



Easter
2013

Stewards Academy

Newsletter



Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils,

This has been an eventful term and I am sure everyone is looking forward to the Easter holiday. Congratulations to the Performing Arts team and all the performers:- singers, dancers and musicians, who put on a wonderful production of 'Grease'. We enjoyed a lively, joyful atmosphere and audiences loved every minute of some excellent performances. From set design to costume, sound and lighting to the back stage crew, the School Production is the result of a whole school team effort and its success is due to a lot of hard work over months of rehearsals. To be part of it is to create lasting memories and a real sense of achievement. My thanks to Miss Johnson and Ms Batterham, the co-directors, to all the supporting staff and to all the pupils who have been involved. Our School Production is always a highlight of the school year and this year's show was one of the best.



The Whole Grease Cast

My congratulations also to the Science team. We have achieved the '**Gold**' standard in our work as a **Lead Space School** (one of only 13 nationwide). The Science extra-curricular programme is amazing with regular visits, speakers and community astronomy events. My thanks to Mrs Wright, Curriculum development technician and the Science department for putting together such an interesting range of Science activities throughout the year.

In the last Newsletter in February, I told you about 3 submissions made by Stewards for national awards. I am delighted to tell you that we have been successful in all of them.

1. We have achieved recognition as a **Flagship School** with the **Inclusion Quality Mark**. This followed a rigorous 2 day assessment. I am delighted with the report (available to see on the school web-site) which recognises the commitment of all staff providing high standards of education for all pupils, whatever their ability. The assessor wrote: *"personalisation and inclusion are at the core of what Stewards does...the school is dedicated to the needs of students, parents and the local community and caters very well for all."* He goes on to say Stewards has a committed staff, a happy environment and there is total confidence in the ethos and provision of the school from parents. My thanks to Mr Naunton, Inclusion Manager, who put together our very detailed submission. In times of ever increasing pressures in education, it is important to celebrate this achievement as a success story for all young people and to recognise the dedication of Stewards staff (teachers and associate staff) which makes it all possible.
2. Our **International School Status** has been renewed and we now act as an **ambassador school**, supporting other schools in their efforts to develop a curriculum and activities with an International dimension. My thanks to Mr Hickman, International Dimension Co-ordinator who leads this aspect of our work.
3. The **English department** has achieved **Subject Leadership status with the Prince's Teaching Institute** for curriculum development and teacher research in the creation of an exciting learning programme called "Shakespeare in Love." Stewards English department is now one of only 33 subject departments in the country to achieve this prestigious award. We are naturally delighted. My thanks go to Mrs O'Sullivan and the English department whose love of their subject is clear for all to see.



International
School Award
2010-2013



LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME

Parents may have heard of a Government funding stream to schools called **"Pupil Premium."** This funding is designed to help schools support children who have been eligible for free school meals over the last 6 years and to put in place interventions which may accelerate their learning and progress. We have developed a range of interventions using this funding; for example, 1:1 tuition, 1:3 tuition, reading programmes, phonics tuition in English to help with basic literacy skills, additional staffing to create smaller groups in English and Maths and more specialist Learning Support Assistants. The support provided is overseen by Mrs Ginger, Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Burgoine, Interventions Officer who administers the whole programme. Mr Ginger, Reading Manager, oversees a very successful Renaissance Reading Scheme in Years 7-8 and we are confident this will soon be showing marked success. If any parent would like to know more about the support programme please contact Mrs Ginger at the school.



Finally I would like to pass on my very best wishes to Mrs Bird who is retiring at the end of term. She has given long service to Stewards as a Head of Year and teacher of Food Technology. She is an exceptionally accomplished cook and for many years has produced exquisite dishes as Stewards has hosted meetings and evening events. We wish her a long and very happy retirement.

Rhonda Murthar

Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Commonwealth Day Observance

Year 10 pupils were fortunate enough to attend the Commonwealth Day Observance with Mrs Erwood at Westminster Abbey on Monday 11th March. The pupils joined 1000 others from around the country to celebrate this prestigious occasion in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The ceremony launched the 2013 Commonwealth theme "Opportunity through Enterprise".

Each of the young people present gained their highly coveted place because of their involvement in enterprise. Every one of the pupils took part in a Commonwealth Essay Competition. This year's competition – run by the Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with Cambridge University Press – focuses on enterprise. Through the competition, the Stewards pupils explored issues such as innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Sir Richard Branson and acclaimed 'Young Global Leader' Ricken Patel spoke at the Observance, Britain's largest annual inter-faith gathering.

Beverly Knight MBE and The Noisettes performed to the assembled guests and afterwards Stewards pupils were able to meet Bev, get her autograph and have their photograph taken. The Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma, the Rt Hon The Lord Howell of Guildford and Commonwealth High Commissioners all attended the service.

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Erwood said *"This was a fabulous opportunity for our pupils. To be part of such a nationally prestigious event in Westminster Abbey was very humbling and enormously inspirational, despite the freezing weather and our disappointment at not seeing the Queen."*



Photo left to right: Owen McCullagh, Ellie Alger, Chris Richards, Poppy Rogers, Mrs Erwood, Maisy Treacher, Megan Baldwin, Aimee Hunt and Thomas Goodenough

Mrs Erwood
Assistant Headteacher

Governors News

There are two events during the spring term that I and other governors look forward to each year. The first is the annual production, this year "Grease", and the second is Presentation Evening.

The production was truly exceptional and a great credit to all those involved, the cast, the musicians, the stage, lighting and sound crews and the production team. The performances were enjoyed by large and enthusiastic audiences and were obviously also enjoyed by all those taking part which I think is most important.

Presentation Evening is an equally enjoyable event because it enables us to celebrate with many of our pupils who, through their hard work and that of their teachers, have achieved so much in the past year.

Another success achieved this term was our re-assessment for the Inclusion Quality Mark. This recognizes the work of the school in helping pupils of all abilities to achieve their full potential and recognizes the exceptional work that Stewards does in this area. The assessment was carried over two days and included interviews with governors as well as staff and pupils. Our congratulations go to all concerned.

Finally on behalf of the Governors I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter holiday.

Jeff Tarling
Chair of Governors

International Dimension News

CHINESE ART WORKSHOPS IN STEWARDS ACADEMY

On Monday 15th February 2013, two Chinese artists were invited into Stewards Academy to work with Year 7 pupils; their names were Mr Hu and Mr Guo. The purpose of the day was to allow Year 7 pupils to develop a greater understanding, knowledge and appreciation of Chinese art and culture as part of our celebration of Chinese New Year. All Year 7 classes were then given the opportunity to work in one hour long workshops with either Mr Hu or Mr Guo who showed pupils how to do traditional Chinese brush painting.

