



February
2013

Stewards Academy

Newsletter

Gifted & Talented
Lead School

IQM Flagship School

International School Award
2010-2013

THE PRINCE'S TEACHING INSTITUTE
2013

Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard

ARTS COUNCIL
ARTSMARK
GOLD
ENGLAND

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Healthy Schools

Leading Space Education
Quality Mark

Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils,

PERFORMANCE TABLES

This term saw the publication of the Department for Education's latest School Performance Tables. Parents will know that in terms of the key performance indicator, Stewards Academy achieved a record result in 2013 of 58% 5+ A*-C including English and Maths. Other notable statistics include the following:-

Stewards pupils achieved the national average in terms of the percentage of pupils making expected progress in Maths and above the national average for expected progress in English. This is particularly notable as our students start the school below national averages in both subjects. In other words, during their 5 years of secondary education at Stewards, pupils make accelerated progress or 'value added.' When placed within a group of schools across the country with broadly similar ability on intake, Stewards comes 4th out of 55 schools. The Department for Education say *"there is no statistically better performing school in this group within a 75 mile radius."*

The current Year 11 have received the results of GCSE's in English and Maths taken this autumn. Parents may recall that we took the decision to continue our early entry this year despite the late Government announcement that in future only the first attempt at a GCSE will count in school league tables. We took the decision in the interest of our pupils because they had been well prepared and were ready. Congratulations to those students who have been successful and who already have a good grade in English and/or Maths.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In January I attended the Lord Ashcroft International Business School at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Inaugural Essex Teaching Awards Ceremony. My thanks to the Governing Body who put forward the nomination.

PARENT GOVERNOR

Mr Paul Rogers has been re-elected as Parent Governor. There were no other nominations. Our thanks to Mr Rogers for his continued service to the Academy.



Award presented by the Chairman of Essex County Council. Councillor Kay Twitchen

FEBRUARY HALF TERM – YEAR 11 REVISION SCHOOL

Please note the programme for Year 11 over half term. My thanks in advance to the staff who will be giving up part of their holiday to support Year 11 students.

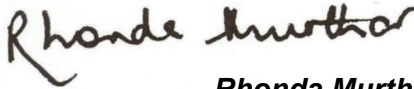
YR 11 PROGRAMME

17 – 21 February 2014

	Monday 17th February	Tuesday 18th February	Wednesday 19th February
10.00am – 3.00pm (Lunch – 12.30-1.00pm)	Art (all welcome) with Mr Scholtes in Art Room 2	Art (all welcome) with Mr Scholtes in Art Room 2 Geography with Miss Connaughton in Rm 40 Dance with Miss Holden in Dance Studio	History with Mrs Erwood in Rm 28 Technology – Resistant Material / Product Design with Mrs Martin, Mr O’Flaherty and Mr Martin in Tech Geography with Mr Hickman in Rm 41
	Thursday 20th February	Friday 21st February	
10.00am – 3.00pm (Lunch – 12.30-1.00pm)	Sociology (by invitation) with Mrs Sherwood in Rm 34 (2.00pm finish) Science (Triple Physics Coursework students) with Mr Perrin in Lab 3	Media with Miss Francis in ICT 6	

NOTE - 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.

All students and staff **must** sign in as they arrive in school in the green folder located in the Student Entrance


Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Important Information

PARKING NEAR THE SCHOOL

From time to time I draw attention to the serious dangers caused by hazardous parking, eg on corners opposite the school, double parking, stopping on the yellow ZIG ZAG lines, etc.

A new initiative has just been launched in the Harlow area by the North Essex Parking Partnership [NEPP]. Their aim is to reduce the level of unsafe parking around schools.

NEPP has Civil Enforcement Officers [CEOs]. They will still be working on foot, but now they also have a patrol car which will enable them to cover greater areas more regularly. The CEOs have the power to issue Penalty Charge Notices [PCN]. They will take photos from the patrol car and follow up cases where a PCN should be issued if not done on the spot. They obtain home addresses from the DVLA and PCNs are normally issued in the post. The charge is £70 or can be reduced to £35 if paid within a certain period.

You will see that there is a poster on a reception window publicising the use of the vehicle and a reminder to park safely with regard to all road users.

More information is available on www.parkingpartnership.org

Telephone 01206 282316.



Thank you, Mrs Jenkins, Business Manager



Headteacher Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at the Essex Teaching “Oscars”

There are very few things which go on in the Academy which the Headteacher is not aware of but last month the Governors managed to surprise her.

The first Ms Murthar knew of the plot was when she was surprised by an invitation to the inaugural awards ceremony for the Essex Teaching Awards at Anglia Ruskin University. She was even more surprised on the evening to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of 24 years of devotion and outstanding service to Stewards Academy and the pupils who have attended the school in that time. The citation described her as having “exceptional commitment to diversity and inclusion and the development of a true school community” and a “clear commitment to the professional development of all staff, valuing all members and ensuring they have the resources to do the best they can”.

Ms Murthar’s nomination now goes forward to the national awards. I’m sure that the whole school will be rooting for her.

David Guest Vice Chair

English Department News

It has been a busy term so far in the English department, with many of our Year 7 classes enjoying our first ever "Shakespeareance". We have been examining a range of Shakespeare's strangest supernatural characters- from witches and ghosts, to fairies and sprites. Pupils have also been working tremendously hard to complete their 100 point projects. There have been some truly stunning pieces handed in so far, including detailed models of the Globe theatre, modern versions of Shakespearian plays and beautiful Elizabethan costume designs. We are already looking forward to studying 'The Scottish Play' next half term. Well done Year 7, I am sure Mrs Ramsey and Mrs Wilson must be really proud of your progress. What an impressive year group!

