



February  
2015

# Stewards Academy

## Newsletter



Cultural Diversity  
Quality Standard



Leading Space Education  
Quality Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils,

In the middle of January I was sitting in a meeting with other Essex Headteachers and Local Authority officers listening to the latest developments in education policy, when I received an e-mail from a member of staff. This is what it said:-

"This morning I was walking through school for my next lesson. On the way there were 4 sets of double doors. I was carrying 2 bags and a laptop – every door was opened for me without asking or hesitation. The students here take such a "small" thing for granted, as I'm sure we all do. But it jolted my mind into thinking what a superb school Stewards is and the students it serves. You must be so proud of our school – as I am... sometimes it takes a "little" example to realise just how outstanding it is."

I don't know who these particular students were on this particular occasion but the message is true for every day and for the vast majority of our students. Good manners and politeness are part of our daily business. Visitors echo these sentiments and our students should be proud of the reputation we have within the wider community as a place where young people show respect, kindness and consideration for others.

This half term has seen Year 11 mock examinations with results issued on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Congratulations to Year 11 who conducted themselves so well, especially for the "real" GCSE English Literature exams. Several departments will be organising extra tuition and revision sessions at half-term and Easter. A programme is included with this Newsletter (see page 13).

The recent Year 7 Parents Evening was very well attended and we received excellent feedback from the parent survey (see below).

	Respondents who strongly agreed or agreed with the statements		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 10
<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>
My child is happy at this school.	100%	98%	99%
My child feels safe at this school.	100%	100%	95%
My child makes good progress at this school.	100%	99%	96%
My child is well looked after at this school.	100%	100%	97%
My child is taught well at this school.	100%	100%	99%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	98%	99%	93%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	100%	99%	92%
This school deals effectively with bullying.	100%	93%	88%
This school is well led and managed.	100%	100%	100%
This school responds well to any concern I raise.	98%	98%	93%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	100%	97%	99%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	100%	99%	99%

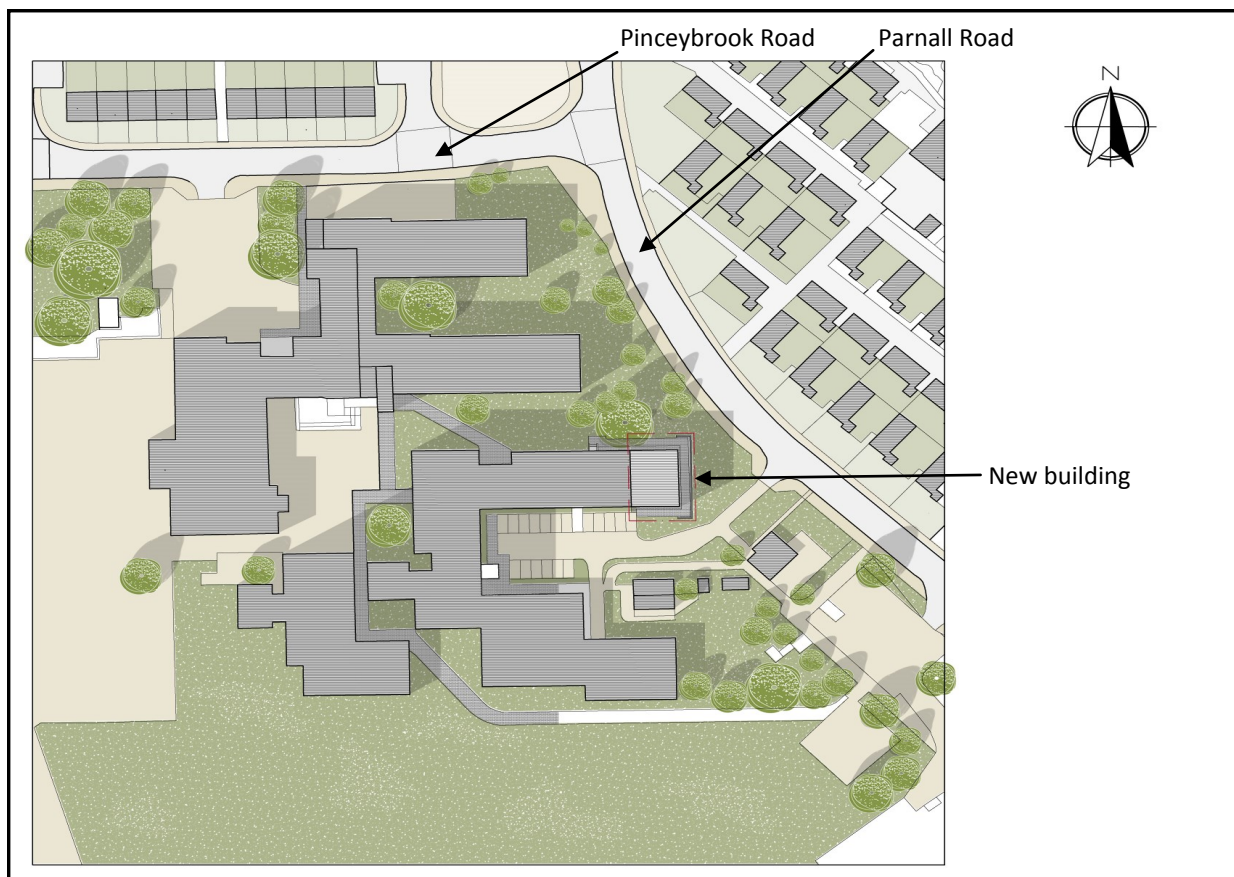
Year 7 School Council members recently met Governors to talk about their first term at Stewards. They were overwhelmingly positive about their education – their teachers who make learning fun, their progress, their love of learning, the extra – curricular clubs they enjoy and the many opportunities they are given. They asked Governors questions and demonstrated their maturity and curiosity.