Each class was given a demonstration talk and then given time to practice how to use traditional Chinese brushes and art paper. With more input from Mr Guo and Mr Hu, pupils were then able to complete their own work. Pupils in the brush paint workshops with Mr Guo completed some beautiful pictures of plants and other natural forms. In particular, pupils worked to draw cherry blossoms which have a special place in Chinese New Year celebrations. All pupils worked very hard to produce some very beautiful and delicate work.



Pupils practising their brush painting

Mr Hickman International Dimension Co-ordinator



Mr Guo helping pupils with their painting skills



Mr Hu demonstrating traditional brush painting techniques

Charity News

Thank you to:

- ◆ Stephen Eaden of 11DEM who raised £17.66 with a cake sale;
- ◆ Carole Joyce raised £7.50 for making and selling her cakes;
- ◆ 'The Frog' jumped to the occasion and raised £62.56;
- ◆ a badge sale raised £13.87; and
- ◆ with some individual collections from pupils who raised a total of £37.63 ...

the grand total collected for **RED NOSE DAY** is:

£1,017.03



WELL DONE EVERYONE!

International Dimension News

YELLOW EARTH THEATRE VISITS STEWARDS ACADEMY – FEBRUARY 2013

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th February, the Yellow Earth Theatre group visited Stewards Academy to work with all our Year 8 pupils to help them celebrate Chinese New Year. The Yellow Earth Theatre is a London based company that specialise in promoting Chinese culture in schools and community based projects. Over two days, the Yellow Earth Theatre introduced our Year 8 pupils to traditional shadow puppet theatre which is a popular form of traditional theatre originating in China.

Working in tutor groups, our pupils enjoyed a one hour workshop working with four specialist Chinese artists, including a Chinese musician. The workshops started with an introduction to the background of puppet theatre in China, which goes back many hundreds of years. The workshops then moved on to the telling of the traditional story of the animals of the Chinese zodiac. The story followed how the Jade Emperor decided there should be a way of measuring time. On his birthday he told the animals that there was to be a swimming race. The first twelve animals across the fast flowing river would be the winners and they would each have a year of the zodiac named after them.

After the story, our pupils received a brief demonstration on how to make shadow puppets and then had 30 minutes working in groups to use their imaginative and creative skills to make shadow puppets based upon animals in the Chinese zodiac to help tell the story of how the Jade Emperor made his choices.

Once completed, pupils gave a demonstration of their puppets to the rest of the class and they participated in the telling of the Chinese zodiac. Pupils greatly enjoyed the workshops and showed impressive enthusiasm and commitment to making the workshops a memorable days for all involved. Pupil comment included *"I really enjoyed making something that I had never heard of"* and another pupil commented *"I liked drawing and making our own puppets, the puppet show was really good!"*

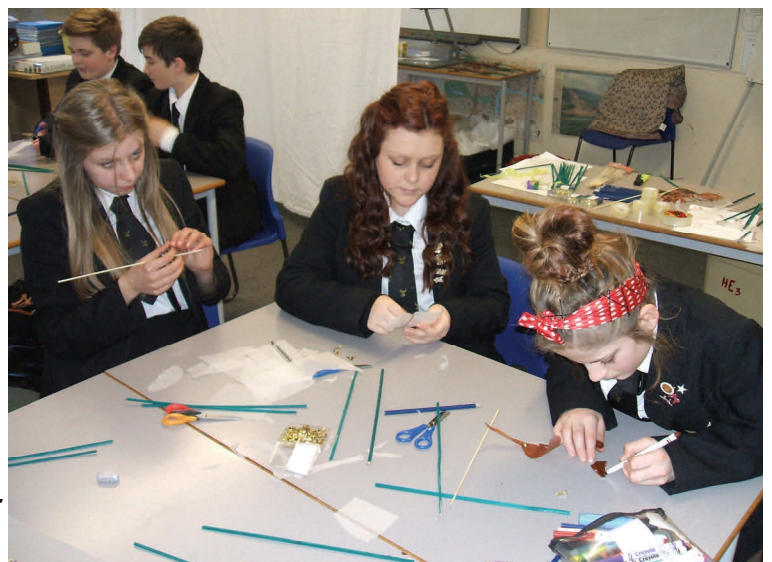
Mr Hickman
International Dimension Co-ordinator



The story of the Jade Emperor and the Chinese Zodiac



The atmosphere was completed with traditional Chinese music!



Year 8 pupils working on their own shadow puppets

Performing Arts News

GREASE IS THE WORD...

It's 1959 at Rydell High School, and goody-goody new girl Sandy Dumbrowski struggles to fit in with the gum-chewing, cigarette-smoking 'Pink Ladies'. They soon discover that she has had a summer fling with Danny Zuko, leader of the 'T-Birds', and arrange for the two to meet. However, Danny is eager to hang on to his rebellious image and acts coldly towards Sandy.

Will Danny and Sandy ever be reunited? Find out as we take you to the pyjama party, the drive-in movie and the high school hop... Grease is the Word!!!

Our whole school production, 'Grease' took place on 13th, 14th and 15th March to sell-out audiences. Staff and pupils from nine local primary schools also had a chance to see the show during the dress rehearsal on the 13th March.

The cast, who had been rehearsing since October, showed outstanding commitment and spent many hours after school learning lines and practising songs and dances such as 'Summer Nights', 'Beauty School Dropout', 'Greased Lightning' and 'You're The One That I Want'. There were also a number of pupils who supported the production by being part of the stage crew and assisting with lighting, sets and music.

In the week leading up to the show, the cast also worked hard to promote the performances by appearing around school in a 'spot the character' competition for Year 7 and a special preview of some well-known 'Grease' songs in the quad. Finally, Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March saw the whole school taking part in a 'flash mob' dance to 'Born to Hand Jive' and 'Greased Lightning'.

Many of the cast and crew were taking part in the production for the first time, while for our Year 11 students 'Grease' marked their final performance at Stewards. We wish them all the best for the future.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in 'Grease'; we hope to see many of you returning to audition again for next year's show!



MUSIC TRIP

All Year 7 pupils went on a trip to Harlow Leisurezone to experience a live orchestra as part of City of London Sinfonia's 'First Time Live' series. Pupils had the chance to hear pieces by Mozart, Stravinsky and Debussy as well as the 'Angry Birds' theme!

'First Time Live' is a series of concerts specifically targeted at those young people who have had little or no access to a live orchestral experience.

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.

