans and played interactive Roman numeral games. We prepared and gave a presentation to a Year 7 Assembly about the Classics Club and we're now busy rehearsing a short play about the Roman festival of Saturnalia.



This will be performed just before the end of term (in full togas!) and traditional Roman honey cakes will be distributed throughout the school to celebrate.

We've recently started formal Latin lessons on alternate Wednesdays for those who want to learn the language – and we are planning to open the Classics Breakfast Club to Year 7s in February. Meanwhile, we're planning trips, gladiatorial contests and a themed treasure hunt for the year ahead. Our motto: *carpe diem!* (seize the day!)

**Mrs Cadden, English Department**

# Enrichment Day

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October Stewards Academy held its first Stewards Enrichment Programme Day. The programme aims to ensure effective links to the real world and raising awareness of broad educational issues to develop the whole person.

Year 7 completed a curriculum day with the focus on Poverty Awareness Week. Each tutor group completed a selection of tasks and watched a variety of videos to help understand the struggles people face in the World, the UK and Harlow. They worked in teams to create their own charity complete with a name, slogan, radio advert, leaflets and posters.

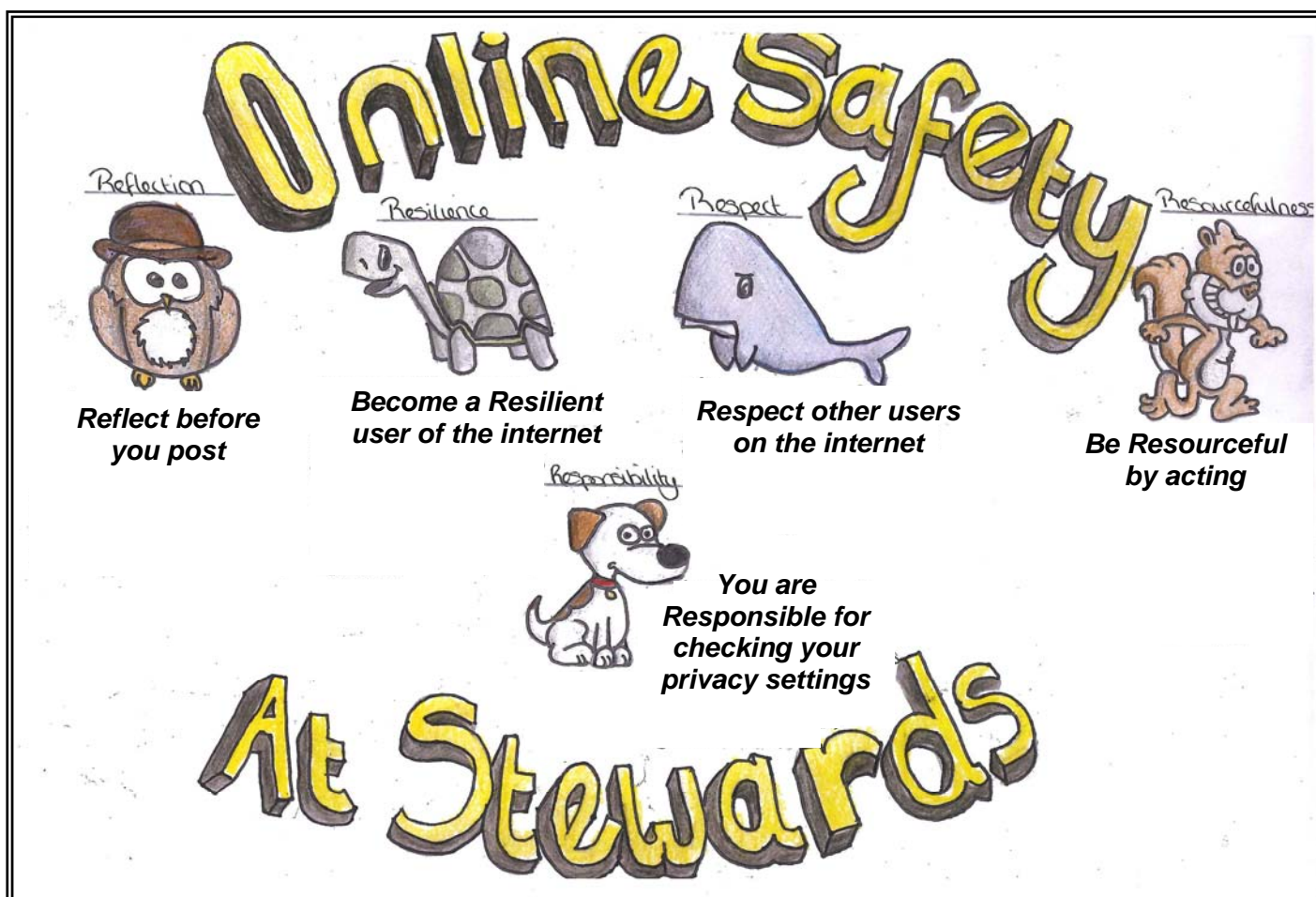
Team leaders gained confidence and team work skills were established by students throughout the day.