The Performing Arts department has been busy this half term getting ready for the Production of “Back to the 80’s” in March. We are all looking forward to what I am sure will be a highlight of the school calendar once again – make sure you get your tickets in good time.

Two exciting trips are about to take place: the Year 11 trip to New York and the Ski-trip to Folgaria, Italy at half-term. I look forward to the reports in the next Newsletter.

Parents will be aware of the new yes/no system we have introduced this year to ensure students are on track with regard to classwork and homework. We started the system with Key Stage 4 and have extended it to Key Stage 3. If you have any concerns about the system we’d like to hear from you (please contact Mr Preece, Deputy Headteacher or myself).

Plans are now well underway for a new building programme due to begin at Stewards. Block 3 is going to be extended to provide 2 new Science laboratories on the first floor and an enlarged dining space on the ground floor. The current dining room near the pupil entrance will then revert to a full time teaching room for use by the Performing Arts department. We are hopeful that this work will be underway in the summer term with extensive work being completed in the summer holiday. The Science department is looking forward to having the new laboratories next year.



*Rhonda Murthar*

**Rhonda Murthar  
Headteacher**

# Attendance News

## IMPORTANT UPDATE – please note -

### PERSISTENT ABSENCE

FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 NEW GOVERNMENT CRITERIA STATES THAT A PUPIL IS CLASSED AS 'PERSISTENTLY ABSENT' IF THEIR ATTENDANCE FALLS BELOW 90% - 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 SEE THE TABLE BELOW FOR YOUR YEAR GROUP'S ATTENDANCE TO DATE

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
97%	96%	96%	95%	95%
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO DATE = 96%</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!

### 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**

## GOVERNORS REPORT

It seems only yesterday that we enjoyed the Stewards Christmas Concert and welcomed in the New Year and yet here we are at half term and looking forward to the school production. The governors have welcomed four new members to their first full governors meeting this term, Mrs Waters as a new staff governor, Mrs Avis as a new associate staff governor, Mrs Thomas as a new parent governor and Mr Farrow as a new community governor. We look forward to their contribution to the work of the Governing Body.

We have also been privileged to meet with the Year 7 School Council members who were only too willing to tell us about their experiences at Stewards. Perhaps unwisely we asked if they had any questions for us. "What do the Governors actually do?" was the question. Well, as you might understand, that is not that easy to answer briefly, but I hope our replies gave them some idea of the various things we do to support the Academy.

A number of these students had already represented the school at various events, and on the basis of their performance at our meeting, and from what we heard from the staff involved, we are sure that they were all exemplary ambassadors for Stewards.

Just before Christmas a number of governors were pleased to participate in the Year 11 mock interviews, I for one enjoyed meeting the pupils and listening to their achievements and especially their plans for the future. We wish them all well and hope that their plans come to fruition.

**Mr Jeff Tarling, Chair of Governors**



# Able, Gifted and Talented News

## YEARS 9 AND 10 PARENTS SUPPORT EVENING

The events this year were both held on 25<sup>th</sup> November with Year 9 positioned at 5:30pm to 6:30pm and Year 10 following at 7pm to 8pm. Miss O'Neill, Gifted and Talented Team Coordinator and Deputy Headteacher, introduced the evening's events, which featured 3 'break out' sessions using the Main Hall, the Maths Room and the Conference Room.

For both groups, sessions comprised a presentation of "Revision Skills" by Mrs Tripp, Science teacher, and "Post 16, where next", delivered by Mr John Taylor, head of 6<sup>th</sup> form at St Mark's West Essex Catholic School, Gary Cooper and Miss Helen Care of Stewards Academy.

Mrs Tripp delivered her presentation about the importance of gaining revision skills. She emphasised that parents should be aware of the different ways that students may prefer to revise and gave a number of different ideas and guides to assist. She also said that preparation was key and that revision was not meant to be restricted to exam time, but should form part of ongoing independent study.

Mr Taylor informed us of the progression routes from GCSE's at secondary school to the opportunities of further education and in particular the 6<sup>th</sup> form at St Mark's. We were informed of the A Level being the traditional, but not the only route to university, and that they were still held in high esteem by the universities. Changes are proposed to the A Levels as the Government's desire to prepare students more fully for the demands of a degree course and of employment, will tend to make these examinations more challenging. The transition from GCSE's to further education can be difficult and Mr Taylor introduced us to Poppy Rogers who is in her first year at St Mark's from Stewards Academy, and Poppy spoke about the support she had received which had made her transition a smooth experience.

Mr Cooper spoke of the work in Stewards towards preparing students for transition during the important years prior to GCSE Year 11. Emphasis was being given to relating curriculum subjects to career opportunities and giving students the skills to enable them to research ideas independently and to manage their own career development. At the same time, continued efforts are being made to ensure students are given the necessary input from employers, colleges and universities so that informed decisions can be made. Miss Care gave us a summary of the continued Work Experience Scheme occurring in Year 10 summer term. She explained that this represents an extremely valuable opportunity for students to experience the world of work and to gain an understanding of the skills and practical knowledge needed to cope with the change.