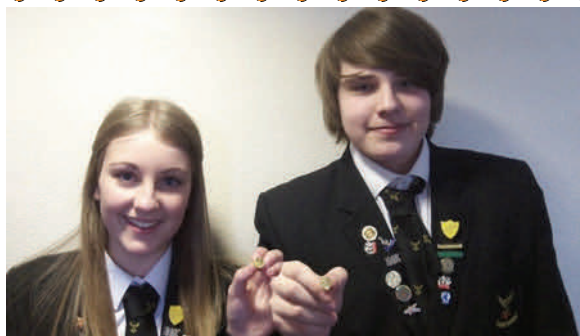
Please contact **Miss Wang** at the school if you require any further information, or visit www.essexonlinemusic.co.uk

Performing Arts News

PERFORMING ARTS AMBASSADORS

Performing Arts Ambassadors are students who demonstrate excellence in their chosen subject and are fully involved with the promotion of the subject to audiences, the community and younger students. We are delighted to introduce our two latest Ambassadors, Megan Baldwin and Chris Richards.

Megan and Chris, who are studying both Music and Drama at GCSE, have been involved in a wide variety of performing arts events during their four years at Stewards and have represented their school with tremendous commitment and leadership throughout. In the last year alone they have been part of the following events: Shakespeare Schools Festival 'Othello', Upper School Showcase, Christmas Concert, Lower School Production and 'Grease', and have performed as part of the school choir at St. Clare Hospice and Harlow Town Centre. They also support in the running of Drama Club every week. We would like to congratulate these two students on being selected as Performing Arts Ambassadors and continue to celebrate their achievements. Well done!



FORTHCOMING

We look forward to seeing you at our Lower School Production on Thursday 4th July and our Summer Concert on Tuesday 16th July.

Performing Arts Team

ESSEX ARMY CADET FORCE TRIP – IRON OTTER PROGRAMME, OKEHAMPTON, DEVON.

On the trip: Aiden Kimber, Kiera Mager, Vanya Arabadzhieva, Chelsea Townsend, Aiden Drew, Luke Sams, Steven Hinkley, Tom Kitchen, Charlotte Geddis, Nicola Cox.

Lead by: Mr Waters & Mrs Daveta.

Our trip started with a coach journey down to Dartmoor on a cold and bright Saturday morning. Upon arrival at Okehampton Army base, we were greeted by the Essex Army Cadet Force staff (made up of former and current active soldiers) in full uniform. We were soon organised into our teams for the week then marched off to get our uniform issued (Including full camouflage gear, waterproofs and shiny black boots!)

It was then onto our dormitory accommodation and the dreaded BUNK BEDS!!!!

The week started with the Iron Otter expedition to an abandoned farmhouse in the middle of Dartmoor. Cold was not the word! A whole day was spent in the field learning navigation skills and survival techniques including a 24hr ration pack for our meals. The night was spent in a derelict barn where the temperature dropped to -10°C! Luckily our Army issued sleeping bags kept us warm and we woke to a winter landscape. Despite the conditions and extreme cold all the students enjoyed the experience.

The following day we journeyed back to camp where our bunk beds had never felt so welcoming.

The rest of the week was packed full of activities including: Mountain biking, rounders, climbing, high ropes, archery, bowling, heart start first aid course – which all students passed!, conservation work, daily marching drills and a team task that involved constructing a trebuchet and also a battery controlled car.

We also had the pleasure of witnessing active army squads on exercise being airlifted to and from the base by Sea-king helicopter.

The week ended with a presentation evening and our team won the team challenge event trophy and Kiera Mager won a trophy for the best cadet of the trip (well done Kiera!).

The finale to the week was a trip to Adrenalin Quarry, the longest zip-line in the UK at 490m long and 50m high! This was the perfect ending to an action packed week.



Mr Waters Learning Mentor

Work Related Learning News

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 11TH – 15TH MARCH

More than 40 Year 10 students joined Apprenticeship taster classes (held at Harlow College) during National Apprenticeship Week. The experience is best described by **Holly-Mae Pipe 10MR**:

"My apprenticeship taster experience was brilliant! It gave me an opportunity to try out the course I am thinking of taking. It was a valuable experience because it gave me a better understanding of the course I chose – which was childcare.

We were hard at work from 9.30 'til 12.00. We first had to draw a self portrait to show how we saw ourselves. We then went on to planning a child's lesson (and went on to present these at the end of the session). It was a mix of theory and practical work which really helped me to explore the course. It was very enjoyable and taught me the key skills I would need for that course.

There were a variety of courses you could choose from: childcare, engineering, hairdressing, bricklaying, plumbing, motor vehicle engineering and electrical installation.

I would definitely recommend that everyone give it a try because it was an amazing experience.

It was work, learning, support and fun all in one."

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS 24TH – 28TH JUNE

We are pleased that so many Year 10 students (with the help from parents and carers) have found their own work placements this year. Thank you for your support.

On Friday 22nd March students took part in a WEXP Preparation Day specifically to complement the work they have been doing during PSHCE – preparing them for their work placements.

Interview skills, telephone ethics and health and safety guidelines were all included in this fun, informative day. Preparation will continue until the students go out on their placements in June.

There are a few students who have been unable to finalise a placement – if you are able to offer an opportunity for one of our young people please telephone Mrs Hampstead on 01279 421951 who will outline the requirements for employers able to support us in this way. Thank you.

POST 16 INTERVIEWS FOR SIXTH FORMS AND COLLEGES

Year 11 students will be hearing soon (if not already) from their prospective Colleges and Sixth Forms, inviting them to interview for their chosen courses.

The Work Related Learning Team offer support and information before and after school and during lunch times and break times and Mr Cooper continues with specific guidance sessions for individual students.

Please continue to see Mr Cooper, Mrs Hampstead and Mr Harman if and when you need to, to talk about your POST 16 plans.

Mrs Hampstead
Vocational Learning Mentor

Readathon 2013



This year's Readathon was launched at the beginning of March for all Year 7 and 8 pupils. The aim is to raise money for three children's charities (CLIC Sargent, Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity and ReadWell) through sponsored reading. Each pupil should have a sponsorship form which should be returned along with any money raised before the 19th April. The following website provides lots of information about both the scheme and the charities who will benefit from your generosity -www.readathon.org.



Thanks for your support.



Mr Ginger
Reading Manager



Maths Department News

UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

The UK Maths Challenge is a nationwide competition where students between the ages of 13 and 16 sit a very tough maths test with problems set by some of the leading maths brains in the country.

The top 40% of pupils nationwide receive certificates: a Gold certificate is awarded to the top 6 - 7% of all pupils; Silver goes to the next 12-13%; and Bronze certificates are awarded to the next 20%. Students who perform exceptionally well are invited to take part in the follow-on rounds.