Year 8 were allocated a part of the world which included South Asia and Far East Asia. Fact booklets were produced along with a working booklet which students completed during the day.

The international dimensions day helped to give pupils a more informed view of different parts of the World; they were given the chance to explore the culture, food, language, religion, music, art, history and traditional dance.

Overall a very successful day and one that we hope to repeat in the near future.

Year 9 tackled E-Safety and looked at the importance of being safe online. Following a session with Mrs Erwood (E-Safety officer) they worked in tutor groups and worked through booklets covering a range of topics including: Privacy Online, Dangers of the Internet, Sexting, The Law: Possessing Images, The Law: Sending Images, The Law: Receiving Images, Consequences and Your Digital Footprint. They reflected on their own actions and completed activities to help their understanding in this topic.



Poster designed by Emily Oliver 9GMW



# Enrichment Day

Year 10 worked on the dangers of Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs looking at the short and long term effects on the human body, how they can stay safe in the real world  
They also had a session with the school nurse who covered areas including STIs, Safe sex and gave important facts and figures.

Year 11 completed their personal statement and mock interview techniques. They watched a range of videos to help prepare them for the real world and job interviews.

Here are a few quotes from students;

*'Today at Stewards Academy was Enrichment Day. I am in year 8 and we studied Far East Asia. I learnt a lot about different things mainly about China and Japan. Once specific fact which I found interesting was that the population of China is the largest in the World. I got dressed up in very interesting clothes and tried food from Far East Asia as well. I would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Mohamed for organising a wonderful day.'* – Hollie Wilson 8MR

*'We have had a wonderful food event this afternoon. We loved all the food, costumes and decorations. It was a great experience and we appreciate it. We would like to thank you and everyone involved for all the effort that has been put into today to make this a very special day for year 8. Once again thank you very much.'* – Darcy Wylie, Albie Wickenden and all of 8DJ

*'We (8PG) are very grateful for the food tasting that we had. We enjoyed every piece of food there. We are considering this opportunity that you have given us 1 in a million. We think what you have organised was very interesting and helped us learn about different countries. The food was really nice. Most of us did not think it would be however once we tried it we fell in love with it. That is why you 'don't judge a book by its cover'... - From the class 8PG*

*'As form captain I would like to say thank you for the day organised. Our form really enjoyed it and enjoyed dressing up and trying new food. We all wanted to say thank you.'* – Megan Jarczuk 8HMB

**Ms Mohamed, Science Department**



**A selection of photo's from the day**

# Paris Trip 2015

What an amazing visit!

Our journey there and back could not have been better, the weather was kind to us, our accommodation was ideal and the Parisians were most helpful.

We managed to pack a great deal into 2 whole days in Paris and most of it on foot. Paris was at its very best bathed in sunshine and Arts Week in full flow too.

We were treated to Notre Dame Cathedral early in the morning before the queues began to grow. What a magnificent building with a colourful history. We walked in and around and managed to find the Pont Neuf with the love locks and a great playground.

