



**Easter
2012**

Stewards Academy

Newsletter



Creative Partnerships



Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard



WESTVIC
The West Essex VI Form College

Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils

It never ceases to amaze me just how much goes on at Stewards Academy thanks to the tremendous hard work of the staff. This term we have had an array of Science activities, a fantastic school production, a great performance of Romeo and Juliet (by Year 10 drama group), an extensive programme of sports competitions, we hosted the Essex Book Festival with Bali Rai and held special events such as the Chinese art workshops and the Speak Out Challenge. My thanks to all teachers and associate staff whose efforts go beyond the norm to ensure that Stewards pupils enjoy such a wonderful range of opportunities.

Upper School Courses Evening for Year 8 was very well attended. I echo Ms Batterham's comments p14 about how impressive Year 8 have been, taking their option choices very seriously. My thanks to Mr Scholtes, Assistant Headteacher for the excellent preparation behind the scenes to make the process go very smoothly.

Parents Evening Survey Results 2011-2012

Every Parents Evening we ask parents for views about various aspects of the work of the school. The results for 2011-2012 are below and are very pleasing indeed.

	Respondents who strongly agreed or agreed with the statements					
	Year 7 02.02.12	Year 8 15.03.12	Year 9 12.01.12	Year 10 29.03.12	Year 11 24.11.11	Total / Average %
Number of responses	113	74	98	67	51	403
Attendance	95%	88%	74%	75%	72%	81%
My child is happy at this school.	99%	96%	97%	100%	98%	98%
My child feels safe at this school.	99%	97%	98%	99%	98%	98%
My child makes good progress at this school.	98%	100%	100%	97%	98%	99%
My child is well looked after at this school.	100%	99%	99%	99%	96%	99%
My child is taught well at this school.	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	97%	96%	96%	85%	96%	94%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	98%	93%	97%	97%	98%	97%
This school deals effectively with bullying.	98%	93%	99%	94%	98%	96%
This school is well led and managed.	100%	99%	100%	98%	100%	99%
This school responds well to any concern I raise.	99%	95%	99%	92%	96%	96%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	97%	92%	100%	81%	98%	93%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	99%	97%	99%	97%	98%	98%

Staffing News

This term we welcomed Miss Austin to the Maths department. At Easter Miss Smith (Science department) will be leaving Stewards, we wish her well. Mr Marriott will become the new form tutor for 7LSS which becomes 7TMA. In the summer term Miss Watson will join the English department.

Academy Status

Stewards Academy is now fully operational. One benefit has been additional finances which we have used to boost department capitation for expenditure on books, resources and ICT equipment. My thanks to the Finance team who have done a wonderful job in managing the changes so efficiently.

Finally I would like to mention Year 11 who, on the whole, have been working very hard in preparation for GCSE's which are already underway. I hope that students will appreciate and make the most of the 'Revision School' classes being held over the Easter holiday. Staff undertake the revision classes as a voluntary activity – testament once again to their dedication and commitment. Good Luck Year 11 and to everyone I wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

Rhonda Murthar

**Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher**

Able, Gifted and Talented News

On the 6th March, 35 students from Year 9 Gifted and Talented, visited the University of Essex in Colchester. This was an opportunity to see university life first hand and everyone enjoyed an interesting and informative day led by the University Ambassadors of Ashley Fox and 3 of his team.

We were welcomed at reception and shown to a lecture room where Ashley gave a presentation to welcome us and to introduce the benefits of going to university. We were then given a tour of the campus and shown the many facilities available including the cafes, eating places, a bank and the library.

After lunch, the students all joined in with an activity to produce a poster to incorporate what had been learnt throughout the day and then had the opportunity to ask questions to the ambassadors about life at university and what they liked about it. They explained how they all enjoyed the additional responsibilities of looking after themselves, the variety of courses, making new friends and joining the many clubs and societies which included deep water diving!

Everyone completed an evaluation form before returning home and the responses reflected an increase in those strongly agreeing that they would fit in if they went to university and also an increase in those actually planning to go to university in the future.

Some of the comments included...

'I have learnt that university opens up doors to the wider future'.

'I now know what to expect if I go onto university'.

'It has been a good experience to learn about life of a university student'.

The students really enjoyed this insight into university life which will undoubtedly assist them in making choices in the future. Thanks to helpers on the day: Mrs Hampstead, Mrs Slater, Mrs Wichowski, Miss Shute and Mr Benjamin.