60 students from Stewards took part this year, congratulations to **all** of them for some excellent results. Certificates were awarded to:

Gold

George Strachan 10PM
Isaac Lucia 9NF

Silver

Charlotte Geddis 10PM
Matthew Fleming 9VM

Bronze

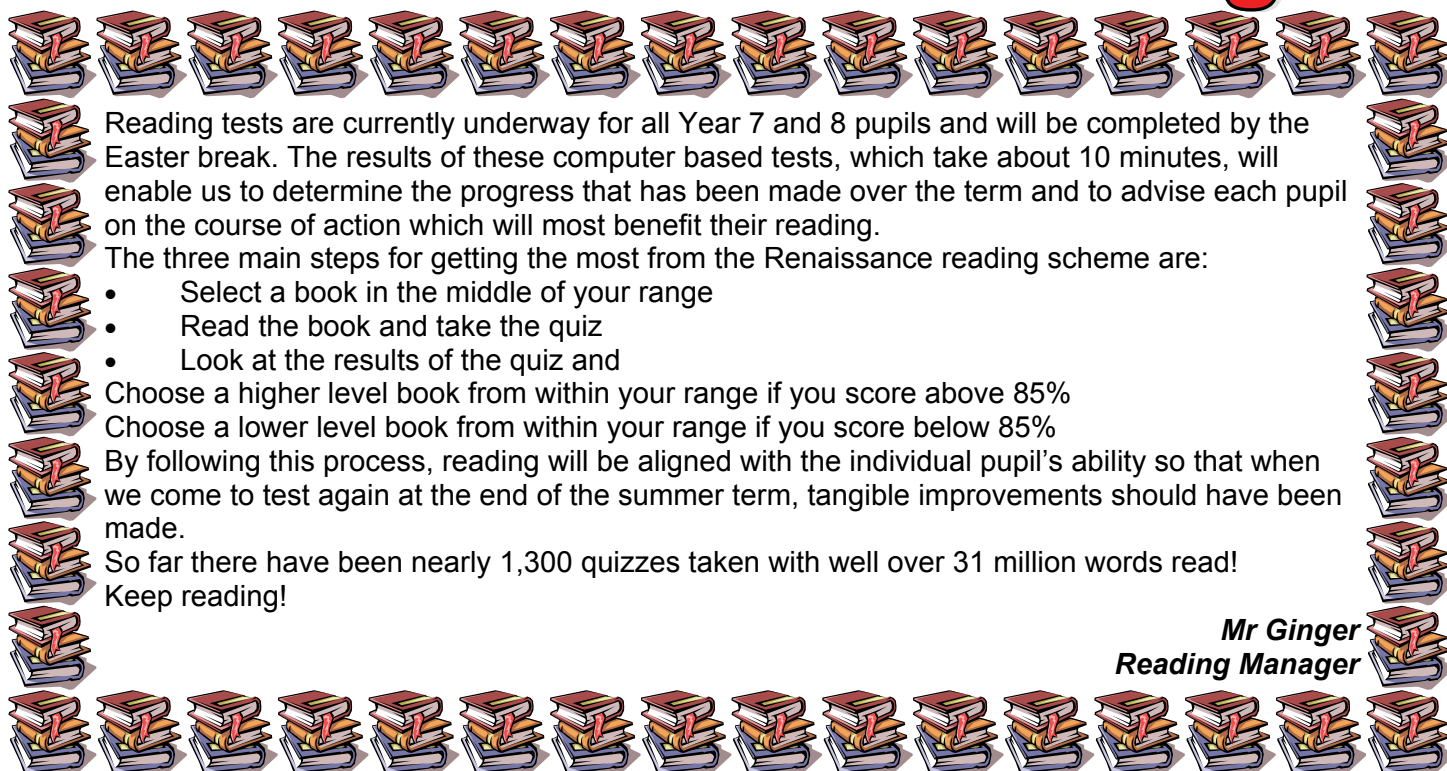
Daniel Whellams 10 CPT, Hannah Kizilcan 10 DJ, Jason Presland 10 DJ, Luke Sams 10 DJ, Thomas Goodenough 10 HS, Hannah Burns 10 PM, Harry Butler 10 PM, Ellis Barnard 9 MT, Alexander Dodd 9 MT, Philip Howlett 9 RA, Holly Humphreys 9 RA, Ewan Isted 9 RMP and Tayla Leathers 9 VM

Good Luck to Isaac Lucia of Year 9 who came within the top 2% nationally, he has been invited to take part in the next round of the competition – the European Kangaroo. (Isaac was also entered for GCSE Maths early and has achieved an A* grade - the first ever for a Year 9 student at Stewards.)



Mrs Patch
Curriculum Development Technician

Renaissance Reading



Reading tests are currently underway for all Year 7 and 8 pupils and will be completed by the Easter break. The results of these computer based tests, which take about 10 minutes, will enable us to determine the progress that has been made over the term and to advise each pupil on the course of action which will most benefit their reading.

The three main steps for getting the most from the Renaissance reading scheme are:

- Select a book in the middle of your range
- Read the book and take the quiz
- Look at the results of the quiz and

Choose a higher level book from within your range if you score above 85%

Choose a lower level book from within your range if you score below 85%

By following this process, reading will be aligned with the individual pupil's ability so that when we come to test again at the end of the summer term, tangible improvements should have been made.

So far there have been nearly 1,300 quizzes taken with well over 31 million words read!

Keep reading!

Mr Ginger
Reading Manager

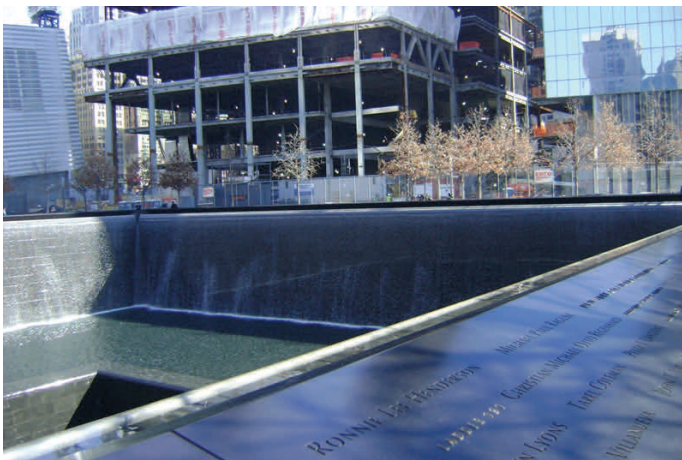
New York Trip

NEW YORK 2013

For the 12th consecutive year Stewards Academy have made a transatlantic trip. Eleven of them to the Big Apple. People ask me if I am bored of the same trip, the answer is definitely a very large "No!" The experience of taking pupils each year and seeing the excitement and wonderment on their faces is second to none and Mrs Hampstead was just as excited if not even more so! She had a massive beam on her face all the time, identifying scenes from films and the TV series "Suits". I award Mrs Hampstead with the "Most grateful member of staff ever taken" Award.