After some free time, we moved onto to the Tuileries, a massive garden for promenading that stretches from the Louvre to the Champs Elysees. It was buzzing with Art installations, people enjoying the park, exercising, dining, finding out about the works of art or taking a ride on the carousel.

The Champs Elysees was an opportunity for free time and enjoying the ambience of this famous boulevard. Later on we took in the iconic Eiffel Tour and the amazing view from the Trocadero.

We had a fabulous time at the Louvre seeing many famous paintings including the Mona Lisa and collections, such as the Ancient Egypt exhibition.

It has to be said that the view from Montmartre over Paris was breath taking and put all the places that we had visited into context.

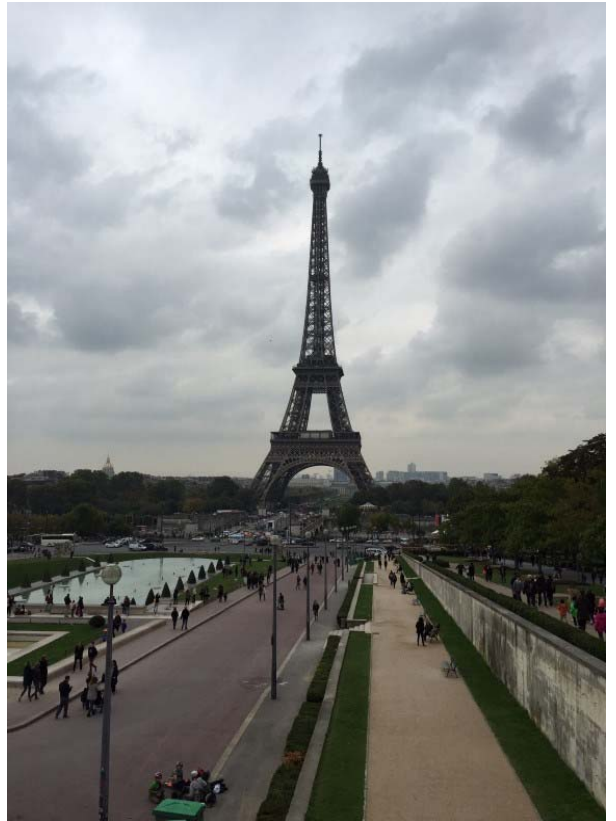
Our last port of call in Paris allowed us to see the history of Paris and to take a walk around the Jewish quarters near to the Place de la Republic. All in all, plenty of opportunities to practice our French.

The added bonus when we got to Calais was being able to enjoy a couple of hours at the Centre Commercial Cite Europe.

*"The tourist attractions in Paris were amazing and I would love to go back and see them again with more time. I loved ordering and eating a meal in a restaurant near Montmartre as it gave me a good understanding of how to speak French with a proper accent. It was great to share my experience with my family too, not to mention their holiday gifts as well."*

Millie Steele 10EM

A big thankyou to Mrs Marcano and Ms Gilme as the trip organisers. To Mr Rooney as our accompanying teacher. To all of the pupils who were a pleasure to take away, a credit to their families and to Stewards.



**Miss O'Neill, Deputy Headteacher**



# Paris Trip 2015



## Performing Arts News

Stewards Academy took to The Playhouse stage as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival 2015, the UK's largest youth drama festival. This is the eighth year students have taken part in the festival and the third time we have performed two plays. An evening of Shakespeare's comedies was presented with Stewards Academy performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Tempest' alongside performances from Burnt Mill and Brooklands Junior School.

'The Tempest' cast of Year 9 and 10 GCSE Drama students concluded the first half of the evening with a performance described as *"atmospheric, mysterious and imaginative"* by the festival host.