Mr Cooper

Able, Gifted and Talented Mentor/Guidance Officer



Maths Department News

On Tuesday 13th March, four Year 8 pupils had the fantastic opportunity of going to the regional finals of the UKMT Team Challenge Competition at Bancroft's School, Woodford Green. Isaac Lucia, Alex Dodd, Riley Halson and Joseph Thomas have been coming in before school every Tuesday morning to practice and were very excited to finally be there. The day consisted of performing a number of maths challenges such as a 'crossnumber' puzzle and a head to head speed round against 29 other schools from across Essex. This culminated in a huge Maths relay where they had to be quick on their feet as well as quick thinking. The questions were challenging and the competition was tough. I am pleased to say that Team Stewards managed to win 9th place! We haven't taken part in the competition for some time and didn't have the experience of other teams, so were very proud of their achievements.



Pupils were awarded with a certificate and a small gift from the UKMT organisers. We look forward to having a shot at the finals next year!

"I really enjoyed the event and would thoroughly enjoy participating a second time. I am sure that we could get a better result if we went again.

We practised for the event with Mrs Banks. I think that without the practise we would not have got as good a place and points that we did get. This is because with practise our problem solving greatly improved. We made a note that we wanted to gain a top 10 place, we did exactly that, we came 9th". Alex Dodd

Mrs Morland-Banks
Maths Department

Science Department News

BUILDING A BUG HOTEL AND LIVING WILLOW BIRD HIDE

Stewards can hold it's first Ugly Bug Ball now that Stewards Conservation Group built a bug hotel in the meadow. The hotel was made from old broken pallets that were repaired, and piled up one on top of the other. Each layer has different bug habitats, leaf litter, rotting branches, bamboo rods, chicken wire etc. so that it can accommodate all sorts of bugs. Amphibians like frogs and toads will also make their home there because at the bottom layer of the hotel there are partially covered areas that will stay cool and damp throughout the summer. Animals like hedgehogs and mice may also overwinter in the hotel.

We also built a living willow bird hide. The site was chosen so that we can



Rebecca Willbourn 8NF, Vanya Arabadzhieva (9MT), Mr Lincoln (HCV) and Mr Tomlins (HCV) making the Bug Hotel.

observe the birds feeding at the food station decorating the oak tree in the middle of the meadow. The willow whips

were bought in as a kit which made it quite easy to put together. First the site was prepared; weed prevention matting was pegged down then the willow whips were planted and woven to make a screen. This will, over the summer, come out in leaf and new branches will grow. During the autumn grass cutting and general tidying up session these new branches will be trimmed and woven into the structure. Hopefully the screen will be thick enough to use when we take part in the Big School Bird Watch in January 2013.



Chelsea Townsend 9MR with the completed Bug Hotel

Mrs Wright

Curriculum Development Technician, Science

THE BIONIC EAR

On the evening of January 18th, we had the pleasure of attending Deafness UK's "Bionic Ear" presentation while accompanied by a wonderful group of students from our Academy. If we had to describe the show in one word, it would have to be: BRILLIANT! The presenter delivered the information so that it was of great interest of people of all ages. He took us through the structure of the ear, the risks associated with loud noises as well as safety precautions that should be taken, incorporating comedy into all aspects. It was quite obvious that he went out of his way to involve our students, intriguing them to stay afterwards to admire the set-ups and ask an abundance of questions. The students exhibited a positive attitude, were extremely well-behaved and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Matt Cox 8RP – *"I have learnt a lot more about my ears. I now think it's amazing, thrilling even, how your ears work".*

Isaac Lucia 8NF – *"The evening was a highly enjoyable one. The speaker presented the ideas clearly and accessibly while also interacting with the audience, which helped us enjoy it further. I now realize the complexity of the ear and how important it is to care for it. I am very glad I attended".*

The pupils fortunate enough to have attended this show have walked away with lasting memories and the knowledge of how to protect one of their most valuable senses.



'PLANETARY PROBES' TALK

Presented by Mr Andrew Young, Stewards Science Technician

Mr Young gave a talk about why there are Planetary Probes, why it is so difficult to get them to the planets and how the experiments that they carry are designed and tested before they go. As the sky was overcast, we were not able to go out and view Jupiter so we stayed indoors and designed and made model planetary landers with marshmallow astronauts.

Matthew Allen 11RA said : *"I thought the talk was interesting and I learned about past rovers that never made it to Mars. The part that caught my attention was the NASA video".*

Stan Allen and Martin Chown said : *"The presentation and model assembly made for an interesting evening for adults and children".* (The adults enjoyed the model making!!)