The current Year 11 were a delight to take, and will be forever remembered as the group who definitely shopped until they dropped. They did not waste a moment of their time in New York being ready to start the day at 8am and returning to the hotel for bed. As the years have gone by, I and the incredible Mr Harman have squeezed even more into the schedule. I am confident that we visit, shop and admire more of New York in 4 days than most visitors accomplish in a week or more. We exceeded the target of blisters on blisters, having too many bags to carry and taking lots of photographs of lots of buildings. The smiles and excitement continued through the pain of walking miles on the streets of Manhattan, even Mr Naunton who has ran every day for the past 20 years cut down on his daily running distance! I did join him one morning – from the lift to my room!

Rather than a chronological recall of our schedule I will summarise. It started with a rather frightening incident on the way to the airport where ice fell from a lorry in front of the coach and smashed our windscreen. Huge compliments to our driver who managed to remain calm and safely get us to Heathrow on time! Being on time is one of my main priorities of life, and compliments to most of the pupils for most of the time, who all managed to meet my expectations. There were a couple of incidents where my time rule was not met, to quote Mr Harman "*I knew they had been found*" relating to 2 pupils who were late in Heathrow airport – he and the rest of terminal 5 heard my displeasure, the pupils were never late again. The rest of the trip passed without any further incident, even though Patrick McGovern was stopped both ways through customs, one for having an aerosol in his hand luggage on the way out, and then for traces of explosives on the way back! I'm pleased to say that he was eventually let go and no threat to any national security was ensued.



The tourist locations visited were the Statue of Liberty viewed from the Staten Island Ferry (by far the cheapest and best way to see it), as usual the pupils were not impressed with the forged image given by the USA of this iconic statue, where it seems to be exaggerated in size and moved to just in front of Manhattan. It is quite small and a long way out into the bay, but the Manhattan Island view with East River and Hudson River either side is definitely one not to be missed. The Memorial for 9/11 was very emotional for myself, having seen the Twin Towers on our first ever visit and then over the last 10 years to see the tributes to the victims move from the fences to the church and to the now permanent memorial. There are two footprints marking the original site of the Twin Towers with 30 foot waterfalls cascading into pools and then into a final central void. The names of all victims from that dreadful day in September 2001 are marked around the edge. The site is extremely tasteful and respectful.

The pupils were moved and considering most of them were only little when this happened were well informed of the tragic event. Then onto Brooklyn Bridge which has fantastic views down the East River and on to Brooklyn. It is an arduous walk up but much easier on the way down. At the bottom Street Performers awaited us, with Geena Manzi becoming part of the act – I must admit I hadn't filled in a risk assessment form for being jumped over by a tumbling street performer. However all was fine! My other favourite part of Manhattan is when we walk the disused railway from 12th to 30th Street which has been made into a walkway. The pupils are always a bit apprehensive about this activity (Miss there is shopping to do!), but they admitted it was a delightful stroll above the noise and bustle of Manhattan, seeing views that can't be observed from anywhere else. Other visits included the Empire State Building, the intention was to do it at night, but this group were still shopping until 10.30pm and we couldn't really face another activity lasting until 1am, so we got up early to do it the next morning. Other activities were Ice Skating in Central Park, Strawberry Fields, the Zoo and the Natural History Museum. Now we get to the subject of shopping – this group took every opportunity available. They cleared the outlet stores of Jersey Gardens and we had to use 3 different buses to get back, one of the reasons was the number of bags they had! 2 got so engrossed they were late – no one in the queue dare complain



New York Trip

about them pushing in, after my “little” telling off. The pupils coped brilliantly with the delights of bartering on Canal Street in China Town, gathering excellent bargains and the only one we lost there was Mr Harman who was sunning himself on a bench in the glorious sunshine. This group hit the retail area around the hotel with gusto, Macys and the shops on 34th probably increased their turnover somewhat. One watch shop managed to sell Lewis Fry an empty watch box – but conveniently Mr Harman was with him and saved the day. 5th Avenue, The Apple Store and Bloomingdales was our final shopping trip, well almost, pupils managed to slot in a quick hour before the coach arrived back at the hotel. Oh and of course they managed a bit more at Newark Airport and I was a little surprised when they didn’t ask if we could go via a Westfield Shopping Centre on the way back from Heathrow!

Sampling the delights of New York eateries is another important aspect to the trip. Admittedly this group tended to eat while shopping. However, we did manage the visit to cathedral-like Grand Central Station complemented by amazing cheesecake. The staff ate two flavours of Key Lime, and Pecan and Carmel cheesecake – I fully recommend “Juniors” in the lower ground food court. Our breakfasts at the delicatessen were cheap and fantastic and I don’t think I will ever forget my bagel (soft – nothing like you get here) with bacon and egg over easy – the egg burst into the little hole– I must suggest this to Staple Tye McDonalds! We visited Ellen’s Stardust Diner and were entertained by the singing and dancing waiters – where Aiden Warwick joined in with the dancing waiters and Daniel De Franca was showing his restaurant skills of working the room, checking everyone was fine and chatting to all. This year I didn’t manage to eat in the revolving restaurant on the 48th floor of The Marriott Hotel in Times Square, but we did manage a quick drink while the restaurant moved slowing around to show an amazing view! Take note Mr Harman, this is one for a future schedule as the buffet meal is a reasonable price.

I now come to some of the quotes and awards, which always make me laugh and make the trip so memorable, others will have to wait for leavers’ day... Ellie Thompson got the “Most Demanding Award”, as she seemed very upset that I couldn’t inform her exactly where she could get a chip butty in Terminal 5 (not a request I often get) and continued to “want” things for the entire trip – including the ridiculous question “Can I get Bloomingdale bags in Macys?”. Jade Lucas putting her make up on before landing “In case I meet someone famous Miss”. Shaun Spooner for “Most Needy Award”, he wanted me to look after his passport and fill up his immigration form! And the rumour on the grapevine was that he wasn’t able to pack his own case to come home with! The delight of pupils asking “How many of my family are travelling with me?” – I know they consider Stewards a “Family” but it doesn’t count for USA Immigration! Abbie Martin for managing to flush her toothbrush down the toilet within seconds of arriving at the hotel. Several blocked toilets; that seemed to happen more frequently in the boys rooms! James Thomson “Grazing Award” for eating his way around New York. Kirsty Bishop “Statue Award” she didn’t seem to move, eat or even watch the in-flight entertainment but sat for 7 and half hours in perfect stillness. Mr Naunton for managing not to gain the “Idiot Abroad” award this time, although he did manage to mislay, even if briefly, his boarding pass and glasses. “Valentine Award” to Rebecca Rumsey who was the only one to follow instructions and give me a card and chocolate – which I will never forget!