The evening culminated with the Stewards Academy cast of 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' who presented a *"performance which was magical, exuberant and huge fun"*

All of the casts that performed on the evening created exciting and energetic performances. Miss Johnson, Head of Performing Arts said *"It is wonderful to see such dedication and commitment to the works of Shakespeare. The festival truly is a marvellous experience for our students both in their exploration of the plays and the chance to perform at a professional theatre. It really does give them a taste for performance and a love of Shakespeare. Taking part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival is one of the highlights of the year."*

**Performing Arts Team**



*The Tempest*



*A Midsummer's Night Dream*



# Performing Arts News

## THE SQUARE

In October we took our GCSE Music students to perform their own live gig at The Square in Harlow. Sadly The Square will be closing its doors at the end of the year, making this the final opportunity for our musicians to perform there.

Students formed bands at the beginning of term and began choosing suitable pieces. They then spent the next few weeks rehearsing and preparing for the event. The staff band kicked things off with 'Dani California' and our students followed with a selection of music from the past and present, including old favourites such as 'Don't Fear the Reaper', 'Monster' and 'Holiday' and newer tracks 'All of Me', 'Take Me to Church' and 'Too Close'.

*Performing Arts Department*



*Photos by Jack Leadley*





# Performing Arts News

## 'WOMAN IN BLACK' TRIP

We recently organised a trip to London's Fortune Theatre for a group of GCSE students to see the play 'The Woman in Black' as part of their Drama course. They will write an evaluation of the performance which will be submitted as part of their coursework.

A lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black, engages a sceptical young actor to help him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It all begins innocently enough, but then, as they reach further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds.



## PERFORMING ARTS AMBASSADORS

Performing Arts Ambassadors are students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the arts and have shown excellence in their chosen subject. They can always be relied upon to support younger students and help to promote all the opportunities offered in Performing Arts. Paige Abbott, our newest Ambassador, has been nominated by Miss Trowsdale for her hard work and support with Stewards Dance Clubs. She has shown commitment, confidence and strong leadership skills and is capable of dealing with any situation which arises. She takes part in all Dance Club performances and is a role model to younger dancers.

Paige is also a talented musician who is currently studying for her GCSE Music. She has played the piano at numerous school events such as The Square, Christmas Concert and Summer Festival, both as an accompanist for solo singers and as part of a larger ensemble.



## WOODWIND EXAM SUCCESS!

The Stewards Academy Woodwind Programme started last October with pupils learning flute, clarinet or saxophone for 20 minutes a week. After lots of hard work and practice, we are delighted to announce we have our first qualified students! Shannon Hampson (9GMW) and Alycia McLeod (9JR) took their Grade 1 exams this autumn on flute and clarinet respectively. Both girls achieved a pass with merit, a fantastic achievement. They have already started work on their Grade 2 exams and are looking forward to the road ahead. Well done to both pupils.

*Mr Reynolds*



# St Clare Hospice

## CHRISTMAS CAROL VISIT

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we took 27 pupils to sing carols and traditional Christmas songs for the patients at St Clare Hospice. This is an annual highlight for Stewards Academy which has helped us to build a very strong relationship with the Hospice over the years. The pupils were very excited to be there and sang their hearts out with songs ranging from 'Deck the Halls' to 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday'. They continued to entertain and surprise with a completely unplanned and unrehearsed version of 'Let it Go' from Frozen, with every single pupil knowing the words! It was a truly beautiful sound and the smiles on the faces of the audience spoke volumes. All pupils and staff had an uplifting experience to say the least, with all pupils requesting to sing again next year. Please see below for pictures of the event and a thank you message from the Hospice.

*Mr Reynolds*



## Thank you from the Hospice...

We all really enjoyed the session and were very impressed with the student groups singing, attitude & general warmth & kindness!

Thank you all so much  
From

All the patients and staff at St Clare Hospice Day therapy.



# Work Related Learning News

## Work Experience Evening

Our Year 10 Work Experience Briefing evening took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and was well attended by Parents and Students. This evening was to provide useful information about work experience and what they can expect. Thank you to all that attended, I hope you found the evening informative and helpful. If you have any questions regarding work experience, please do not hesitate to see either myself, (Miss Care) or Mrs Rogers.

## Work Experience Deadline

One deadline has already passed and well done to all those students who handed your forms back in with a secured placement.