This half term all of our Year 9 pupils have been working to prepare for a group performance of a sonnet from *Romeo and Juliet*. We have loved seeing Year 9 having fun and improving their dance moves while also gaining a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's use of language, structure and form. It has been a truly unforgettable (and loud!) experience. It has been a joy to see everyone so excited about performing Shakespeare. Thank you Year 9!

Miss Feeney English Department



**Maizy
Egginton,
Abi
Johnson,
Emily Oliver,
Shannon
Hampson
(Year 7)**

As a part of our on going commitment to personal and professional development we regularly hold Cross Phase Development meetings with a number of our Primary school colleagues from local feeder schools. These meetings take place once every term with the aim of sharing good practice. The focus of the last meeting was reading and lots of good ideas and resources were shared. Since September we have also been a part of a research project run by the Education Endowment Fund which was set up to look at how effectively Phonics can be taught in secondary schools. As you may know Stewards Academy was one of the first secondary schools in Harlow to provide this intervention. During this period, our department has had several internal and external observations and I am pleased to say that we have had very positive feedback from the Read Write Inc. assessors. We are now nearing the end of the testing period and initial results have been good.

**Mr Greenaway
Head of Key Stage 3.**

Reading News

Essex Book Festival

Stewards second reading week takes place during the week commencing 3rd March 2014. On the Tuesday of that week (4th March), we are being visited by Sufiya Ahmed, the author of *Secrets of the Henna Girl*. She will be holding sessions with our students throughout the day to read extracts from her book and to answer any questions, before holding another session, for members of the public, parents and staff at 15:30 which will last for approximately one hour.

If you would like to reserve a seat in the Conference Room for the 15:30 session, please contact reception at Stewards and your details will be passed on to me. If you are interested in reading the book, the ISBN number is 978-0-141-33980-1.

Renaissance Reading

The reading revolution is continuing! There is a culture of reading at Stewards and this has been supported not just by the Renaissance Reading scheme, but also by the other reading activities that happen throughout the school, such as our phonics programme, the "Read all About It" breakfast sessions during which students can read and discuss newspaper articles, and our various guided reading sessions.

To give you an idea of the extent of reading that is happening here, since the start of this school year our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have read an astonishing 63.7 million words between them and have taken reading practise quizzes on more than 2,300 books. Over 4,400 books were borrowed from the library during the last school year and the love of reading is being engendered in more and more students every day, which bodes well for their academic futures here at Stewards and also in the outside world.

Mr Ginger Reading Manager
page 4

Kingswood Maths Weekend

Last term a group of Year 11 pupils went to Kingswood residential centre for a fun packed weekend of Maths revision in preparation for their exam.

Kingswood offers a whole range of programmes specially designed to inspire and stimulate the minds of older students, enhancing their formal education and growing their appetite for learning.

Kingswood's blend of outdoor education adventure activities and modern classroom facilities allowed the pupils to work extremely hard to build their confidence and improve their problem solving skills. The students participated in a number of revision sessions

focusing on mathematical topics they have previously struggled with.

They were given a well-deserved break during the day to take part in action packed activities such as quad biking, wall climbing and 3G swing. The pupils had a fantastic time pushing themselves to the limit both academically and physically.

"It really helped to break up the maths with the different activities. They were great fun and allowed me to concentrate on my maths" Alastair King

"The activities were fun and I learnt a lot, the weekend really helped me with my exam revision" Billy Wickenden

"Kingswood was a very good experience because I learnt in a fun way which helped it stick. It was also fun, you never got bored. It helped me get my C grade" Libby Hennessy

"Kingswood was a great experience, I was able to get a lot of maths revision done at the same time as having a lot of fun. I generally believe that the revision I did at Kingswood helped me achieve my grade C" Lilly Stavrou



P.E. Department News

SKI TRIP

There is only one week remaining for those pupils going on the Stewards Academy Ski Trip 2014 to Folgaria, Italy which leaves on Friday 14th of February and returns on Saturday 22nd February.

As well as enjoying the slopes during the day, the pupils and staff will be enjoying a packed après ski programme which includes activities such as; ice skating, tubing, swimming and more. In preparation for the trip a 'Ski fit' club has been running on both Tuesdays and Thursdays

overseen by Mr R. Trearmer and Mr Sanders. These sessions will continue to run as scheduled until the departure date. All pupils attending the trip are encouraged to attend at least one session per week to ensure they are ready for the trip, which will be very physically demanding. Pupils are reminded that; attendance, punctuality, attitude to learning and behaviour are all important things to consider on the final few weeks before the trip, as failure to maintain high standards in any of the criteria could result in the loss of your place on the trip.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Upcoming Girls Fixtures

26/2/14 Year 7/8/9/seniors Netball vs St Marks (Home)

5/3/14 Year 9/seniors Netball vs St Nicks (Away)

12/3/14 Year 7/8/9/seniors Netball vs Mark Hall (Home)