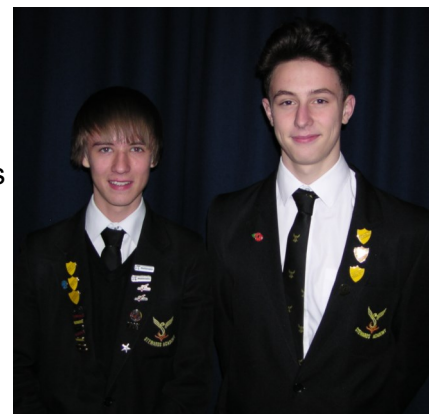
Information was included in the Support Pack issued to each family group, the emphasis again being on preparation for the future and including a guide towards completion of a personal statement, hints and tips for a CV, and typical information made available in the Autumn term of Year 11 detailing the Open Evening events of 6<sup>th</sup> forms and colleges.

The remaining "break out" sessions were delivered by Miss O'Neill who informed parents of Year 9 students of "Aspirational Learning" at Stewards, and Mrs Sherwood, Lead Teacher for Gifted and Talented, and Subject Leader for Sociology and PSHCE, who informed us of her role in "Meet The Examiner".

Alex Dodd (Head Boy) and Matt Fleming (Deputy Head Boy) of our current Year 11, spoke of their experiences at Stewards Academy including the subjects they had chosen as GCSE options, and the plans they have now to go onto 6<sup>th</sup> form and study A Levels as the next step in

their education. They told us of the opportunities they have had to meet employers during visits and work experience, as well as visiting universities and attending summer schools as part of the Stewards Academy programme.

Special thanks is given to the prefects from Year 10 whose efforts ensured that the evenings activities went ahead so smoothly.



**Alex Dodd and Matt Fleming**



**Year 10 Prefects**

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

# Technology News

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

During Technology lessons, small groups of pupils have been using the food garden to extend their learning of where food comes from and how it grows.

Pupils understand the health benefits of growing their own fruit and vegetables and not just by the end result in the eating (nutrition values) but the physical exercise you gain in the process. All food grown by the pupils will be used in the technology catering department and the school kitchen, giving the pupils a sense of pride in their achievements.

### Future plans

Future plans are to include the recycling of uncooked food and peelings and turn it into compost which will benefit the produce and teach the pupils about the food chain and sustainability. An irrigation system will also be put in place later on in the year.

In the long term we are hoping to be able to give more pupils the opportunity to have first hand experience in the allotment area and give them skills which they can use later on in life. For the pupils to dig the ground, sow the seeds, harvest the foods, cook and eat the food will be a brilliant lesson in life.

### We will be hoping to grow the following:

Runner beans  
Pumpkins  
Squashes  
Onions  
Leeks  
Beetroots  
Lettuce  
Potatoes  
Cucumbers  
Sweetcorn  
Mixed Herbs  
Strawberries  
Blackcurrants  
Raspberries

Please look out for future updates later on in the year, to see the produce grown by the pupils.



*Mrs Martin, Subject Leader for Technology*



# Performing Arts News

## PERFORMING ARTS AMBASSADORS

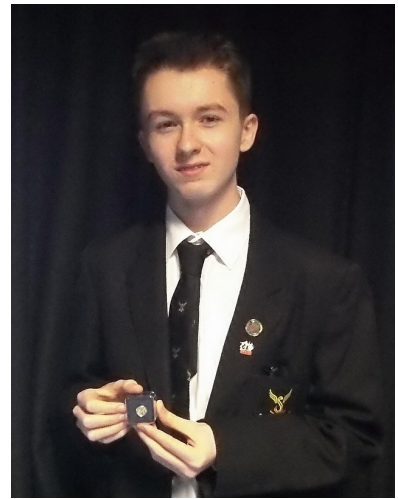
Performing Arts Ambassadors are students who demonstrate excellence in their chosen subject and are fully involved with the promotion of the subject to audiences, the community and younger students. They are always willing to give up their time to support school events and to take leadership roles in extra-curricular activities.

This term we have appointed seven new ambassadors:

### HARRY BURLING, 10RA (GCSE MUSIC AND DRAMA)

*"When I do my Music and Drama, I feel at home. I'm so glad I chose these subjects and I hope to get good grades."*

Principal cast member in two school productions  
Regularly supports younger students at Rock Club and Drama Club and has assisted the Music department at Open Evenings  
Performed at a large number of school events including Graduation Evening, The Square and the Summer/Christmas concerts



### JANET RANDAZZO, 9JG (GCSE DRAMA)

*"I love Performing Arts because it gives me the freedom to be creative and to explore various scenarios."*

Sang as part of Stewards Choir at the Choir Performance Evening and has also performed Christmas carols at St. Clare Hospice for three years running  
Principal roles in 'Back to the 80s' and in the Lower School Productions 'Treasure Island' and 'The Black Hearted Villain'  
Attends a drama club outside of school which has given her the opportunity to work with primary students and perform at a variety of local venues.



### CASEY HENDRICKS, 10JS (GCSE DRAMA)

*"Performing Arts makes me feel good. I enjoy every bit of it, especially music which helps me let out my anger and relaxes me."*

Principal role in this year's school production, 'Back to the 80s' and Shakespeare Schools Festival for two years  
Supports the running of Dance Club and has danced at many school events such as Sparks Will Fly, Town Centre Christmas Lights and Cultural Fashion Event  
Has taken every opportunity to perform at school concerts, and most recently gave a solo performance on guitar/vocals of her own arrangement 'Christmas Medley'



# Performing Arts News

## ELLIE FENNELL, 10LM (GCSE MUSIC)

*"I love composing and creating my own music and I enjoy playing guitar and singing."*

Hard-working attitude towards GCSE Music, always strives for improvement and puts in many hours after school towards both theory and practical elements of the course

Supports younger students at Rock Club and promotes Music at Open Evening to prospective students and parents