There are still some students who have not yet handed their work experience form in. The deadline is now **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. If you have any questions or are struggling to find a placement, please come and see me, (Miss Care) in the Careers Room in Block 3.

## Construction Careers Convention

We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to send a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students to Passmores Academy to participate in a Careers Convention for the Construction Industry. Throughout the day students took part in various workshops, enabling them to consider a wide range of disciplines and careers available to them within the construction sector. The day was informative and inspiring.

Well done to Faith Sturges, Ben Humphries, Sam Pond, Daniel Senior, Jamie Allen, James Lawrence, Abi Skinner, Alfie Beaumont and Owen Godsolve for taking part. Comments from the students included:

*'The day has helped me to think of what there is to do in the construction industry'- Daniel Senior and 'Yes, this helped me as it gives me a better insight into what kinds of jobs there are in the construction industry' – Ben Humphries.*

**Miss Care, Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator**

# Photography Trip

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October the Year 9 GCSE Photography students visited the Gibberd Garden in Harlow. The pupils explored the gardens and were able to take photographs of sculptures, architecture and the natural surroundings. This links to the Built Environment project and has enabled the pupils to create direct sources for their coursework in line with the KS4 curriculum.

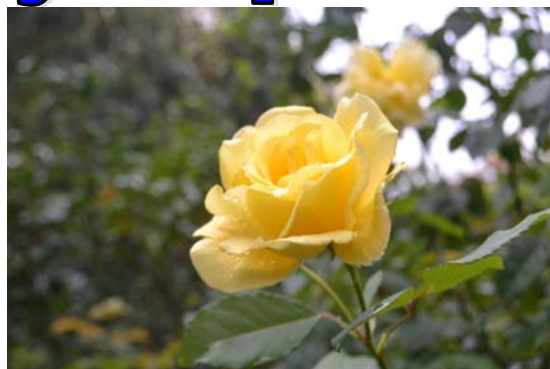
The Garden is an inspirational, Grade II listed garden, full of beauty, peace and tranquillity, where every turn reveals another aspect or work of art. It was created by Sir Frederick Gibberd, an uncompromising Modernist architect and the master-planner of Harlow New Town, who acquired the site in 1957. He remodelled the house and garden, filling it with sculptures and architectural pieces. Although many of the pupils live near the



sculpture garden they had never previously visited the site or were aware of Sir Fredrick Gibberd's significance in relation to the

town in which they live. An inspirational day was had by all and we look forward to returning next year.

**Mrs Daveta, Art Department**



# Attendance News

PLEASE SEE THE TABLE BELOW FOR YOUR YEAR GROUP'S ATTENDANCE TO DATE

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
98%	97%	96%	96%	96%
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO DATE = 97%</b>				

THIS IS FANTASTIC – WELL DONE – KEEP IT UP!

## AWARDS

If you achieve continuous 100% attendance during the Autumn, Spring and Summer Term you will be awarded an Attendance Award badge - go on see if you can achieve this!

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Term time is school time – please remember that regulations state leave of absence cannot be granted to a pupil except where an application has been made at least 4 weeks in advance and there are exceptional circumstances (this is a leave of absence which we at Stewards Academy feel would be of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time).

## REGISTRATION

8.45am – REGISTRATION (AM) FOR ALL PUPILS

1.55pm – REGISTRATION (PM) FOR ALL PUPILS

*(pupils arriving late for registration may be issued a detention)*

## 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**

## 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)



## LOST PROPERTY.

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





# Important Information

## UNDERSTANDING PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT

I am sure you have heard in the press about the many changes coming into schools. One of these changes is the way in which assessment will be undertaken and reported. In the last two newsletters I shared with you information regarding our new Pathways Assessment System which replaces National Curriculum levels. In years 7, 8 and 9 pupils and teachers are now confidently discussing progress using the new colour attainment bands.

At GCSE level, there are changes too. The letter grade system is to be replaced by a 1 to 9 scale. The first subjects using this system will be English and maths from 2017. When pupils in Y10 receive their GCSE results, they will achieve number grades in English and maths and letter grades in all other subjects. Further subjects are expected to follow in 2018 and 2019, with pupils in Y9 and Y8 receiving a combination of letter and number grades at GCSE. This table is a guide to help understand the different systems of assessment during this transition period.

