



February
2013

Stewards Academy

Newsletter



Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

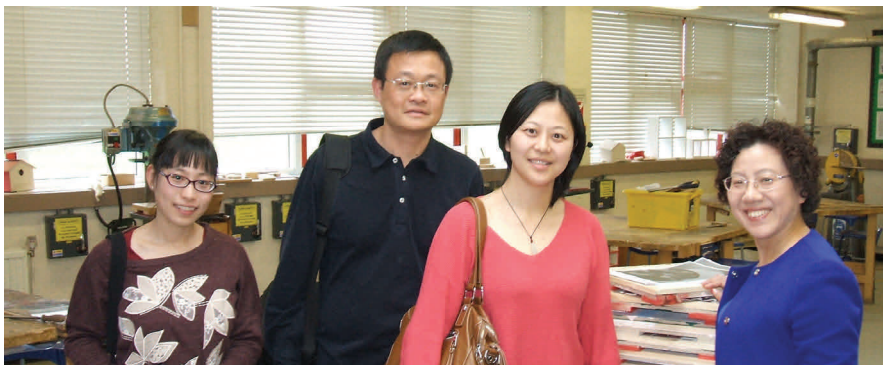
Dear Parents and Pupils

In recent weeks the staff at Stewards Academy have put forward our submission for assessment by three nationally recognised bodies:

1. The Inclusion Quality Mark (we are being considered for flagship status)
2. Full International School Status (we were first awarded this 3 years ago and now we are being considered for ambassador school status)
3. The Prince's Teaching Institute Leadership School (this is a new award and we will be among the first 30 in the country to receive this)

We are hopeful of good news in all three and will let parents know next half term, when we should receive official findings from the assessors.

4 teachers from Suzhou Zhenhua our partner school in Jiangsu Province, China, visited Stewards this half term. They were very impressed with the Academy. When asked what they found most interesting about teaching in England, they said the fact that our students are very creative and involved in their learning, asking lots of questions. This, to us, is very encouraging as we want our students to be engaged and independent learners.



Our Chinese guests, Ms Wang Yafang, Mr Yu Wehua, Ms Xue Jin & Ms Zhao Yuming



Our Chinese Garden has been specially decorated with traditional Chinese symbols and lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year

Good news this term for Year 11 who received their GCSE English results (exams were taken last November). 53% of students achieved A*-C grades and we are confident of improving on this still further over the next few months.

OFSTED, the Inspection body, last visited Stewards in May 2010. We have no idea when our next Inspection will be but we have prepared our Summary Record or Self Evaluation Form ready for their visit. There are 4 key areas of judgement:

- Achievement of pupils
- Quality of Teaching
- Behaviour and Safety of pupils
- Quality of Leadership and Management

Governors and staff have scrutinised all the available evidence, including examination results, lesson observations and comparison with national benchmarks. It is our belief that in all 4 areas we are 'Good' and in some respects have a number of outstanding features. We also believe that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a significant strength of the Academy, providing an enriching environment for all pupils. We continue to strive for improvement and we are very encouraged by the very positive feedback we receive from parent surveys which are completed annually at parents evenings. A summary of parents views feature regularly in the Stewards Newsletter.

Over half term Stewards staff will be running a Revision School for Year 11, details of which can be seen below.

YEAR 11 HALF-TERM REVISION/CATCH-UP EXTENDED SCHOOLS			
18 – 20 FEBRUARY 2013			
	Monday 18 th February	Tuesday 19 th February	Wednesday 20 th February
9.00am – 3.00pm (Lunch – 12.30-1.00pm)	Sociology (invited students only) Mrs Sherwood in Room 34 ICT (all welcome) Mrs Sams and Miss Pelka in ICT3 and ICT4 Art (all welcome) Mrs Warren in Art Room 2 Media (all welcome) Mr Trearmer in ICT6	Dance (all GCSE Dance students) Miss Holden in the Dance Studio ICT (all welcome) Mrs Sams and Miss Pelka in ICT3 and ICT4 Art (all welcome) Mrs Warren in Art Room 2 Media (all welcome) Mr Trearmer in ICT6	History (all GCSE History students) Mrs Erwood in Room 28

Note: **Sociology**, **Dance** and **History** sessions take priority over other revision sessions.

Any Year 11 student can use the ICT facility on Monday/Tuesday to catch-up on coursework e.g Geography



Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER – PARKING

If you are dropping-off or collecting children from school, please DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL CAR PARK TO WAIT. There is only limited car parking space for staff and school visitors. Often staff have to leave promptly to attend meetings after school, and are prevented from leaving due to blockages and congestion in the entrance to the car park. We have people arriving for swimming lessons after school and they are prevented access to the upper car park. Also, only people with a Disabled Badge may park in our disabled bays.