Performed at The Square, Year 9 Evening and Summer/Christmas Concerts

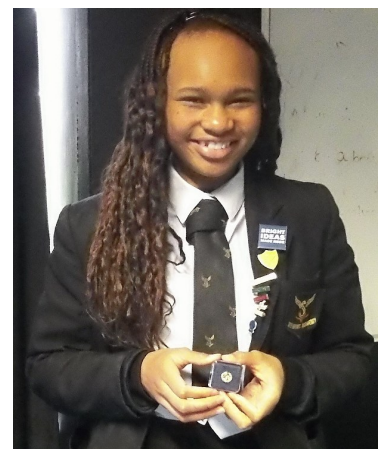


## TANIA MAMVURA, 9CC (GCSE DRAMA)

*"Performing Arts allows me to express my ideas and thoughts. I love learning techniques and dance moves from other performers."*

Represented the school in a number of dance events in the local community and has danced at Cultural Food/Fashion Event  
Supports younger students at Drama Club and took part in the last two Lower School Productions, 'Treasure Island' and 'Mobile Phone'

A keen member of the Stewards Choir and has sung at the Choir Performance Evening and at St. Clare Hospice



## CHLOE DAVIS, 10JK (GCSE MUSIC AND DRAMA)

*"I love Performing Arts because it gives me confidence. I'm most happy when I'm performing."*

Principal cast member in two school productions and took part in Shakespeare Schools Festival for two years running  
Consistently high achievement in all areas of GCSE Music  
Has sung at year group assemblies and school events such as The Square, Year 9 Evening and Summer Concert



## LOMUSA DHLAMINI, 10JK (GCSE MUSIC)

*"I find it hard to express my emotions, so I do it through music."*

Multi-instrumentalist and vocalist who regularly performs at school events including Graduation Evening and the Christmas Concert

Taken part in all year group assemblies since Year 7

Coaches and supports younger students who attend Rock Club, particularly on drums





# Performing Arts News

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

An audience of Stewards families, friends and staff gathered for our annual Christmas Concert at the end of last term. The concert was packed with a wide variety of seasonal entertainment which included a piece by the Drama Club ('Twas the Night Before Christmas), Christmas songs by our GCSE Music students (Santa Claus Is Coming, Happy Xmas (War Is Over) and Step Into Christmas), and dances from both the Intermediate and Advanced Dance Clubs and our GCSE dancers (Joy to the World, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and Elf Workshop).



Also featuring as part of the concert was a Christmas Medley arranged and performed by Casey Hendricks from Year 10, an original song 'Hope You're Here For Christmas' written and performed by Rosi Pite, Josie Jacobs and Freya Bowden from Year 9 and the Stewards Choir, who closed the concert by leading the audience in a Christmas carol sing-along made up of festive favourites such as Away in a Manger, Silent Night and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

*Performing Arts Team*

## CHOIR PERFORMANCE EVENING

Stewards Choir has gone from strength to strength over the past year, with our young singers building up a large and varied repertoire of songs; everything from 90s pop and current chart hits to well-known musicals and traditional carols. To showcase all their hard work, the 20 students from Lower School Choir and Upper School Choir joined forces to present a special performance event to an invited audience of family members and friends. Highlights from the evening were 'Price Tag' (Jessie J), 'Defying Gravity' (Wicked), 'Don't Let Go' (En Vogue) and 'Holding Out for a Hero' (Bonnie Tyler).





# Performing Arts News

## GCSE JAZZ WORKSHOP

Stewards was filled with the sounds of Jazz on 16<sup>th</sup> January, as our Year 10 GCSE Music class immersed themselves in the world of improvisation. The workshop was led by Martin Hathaway, the Head of Jazz from Guildhall School of Music and Drama, who regularly praised the efforts of our pupils. We also welcomed several young musicians from Essex Music Service, providing some extra instrumentation. All pupils engaged well with the day and were open to the concept of improvisation despite it being a new and difficult skill to attempt. As well as improvisation, the workshop provided our students with a great insight to one of their set works 'All Blues' by Miles Davis and performed this as a large ensemble. The day was a great success and we are certainly hoping to host more in the future.

*"It was amazing. We played music we've never played before."* Chloe Davis

*"It was very enjoyable and I learnt lots. It helped me to get out of my comfort zone. The visitors were kind and it was just fantastic."* Paige Abbott

*"The workshop was fun and the visitors were very nice. The improvisation pushed my limits."* Lomusa Dhlamini

**Mr Reynolds, Music**

## ORCHESTRAS LIVE

This month pupils from Stewards, Burnt Mill, St. Marks, Passmores and Mark Hall will perform an afternoon concert with the City of London Sinfonia to primary school pupils and an evening concert to the local community at Stewards Academy. This is a result of visits from **Orchestras Live** to give the pupils a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra.

Ahead of the concerts, workshops have taken place in all five Secondary schools in Harlow and ten primary schools, with the **City of London Sinfonia** and music leader **John K Miles**. In the workshops the students are getting to know the musicians, and working together on a collaborative group composition that will be performed during the concerts. A special group of students from Stewards Academy are also involved in producing the concerts, including selecting the music to be performed, promoting the concerts, writing press releases and then tackling stage management and even presenting the concerts.

Led by national music charity **Orchestras Live**, 'First Time Live – Youth' is a unique and innovative orchestral touring initiative that brings orchestral music into the lives of young people aged 10 to 14 across England. It is targeted at young people who have had little or no access to a live orchestral concert experience and who live in local authority areas in the bottom 20% for levels of arts engagement.

**First Time Live – Youth** began in 2013 in Hull, Scunthorpe, Harlow and Luton, reaching a further six places over the following year. Almost 12,000 young people from 100 schools were involved, many experiencing a live orchestral concert for the first time. The current legacy project in Harlow is reaching some 400 young people, all of whom will perform with City of London Sinfonia in February. The project is supported by Orchestras Live in partnership with Essex Music Education Hub, Essex County Cultural Development, the Royal Opera House Bridge and Arts Council England.