In conclusion, I can only thank everyone on the trip. This bunch of Year 11’s were superb, they were great fun, took every new experience with relish and had an extremely mature attitude. They really were a delight to take away, and showed their appreciation in many ways. Thank

you for my wonderful Cambridge Satchel! (Well organised Mr Harman). Chris Buckle for keeping me safe, he wouldn’t let me cross the road until the lights changed, ever! The Fantastic Fargies group who were always there on time and were of course fantastic. I know the other groups:- Happy Hampsters, Naughty Nauntons and the Harmanators were also brilliant! Mrs Hampstead was a delight and Mr Naunton wasn’t naughty at all. I could not do this trip without Mr Harman, who knows the routes to everywhere and is my confidant on decisions on an hourly basis, schedules do change! I have one slight complaint about him, his walk is my run and at times a mad, old, ginger woman trying to keep up is not a pretty sight.

Mrs Fargeot



P.E. Department News

TABLE TENNIS @ NORMAN BOOTH CENTRE

WINTER GAMES SINGLES TOURNAMENT

This year's table tennis competitions have been sparse, with this being the first major tournament based at the Norman Booth Centre in Old Harlow in association with Batts Table Tennis Club. The tournament had aimed to attract Schools and Academies from the Harlow and West Essex region but with so few competitions this year the number of schools, and in turn the standard of play, were both high. The Stewards Academy Table Tennis Club had been practicing in preparation for this event for the past four weeks with Mr Sanders and went into the competition quietly confident of achieving success on the day. The competition was fierce but our pupils were able to surpass their expected standards and achieve notable positions at the end of the tournament. Congratulations to all of our players who competed in the tournament, carry on with the great work!



BATTS TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Group Stage –

W – Win L – Lost F – Points For A – Points Against

1. Daniel Stevenson – W1-L6 / F34-A71
2. Josh Poland – W6-L1 / F75-A41
3. Alex Dodd – W4-L2 / F61-A36
4. Alex Curaba – W4-L2 / F53-A36
5. Taonga CS – W1-L6 / F48-A75
6. Alfie Babb – W4-L1 / F49-A28
7. Bradley Russell – W6-L0 / F66-A34
8. Sam Dodd – W0-L6 / F24-A68
9. Becky Dodd – W2-L5 / F48-A68
10. Alice Neville – W2-L5 / F45-A67

Quarter Finals –

1. Josh Poland – Won 2-0 (11/6,11/4)
2. Alfie Babb – Lost 2-1 (11/7,7/11,8/11)
3. Alex Curaba – Lost 2-0 (5/11,3/11)
4. Bradley Russell – Lost 2-0 (7/11,2/11)
5. Alex Dodd – Lost 2-0 (1/11,6/11)

Semi-Finals –

1. Josh Poland – Lost 2-1 (7/11,12/10,5/11)

3rd / 4th Play Off –

1. Josh Poland – Won 2-0 (11/7,11/8)

INTER-FORM COMPETITION

This year's inter-form competition has now completed its third activity with each form class from every year competing at a high standard to achieve points for their house colour. The points collected from each tournament go towards the Sports Day event in the summer term; therefore increasing the significance of each event. Well done to all the pupils who have participated so far: keep up the hard work.

Final Colour Standings for the Inter - Form Competition

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Total	Position
Purple	15	20	9	12	56	3
Dark Blue	14	16	9	12	51	5
light Blue	22	14	16	10	62	2
Yellow	15	17	22	19	73	1
White	7	7	17	12	43	7
Green	11	7	16	12	46	6
Orange	16	9	9	21	55	4
Red	2	20	9	12	43	7

P.E. Department News

INDOOR REGIONAL ATHLETICS

On Tuesday 12th March a group of students were selected to participate in the first indoor athletics event that has been hosted by a Harlow School. Year 7 and 8 boys and girls were chosen to compete in the event. Well done to our Year 7 boys team who finished 1st overall which saw them progress into the regional finals after a great afternoon of activities. Also congratulations to our Year 7 girls' team and Year 8 teams who all narrowly missed out on the top spot. Well done to all those who competed.

Mr R Trearmer
P.E. Department



SPORTSHALL SECONDARY ESSEX SCHOOL GAMES FINAL

The Year 7 Boys team qualified for the Essex Indoor Athletics Schools Final after winning the Harlow schools event the previous week.

The team consisted of;

Lewis Harknett
Owen Harknett
Bailey Burns
Baily Jarratt
Sam Jenkins
Taylor Young
Sam Dodd
Elijah Dixon-Bonner

They were a credit to the school throughout the day and placed a very impressive 5th place out of all the schools in Essex, which is a considerable feat. Maybe next year they can go better and qualify for the Regional final.

Mr Sanders
P.E. Department

Science Department News

BIG BANG FAIR - EXCEL CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

A group of nine students, Isaac Lucia, Joseph Thomas, Daniel Coleman, Tyler Hampson, Micheal Whitting, Thomas Goodenough, Blessing Oridupa, Callum Smith and Ryan Chalke, accompanied by Ms Kang and Mr Young visited the Big Bang Fair to assist during the morning at the Shell Family stand, showing the public how to make jumping beans and balloon cars and helping youngsters to play with chromatography.



Thomas Goodenough (10HS) helping a jumping bean maker.

After lunch we all had plenty of time to look around the technology and science based stands and to attend various shows demonstrating how much fun science can be. Judging by the wide eyes when we met up to come back, a good time was had by all.

Isaac Lucia, 9NF said: *"The day provided a sweeping insight into the practical applications of science in careers and industry : from GM tomatoes to double decker buses and from curing diseases to fuelling the future. Helping Shell and engaging with families proved enjoyable and enriching, while having the chance to see people speak with such evident passion about their science-related jobs was certainly a treat."*

Callum Smith, 8JS said: *"I found this trip really fun. I built a balloon buggy, ran a stall on my own, extracted DNA from a blueberry, made a jumping bean, a fan and an aeroplane (x2). I would recommend it. I also did exercise."*

COMMUNITY JUPITER WATCH

PRESENTED BY ANDY GANNON AND ALLAN BELL, LOCAL ASTRONOMERS

Once again the sky was cloudy so we couldn't get the telescopes out and view Jupiter and its moons but we had a great time anyway because Andy and Allan's talks were very interesting.

Andy Gannon talked about the weather on Jupiter. Jupiter is a huge ball of gas, over 300 times bigger than the Earth, but it rotates every 10 hours. This very fast rotation causes the gases to churn producing magnificent storms like the Great Red Spot (GRS), twice the diameter of the Earth, which has been raging now for at least 180 years. Bands of different coloured gases are also seen indicating clouds at different levels with mini storms, about 2000 km across, popping up and travelling along the band. Jupiter has a huge magnetic field. Scientists believe that at Jupiter's core there is a ball of liquid Hydrogen which acts like a metal. The swirling of this metal produces the magnetic field which protects the planet from the solar wind and flares. At the poles magnificent auroras are seen, produced by the solar wind interacting with the magnetic field, just like on Earth.