Letter Grading Structure	Stewards Pathways Assessment	Number Grading Structure
A*	Yellow Plus	9
		8
A	Yellow	7
		6
B	Blue	5
		4
C	Green	3
		2
D	White	1
		Entry Level Qualification
E		
F		
G		

After Christmas all pupils will be receiving an Individual Progress Report. In Year 10 this will include projected grades in English and maths using the new number grade system. This will be a good opportunity for pupils to reflect on their progress and make sure they are clear about next steps.

*Mrs Ginger, Deputy Headteacher*

# Graduation Evening 2015

Stewards Academy Graduation Evening is a lovely occasion to celebrate the past and look to the future of the young people who have made their journey through the Academy and this took place recently for those who left in July. It was a chance to welcome the students back and congratulate them on their successes. Parents who came along were full of praise for the support that the school had given their children during their school career and were as proud of them all as we are. It was great to learn what the year group had gone on to study and it was also very good to see Ms Batterham and Nigel return. We wish everyone good luck for the adventures ahead of them and hope they keep their promises to keep in touch!

*Mr Preece & Mrs Brough*

# Year Group News

## YEAR 7

As Year 7 are coming to the end of their first term at Stewards Academy it is good to see so many of them embracing all the opportunities available. Merits are being earned for attending clubs, representing the school in various events and of course, the 5 R's.

Congratulations to those who participated in the inter-form cross country event recently, everyone who took part has helped earn points for their tutor group.

As I write this Enterprise Week is upon us. All tutor groups have worked extremely hard making products, baking goodies and are selling them on to make profit. All profits made will be going to a Charity of the year group's choice. The overall winners will be awarded the year group trophy which I know is in great demand!

Representatives from Year 7 had the honour of visiting and performing at St Clare's Hospice. It was an emotional and proud visit and the students were commended on their singing and really enjoyed the experience.

It is good to see Year 7 attend homework clubs after school. This is a great way to help organise homework and have support from members of staff. We would recommend that as many as possible attend these clubs which are held in the Library or within departments throughout the school.

Finally I would like to wish you all a good break and look forward to seeing you all back in the new year!

***Mrs Brough, PSM for Year 7***

## YEAR 8

This year has been a very successful one for a number of pupils. At the last count 145 were eligible for the celebration event at the end of term. This might alter slightly when we collate the latest numbers. Can you please encourage your child to attend one of the many after school activities that are available. There really is something for everyone. This will also enable students to gain more enrichment merits.

Homework continues to be an issue for some students. Please check planners regularly, and if you feel not enough homework is being set, or it is not clear what your child has to do, please contact the school for clarification. I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing everybody in the New Year.

***Mrs Ellis, Head of Year 8***

## YEAR 9

It has been an exciting and, in many ways, challenging term for Year 9. They have had to adjust to studying at GCSE level, adapt to their new options subjects, meet the demands of an increasing homework load and, in some subjects, attend twilight study sessions at the end of the school day. They have risen to the challenge and are meeting the routines and expectations of studying at GCSE level with enthusiasm and maturity.

At the time of writing, we are finalising the details of celebration event, which marks the end of the first term of our new rewards system. The celebration event has been designed to recognise and reward consistency and dedication throughout the term. Pupils have been awarded merits for prompt and regular attendance, meeting the 5Rs, having a positive attitude to learning, maintaining a high standard of class and homework and involvement in the wider school community. I would like to congratulate the pupils who are eligible and look forward to celebrating their successes again next term.

I would like to remind you that, should you need to contact school to discuss subject related matters, to contact subject teachers directly. Should you wish to discuss a personal or pastoral matter, tutors should be contacted, via a note in the pupil planner or telephone call, in the first instance. In all cases, and in line with school policy, we will endeavour to contact you within 24 hours. I would ask that, as Mrs Wilson and I are not always on hand to meet parents at short notice, that you contact school to make an appointment should you wish to arrange to meet with us.