Ben Humphries, in Year 9 has already been influenced by First Time Live. He believes that *'First Time Live is a brilliant way to inspire young people to get involved in classical music'*. His friend Sarah Ngochinya has suggested that *'with this generation only caring about the latest pop songs First Time Live*

*gives us a chance to break away from this way of thinking and discover the classical wonders that the orchestra can offer'.*

**Mr Barden, Music**



# Work Related Learning News

## MOCK INTERVIEWS

Colleagues from businesses and the community joined Governors at the Mock Interviews for Year 11 students in December 2014.

The interviews took place over two days and the students dressed in smart attire and all looked very professional. Students completed a personal statement ready for our interviewers to evaluate the content and 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.

Over the next few weeks students will be attending interviews for their chosen Colleges, Sixth Forms or Employment. Hopefully 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.

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

David Guest, Chris Greenhill, Gemma Sunderland, John Taylor, John McMinn, Annette Welbourne Davis, Lindsay Pitcher, Jeff Tarling, Claire Callaghan, Garth Evans, Del O'Sullivan, Glenn Rogers, Phil Greenfield, Paul Rogers, Paul Norton, Russell Gewitzke, Kim Allen, Debbie Smith, Cliff Mitchell, Steve Cripps, Terry Farthing, Becci Court, Neil Mann and Helen Madden.



## 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 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</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 or Miss Care by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.**



# Work Related Learning News

## WRITTLE COLLEGE TRIP

A group of students currently studying the Land Based Course at Pets Corner, Harlow were given the opportunity to visit Writtle College, along with a group of students from Passmores Academy, for the day in December. Whilst we were at the College, the students were able to handle many different animals; Snakes, Tarantulas, Terrapins, Tortoises, Ferrets and Guinea Pigs. The



students were also shown around the campus, including the aviary and outside animal enclosures.

The students were shown the stables, where current students at the College were busy mucking out the horses. Staff at the College were also very pleased to show our students their new arrival – a skunk! Throughout the day, the instructors were very informative of useful facts about different animals and the correct care for



them. The students were also given a very challenging word search to complete, with all the words connecting to animals in some respect.

The students had a fantastic day and learnt lots of useful facts ready to take back to the classroom at Pets Corner. Even the staff enjoyed handling the animals, some braver than others!

A massive thank you to all the staff at Writtle College, Mrs Lee, Mr Waters, Mr Cooper and Mrs Hampstead.

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



## Poster Competition



Congratulations to Ellie Lodge 7PM. Her 'Back to the 80's' design won 1st place in the poster competition and will be advertising this year's production.

**March 4th - 6th**

**Prices: Adults**

**£5.00**

**Concessions**

**£2.50**



# P.E. News

## PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL YEAR 10

This year's Year 10 premiership football has been a great success with a large number of teams signing up to play. The tournament ran over one full week of competition with a large number of participants. As ever it was a hotly contested league with some of the best football we have ever seen. Acknowledgement must go to all of the participants for this year's tournament, however special congratulations go to the winners Tommy Wickenden, Bradley Russell, Stanley Saunders and Charlie Dowers.

## YR 10 PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
QPR	7	7	0	0	28
LEICESTER	7	6	1	0	25
STOKE	7	4	2	1	21
SOUTHAMPTON	7	3	3	1	18
LIVERPOOL	7	3	3	1	18
BURNLEY	7	2	4	1	15
HULL	7	1	6	0	10
CRYSTAL PALACE	7	0	7	0	7



**3 POINTS = A WIN**

**2 POINTS = A DRAW**

**1 POINT = TAKING PART**

**WINNING A GAME = 4 POINT**

**(3 FOR A WIN AND 1 FOR TAKING PART)**



## SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Throughout the tournament the girls played really well in both defence and attack and finally managed to defeat Passmores A in an epic encounter. Each player added their own impact on the fixtures with Sophie Blackmore & Emma Lidbury solid in defence, Rebecca Harrison impassable in goal, Georgia Whitefield giving her all, around the pitch, with Izzy Dorkin and Julia Noruwa working tirelessly both in attack and when needing to defend. Top scorer for Stewards in the tournament was Mollie Jarvis with an impressive three goals, closely followed by Becky Dodd who scored two. A massive congratulations goes to all of the players for all of their hard work this year. We are very proud of the whole team for their achievements, keep up the hard work.

### The Results

Drew 0-0 v St Marks  
Drew 0-0 v Passmores B  
Won 4-0 v St Nicks  
Won 1-0 v Passmores A