Please park as far away from the school entrance as possible; never on corners as this blocks every-one's view and is very dangerous; and the Nazeing bus needs room to manoeuvre to collect our pupils. It is vital that extreme care is taken to avoid accidents to pupils, parents and other road users.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Mrs Pat Jenkins, Business Manager

Important Information



Attendance News

Year Group figures up to date are:

Year 7 = 96%

Year 8 – 96%

Year 9 – 95%

Year 10 – 94%

Year 11 – 94%

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

Attendance Reminders

REGISTRATION

8.45am – REGISTRATION (AM) FOR ALL PUPILS

1.55pm – REGISTRATION (PM) FOR ALL PUPILS

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

ABSENCE

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

(01279) 772511 (please leave a message)

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

HOLIDAYS

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THESE MATTERS

Mrs Barker
Attendance Manager

Stewards Music School

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

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

All instrumental tutors are supplied through Essex County Council and are subject to a full CRB check.

Lessons are 15 minutes or 30 minutes in length and are booked per term in blocks of 10. Enrolment for next term will be held on **Wednesday 17th April**. Fees are payable for lessons, however families who are eligible for Free School Meals can apply for a substantial discount. We strongly recommend that students who are either studying GCSE Music or considering it as an option for Year 9 should receive formal tuition on their chosen instrument, whether through Music School or elsewhere.

Please contact **Miss Wang** at the school if you require any further information, or visit

www.essexonlinemusic.co.uk

Science Department News

'PLAYING PINBALL WITH THE STARS'

Presented by Sarah Smedley, Institute of Astronomy

We braved the fog and ice to visit the Institute of Astronomy on the outskirts of Cambridge to listen to a talk about the stars presented by Sarah Smedley a student studying astronomy at Cambridge University. We learnt about the life cycles of stars, how they are born and what happens when they die. Sarah also showed us computer generated models of colliding stars and galaxies, something that might happen to our own galaxy when it eventually collides with the Andromeda Galaxy several billions of years in the future.



Group photo by Northumberland Telescope:

Back Row left to right: Mr Bray (Community), Steven Hinkley 10MR, Carolin Crawford (Institute of Astronomy), Filip Kusnir 8CH, William Payne 8GM, Shiv Sharma 8GM, Michael Whitting 10PM, Front Row from left top right: Jess Cox 7EM, Brandy Sawadogo 7EM, Enni Nduka 7AS, Daniel Coleman 10MR, Lily Stevens 7TS, Miss Kang (Staff) and Eleanor Fleming 7DS.



Northumberland Telescope

Viewing the night sky was cancelled due to the freezing fog but we were able to go out and look at the Victorian Northumberland Telescope. Carolin Crawford from the Institute of Astronomy gave us a short talk about the history of the telescope. The Northumberland Telescope was designed and built by G.B Airy in 1838. In 1846 it was used by Professor James Challis to search for Neptune. Unfortunately Challis was pipped to post by Johann Gottfried Galle who used the calculations of John Couch Adams and Urbain Le Verrier to discover Neptune very close to its predicted location.

Filip Kusnir 8CH : *'It was the most interesting talk I have been to by far. I enjoyed learning about pulsars and supernovas. I also enjoyed looking at the Victorian telescope. The only bad bit was the bit about humanity not having much time but they said we shouldn't worry about that!'*

Mr A Bray (Community) : *'Fascinating talk on 'Stella Pinball'. I learnt a lot from this and thought the talk was very well balanced given the age-range of the audience. It was a real treat to get a look at the 12" telescope built in 1838. An excellent insight into the technology of that time.'*

COMMUNITY MOON WATCH - WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2013

Lots of people braved the snow and ice to attend the January Stewards Space Watch evening focusing on the Moon. Andy Gannon talked about the history of the probes and space craft that have visited the Moon over the years. He also talked about the pros and cons of setting up a colony on the Moon. Leading the way in the 1950's were the Russians, followed by the Americans. Nowadays, China and India are the main countries interested in resources the Moon may have and whether they are worth harvesting for use on Earth. Allan Bell from Loughton Astronomical Society is very interested in Radio Telescopes so he talked about the problems with using a radio telescope here on Earth and future plans to build a radio telescope on the far side of the Moon.

Again it was too cloudy to view the Moon so Andrew Young, Stewards Chief Technician, demonstrated how to set up a simple telescope, the type of scope that people tend to receive for Christmas. Advice was given about the size of telescope one should start off with and other useful tips.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 12th February 2013, Lab 7 from 6pm until 8pm. Andy will talk about the weather on Jupiter and Allan will talk about the moons that Galileo discovered orbiting Jupiter in 1609.

Science Department News

RSPB BIG SCHOOLS' BIRD WATCH IN STEWARDS ANCIENT MEADOW

Saturday 26th January 2013

Although it had snowed the night before and it was still cold we braved the weather and went out to the meadow to count the number of birds seen in one hour. I think the birds were feeling the cold too because we only saw a few of each species. We made use of the living willow bird hides we planted last year although they will require a year or two of growth before they are dense enough to hide behind. We are planning to do another bird watching event in the spring and then one in the summer.



The results, which have been registered on the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds bird watch survey, are in the table on page 6.

Our bird watching group consisted of Jamie Allen 7OK, Edward Thomas 7AS, Harry Butler 10PM, Matthew Allen and Adam Pope, (two students who left last year) Mr Rew, Science teacher and very keen bird watcher, Miss Anningson, an intern from the University of Newfoundland and Mrs Wright, Science Curriculum Development Manager at Stewards.