19/3/14 Year 9/Senior Harlow Schools Netball Tournament @ St Marks

19/3/14 Year 7/8 Girls Rugby Tournament @ Thurrock Rugby Club

26/3/14 Year 7/8 Harlow Schools Netball Tournament @ St Marks

Upcoming Boys Fixtures

10/2/14 Year 7 and Year 8 Rugby Tournament @ Upper Clapton Rugby Club

11/2/14 Year 9 and Year 10&11 Rugby Tournament @ Upper Clapton Rugby Club

4/3/14 Interform Cross Country@ Stewards Academy

25/3/14 Year 7 Football vs Burnt Mill (Home)

25/3/14 Year 8 Football vs Burnt Mill (Away)

26/3/14 Year 9 Football vs Burnt Mill (Home)

25/3/14 Year 10 Football vs Burnt Mill (Away)

27/3/14 Year 11 Football vs Burnt Mill (Home)

YEAR 9 NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 9 Netball Team who qualified before Christmas for the County Round of National Schools Netball. They qualified by coming runners-up in the West Essex Netball Tournament held at Mark Hall School on Saturday 5th October.

The County Round of National Schools Netball was held on Sunday 17th November at New Hall School, Boreham. Stewards played in Pool B and were up against tough competition in the following Essex schools: Great Baddow; Colchester County High; De La Salle; Helena Romanes; Fitzwirmarc; Westcliff and St Martins.

Overall, the competition proved a little too hard for Stewards to get enough points to continue into the next National round. Many congratulations to the following members of the Year 9 Netball Team: GS-Darcy Giddings / GA-Lauren Sykes / WA-Mollie Jarvis / C-Sara King / WD-Becky Dodd / GD-Izzie Dorkin and GK-Megan Cunningham.

And good luck to all the girls who are still in the County Tournament –their latest result against Gable Hall was a win, 18-17 after half time.

Mrs Goddard Assistant Headteacher

P.E. Department News

PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL (ALL YEARS)

This year's new look premiership football has been condensed into a whole week of competition for participants. As ever it was a hotly contested league with some of the best finals we have ever seen. Acknowledgement must go to all of the participants in this year's premiership football tournaments for their constant increase in performance. Congratulations to all participants for taking part in the event with a special congratulations going to the winners from all year groups.



Year 7

**Charlie Barclay, Jack Burton,
Tyler Welsh and Jordan Welsh**



Year 8

**Ronny Gisbourne, Owen
Harknett, Sam Jenkins and
Ryan Lynch**



Year 9

**Harry McCann,
Brandon Magumise,
Tommy Wickenden
and Stanley
Saunders**

HARLOW SCHOOLS 7 A SIDE GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Well done to the Year 7 Girls football team who were runner ups in the Harlow Schools tournament at Passmores on Wednesday 29th January. They remained undefeated until the final where they lost 1-0 to Passmores. Well done to the girls. Squad: Amie Stingemore, Rebecca Howlett, Olivia Callegari, Hollie Saunders, Lois Joscelyne, Georgina Millsom, Kayla Walls, Destiny Ayliffe, Demi Bowyer, Wiktor Moloczniak, Hilary West, Ellie Goodship, Ellie Cooper, Theresa Idehen and Lily Eves.



Performing Arts News

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT ST. CLARE HOSPICE

We took a group of 20 singers to St. Clare Hospice to sing Christmas carols for some of the day patients. Accompanied on guitar by Mr Taylor, the students performed 'Silent Night', 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' and 'All I Want for Christmas is You' to name just a few. The staff at the hospice even provided percussion instruments so that everyone could join in! At the end of the session, patients were able to request their favourite songs and there was even a request for Mr Taylor to perform a solo, which of course he was happy to oblige! It was a lovely occasion and we will certainly be returning next Christmas.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The families and friends who came to watch our Christmas Concert were treated to an evening filled with a variety of festive entertainment. Students from Drama Club presented their own Christmas plays, including 'Bad Santa' and 'The Best Cinderella Ever'. Intermediate dancers performed 'What Christmas Means to Me' and the advanced dancers performed 'When I Grow Up' and 'A Christmas Dream'. Music was provided by Year 9 and Year 10 bands, who played 'Last Christmas' and 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' and the Stewards Choir with 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' and 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. Year 11 students sang solos or duets; some of the highlights of these were Charlotte Newell who sang 'Walking in the Air' accompanied by Staff Ensemble, Hannah Kizilcan's 'Winter Wonderland' and Megan Baldwin and Chris Richards with 'To Make You Feel My Love'.



STAFF PANTO - CINDERELLA: THE SEQUEL!

This year's panto, written and directed by Mr Ramsey, continued from last year's 'Cinderella'. We caught up with all



our favourite characters from last year: Cinderella, Prince

Charming, Buttons and of course the Ugly Sisters and their mother, Battling Batters. Students saw the panto as part of their Christmas Assembly before the end of last term.



Performing Arts News

PERFORMING ARTS AMBASSADORS

Maddison and Sian are both GCSE Drama students who throw themselves into various events. This year they have participated in Macbeth, as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, Upper School Showcase, Celebration Concert, Christmas Concert and are currently in rehearsals for this year's production. Both girls have a passion for Dance and help to lead the Intermediate Dance Club regularly. They are helpful and committed students and are worthy recipients of the Performing Arts Ambassador badge.



Miss Johnson Head of Performing Arts

Maddison Davies and Sian Curtis

MUSIC SCHOOL

Stewards Music School gives students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument of their choice. Lessons take place on Wednesday after school in the Music Department.