Allan Bell talked about the many moons orbiting Jupiter. At the moment we think there are 67 moons going around Jupiter. The four largest moons were first discovered by Galileo in 1610 using a telescope. He named them Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto so they are collectively called the Galilean moons. Io, Jupiter's closest moon, is a large, rocky, volcanically active moon spewing out molten sulphur. Next is Europa, a large, dense, icy moon with a very smooth surface. Then comes Ganymede, the largest of Jupiter's moon, an icy moon scarred with impact craters and finally Callisto another large, icy low density moon covered in impact craters. Jupiter also has many much smaller moons. Scientists think that some of them were originally asteroids caught by Jupiter's gravitational pull which have since disintegrated into smaller chunks.

Brendan Chitty 7TS : *'I really enjoyed the talk because it was well explained and was very interesting. I have learnt a lot and really enjoyed the PowerPoint that was shown. I will keep on coming to these talks. I will take this information with me as it is good and will hopefully help me pass my GCSEs.'*

Jamie Allen 7OK : *'I really enjoyed the talk about Jupiter. It was very interesting and I learnt a lot about Europa as well. I learnt that Jupiter spins faster than any of the other planets, at a shocking 9.9 hours/ revolution. It was a good PowerPoint as well and I will keep on going to these talks'.*

Science Department News

CONSERVATION WORK IN MAUNDS WOOD ON STEWARDS SITE

WITH ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Several years ago Stewards strengthened their site perimeter with a new green fence. When the fence was erected at the bottom of the sports field a portion of Maunds wood was partitioned into Stewards site. This was the part of the wood where we carried out our conservation work.

In November a group of Year 11 Environmental and Land Based Science students lead by Leanne Block from Essex Wildlife Trust set to with secateurs and rakes and cleared away lots of bramble that was taking over the wood.

**Mrs Wright
Science
Curriculum
Development
Manager**



Bramble clearance before and after pictures : with Leanne Block from Essex Wildlife Trust

Attendance News

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the best attendance in their Year Groups for the Spring Term:

7TS = 97%
8TMA = 97%
9NF = 96%
10MR = 97%
11NJK = 96%

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

- ♦ PUPILS MUST ARRIVE AT SCHOOL FOR THE START OF REGISTRATION – FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A DETENTION BEING ISSUED
- ♦ IN THE EVENT OF YOUR CHILD BEING ABSENT PLEASE 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
- ♦ PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ANY HOLIDAYS TAKEN **WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED** AND COULD INVOLVE A PENALTY NOTICE BEING ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE

REGISTRATION

8.45am – REGISTRATION (AM) FOR ALL PUPILS

1.55pm – REGISTRATION (PM) FOR ALL PUPILS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THESE MATTERS FROM THE
ATTENDANCE TEAM

PAYMENT FOR PUPIL LUNCHES & BREAK TIME SNACKS

We would like to offer families the option of paying in advance by cheque for the above. The benefits are:

Pupils will not have to queue at the cash boxes in blocks 1 and 3, thus saving them a great deal of time. Parents will not have to worry about having sufficient change to hand for daily lunches etc.

This is a much more safe and secure method of paying – no chance of money getting lost en-route to school.

This **option will start week commencing Monday 22nd April** for a trial period in the summer term. If you are interested, please send your **cheques into school** for the attention of MRS WILLSON, FINANCE OFFICE, immediately after the Easter break – **Monday 15th April**, as follows:

Cheques to be made payable to STEWARDS ACADEMY TRUST, and marked LUNCHES on the reverse.

Children's names and tutor groups must be printed on the reverse: if the cheque covers more than one child, please indicate how much should be allocated to each child, otherwise it will be divided equally.

Pupil accounts must be kept topped up to avoid running out – pupils can check their balances in the normal way. Cash/notes can still be deposited in the cash boxes.

Mrs P Jenkins
Business Manager

Important Information

TRAVEL ABROAD

Whilst at Stewards your child has various opportunities to travel abroad - from residential trips within the European Union, North America and Asia - to day trips. Opportunities may be open in future academic years to go even further afield! So as you and your child are well prepared for these exciting trips the Academy advises parents to obtain for their child their own passport and if travelling to an EU country, a European Health Insurance Card [EHIC]; this ensures that should your child require medical attention abroad, treatment will be at a reduced cost or free.

Passport

The Academy would advise parents/carers to obtain for their child, a 5-year laminated UK passport. Passport forms can be obtained from your local Post Office. For further information about child passports visit www.passport.gov.uk or telephone the Passport Advice Line on 0870 521 0410. Be aware that some countries ask for passports to have at least 6 months validity from date of departure or visa application. Passports can be renewed no more than 9 months prior to expiry date.

European Health Insurance Card [EHIC]

From 1st January 2006, a valid EHIC card should be obtained and carried by each pupil whilst travelling in the European Union (EU). If you are a UK resident, you are entitled to medical treatment that becomes necessary, at reduced cost or sometimes free, when temporarily visiting a EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. Only treatment provided under the state scheme is covered. However, to obtain treatment you will need to take a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with you. To apply for your child you will need their NHS number plus full name, address and date of birth. The card is free and is now a plastic 'credit card' type. This card is easily obtainable by phone (EHIC Applications Line 0300 330 1350), via the web site www.ehic.org.uk or by post (pick up an EHIC application pack from your local Post Office branch).

School travel companies require passport numbers, dates of issue and expiry, etc, well before departure. Delays in obtaining the above documents may mean your child will miss out on exciting and interesting trips. So don't delay – make sure your child has their own passport or renew their passport well before expiry and has their own EHIC Card.

**Mrs Willson
Administration**

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

To qualify for a school trip attendance and punctuality will be considered and is at the discretion of the staff involved.

For your child to continue to qualify for school trips, they must have and continue to have good attendance, punctuality, behaviour and attitude towards school.

If you withdraw your child from a school trip you will not be entitled to any refund unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Should you fail to keep to the payment schedule for residential trips, your child's place on the trip will be in jeopardy.

PUPIL LUNCH OVERDRAFTS - A reminder to all parents/guardians - Please ensure your child comes to school with either a packed lunch or has enough money in their cashless catering account to buy lunch. Pupils who have genuinely lost or forgotten their lunch money can come to the Academy's Finance Office to ask for a £1.00 overdraft on their cashless catering account. Pupils must ensure they repay the £1.00 into their account when next they return to school. Persistent non-payers will not be allowed further overdrafts if money is still owed.