Mrs Wright
Science Curriculum Development Manager

BUILDING A LIVING WILLOW BIRD HIDE IN STEWARDS ANCIENT MEADOW

with Leanne Block from Essex Wildlife Trust
Year 11 GCSE Environmental and Land-based
Science Students

We picked a horrendous day weather wise to carry out this practical activity in the meadow. It was pouring down with rain but we still went outside and built a living willow bird hide at the bottom right-hand corner of the meadow. Leanne Block from Essex Wildlife Trust led the activity.







The bird hide is made out of living willow whips that are pushed into the soil then woven in a decorative fashion to make a sturdy hedge. In the spring the willow will come out in leaf and by the summer the bird hide will be bushy enough for us to hide behind to watch the birds. Each year the willow will grow side shoots which will be woven into the structure, making the hide more dense. We used this hide when we did the Big School's Bird Watch on Saturday 26th January 2013. The students, Shakur Dixon-Chennis 11DF, Bethan Randall 11PH, Connor Bull 11SL, Ben Kuczko 11NJK wrote up the activity as part of their course work.



Finished Bird Hide

Big Schools' Bird Watch in Stewards Ancient Meadow

Bird Name	Number	Picture
Black Bird	3	
Black-Headed Gull	4	
Blue tit	2	
Carrion Crow	2	
Chaffinch	2	
House Sparrow	4	
Magpie	2	
Robin	2	
Song thrush	1	

Bird Name	Number	Picture
Starling	3	
Collared Dove	2	
Dunnock	1	
Great tit	1	
Jackdaw	2	
Long-tailed tit	1	
Woodpigeon	2	
Common Gull	3	
Tree Sparrow	1	

Science Department News

FARADAY ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Westcliff High School for Boys invited us and four other schools to take part in the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) sponsored Faraday Engineering Challenge at their school. The challenge was based around an emergency scenario : two villages cut off by flooding with a mountain in between. All communication had been lost. There were no mobile phones or electricity. Each school's Year 8 team's brief was to design and make a communication device using light bulbs and batteries. They also were expected to invent a code which was more efficient than Morse Code. Each prototype had to be completed on time and within budget. At the end of the day each team gave a presentation about how they designed and built their prototype then demonstrated that it worked by sending a secret message across the room.

The schools asked to submit a team to compete in the challenge were:

Westcliff High School for Boys, Westcliff High School for Girls, King Edwards Grammar School, Chelmsford High School for Girls, Gable Hall School and Stewards Academy Science Specialist.

The best prototype, invented by the King Edwards Grammar School team, won each team member a £20 amazon voucher and a glass IET Faraday Challenge Trophy to take back to their school's trophy cabinet.

Our team members were: Becky Dodd 8CH, Molly Galloway 8LM, Bethan Rumsey 8LM, Bradley Leathers 8TMA, Shiv Sharma 8GM and Robert Kelly 8JK.

Molly Galloway 8LM: *'It was great fun. I enjoyed designing, making and testing our prototype called SAM, Stewards Academy Messenger with the rest of our team. It was also interesting competing against other schools.'*



Presenting their prototype



Becky Dodd 8CH, Molly Galloway 8LM, Bethan Rumsey 8LM, Bradley Leathers 8TMA, Shiv Sharma 8GM and Robert Kelly 8JK.

RAIL DISASTER CHALLENGE

Imagine you are in a crisis team of railway engineers. An earthquake has occurred! Part of a railway track has been destroyed and a village has been left stranded on one side of a gorge without support aid or transport to get supplies over to them. This is the scenario faced by a group of 60 year 9 students working in teams of 5 .

Their task was to design and build a bridge on time and in budget, to support a metre length of railway track and a train with 100g load yet still have clearance beneath the bridge to allow a vehicle to pass.

Alarna Mace 9VM explains: *'The main aim of the day was to form a bridge able to hold a track and a car that we also made. The bridge had to be made out of paper, masking tape, string and nuts and bolts. For equipment we used a hole punch and scissors. We also made a buggy out of a piece of plastic, wheels, motor, battery and wires. The aim was for the bridge to stand strong with a piece of track on top and the buggy had to run across it. I contributed to our team by making the car, by putting it together and making it able to run across the track with the 100g load. I enjoyed the day and learnt how to build a circuit.'*

Team D; Maddison Davies 9MT, Claressa Earl 9DN, Chloe Eves 9RMP, Dylan Dezilva 9DN and Alex Dodd 9MT, won the challenge with the best bridge.

Alex Dodd 9MT said: *'The day was great. I really enjoyed the day. I liked that the situation could have happened and allowed me to have fun in an educational environment.'*

Mrs Wright, Science Curriculum Development Manager

Performing Arts News

STEWARDS SINGERS BRING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT TO OUR COMMUNITY

At the end of November Miss Thurley took her group of talented Upper School Singers to perform a range of festive songs at Ashlyns Care Home in Harlow. This was followed in December by our annual trip to St. Clare Hospice, which saw over 40 pupils sing Christmas Carols for the day patients and staff there.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The main hall was full to bursting for our Christmas Concert which featured a wealth of talent from pupils of all year groups. The concert began with 'Christmas Nightmare' in which the Intermediate and Advanced Dance Clubs combined forces to create a large-scale dance work never before seen on the Stewards stage. This was followed by a number of Christmas-themed drama pieces (Santa outfits all round!) such as 'The Grinch Who *Didn't* Steal Christmas', 'Bad Santa' and 'Jane Bond Saves Christmas' from Year 9 Drama students, and seasonal songs such as 'Last Christmas', 'Warm This Winter' and 'Baby It's Cold Outside' from Year 9 and Year 10 Music students. Also featured were dance pieces 'Rockin Robin' and 'Sarajevo' from our GCSE dancers.