**Mr R Treamer**  
**P.E. Department**



# YEAR 11 HALF-TERM REVISION/CATCH-UP EXTENDED SCHOOLS

## 16 – 20 FEBRUARY 2015

	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
10.00am – 3.00pm (Lunch – 12.30-1.00pm)	<p>Resistant Materials/Product Design with Mrs Martin in Tech 3 and Mr O'Flaherty in Tech 4</p> <p>Art (all welcome) with Mr Scholtes in Art Room 3</p> <p>Art &amp; Photography with Mr White in Art Room 1</p> <p>EAL Support with Mrs Wichowski in Room 39</p> <p>Media with Miss Francis in ICT6</p>	<p>Art (all welcome) with Mr Scholtes in Art Room 3</p> <p>Art &amp; Photography with Mr White in Art Room 1</p> <p>Drama with Miss Johnson in Drama Studio</p> <p>Science with Mr Perrin in Lab 3; Mr Flood in Lab 7 and Miss Ellis in Lab 5</p> <p>EAL Support with Mrs Wichowski in Room 39</p> <p>Media with Miss Francis in ICT6</p>	<p>Dance with Miss Trowsdale in Dance Studio</p> <p>Geography with Mr Hickman in ICT6</p> <p>Music with Mr Reynolds in Music Room</p> <p>MFL with Mrs Marcano in Room 37</p>
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	NOTE –
10.00am – 3.00pm (Lunch – 12.30 - 1.00pm)	<p>ICT with Mr Harman in ICT3; Mr Trearmer in ICT5 and Mrs Orwin in ICT4</p> <p>School History Project (CA) with Mrs Erwood in Room 28</p> <p>Modern History (Revision) with Mr King in Room 29</p>	<p>ICT with Miss Daly in ICT2; Mr Locke in ICT1 and Mr Trearmer in ICT5</p> <p>Drama with Mrs Batterham in Drama Studio</p> <p>Sociology With Mrs Sherwood in Room 34</p>	<p>Students do not need to be in school uniform, but will need to bring along the correct equipment for their classes and their own refreshments as the school canteen will not be open. A register will be taken at each session.</p> <p>All students and staff <b>MUST</b> sign in as they arrive in school in the green folder located in the Student Entrance.</p>

# STEM News

## GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY STEM DAY

Year 10 Female Computer Science Students  
Accenture are one of the world's leading organizations providing management consulting, technology and outsourcing services. This past year they have been working with the STEMettes team and Essex County Council to encourage girls into STEM careers.

The STEMettes project was set up to inspire the next generation of females into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields by showing them the amazing women already in STEM via a series of school workshops, industry days, panel events, hackathons and exhibitions.

The event was held in Accenture's office in London.

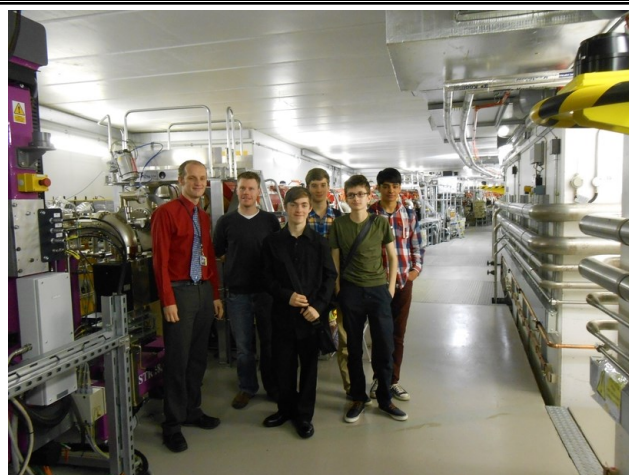
The students were introduced to an app programming tool and they were taught how to create their very own mobile app in the space of a day. After grasping the basics they took on the 'mantle of the expert' and worked on a project to develop an app to give the public information about flooding in Colchester. Later they were taken on a tour of Accenture's work environment and met some inspiring women working within STEM. Nearing the end of the day the students presented their app to the room and a panel of judges, made up of senior women from the business and teachers. At the end of the day there was a fire alarm and we all had to evacuate the building. That was exciting but also a bit worrying because it wasn't a fire drill! The winners received a set of ear phones as their prize, and Katy Briant and her partner won a prize for the students choice of Best App. All of the students left with a goody bag filled with pens, leaflets and stress relievers.



## VISIT TO THE DIAMOND LIGHT SOURCE, HARWELL

On the 28th of October, the re-scheduled visit to the Diamond Light Source took place. Jamie Clarke, Katy Briant, William Payne, Shiv Sharma and Filip Kusnir accompanied by Mr Flood were driven by Mr Young to The Rutherford Appleton Labs near Didcot. The Source is a high energy synchrotron which produces light 10 billion times brighter than the Sun! This is light in its broadest sense which extends from X-Rays through visible light to Infra Red radiation. This provides the environment for some quite extraordinary research. We were shown an experiment where X-Ray crystallography was being used to examine the changes to the atomic structure of mobile phone batteries during charging and discharging over a two year period. In another

experiment, Infra Red radiation was being used to examine activity inside living cells. As it was a very rare maintenance period, we were privileged to be taken down to the actual synchrotron ring and shown the high tech components it is made from. After lunch, there were talks on the research being done at the Diamond Light Source and how important the applications of the experiments are to our everyday life.



***Jamie, William, Shiv and Filip with Dr David Price inside the synchrotron.***

***Mr A Young, Senior Science Technician***



# STEM News

## BIG BANG NEAR ME: SCIENCE FAIR

The University of Colchester hosted the annual Big Bang Fair at the Colchester Campus and they invited students to join them and participate in some of the most exciting and inspiring STEM workshops and lectures they had to offer.

The students visited the inter-active Science fair, where Joseph Thomas 11MT was showcasing his Raspberry Pi controlled robotic arm on the Essex County Council stand. This year the Very Important Person was Prince Charles, who made a bee-line to Joseph's project and talked to him about how he had developed it.

The students also met leading academics and experts in research who will hopefully inspire them to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths at 'A' Level and beyond.

Workshops available to the students included crime scene investigation, bacteria and disease identification and brain science. There were also lectures on coral reef and climate change, and many more exciting activities.

Our students really enjoyed the 'Meet the Future You' STEM careers session where they met and talked to STEM Ambassadors working in each area of STEM.