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

FINANCE OFFICE

Year Group Information

Year 7

Although this has been a short half term, it has been a busy one. Yet again, I have been very impressed with the attitude and enthusiasm of pupils this half term. The Year 7 students are continually working hard, supporting each other performing well across the school.

Exams

On Thursday 28th February, all Year 7's had the experience of sitting their first secondary school exam. This was the first of many over the period of a week, and I am confident they have all done well. Every single student conducted themselves properly during each exam. They were punctual, well presented and silent throughout. Congratulations to all, as I'm sure this was quite a nerve-racking and daunting experience for them.

The Year 7 students need to know the importance of working hard and preparing for their exams. In a year's time students will be choosing their GCSE options, and in order to gain a place in these subjects, students must show progress. NOW is the time to be thinking about performing well and proving to staff they are capable. I want all students to be successful and I want them to be number one. Who will work to achieve the top grades?

Schooling

Each week goes by very quickly and I don't want students to miss out on any experience. Please make sure students are aware of the extra-curricular clubs on offer and to attend as many as they can.

Have a great Easter break.

Mr G Hughes Head of Year 7

Year 8

This half term, although short, has been a very important and eventful time for Year 8's. On the 7th March parents had the opportunity to come into school and discuss the progress of their children with subject teachers. We had an overwhelming response to this evening and the feedback received from the parent survey was extremely positive. The vast majority of people 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that Stewards Academy is providing their child with a very good education and a safe learning environment and many parents expressed their gratitude for the hard work, compassion and support that their children had received from the staff at Stewards.

This month also saw the introduction of GCSE pathways/option choices for Year 8's. An initial assembly took place the second week back from half term outlining what the process would involve and then pupils were given the opportunity to 'try out' various subject options that they might study at GCSE. The day was action packed with a range of exciting and challenging lessons and pupils undertook tasks such as planning, designing, creating, constructing & problem solving activities across a number of GCSE subjects. It was extremely well received by Year 8, with many pupils commenting on how they had gained a much greater insight and understanding of what different subjects involved and several pupils intimated how they felt much more confident about the choices available to them. Leading on from this, the Upper School Courses evening took place on the 21st March. This was an opportunity for parents to listen to a talk on the various pathways available to their children and to gain a flavour of the option subjects on offer in a 'road-show' style format. Again, this event was very well attended (96%... A fantastic turn out!) with the general consensus from parents being very positive.

Following on from this, pupils will now have received their option forms and should take the time over Easter to consider, discuss and select their choices with you. We would then appreciate your support in ensuring that these forms are returned promptly following the full term break, in order to go through timetabling logistics and iron out any issues as quickly as possible!

Finally, I would like to conclude this newsletter by highlighting some very talented, worthy and courageous pupils in Year 8 who recently starred in our very successful production of 'Grease' – Mitchell Taylor, Laura Cleary, Ellie Burgess and Hollie Johnson. All four pupils really did an amazing job on stage with their elder counterparts and put on a show that was thoroughly enjoyed by over one thousand visitors to Stewards. They were a credit to themselves, their families and our year group so on behalf of Year 8, I would like to congratulate these pupils for their hard work, commitment and fabulous performances on the night!

Well done Year 8 for another great term. Have a really wonderful Easter break!!

*Miss Holden
Head of Year 8*

Year Group Information

Year 9

It has been a busy term for Year 9. They have completed exams and are now awaiting results. During the exam period they behaved extremely well. Let's hope that their results will be as impressive.

Isaac Lucia sat his GCSE Maths paper 2 years early and achieved an A*. This is a stunning result and we send our congratulations to Isaac.

Mason Cook has been picked to represent the South East of England in the Youth world cup in Sweden.

Congratulations to him.

Rosie Poole ran for Essex schools on Saturday and came 75th out of nearly 400 runners. Well done Rosie.

Ms Batterham Head of Year 9



Year 9 Drama students with Nigel on Red Nose Day

Year 10

It's been quite a busy half term for a number of pupils in Year 10. Firstly they all had their first experience of meeting deadlines, as they had to complete 3 pieces of coursework for English.

Then there was the performance of Grease in which 8 students had major parts: Howard Mash, Hannah Kizilcan, Megan Baldwin, Josh Wix, Charlotte Newell, Jack Rowley, Mason Arnold and Chris Richards.

From the 12th to 14th March was National Apprenticeship week at Harlow College. Thirty five Year 10 pupils attended taster sessions of a variety of different apprenticeship schemes. These were: brickwork, carpentry, childcare, engineering, hairdressing, motor vehicles, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical. All who attended said that they got a lot from the sessions. These are a couple of comments:

"During my visit to Harlow College I was told how to get an apprenticeship in childcare. We did some hands on activities which we will try out with young children. I really enjoyed it, it makes me want to work with children even more." Chloe Russell

"On the apprenticeship day I chose to do carpentry and we used machinery I haven't used properly before. It was really good fun, and I enjoyed it very much" Hayden Cook

Finally, 10 students were handpicked to go on an Outreach programme, organised by the army. This article can be seen on page 7 of this Newsletter.

**Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 10**

Year 11

The final term of Year 11 will soon be upon us! A number of pupils have already undertaken some of their formal GCSE exams and these will continue after the Easter break. Pupils have been issued with a personal timetable and it is important that they know the date, time and location of their examinations. Time is of the essence and preparation is the key to success; pupils really do need to make the most of the opportunities available to them. There are a number of revision classes being held in school during the Easter break and pupils have already been issued with a schedule with details of subject specific information. Pupils should also be revising at home and should, by now, have prepared a personal revision timetable to help them to manage their time to best effect. Revision materials are widely available and subject teachers will be able to recommend the most useful textbooks and websites to use.

Finally I would like to congratulate our Year 11 Presentation Evening Prize Winners. They are an outstanding group of young adults who have demonstrated academic excellence, a consistently positive attitude to learning and have made a significant contribution to school life. The awards recognise their commitment and dedication and prizes are given in reward and celebration of this. It is a wonderful evening and it was clear that staff, parents and pupils were extremely proud of their achievements. They are a credit to our year group, our school and our community and I know that the year team join me in congratulating them on such a prestigious and well deserved accolade.

**Mrs Ramsey
Head of Year 11**

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

28th TERM ENDS - 1.00pm

APRIL

15th TERM STARTS

17th Music School Enrolment 4.00-6.00pm

18th Year 10 Parents Evening 4.00pm

22nd Bude Trip Leaves

24th Music School Starts 3.00pm

MAY

6th Bank Holiday

8th Harlow College Open Day 4.30-6.00pm

Year 5 Parents Evening

13th GCSE's Begin

27th-31st HALF TERM



ABSENCE LINE

The absence line to report pupil absence is

01279-772511

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



Mrs Barker
Attendance Officer