The concert came to a rousing finale with a carol medley led by Miss Thurley and the Upper School Choir; audience participation was wholly encouraged and with the lyrics projected onto the screen there was no excuse not to join in!



Performing Arts News



MUSIC STUDENTS EXPERIENCE HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'

GCSE Music students had the unique opportunity to see a live performance of Handel's 'Messiah' at the South Bank Centre in London. 'Messiah', which tells the story of Christ's birth, crucifixion and resurrection, is perhaps Handel's best-known work and includes the famous 'Hallelujah' chorus.

Here are some of the comments from students who attended:

"It was a different experience and style of music I haven't experienced before."

"A nice change of atmosphere"

"Fun to experience Baroque music up close."

"It has definitely changed my opinion on classical music... it has opened my mind completely."



A FIRST FOR STEWARDS PERFORMING ARTS – STAFF PANTO!

This year, instead of the traditional Christmas assembly, every pupil at Stewards was treated to the first ever Staff Christmas Panto. Written by Miss Thurley, directed by Miss Johnson and starring a colourful cast of staff from all over the school, the panto told the story of Cinderella and how she overcame the odds to live happily ever after with her Prince Charming!

Performing Arts Team



Able, Gifted & Talented News

SUPPORT EVENING FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS IN YEARS 9 AND 10, TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

This was our follow up to the extremely successful Support Evening for Years 7 and 8 that took place in October. The evening was extremely well attended and the audience was welcomed by Miss O'Neill, the Assistant Headteacher and Gifted and Talented Team Coordinator.

Miss O'Neill gave an overview of the Gifted and Talented provision at Stewards Academy, designed to stretch and challenge those students identified to be supported, to perform to the extent of their potential. Two of our current Year 11 students spoke, Dennis Perry and Aiden Warwick. Head Boy Dennis told us how he felt he had 'coasted' in his earlier years at Stewards, but had been inspired to strive to be the best he could and has now raised his expectations to include A*s, which he is determined to achieve, and is relishing the additional responsibility and pride his position has given him.

Aiden is determined to go on to a Russell Group university in due course, and has carried out his research of the subjects and grades required. This investigation into his future plans has shown him the importance of starting early as he now realises that his original thoughts on proposed subjects may have been incorrect.

We were pleased to welcome back ex pupil Sharon Schirra, who left Stewards in the Summer to begin her A Levels at the Herts and Essex 6th Form in Bishop's Stortford. Sharon spoke of the benefits of being part of the Gifted and Talented National Challenge Group, meeting weekly for breakfast sessions of discussion and mutual support. Sharon told us 'how it was' and gave a real indication of the dedication needed to meet the demands of an A Level course but furthermore, how she was enjoying the challenge of continuing her learning.

Stewards has recently formed a partnership with other academies in Harlow which include the 6th Form of St Mark's West Essex Catholic School. Mr Taylor and Mr Bendall, representing St Marks, explained the benefits of a good education through A Levels and onto university, including higher expectation of income, greater likelihood of employment and even of life expectancy. St Marks have again improved their A Level performance this year with another increase in the percentage of their students going onto university. The new partnership is seen as an opportunity to take the best of all the schools and to continue the pastoral care that is important to all.

Stewards' English teachers, Mr Greenaway and Mr Nestor gave a briefing about the importance of reading and discussion, and the new iGCSE examination.

The Careers and Work Related Learning Team consisting of Mr Harman, Mrs Hampstead and Mr Cooper delivered items relating to 'Preparation for the Future'. Mr Harman explained the new 'Raising of the Participation Age' in schools, which now affects all school leavers, who must now stay in education or training, or employment with training, until the age of 18. He also covered the entry requirements to further education opportunities and the guidance and support that is available from the team. Mrs Hampstead explained the importance of the Work Experience programme which is offered at the end of Year 10 and the need for prompt and accurate completion of associated letters and applications. Mr Cooper outlined the Information, Advice and Guidance delivered through Key Stages 3 and 4, as well as explaining the importance of collating items of achievement for student's Personal Portfolios.

Mrs Sherwood is a GCSE Examiner for Sociology, an Advanced Skills Teacher and Lead Teacher for Gifted and Talented. She involved the audience in some exercises linked to her role as Sociology teacher which everyone enjoyed as a taster of the types of challenges that students meet in her classes and examinations.

Parents were given Support Packs linked to the evening's contributions, and responses indicated that it had been an important, and hugely informative event, highlighting the Gifted and Talented provision at Stewards Academy. Feedback included "Excellent information for parents to support our children" and "It was inspiring to hear the pupils talking about their school and what they had achieved."