Science Department News

ENGINEERING OUR FUTURE IN DEFENCE

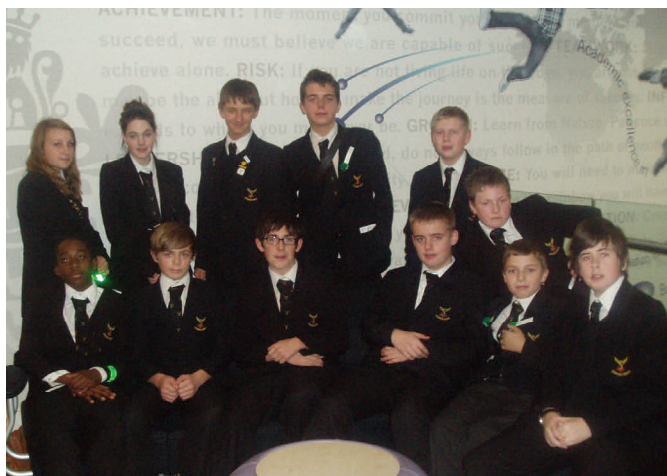
Presented by Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society and ExploreSTEM

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), Chelmsford.

Stewards upper school students went to the ARU to find out about the local defence engineering companies in Essex, what they do and what qualifications are required to work there. The students listened to several short talks introducing the local industries and the career paths the presenters took to obtain their position. Each industry had an exhibition with interactive elements to entice the students which also enabled the students to chat to the graduates in each industry. There were representatives from E2V, Finmeccanica, BAE Systems, Selex Galileo, the Royal Navy and Selex ELSAG, all local Essex industries.

Jake Hannam 11COS enjoyed the lectures; *"they were very enlightening and informative. They showed me how the defence industry depends on engineering".*

Steven Hinkley 9MR: *"The presentation stands and lectures were very good and interesting. It was well put together and I am happy with all the effort that everyone put into the event".*



Students on the trip: Daniel Coleman 9MR, Colyn Edmondson 9VG, Jake Hannam 11COS, Steven Hinkley 9MR, Jason Presland 9DJ, Ryan Chalke 9JG, Megan Baldwin 9DJ, Aimee Hunt 9CPT, Ashley Rich 9JG, Corey Harrison 9JG, Lewis Wright 9JG and Josh Hill 9JG.

'NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE' TALK

Presented by Mr W. Mclay, Science Ambassador.

Nuclear Power is an explosive subject but is it the only way that we will generate enough electricity for future requirements without contributing to climate change?

Mr Mclay, a Science Ambassador from Magnox Nuclear Power Station, spoke to classes of students across all years during their timetabled science lesson about the past, present and future of nuclear power stations. He talked about the pros and cons of nuclear power, The accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima were discussed and the future of nuclear power stations in the UK.

Jessica Cross 9MR commented : *"It was a very interesting talk and he answered all the questions I was thinking when I walked into the room".*

Thomas Kitchen 9CPT said : *"Mr Mclay's talk explained a lot of things that I didn't know before including Einstein's Theory : $E = MC^2$ ".*



Mr Mclay receiving a thank you gift from Phillippa Townsend Year 11



ASTRONOMY EVENINGS

Stewards Academy, Parnall Road, Harlow, CM18 7NQ

6.15pm until 8.30pm Lab 7 All welcome, any age!

We will listen to local astronomers talk about that month's topic then if the sky is clear we will go outside and view the night sky. Another interactive activity will be organised if the sky is cloudy.

Date	Topic
Tuesday 1st May 2012	Community Moon Watch
Tuesday 26th June 2012	Community Sun Watch

Science Department News

THE IET FARADAY ENGINEERING CHALLENGE DAY

Great fun was had by all at the Institute of Engineering and Technology Faraday Engineering Challenge Day hosted by Stewards Academy. Teams of six Year 8 students who are gifted and talented in Science, Maths or Technology from six schools across the region competed against each other to design a drink dispensing machine for use during the Olympics Race-walking event. The challenge was to design and build a prototype drink dispenser which would deliver a certain volume of drink in a cup, which was then moved towards the race-walker to ease collection as they passed the hydration station. Students from Stewards, Passmores, St Marks, Davenant, Westcliff High School for Boys and Herts and Essex High School for Girls competed in this all day challenge. The staff from each of the schools also took part and designed their own drink dispenser.

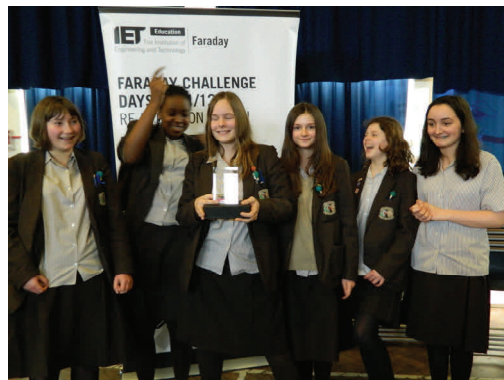
The winning team came from Herts and Essex High School for Girls; although they drew on points with the team who came second they spent the least amount of money on materials. The second team came from Westcliff High School for Boys and one of the teams from Stewards came third. The winning team received a glass trophy and a goody bag.