**Sam Dodd, 9SPL:** *'Today I had an amazing day. I am proud that I have met such experienced STEM people. So much so that I have changed my view of school and why we are here!'*

**Bailey McIlhargey, 9EM:** *'Today was a great experience and an awesome opportunity to have an adventure into STEM to learn about the paths in life that you could follow. I also had fun being able to see the advances made in STEM and how we can always learn about something new.'*

**Tania Mamvura, 9CC:** *'I really enjoyed the visit because I had the opportunity to learn about future STEM careers and life at university.'*

**Becky Dodd, 10CH:** *'This trip was very informative. All of the STEM Ambassadors we met fully explained their roles and were very effective in giving advice. I would recommend other students to attend a Big Bang Science Fair because it helps you make decisions about your future career path.'*

**Mrs Wright**  
**STEM Co-Ordinator**



## LEVEL 1 AWARD IN UNDERSTANDING HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COURSE

During the October half term holidays, students from Stewards and other local schools attended a three day course called 'Level 1 Award in Understanding Health Improvement'. We explored a variety of topics like; the effects of smoking, the importance of healthy eating and sexually transmitted diseases. We looked at ways to encourage people to stop smoking, eat healthily and to use protection and we also organised campaigns, designed a health plan and considered different types of contraception. We participated in a variety of fun activities where we were all involved and worked together as teams.



The Healthworks course was a good opportunity for us because not only did we get to work with different people and make new friends, but we also learnt new things that would benefit us and could use in the future. Healthworks also provided us with an opportunity to make good use of our half term holiday and I will add the award to my CV and personal statement.

**Georgia Royall 10LM.**



# STEM News



## BLOODHOUND EDUCATIONAL ROADSHOW

The Bloodhound Educational Roadshow introduced students to the Bloodhound Interactive Modular Car, a full sized model of the Bloodhound SSC. They also attended inter-active workshops and presentations during the day.

What is the Bloodhound Supersonic Car?

It is **supersonic** because it is designed to go faster than the speed of sound.

It is a **car** because it has four wheels and is under full control of its driver.

BLOODHOUND SSC is a jet and rocket powered car designed to go at 1,000 miles per hour (just over 1,600 kilometres per hour).

It has a slender body of approximately 14m length with two front wheels within the body and two rear wheels mounted externally within wheel fairings.

It weighs over 7 tonnes and the engines produce more than 135,000 horsepower - more than 6 times the power of all the Formula 1 cars on a starting grid put together!

### What did the students do?

The students attended 3 workshops throughout the day:

1. **Tour and explore the Bloodhound Car:** Pupils were introduced to the Bloodhound Inter-active Modular Car, a full-size model of BLOODHOUND SSC. They received a 'guided tour' of the car and it's components and discussed the design and science that goes into building a 1,000mph car. The best activity was the BLOODHOUND Driving Experience – each student was given the opportunity to drive the Bloodhound SSC using a driving simulator. Huge fun!
2. **3D Printing: Additive Manufacturing:** This workshop covered the development of components for BLOODHOUND SSC using additive manufacture (3D printing), the green credentials of 3D Printing, comparing 3D printing with traditional manufacturing techniques and the future potential of this exciting technology. Working in small groups, the students created their own simulated 3D object from cardboard.
3. **Build an air pressure powered rocket car using K'NEX.** Students worked in teams to design, test and make modifications to their K'Nex car, which was required to travel in a straight line as far as possible down a track. All students had an opportunity to race their car (using an air-powered launcher) against each other and students from other schools.

**Stewards students designed and built a K'Nex car which travelled the furthest on that day. Their prize was to have their names and school written on the tail fin of the original Bloodhound SSC.**

*Mrs Wright*  
**STEM Co-Ordinator**





# Important Information

## OVERSEAS SCHOOL TRIPS AND YOUR CHILD

If your child is in Year 8, 9 or 10 and would like to take part in the skiing (present Years 8 and 9) or New York (present Year 10) residential trips proposed for the spring term of 2016, then please ensure they have their own **up-to-date passport** and for the ski trip, a **European Health Insurance Card [EHIC]** – (detailed information can be found on the Academy's website under *School Information / Information for Trips & Activities*). Passport information for these trips will need to be returned with the consent form and deposit.

*Mrs Wilson, Finance Team*

## Charity News

### SAVE THE CHILDREN

On the last day of the Autumn Term, a non-uniform day, staff and pupils wore Christmas jumpers and donated to the 'Save The Children' charity. An amazing total of £591.36 was raised. Well done and thank you to all those who donated.

## Congratulations

### COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

I think both these boys could run before they could walk! Lewis and Owen Harknett have had a love for running since a very young age, and their dedication is now paying off. This year Lewis and Owen have trained continually week in week out to ensure they are on top of their game, as competition for them in the U15 category is getting fierce.

Lewis and Owen train 5 times a week and regularly compete in indoor and outdoor events for their club. They work hard to be the best and always have the right attitude. Recently, both boys went on to compete in the Essex Schools Cross Country, with Lewis winning the event. As a result of this great achievement, Lewis will represent Essex Schools against all other counties in the south of England. This is a fantastic achievement and we are looking forward to hearing how he gets on.

I would like to congratulate both boys for their commitment to school sports and for being excellent sporting role models for the younger years. I wish them the very best for the new season ahead.

*Mr G Hughes, Head of Year 9*



# Year Group Information

## YEAR 7

Just before the Christmas break teachers monitored Year 7 for the first time, giving a Y to all students who have a good attitude to learning, completing all class work and homework to a satisfactory standard. 131 parents received letters notifying them of their children's success. Parents were also notified if their children received 2 or more N's. This information proved to be very useful in the recent parents evening, in prioritising teachers that needed to be spoken to. The turn out was excellent, and feedback forms you very kindly completed were extremely positive about all aspects of Stewards Academy.