We currently have specialist tutors in : Piano, Keyboard, Drums, Guitar, Clarinet, Trumpet, Saxophone, Flute.

Current fees for lessons are:

£84.00 per term for 10 x 15-minute lessons

£140.00 per term for 10 x 30-minute lessons

Families eligible for Free School Meals can apply for a tuition voucher from Essex County Council which can be used for a substantial discount on fees.

We strongly recommend that any student who is studying, or considering studying Music at GCSE should be receiving formal tuition on their instrument.

Please contact Miss Tovey for further information, or visit essexonlinemusic.co.uk

THE PERFORMING ARTS TEAM

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - WE WILL ROCK YOU

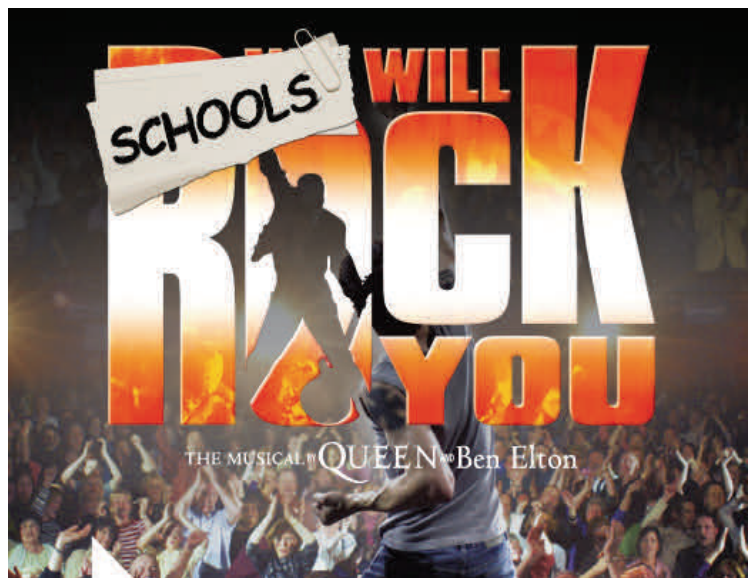
This year's production of 'We Will Rock You' promises to be fantastic. Cast and crew have been working hard and attending rehearsals every week in preparation for one of the biggest events in the Performing Arts calendar.

The performances will take place on **Wednesday 12th March, Thursday 13th March and Friday 14th March**. The show starts at 7.00pm; doors open at 6.40pm. Tickets will be available from Resources from **Monday 24th February**.

Ticket prices for this show are:

Adult £5.00 / Concession £2.50

Family ticket £12.00 (2 Adults, 2 Children)



Able, Gifted and Talented News

YEARS 9 AND 10 PARENTS SUPPORT EVENING.

On the 14th January, we held the Parents Support Evening for Years 9 and 10. Miss O'Neill introduced the evening and then there were three 'break out' areas consisting of:

- The Core Subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science. Mrs O'Sullivan, Miss McDevitt, Miss Feeney and Mr Plested delivered their presentations to inform parents of the support available and to ensure that the students are given the best opportunities of achieving their potential. An emphasis on the importance of reading and independent study was made.
- Careers, Work Related Learning, and Post 16 Options. Mr Harman delivered his presentation in the Main Hall and set out the procedures and information relating to the transition from secondary school to the opportunities of A Levels at 6th Forms, vocational courses at colleges, and work related learning with employers and with training under apprenticeship schemes through colleges. In addition, Harrison Taylor (ex-pupil of Stewards and currently working with us) and Colyn Edmondson of Year 11, emphasised the importance of preparation and looking at the Post 16 providers and their entry requirements.

Mr Taylor and Mr Bendall of St Mark's West Essex Catholic School, then informed us of the benefits of a university education and how St Marks can offer a traditional, but stretching route, by providing an A Level programme from their 6th form provision.

- The 'Stretch and Challenge' session in the Conference Room enabled Mr King to explain the Extended Projects currently being undertaken by some students of Year 9 and 10, based on their own chosen subjects with a research and argument element to them. Additional input was given by George Strachan (of our current Year 11), Miss Watson (ex-pupil and English teacher), and Mrs Sherwood (Head of Sociology). They emphasised the demands of Year 11, what it is like to be multi-talented, and how to get the high grades required.

The new format was well received, and while time was tight, many parents commented that the presentations were very helpful and informative and especially liked to hear of the experiences of the students.

Some comments included,

'We enjoyed the evening and found it very helpful'.

'Being split into smaller groups was better. The lectures were short but to the point, and it was good to get different perspectives'.

'The short duration of the talks made it easy to stay focussed on the subjects'.

'We will be encouraging our daughter now to watch the news and read newspapers to keep up to date with current affairs and to vary her choice of reading material. It helped us to understand where to look in order to support her'.



Miss O'Neill gave the closing address back in the Main Hall covering the need to:

- Keep up to date with current affairs.
- Keep reading.
- Make the best use of your school (resources, other pupils, teachers and support staff).
- Plan ahead.

Mr Cooper
A, G & T Mentor/Guidance
Officer

Able, Gifted and Talented News

YEAR 8 PARENTS SUPPORT EVENING

The event for Year 8 was held in the Main Hall on 7th January and was introduced by Miss O'Neill, Assistant Headteacher and Coordinator for Gifted and Talented.