UNIVERSITY VISITS

We are pleased to have been able to take up invitations to visit both Cambridge and Oxford University's under their Taster and Challenge Days, designed to give Year 10 students an introduction to university life, taster sessions, and opportunities to meet current undergraduates.

On Thursday 31st January, Mr Cooper and Mr Strathern took 9 Year 10 students to Emmanuel College, Cambridge on a Challenge Day, and enjoyed a full day including a tour, an introduction to life at the University of Cambridge, two lectures and a fantastic lunch in a room full of historical significance.

Able, Gifted & Talented News

(See photo). Please also see a photograph of the group next to our minibus which was the mode of transport for the day.

Forthcoming events include a two day Higher Education Field Academy through Cambridge University in July, and a Summer School for 6 Year 11 students at University of Sussex, also in July. Other events may well be added in the meantime and we will keep you updated about everything as it happens.

Mr Cooper
A,G&T Mentor/Guidance Officer



JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD TRIP

On 5th February 7 Year 10 Stewards pupils visited Jesus College, Oxford University as part of a pathways Taster Day. The day started with a discovery hunt around Oxford taking in sights such as the Bodleian Library, the Bridge of Sighs and a popular college amongst the pupils, Trinity. We were shown around Mansfield College and pupils were able to see what student life in Oxford as a first year would be like with access to research materials and halls of residence accommodation. The afternoon consisted of two short lectures within the computer science department. The first lecture was based around internet security with a practical demonstration to show how messages are encrypted, the second lecture examined the history of counting and how mathematical formulas have been used to verify a variety of modern technological developments from pace makers to rockets. All of the pupils found the historic buildings inspiring and were



keen to question the current undergraduates about the courses available and grades required.

'I really want to study law or economics at Oxford University, I loved seeing all of the resources on offer here.' Tarik Mujkanovic 10PM.

'The tour around the university was so interesting, Trinity College was unbelievable, it was just like something out of a period drama. This visit has really shown me what university life might be like and made me more motivated to give myself opportunities like this.' Eleanor Burns 10PM.

Mrs Sherwood
Able, Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher

P.E. Department News

SKI TRIP

February 2014 holds a new adventure for pupils in this Year's 8 and 9 at Stewards Academy with the inclusion of a new residential trip to the north east of Italy for some Skiing. The PE Department trip aims to offer something new to pupils and deliver a once in a lifetime opportunity. The trip is scheduled to depart Harlow on Friday 14th February 2014 and return after six days packed full of Skiing on the 22nd February 2014. During the trip the students will be given lots of opportunities; Skiing and learning new skills will be top of the agenda during the days whilst also enjoying activities each evening.

YEAR 7 GIRLS RUGBY

On a wet, muddy and overcast January afternoon the first ever girl's rugby club took place with Stewards Academy PE staff Mr Preece and Mr Treamer leading the session.

Thirteen girls from Year 7 were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the process. The girls in attendance were; Shannon Smith, Jasmine Bingham, Millie Burns, Olivia Clare, Alana Summerford, Esther Kolapo, Casey Holdcraft, Courtney Kelly, Ella Banfill, Julia Noruwa, Brooke Stringer, Scarlett Scholes and Lucy Neate. Well done girls for taking the opportunity to try something new.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS AFTERNOON YEAR 7

Well done to all of the Year 7's for their hard work in PE lessons, it has been a fantastic start to your time at Stewards Academy. A select group of Year 7's were chosen for their efforts and performance during PE lessons and extra-curricular activities by their teachers and asked to attend an afternoon of physical activity to say well done. The afternoon promoted teamwork and enjoyment of physical activity within the group and was led by the Stewards Academy PE department. A great time was had by all in attendance, well done for your sporting achievements so far, keep up the good work.

Shannon Smith, Jasmine Bingham,
Gemma Charles, Tania Mamvura, Julia Noruwa, Aaron Strachan,
Skye Hough, Alison Newman, Brooke Stringer, Alfie Poole, Erin Cassidy,
Alexa Mupomba, Hannah Furness, Ila-Marie Chaplin, Courtney Twiner,
Millie Burns, Ella Banfill, Ellie Parnis-Roach, Emily Stevenson,
Elijah Dixon-Bonner, Sam Pond, Max Whitaker, Samuel Dodd,
Connor Donoghue, Ryan Lynch, Taylor Young,
Jonathon Martin, Owen Harknett, Lewis Harknett,
Bailey Burns, Jacob Bjornson, Nathan Askew,
Ryan Palmer, Samir Ali, Shea Mcconville,
Kieran Gray, Samuel Jenkins and Alfie Mottram.

Mr T Hughes, Subject Leader for PE

P.E. Department News

STUDENTS WATCH ENGLAND WIN AT WEMBLEY

24 girls from Stewards Academy were at Wembley Arena to see England's netballers pull off a historic victory on Wednesday the 24th of January. These very talented netballers from Stewards Academy travelled with 7 teachers to see England beat Australia at a packed Wembley Arena in London to secure their first-ever series win against the world champions.