All those students who were unsuccessful in the recent School Council elections will now form a Year Council run by myself. Hopefully this will be a pro-active group that can get involved in a number of projects, but it will be pupil driven, and I am confident that the students will come up with some brilliant ideas in our first meeting this week.

A number of selected students have been invited to attend a "Lets get cooking" club on Thursday evenings. The students have thoroughly enjoyed themselves making dishes that they can take home afterwards, along with the recipes so that they can cook them again at home with their families. Favourite dishes so far have been citrus chicken and paella. There are a number of great recipes on the website that everyone has access to, and I would highly recommend that you have a look for yourselves. As we raised £600 in enterprise week, half of this total has been given to St Clare Hospice, and the other half has been donated to the "Lets get cooking" club, so that I can offer places on a first come first served basis to the whole year group later in the year. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn crucial life long cooking skills.

**Mrs Ellis, Head of Year 7**



## YEAR 8

It has been a very exciting and productive half term for Year 8 and they continue to show a sensible and mature attitude towards their studies. The tutor team have received a number of pleasing comments from staff and this was echoed at our Parents' Evening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. I would like to thank those of you that were able to attend as communication between school and home is vital to pupil success. The event was very well supported and, as always, we value the feedback from parents.

At the time of writing, pupils were looking forward to the second of their *Try an Option* taster sessions. These are designed to support pupils in preparing to make the most important decision of their school career. The subject choices they make this year need to be well informed and considered, pupils will need to think about their interests, skills and plans for the future when deciding on the courses they will study throughout Key Stage 4. Over the coming weeks we will have assemblies and meetings during which pupils will learn more about the options and pathways available to them. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March our *Upper School Courses Evening* will be open to pupils and parents. Subject teachers will be available to discuss course content and to answer any questions that you may have. Further Education and Careers advisors will also be able to offer information on planning for the future.

As the colder weather looks set to continue for some time, we would encourage pupils to wear their winter coats and waterproof/anti-slip shoes for the journey to and from school during the wet and icy conditions. However, outdoor wear should be removed and stored away until the end of the school day.

**Mrs Ramsey, Head of Year 8**



# Year Group Information

## YEAR 9

Yet another great half term! The Christmas break certainly paid off as the majority of the Year 9's have come back to school in the right frame of mind. They are working hard, showing a great attitude towards their learning and are meeting the homework deadlines. If they maintain this attitude throughout their GCSE years I am confident that they will be very successful.

One of our key themes this half term has been **Resourcefulness**, which is one of the 5 R's to lifelong learning. Students need to realise just how much there is around them. The more they seek advice from staff, use books and take up new opportunities, the likelihood is, they will be more successful in the future. If you take the teaching staff for example, we have nearly 3000 years of life experience! As a team of people, we have probably travelled to every country in the world, met people from all walks of life and have worked in some very interesting places! These experiences can be shared with the students so that they can be guided in the right direction.

If students do need any support then all they have to do is ask. We are here to help!  
Enjoy your half term.

*Mr G Hughes, Head of Year 9*

## YEAR 10

What a great start the Year 10 students have made to 2015. The start of 2015 has seen some outstanding achievements in the year group. Congratulations to the girl's football team who were crowned Harlow Girls Football champions. Following in the girls footsteps the Year 10 Boys B Team were also crowned the Harlow B Team champions earlier month. Good luck to Leanne Rattray, Anthea Cross, Alfie Brabbs and Jim Cooper who started their Essex Fire Cadet training in January. They will complete a 41 week extensive training programme this year.

The pupils have come back with a responsible and positive 'can do' attitude proven with 110 students who have achieved two consecutive sets of 'YES' marks. With half of Year 10 complete already it is becoming increasingly important for each student to be on top form and to keep themselves on track with their coursework and homework. We have been focusing on resourcefulness in assemblies this half term and with increasing numbers of Year 10 at study hub on Thursday and extra revision sessions in various subjects they are certainly making use of the extensive resources around them. Keep up the fabulous work.

*Miss Mc Garry, Head of Year 10*

## YEAR 11

Year 11 have been immersed in their trial exams and by the time you read this will have received their results in a way that mirrors the real results day in August. Mr Cooper and Miss Care provided excellent information about the pathways open to them with the mock results that they have. However, there is still time to improve those results. All students should have a revision timetable that they are following.

Regular study, including looking at past papers, doing short tests and going over information that they need to learn, is vital for their success. Parents can help by being there to offer small treats, such as a cup of hot chocolate or a snack, and by reassuring and encouraging the students at this stressful time. The end is in sight, and the prize is all to play for.

I hope to see as many parents as possible at Parents' evening which will take place on February 26<sup>th</sup>. It is important that you attend if possible. The exams are taking place shortly and staff will be able to advise on the best way forward for your child.

Presentation Evening is on March 24<sup>th</sup>, an evening when we celebrate success. Year 11 are being nominated for subject prizes which will reflect academic excellence in each area. I am looking forward to seeing the list of those who are nominated and sharing in their success.

Just a reminder, that the date of Leavers' Day and Prom is June 26<sup>th</sup>. Details and cost will be issued shortly, but I hope that the majority of students will be able to attend these events in order to celebrate their 5 years at Stewards Academy.

*Ms Batterham, Head of Year 11*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

**16th-20th**  
26th

**Half-Term**  
Year 11 Parents Evening 4.00pm

### MARCH

3rd  
4th-6th  
19th  
24th  
**27th**

Curriculum Day  
Production - 'Back to the 80's'  
Upper School Courses Evening 6.00pm  
Presentation Evening 7.00pm  
**Term Ends - 1.00pm**

## 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



**Mrs Barker**  
**Attendance Officer**