Mrs O'Sullivan and Mr Greenaway of the English department, and Miss McDevitt, of Mathematics, presented to the parents and students, explaining the support available at Stewards, and the ways in which additional support can be obtained. A big emphasis was placed on reading and independent study.

Riley Halson, Hannah Charles, Blessing Ona, Megan Jenkins and Chloe Eves from Year 10, addressed the audience to give a pupil's perspective of what is required to prepare for GCSEs and in particular the power of reading.

Mr Cooper, Able, Gifted and Talented Mentor, explained his role which incorporates career guidance work. He recognised the important role of parents and carers in influencing the decisions of students and that encouragement to research career ideas, and to consider the consequences, is key to making the right decisions.

Mr King explained the Extended project qualification that will be on offer in Year 9.

Miss O'Neill concluded the event.



Mr Cooper A, G & T Mentor/Guidance Officer

STEM News

STEM PROJECT

The background to the Project has been explained in previous editions of the Newsletter and we are pleased to have now arrived at the point of designing and producing some basic designs. Our sessions up to the Christmas break had been weekly and everyone had been able to contribute to the actual assembly of the 3D printer, as well as practice the programming of the designs. There was a STEM Celebration Event at County Hall, Chelmsford on 14th January which was an opportunity to show the STEM work that has been undertaken in the area during 2013. Representatives of Applied Technologies Ltd (AST), who donated the 3D printer, and who have been mentoring our group, took some of the items produced on the 3D printer for display.

Our sessions have continued in to 2014 and the plan now is to meet monthly, and for the Project to culminate in a presentation event at the end of March. This would enable us to evaluate the work done and the successes achieved during the past 6 months. To support our endeavours, Paige Tennison, of AST, and an ex-pupil of Stewards, will be helping our group by attending additional sessions.

Mr Cooper A, G & T Mentor

CHIGWELL ROW SCOUTS GO TO SPACE

Over a period of two weeks, 1st Chigwell attended Stewards Space School, to gain the knowledge required to obtain their Scout Astronomer Activity badges.

During their first week they climbed inside an inflatable planetarium, provided by Explore STEM, and listened to Andy Gannon, Stewards Astronomer, talk about constellations, why they are useful and learnt the names of the most important ones. They also found out how to find the North Star, Polaris, which comes in very useful during Orienteering nights. Afterwards they made a Planisphere, a map of the night sky, to take away and use during their camp nights.

The second week, Andy talked about the planets in the Solar System. Moon rocks and meteors, borrowed from NASA, were on display for the scouts to read about and hold. Most of the meteorites were 4.5 billion years old, older than our Solar System except one which originally came from the planet Mars. They also learnt about comets and Andrew Young, Stewards Senior Technician, made a comet using water, brown sauce, carbon and dry ice, solid carbon dioxide.

Each of the scouts received a certificate congratulating them on the award of their Astronomy Activity Badge.

Scout Leader Tomas Emmett said: *'Just a quick note to say a massive thank you for allowing our scouts to visit your school over the last few weeks. They were fantastic evenings and the scouts had a great time. Kids at that age rarely show it but in the mini bus on the way home they were saying how much they enjoyed the night. Please pass on my gratitude to the rest of the team. Thanks again!!'*

Mrs Wright Curriculum Development Technician

STEM News

COMMUNITY STAR WATCH EVENINGS MARS WATCH

Are you interested in the Cosmos? Would you like to know more about the objects you see in the night sky? If the answers to these questions are a resounding yes then why don't you join us on our Community Space Watch evenings.

Our monthly evenings are planned around a certain topic. Our two local astronomers will give a short talk about the subject, for example on Tuesday 11th February 2014 we will be having a talk about Mars, the red planet, what it is like, what the Mars Rovers have found there and much more.

If we are blessed with a clear sky we will take the telescopes outside and view Mars and other objects in the sky. The Sky Watch evenings run even if it is cloudy, as an interactive activity will be provided instead of going outside.

Bring your own telescope if you have one and why not download the 'Google Sky Map' app onto your mobile phone before the evening.

We suggest that children under 16 are accompanied by an adult, hopefully someone who is also interested in astronomy, so that the child can pursue their interest in-between meetings.

There is no need to book just turn up at Block 3, Lab 7, at 6.15pm for a prompt 6.30pm start. Park or walk around to the back of school by the caretakers house and follow the signs to Lab 7.

There is no admittance fee.

Free light refreshments are provided.

On a clear night please remember to dress warmly as it can get very cold standing about outside.



Community Sky Watch: Andy Gannon with his telescope showing members of the public the object Jupiter.

LIGHT, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING WORKSHOP

Presented by the Cavendish Laboratories, University of Cambridge

Instead of their normal timetabled double Science lesson the Year 9 Triple Science class attended the Cavendish Physics Workshop on 'Light, the Universe and Everything' at the Cavendish Laboratories, University of Cambridge. First they listened to a talk about 'The Magic and marvel of light'. Then they did a practical session 'Experimenting with light and telescopes'.

After a break they listened to a lecture about 'What do astronauts do in space?'

Students attending the workshop: Rebecca Dodd 9CH, Filip Kusnir 9CH, Brandon Magumise 9DES, Chelsea Schirra 9DES, Katy Briant 9GM, Sara King 9GM, Emma Lidbury 9GM, William Payne 9GM, Stanley Saunders 9GM, Shiv Sharma 9GM, James Clarke 9JS, Charlie Leonard 9LM, Shaun Preston 9LM, Kelvin Uhumwagho 9LM, James Cooper 9MW, Rebecca Harrison 9MW, Anitalese Ogedengbe 9MW, Jamie Venables 9MW and Ellie Wiseman 9MW.