It was the first time the Stewards' girls had been to Wembley Arena and what an occasion it was as it was only the fourth time England had ever beaten Australia, but it was also their second victory in a week. England triumphed 58-53 in the series opener in Bath the previous weekend and by winning the second match of the three-match rubber they took the series in style with a score line of 51-49.

The result sent the girls and teachers alike into raptures of high-decibel celebration and some of the England players into spontaneous floods of tears. After the game the girls were able to make the event even more spectacular by meeting some of the players, getting their autographs and even making an appearance on Sky TV. The historic win meant England were now targeting Commonwealth gold in Glasgow in 2014 and who knows the Stewards' netballers may be there to see it all unfold.

"We have learned that if we want to succeed we have to work hard for it; just like the England Netball Team"

Upcoming Netball fixtures:

Wednesday 13th Feb vs St Marks (Home)

Wednesday 27th Feb vs St Nicks (Away)

Wednesday 6th March vs Mark Hall (Home)

Wednesday 13th March Year 7 and 8 Harlow Schools Netball Tournament at St Marks

Wednesday 20th March Year 9 and Senior Harlow Schools Netball Tournament at St Marks

BUDE 2013 Parents Information evening Tuesday 19th March at 6pm

**Miss McGarry
P.E. Department**



ESSEX SCHOOLS COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY

Three Year 7 boys were nominated to take part in the Essex Schools County cross country finals being held on Wednesday the 6th February at Highlands Park, Chelmsford. The three boys Lewis Harknett 7TS, Alfie Poole 7SPL, and Owen Harknett 7AS are all accomplished runners and have been able to demonstrate their running capability this year already by finishing in the top three spots at the Burnt Mill Academy cross country event.

At the Highlands Park venue for this race Lewis Harknett finished as champion of Year 7 with twin brother Owen finishing an impressive 8th and Alfie Poole finishing the race in a well-deserved 17th place. Due to their excellent finishes in this event all three of the boys will be in competition again as they race in the South East region inter-counties cross country championships to be held on Saturday 23rd March. Well done boys for your great result at this event and good luck for the next race!



Coming Soon

Stewards Academy Proudly Presents...



Book, Music and Lyrics

by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

TICKETS:

£5.00 Adults, £2.50 Children/Concessions

*In the Hall at 7.00pm
Wednesday 13th March
Thursday 14th March
Friday 15th March*

Grease is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by
Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 570 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2700, New York, NY 10018. www.theatricalrights.com

Reading News

Now that the Renaissance Reading scheme has been running for a term, I thought it would be a good time to provide an overview and a status update.

The rationale behind the scheme is that reading forms the cornerstone of school life. If we can get every pupil at Stewards Academy to become the best reader that they can be, then we are providing them with the building blocks for success at school, as well as later in life.

The scheme is underpinned by a computer application called Renaissance Learning which enables us to do the following:

Test the pupils. The computer based test, which takes about 15 minutes, provides us with an estimate of each pupil's reading ability and, importantly gives them a range of books that they can choose from the school library which are neither too easy, nor too hard for them and which are most likely to engage them to read more.

Motivate them to read. After the pupil has read a book from within their range, they undertake a quiz on the computer which tests their understanding of the book. Points are awarded for each book read, as long as they score a minimum of 60% (the average target is 80%). These points count towards a target, which varies according to ability. Once the target is achieved, a certificate is awarded and a new target set.

Measure progress. The performance of each individual pupil can be tracked as they read and take their quizzes. Those falling below the average quiz score of 80% can be targeted with 1-2-1 reading sessions, whilst those achieving their targets are rewarded with certificates.

The net effect of these measures is a vast increase in reading. There has been a 6 fold increase in books borrowed from the school library compared with the same period last year and, at the time of writing (31st January), 409 reading quizzes have been taken with over 12 million words read!



Mr Ginger
Reading Manager

Public Speaking at Stewards Academy

Communication skills are the cornerstone of many careers and at Stewards we are proud to encourage pupils to become more confident in their ability to express themselves. During this year we will be participating in a number of exciting public speaking competitions.

In December 2012, we took part in *The English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition* and we were wonderfully represented by Megan Baldwin, Hannah Kizilcan and George Strachan. We felt immensely proud of all three pupils, who were complimented on their performance by the judges.

We are also eagerly anticipating our involvement in a number of exciting events in 2013, including the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge* which takes place in March. This is our fourth year participating in this event and it is always a pleasure to see our pupils expressing their views in a public forum. A large number of West Essex schools are involved in this event and it is hugely competitive. Year 10 pupils will be selected for this event in the coming weeks.

A number of other events will be organised as the year progresses. We look forward to building up the Stewards Academy profile on the public speaking competition circuit in the future.

Stewards Academy Debate Club takes place every Wednesday from 3-4pm in room 1. All pupils are welcome.

Mrs O'Sullivan
Assistant Headteacher

International Dimension News

VISIT TO STEWARDS ACADEMY FROM SUZHOU ZHENHUA MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Thursday 31st January and Friday 1st February, a group of four teachers made a visit to Stewards Academy from our Chinese partner school, Suzhou Zhenhua Middle School which is located in Suzhou. This visit is the latest in a series of visits between our two schools. Ms Wang Yafang deserves a special mention as she also took time to deliver a lesson on Chinese culture and history to 7SPL. The pupils in 7SPL greatly enjoyed learning about ancient and modern China and were rewarded for their knowledge with small gifts from China, a very memorable lesson for them!