On behalf of the year team, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all a peaceful Christmas break.

***Mrs Ramsey, Head of Year 9***



# Year Group News

## YEAR 10

The first full term is now complete – Well done and congratulations to the vast majority of you who have continued to work hard, completed all your work and have participated in the many extra-curricular activities which are available to you. You all deserve a well-earned break, so I hope you have a great time with your family over the Christmas period. Please read the information below in preparation for the New Year:

If you are going to stay on top of your game, you must remember the 5 R's: Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Resilience, and Reflection. Each one is just as important as the other. Never let your standards drop. Did you manage to complete the merits page? If not, start to think about this for the new term.

All homework and coursework deadlines must be met. Start organising your time wisely to ensure this happens. If you feel you need help, don't forget about the extra-curricular options that are available to you.

You **MUST** organise your work experience placement by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. Your placement is your responsibility so please organise it. All placements are invaluable as they will be able to highlight which skills you excel at and which will need more work. All experiences will look great on your CV and can be a great talking point in an interview. Speak to your parents, family friends and other relatives over the Christmas period for ideas of placements if you still haven't got one confirmed.

A huge congratulations to Olivia Collier who has won a National Trampolining Competition. Recently, Olivia won the Grade 3 Trampoline League National Final that was held at the Copper Box in the Olympic Park. Nearly 3,000 trampolinists competed at four National qualifiers held all over the country throughout 2015.

All the age group finalists competed on the same day and the pressure really started to show. This was Olivia's first experience of top level competition and she managed to hold her nerve and complete all her routines with top scores and height which is a credit to her. I wish her all the very best for future competitions.

I hope you all have a wonderful time together, enjoy your break and return to school with new goals and New Year's resolutions!



**Olivia Collier**

**Mr G Hughes, Head of Year 10**

## YEAR 11

I would like to recognise and celebrate a few highlights that Year 11 have been involved in this half term. Remembrance Day was a significant event that took place at Stewards this half term and I am so proud of Year 11 for the genuine respect that they demonstrated in honour of war heroes past and present that have lost their lives fighting for our freedom. Students across the year group bought and wore a poppy with pride, and many of our Year 11 pupils were involved in putting on a very special memorial event after school for some of our honourable war veterans, incorporating music, dance, singing and poetry. The showcase was very poignant and incredibly moving and I would like to thank all pupils involved for their outstanding contributions!

In early December, a number of our pupils were privileged to be invited to attend the University of Cambridge for the day. Pupils were given the opportunity to tour the campus and to gain first-hand experience of what University life involves. The day was extremely positive and most pupils involved felt that the experience had really helped them to gain a wider perspective of University life.

At the end of this term, Year 11 had mock interviews with a number of external employers from various business industries. Pupils were given time to prepare a personal statement in advance of the day and were then given a 20 minute interview to 'sell themselves' to an employer and to practice their verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Although this was quite a daunting process, interviews ran very smoothly and most pupils found the feedback from employers very beneficial.

In addition to the above, this half term has seen Year 11 come together for their final school photograph – a memory that will stay with them forever! They have also been busy organising their prom and completing final assessments before Christmas. The most recent yes/no check has identified a significant drop in the number of no's across the year group and this is all credit to the hard work and dedication that Year 11 have put in, so well done for your commitment to your studies!

Have a great Christmas Year 11 and have a well-deserved rest!

**Miss Holden, Head of Year 11**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

18TH

TERM ENDS - 1.00PM

### JANUARY

4TH

TERM STARTS

6th  
21st  
28th

Music School Enrolment 4.00-6.00pm  
Year 7 Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm  
Choir Performance 6.00pm

### FEBRUARY

4th  
8th  
10th-14th  
12th-21st  
15TH-19TH

Year 8 Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm  
Enrichment Day  
New York Trip  
Ski Trip  
HALF TERM



## 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*

# Christmas Card Competition



*Winning design by Gemma Charles 10PBT*



*Participation prize awarded to Leah Jelf 8MR*