STEM News

ARCHIMEDES: SCIENTIST, MATHEMATICIAN, ENGINEERGENIUS'

Institute of Physics Evening Lecture presented by Professor Alan Davis

Stewards students attended this lecture at the University of Hertfordshire. They learnt how Archimedes, in the third century BC, made important contributions to science, engineering and mathematics, many of them preceding, by hundreds of years, their being fully understood.

Most of us are familiar with the "Eureka" story but he did much more than that. The students were told a variety of stories associated with Archimedes including his work in astronomy, his practical engineering projects and how he nearly invented calculus approximately two thousand years before Newton and Leibnitz. The wide variety of his work really does mean that he was a genius.

Alan Davies is Professor of Mathematics at the University of Hertfordshire where he was Head of Department until his retirement. Since then he has spent most of his time working with school pupils, both primary and secondary, and presenting mathematics and science to general audiences of all ages.

Students on the trip: Alycia McLeod 7AMW, Jack Whitting 7SL, Eleanor Fleming 8DS, Ashleigh Adams 8TS, Lily Stevens 8TS, Emma McAleer 9CH, Elena McLeod 9LM, Harry Butler 11PM and Michael Whitting 11PM.

Harry Butler 11PM: *'I found it to be a very interesting night and full of information I didn't know before. Very good indeed.'*

Michael Whitting 11PM: *'Today has been very informative. I have learnt the way you work out a parabola.'*

Eleanor Fleming 8DS: *'Brilliant!'*



Stewards students with Professor Alan Davies and his props.

BIOPHYSICS OF VISION

Institute of Physics Evening Lecture presented by Dr Eileen Nugent

Our students discovered the answers to the following questions when they attended the 'Biophysics of Vision' lecture at the Cavendish Laboratories.

- How are photons detected in the eye?
- How are electrical impulses generated in the eye for the brain to interpret?
- How does the brain compute depth from the left/right image pair received from the eyes?
- How can we recreate a scene in 3D
- How does 3D cinema work?

The human visual system is an amazingly complex and sensitive detection system, helping us navigate the world around us. It's an excellent example of the interplay of biology and physics. This lecture used demonstrations to explore this exciting field.

Jamie Allen 8OK: *'I learnt a lot about optical illusions and vision. It was very interesting!'*

Sarah Warwick 7JFL: *'I learnt how our eyes work and that they are a lot more complicated than they seem.'*

Eleanor Fleming 8DS: *'It was very interesting and I think this will help me a lot with my next topic in science. Light!'*

Students on the trip: Tom Clancy 7AMW, Alycia McLeod 7AMW, Mason Whitmore 7GMW, Sarah Warwick 7JFL, Xander Gable 7PH, Sarah-Louise Dymock 7RL, Isabelle Bull 7SB, Leo Parnis-Roach 7SB, Ella Saddington 7SB, Eleanor Fleming 8DS, Jess Cox 8EM, Jamie Allen 8OK, Elena McLeod 9LM and Erin Clancy 9TMA.



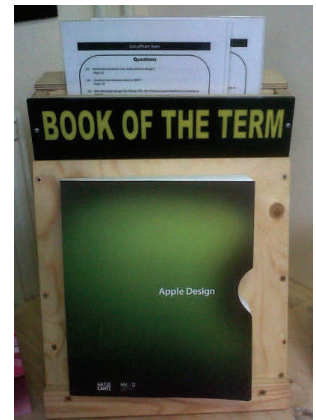
Stewards students in the Cavendish Laboratories Lecture Theatre.

Mrs Wright Curriculum Development Technician

Technology Department News

Book & Designer of the Term

Jonathan Ives, who is the Senior Vice President of Design at Apple Inc is the designer of the term. Please come and read our books and complete the quizzes located in the technology corridor.



KS3 Clubs in Technology

The KS3 clubs continue to be a success and pupils are making aprons, clocks and learning how to tile. There are still some places available in the Textiles and CAD/CAM club. We hope to see you there soon!



Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

The Technology department held a Christmas tree decoration competition last term. The competition was fierce with over fifty entries. Thank you to everyone who entered, as you all helped to bring the Christmas spirit to the Technology department. The winning pupils were: Alice Neville, Leona Mace, Jay Gumble, Sarah Ngochinya and Anthea Cross. Their creativity and hard work paid off as I'm sure you will agree they look fantastic. Well done!



Year 9 Fused Plastic Bags

Year 9 pupils had an exciting opportunity to make a bag using fused plastic in their product design lessons. This has given them a better understanding of the importance of recycling and sustainability.

"I didn't want to make a bag like everyone else so I used my skills to produce a skirt as I am interested in fashion" Alice Neville
"I couldn't believe how strong the material became when it was fused together. I have learnt how to use a sewing machine and produced a bag that I am pleased with adding wrappers of my favourite sweets to personalise it" Jackson Rushbrooke



Mrs Martin
Subject Leader for Technology

Work Related Learning News

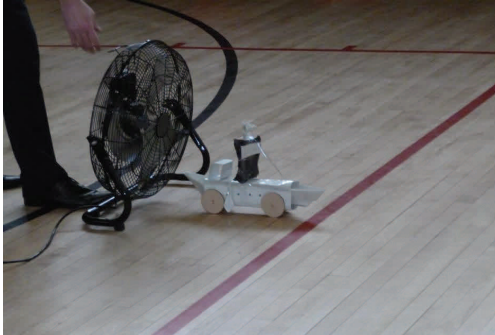
YEAR 11 CURRICULUM DAY

In preparation for applications to Sixth Forms and Colleges, Year 11 spent Curriculum Day completing their personal statements, curriculum vitae and writing their application forms.