During their two day visit, our guests observed several lessons across a range of subjects including English, Geography, Science, Design and Technology, Maths and Construction. They also had a tour of the school with Gina, Alice and Jasmine in 8MPH. The four visitors also spoke to members of staff about their role in Stewards Academy as they wanted to know more about teaching and learning in a UK school. The Chinese visitors commented on how polite, courteous and helpful the Stewards Academy pupils had been. They were also impressed by the willingness of Stewards Academy pupils to ask questions. Our guests commented on the creative activities and creative work being completed in lessons. Following their visit to Stewards Academy, our Chinese guests were going to visit Colchester for two days, before finally flying home to China. We look forward to collaborating further with Suzhou Zhenhua Middle School in the near future.

Mr Hickman
International Dimension Co-ordinator



Ms Wang Yafang teaching pupils in 7SPL about her home city of Suzhou in China



Two of our visiting Chinese teachers talking to Mrs Martin about pupils work in Design and Technology.

Year 7 Enterprise News

Pupils in Year 7 had a very successful Enterprise Extravaganza recently.

Each tutor group had to prepare a business plan and make a presentation in front of the Stewards 'Dragons' – Mrs Hampstead, Mr Harman and Mr Cooper. In order to receive £20 for their tutor group to go ahead with their plan, the proposal had to be financially viable. Each tutor group spent 3 lunchtimes making their sales pitch to staff and pupils.

The final results showed that altogether Year 7 made £580 in profit. The winning tutor group was 7EM under the guidance of the tutor and co-tutor, Ms Mohamed and Mrs Munro. 7EM made £187 profit. The winning tutor group decided that all the profits made would go towards a quiet garden area in the school grounds.



Work Related Learning News

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Colleagues from business and the community joined Governors at the Mock Interviews for Year 11 students earlier this month.

Students completed a draft application form including a personal statement, and a Curriculum Vitae during their PSHCE lessons. Our 'interviewers' evaluated the content and then conducted an interview using the submitted information. Inviting students to share their ambitions for the future, outlining examples of team work and discussing hobbies and generally encouraging students to communicate is invaluable practice for the future.

During the next few weeks students will be attending interviews for their chosen Sixth Form, Colleges and employment; hopefully this practice will help their confidence, encouraging them to show themselves at their best. Communication is so often the key to success.

Thank you to Stewards Academy friends for supporting Year 11 students.

Chris Greenhill, Melissa Guest, Nigel Day, Diane Drury, Paul Cornwall, Christopher Jones, Tony Cashman, Bob Prigg, Dean Eaves, Alan Webb, Jo Jones, Matthew Branch, Karen Cracknell, Anita Dailey, Jo Waters, Steph Jenkins, Eric Sarfo, John Tennison and Governors: Jeff Tarling, David Guest and Paul Rogers.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Judging by the many conversations we have had with Year 10 students during the past few weeks about their work placements there will be students enjoying opportunities with construction companies, nurseries, restaurants, Royal Mail (*to name but a few*). We look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return from their placements (*work experience takes place 24th – 28th June inclusive*). More details and final preparation for students will take place next term.

Own placement forms should be returned to Mrs Rogers or Mrs Hampstead by Friday 15th February.

Mrs Hampstead, Vocational Learning Mentor

KEEP IN TOUCH!



Moving house?



New email address?



New mobile number?



**New home
phone number?**

Please keep us updated with any changes to pupil data; you can email any changes to studentsupport@stewardsacademy.org. Alternatively there is a blank data collection form on the Stewards Academy website under the Parents section. Please print it off and once it's completed send it into the Main Office.



**Lost
property**

Is located in the Main Office. We are happy to let your child have a look through if they have lost something.

Labelled property is easy to return; please clearly label all property that comes into school.

Year Group Information

Year 7

Year 8

We are now half way through the school year and the enthusiasm, motivation and enjoyment is still clear to see on the faces of the Year 7 students. As I walk into tutor groups and lessons there is a great buzz in the air and it is clear to see that students have settled in very well.

Fundraising

Year 7 students planned and organised a Dragon's Den style 'Extravaganza' to raise money for a local charity. With a budget of only £20 per tutor group, the students raised a phenomenal £580 and I am so proud of their achievements. All monies raised have been donated to the Hira Foundation, a charity close to the hearts of all at Stewards Academy.

School Council

Next on the agenda was the election of the new School Council - an event which saw many pupils experience public speaking for the first time as they pitched their bids to become part of the Council in front of their fellow students, as well as Mrs Erwood and Ms Murthar. Pupils voted for the candidates they felt showed the most passion and dedication.

The newly elected School Council;

Millie Burns	Manav Sharma
Ellie Parnis-Roach	Edward Thomas
Olivia Clare	Callum Morgan
Phoebe Douglas	Jamie Webb
Brooke Stringer	Johnathon Martin
Tania Mamvura	Wilson Jokonya
Parris Franklin	Adam Fleming
Janet Randazzo	Mac Favell
Eniola Nduka	

This is an excellent opportunity for those involved to really shine.