Students also enjoyed a fun session when teams built 'boats' using only paper, sticky tape, a black sack and wheels. The boats were tested in the Gym (*hence the need for wheels and with the aid of a giant fan*) amidst laughter and cheers.

Although the winner from 11VG didn't achieve the longest distance it conformed most closely to the strictly imposed criteria set, as well as travelling a long distance.

Well done everyone!



MOCK INTERVIEWS FOR YEAR 11.

Our colleagues from Industry and the Community joined Governors to support Mock Interviews with Year 11 students at the end of January, timed to take place before College and Sixth Form interviews. Previous students have told us mock interviews are a very useful exercise and enable them to feel more confident when meeting prospective Further Education providers as well as prospective employers. Class of 2014 students arrived smartly dressed and a little nervous but prepared and ready to practice their interview skills.

Interviewers were impressed by our students, praising their articulate responses to questions and the content of their personal statements, which had been submitted previous to the interviews taking place, and particularly their preparation overall. The interviewers said they had enjoyed meeting such personable young people and the students said 'they enjoyed the experience'. *Please see Mrs Ellis's report for more views from students.*

Written feedback from the interviews will be shared with students via their tutors during the next few weeks, any tips for improving technique also.

Thank you to our colleagues from Harlow Council – Simon Pipe, Michael Pitt, Norah Nolan and Becci Court. Thank you to Chris Greenhill from Greenhill Consulting, Cliff Mitchell, Nigel Day (Police Support Community Officer), Stacey Randall (Spurgeons Regional Manager West Essex Quadrant), Kerry McEwan (Princess Alexandra Hospital), Paul Cornwell (Information, Advice and Guidance Participation Consultant (ECC)), John McMinn (Harlow 14 – 19 Area Co-ordinator) . Thank you to Jeff Tarling, David Guest and Paul Rogers (Governors) and to Gary Cooper (Guidance Officer).

"Always a pleasure to meet the well prepared students from Stewards Academy" Chris Greenhill



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
97%	96.8%	96.4%	95.8%	95.7%
WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO DATE = 96.3%				

THIS IS FANTASTIC – WELL DONE – KEEP IT UP!

ATTENDANCE FACTS

- Parents/carers MUST provide a note or appointment card/letter if a pupil needs to sign in/out of school at any time other than normal start and finish times.
- Attending school regularly and on time enables pupils to realise their full potential and achieve success

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

If you achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term you will have received the 'Good Attendance' badge (below left) – **continue** with 100% attendance for the Spring Term and you will receive the 'Attendance Award' badge (in the middle) – **continue** again with 100% attendance for the Summer Term and you will receive the gold 100% Attendance Badge!



REGISTRATION

8.45am – REGISTRATION (AM) FOR ALL PUPILS

1.55pm – REGISTRATION (PM) FOR ALL PUPILS

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**

Charity News

Donations collected for various charities since the last Newsletter.

Staff Christmas Card donations (where staff donate to charity instead of sending cards to colleagues) - **£308.22**

The Hira Shakoor Memorial Fund - **£40.00**

ASDAN raffle (Charity: Cancer Research) - **£102.65**

Donations from SLT (Charity: Sightsavers) - **£140.00**

Year 7 Enterprise Week w/c 25.11.13 - **£445.55**

Film Club

Film Club has been up and running since September with Miss Lavelle and Miss Gilmé. It has been especially popular with Year 7 and 8 students, most of whom never miss a viewing! Highlights so far this year have been *The Truman Show*, *A Nightmare Before Christmas* (which attracted record numbers of students!) and most recently, the wonderful hand-drawn anime, *Spirited Away*.

Miss Lavelle
English Department



FILM CLUB



Year Group Information Year 7

This half term has seen the start of our tutor group assemblies, the first being taken by the pupils of 7SB. After weeks of practise they were ready to perform two songs to the rest of the year group. Standing in front of over 200 hundred staff and pupils is no mean feat and (after some initial nerves!) they sang beautifully and entertained the year group (with many of us joining in with the singing!) It was a wonderful and uplifting way to start the term.

On Monday 10th February, we had our second tutor group assembly, presented by the pupils of 7AMW. They delivered a 'brief history of Valentine's Day', entertained us with a short poem about relationships and made us think about how we should care for those we love. It was both interesting and thought provoking and I know that much time and effort was spent in preparation.

On behalf of the rest of the year group I would like to thank both 7SB and 7AMW for their hard work. The assemblies were testament to the team spirit that has developed amongst the tutor groups and we look forward to seeing 7PH, 7GMW and 7JFL present their ideas to us next half term.

On a final note, I would remind parents and carers of the importance of checking and signing pupil planners regularly. Planners are vital in terms of school/home communication and for information regarding homework, key dates and detentions. I would also ask that parents to ensure that, when leaving home in the morning, pupils are appropriately dressed and adequately equipped for the school day.