Achievements

On Friday 25th January, 30 students were selected to be part of a celebration evening in the PE department. A fun packed event which saw students take part in a variety of exciting games and challenges. This also gave the PE staff an opportunity to thank those who have shown commitment to the department by working hard in lessons and taking part in lots of extra-curricular activities.

Finally...

I'd like to take this opportunity to say that the work the Year 7 students are producing and their contribution to school life really is fantastic.

Well done, and keep up the excellent work.

Mr G Hughes
Head of Year 7

As the first half of the second term in Year 8 draws to a close, I would like to begin by highlighting a special assembly which took place just before Christmas. The assembly was a celebration of the progress made by many Year 8 students, whose high quality work was displayed. The number of nominations received from across all departments was extremely high and those students who received recognition were not only rewarded with certificates but were also given personal video messages and individual written quotes from their teachers. The atmosphere in the assembly was extremely positive and uplifting and even those that did not receive awards this time around commented on how determined it had made them to 'work harder' next term and 'aim high' for the future! Since returning from Christmas, this positive attitude has continued to flourish and the majority of Year 8 have knuckled down with their studies. In my role as Head of Year I have had the privilege to witness a range of exciting lessons including debates, role play, a 'thinking hats' group exercise, interactive presentations and much more and several girls, who attended the England v Australia Netball semi-final even volunteered to lead an assembly on their experience. The assembly was very enjoyable and highly motivational to their peers and all pupils concerned were extremely courageous for getting up and doing it, so thank you girls for your positive contributions!

As we come to the end of this term I would like to highlight two important dates that are coming up very soon after half term - 'Parents evening' on **7th March** and the 'Upper School Courses evening' on **21st March**. Both of these events are vital in providing you with the necessary information that you need about your child's current progress and future learning pathways, so I would like to ask for your full support in attending these, in-order to make sure pupils make well informed decisions when choosing their options.

Finally, can I congratulate Year 8 for the hard work and professional approach that they have shown in preparing for and sitting their exams. It has been a stressful time for them over the last couple of weeks but they have coped very well with the pressure and have certainly risen to the challenge. Well done Year 8 - we are extremely proud of you!

Miss Holden, Head of Year 8

Year Group Information

Year 9

As you read this, we will all be anticipating a relaxing holiday. Year 9 will also have had their year exams and you will have attended parents' evening. I hope both of these events will have had a very positive outcome.

I think that the reality of GCSE work is beginning to sink in and the pupils are realising that good results come from consistently working hard. I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child studies regularly at home so that they develop good study habits. The conversations you have with your child are vital, so despite the fact that you may not always get a fully developed response, keep talking to them about work and the importance of good grades. It is frightening to think that we are over half way through Year 9 and in fact nearly half way through their time at Stewards. Our assemblies this year have focussed on having a positive attitude and looking at all the opportunities that are on offer. Tutors have talked about their educational pathway and have shared mistakes they have made in the hope that lessons can be learnt. The big message being, be happy and don't leave things until the last minute.

Finally, congratulations to Isaac Lucia who took his GCSE maths this term. We await the result with anticipation.

Ms Batterham
Head of Year 9

Year 10

Year 10 have just started to do some exams in preparation for the future, although in English, Maths and Science they do GCSEs this year. It is important that they revise thoroughly, and come properly equipped, maybe bringing more than one black pen, to ensure they definitely have something to write with. Catering students also



recently completed a practical task that makes up 20% of their GCSE in the subject. If students work hard, and get good results in core subject areas this year it will alleviate the pressure in Year 11.

A good number of students have returned their forms for work experience, and some have worked hard to get a placement in an area that they are interested in. The deadline for returns is February 15th.

Can you please ensure that you check and sign

planners on a weekly basis, and let us know if you have any issues regarding homework or anything else. Tutors do check the planners regularly and homework is being set, but students don't always write it down in their planners, or if they do, it is not always clear what is required of them. It is something we are aware of, and are dealing with.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 10

Year 11

I am so pleased to be back in school and working with Year 11 pupils once again. I have been impressed by their positive and mature attitude and am confident that this will continue into the coming weeks. Pupils have already taken some of their formal examinations and I would like to commend them on some very pleasing results. However, the hard work is not over and as we head towards our final term together, there is still much to be done.

Coursework, revision and 1-2-1 tuition sessions will continue in the run up to exams and it is vital that pupils make the most of these opportunities if they are to leave us with a competitive set of results of which they can be proud.

College and Sixth Form application deadlines are fast approaching and pupils need to be aware of both these and the application requirements. The Work Related Learning team are always available to answer questions and again, I urge pupils to use the expertise available to them.

Mrs Ramsey
Head of Year 11

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

18th-22nd HALF TERM

MARCH

7th	Year 8 Parents Evening 4.00pm
12th	Curriculum Day
13th-15th	Production- Grease 7.00pm
21st	Upper School Courses Evening 6.00pm
26th	Presentation Evening 7.00pm
28th	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