Mrs Ramsey
Head of Year 7

Year Group Information

Year 8

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

Exams

I would like to congratulate you on your efforts during the exam period. Your behaviour and maturity was second to none. Well done, and I hope you achieved the grades that you deserve.

Homework

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

Option Choices

In life we all struggle with choices, however, you do not need to worry or panic. When the time comes to choose your options, you will have had plenty of advice from all those around you. I'm sure by now you have an idea of what you would like to study. If not, then here are some tips to help you get started.

Let the choices be yours – don't let your parents or friends decide for you.

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

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

Interest – What will keep you focused and enthused?

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

Enjoy your break.

Mr G Hughes Head of Year 8

Year 9

As we draw a close to the first half of the second term in Year 9, I would like to highlight a few key events that have taken place this side of Christmas. Assemblies have covered a range of topics including 'New Year's Resolutions', 'Positive Thinking', 'Actions and Consequences' and 'Charity Work in Pakistan'. In English, Year 9's have been learning about the academic language from 'Shakespeare on Love' and a lot of hard work has gone in to preparing a fun, interactive year group performance. In the Performing Arts, Year 9 recently excelled themselves in a wonderful showcase of talent across Drama, Dance and Music and across the curriculum, a number of pupils have been highlighted for their excellent contributions and achievements in lessons, particular individuals of which include: Alice Neville – for her commitment and creative flair in Product Design and Filip Kusnir, Becky Dodd, Izzie Dorkin, William Johnson, Rebecca Harrison, Darcy Giddings and Emma Lidbury for their fantastic GCSE work in French!

Learning walks across the curriculum, carried out by myself and Mrs Atkinson have proved to be very productive and most pupils appear to have raised the bar, with regards to their attitude to learning and progress in lessons. Levels of attainment have continued to increase across the majority of the year group and pupils have developed, or are beginning to demonstrate a good level of maturity and professionalism towards their studies. Talking to the children, the majority seem to be very settled and are really enjoying their chosen options. It's lovely to see the enthusiasm of students in photography, construction, art and catering all producing such beautiful pieces of work!

Parents evening was a prominent feature this half term and I was pleased to see such a high turn-out for this event. Thank you for your time, effort and interest in your child's education and well done Year 9 on another successful half term!

Miss Holden Head of Year 9

Year Group Information

Year 10

So far the term has been focused on exams. I am hoping that all pupils recognised the need to revise so that they were adequately prepared. Although we all hope that each pupil will be pleased with their results, in reality these exams are a practice and will enable pupils to consider appropriate exam techniques and recognise areas where they need to improve. When your child receives their results, I hope it will be an opportunity for you to have a conversation with them.

In a recent assembly, I pointed out to the year group how little time is left until the GCSE exams and the end of their time at Stewards Academy. In reality they have one more Christmas, one sports' day, one opportunity to be a prefect or head boy or girl and only 3 full terms. As the realisation dawns on the pupils, I hope that their focus, commitment and hard work will increase. Success does not come easily to most. Hard work, good attendance and regular studying at home is the way to ensure success.

Finally, work experience is looming. Most pupils have returned their paper work, but if you are having any problems, please contact us.

Ms Batterham
Head of Year 10



Year 10 Catering Exam Results



Year 11

It is hard to believe that there are only 10 school weeks to go before the examinations begin. I would encourage all students to attend any catch up or revision sessions that have been put on for them, as it can only be beneficial to them in the end, in order to obtain the best possible results they are capable of. Last week, all students attended a mock interview with highly skilled and prominent members of the local community. The motive for this was to give students a real experience of what an interview is like. The interviewers' had information about each pupil, so it was very like the real thing. These were some of the responses I got from the students.

"I first thought the interview would be scary, but it was OK, and a lot better than I thought. I now feel more confident" Megan Sibley

"He gave me a lot of useful feedback, which I can hopefully use in a real interview" Becky Smith

"I found the interview quite nerve racking, but helpful because it gives you an idea of what will happen when I go for an interview outside of school. They also give you tips on how to improve your interview skills in the future" Jessica Cross

"It was an unforgettable experience learning what was and wasn't needed for my future ambitions. I would recommend this for everyone." Lukman Kazeem

"I think this mock interview was very helpful. I learnt lots of points about what to add for future CV's/ interviews/jobs" Olivia Scott

"It was a really good experience to understand how to behave and act in an interview. It was a lot more valuable than just being told about the etiquette" George Strachan

"By having this interview, it has really made me a lot more confident, and the advice I was given was very useful" Rosie Hummerstone

"I feel I did well in this interview, as I received positive feedback. I feel it was very helpful as it has helped me to prepare for the real thing" Matthew Golds

Mrs Ellis Head of Year 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Headteachers Letter	1/2
Important Information	3
English News	4
Maths News	5
P.E. News	6/7
Performing Arts News	8/9
A, G & T News	10/11
STEM News	11-13
Technology News	14
Work Related Learning News	15
Attendance News/Charity News	16
Film Club	17
Year Group Information	17-19
Dates For Your Diary	20

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

17th-21st
27th

Half-Term
Year 8 Parents Evening 4.00pm

MARCH

11th
12th-14th
20th

Curriculum Day
Production - 'We Will Rock You'
Upper School Courses Evening

APRIL

1st
3rd
4th

Presentation Evening 7.00pm
Cultural Fashion Event 4.00pm
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