Lewis Wait from Davenant said: *"It really got me thinking outside the box and my design and technology skills were stretched"*.

Reece Carter from Westcliff said: *"I learnt a lot about team building and the experience changed my views about pursuing an engineering career in a positive way"*.

Mrs Wright

Curriculum Development Technician, Science



The Winners! Herts and Essex High School for Girls



Passmores students programming

ISAAC NEWTON AND THE BIRTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Presented by Stuart Clark, Astronomy Journalist.

Recently, Miss Shute and I had the pleasure of accompanying fourteen students to Mr Stuart Clark's presentation of *Isaac Newton and the Birth of the Scientific Method*. As we study science in secondary school and beyond, the history and the absolute painstaking amount of work that went into every discovery is often overlooked. A concept explored in a single 60 minute period often took its creator over 10 years to discover and perfect! Everyone in attendance has without a doubt walked away with a greater appreciation for the early scientists who often committed their entire lives to their discoveries; discoveries which allow us to better understand our world today.

Molly Galloway (7LM) : *"It was very interesting. Although some of the language was very advanced I really enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot"*.
Hamza Kazmi (8RP): *"I think it was very interesting; leaning about science in the early days and finding out how Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity"*.

Miss Shute and Mr Benjamin
Visiting Canadian Science Teacher



Becky Warwick (8RP), Bradley Leathers (7LSS), Daniel Coleman (9MR), Emma Lidbury (7GM), Ewan Isted (8RMP), Hamza Kazmi (8RP), Issy Dorkin (7CW), Isaac Lucia (8NF), Jamie Venables (7GH), Joseph Thomas (8MT), Kirsty Webber (7GM), Molly Galloway (7LM), Riley Halson (8RP), Steven Hinkley (9MR), Stanley Saunders (7GM) and Mr Stuart Clark.

P.E. Department News

TRAMPOLINE RESULTS

Harlow Schools Trampoline Competition Results

- In total there were 31 competitors from 4 Harlow secondary schools
- An individual competition was run in all key stages
- A Team competition was run in all key stages apart from KS4 Novice



TEAM EVENTS RESULTS

Novice KS3 team event

Position	Team	Team members	Total Score
1 st	Mark Hall 2	A. Thompson, E. McKeown & H Tompson	112.0
2 nd	Mark Hall 1	C. Mitchell, M. Fenny & N. Case	91.1
3 rd	Stewards 1	Jack Sprigg, Stephen Clark & Liam Goward	79.0

Advanced KS 3 Team event

Position	Team	Team members	Total Score
1 st	Stewards	Ryan Scott, Jamie Townsend & Chloe Scott	126.1

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RESULTS

Novice KS3 individual

Position	Name	Total Score
1 st	M. Shwe (Mark Hall)	37.2
2 nd	S. Clark (Stewards)	33.4
3 rd	C. Bradley (Mark Hall)	31.7

Advanced KS3 individual

Position	Name	Total Score
1 st	Ryan Scott (Stewards)	41.8
2 nd	Jamie Townsend (Stewards)	41.3

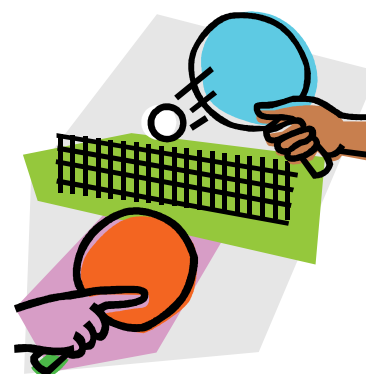
LOUGHTON SWIM GALA

Position	School	Total	Girls	Boys
1 st	Davenant	310	140	170
2 nd	Roding Valley	270	158	112
3 rd	Debden Park	252	134	118
4 th	West Hatch	250	136	114
5 th	Stewards	213	97	116
6 th	Burnt Mill	87	45	42
7 th	Passmores	79	41	38

On Monday 12th March an inter school swimming gala was held at Loughton Sports Centre. Well done to all of the Stewards Academy Swimming Team, a pleasing all round performance with a good finishing position above the other Harlow Schools, well done!

TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

The first ever Harlow Schools Table Tennis tournament began this year, with both a singles and doubles tournament running alongside each other. Stewards Academy players were very successful winning both the singles competition and the doubles competition. Well done to; Jack Webber, John Withington, Rees Cook, Alex Dodd, Bradley Childs, Josh Poland, Daniel Stevenson, Charlie Clare, Ben Miechielsens-Tournier, Paul Burton, Alex Curaba, Taonga Chabva-Shoperai, Alfie Babb, Bradley Russell and Kenan Krkic for their participation.



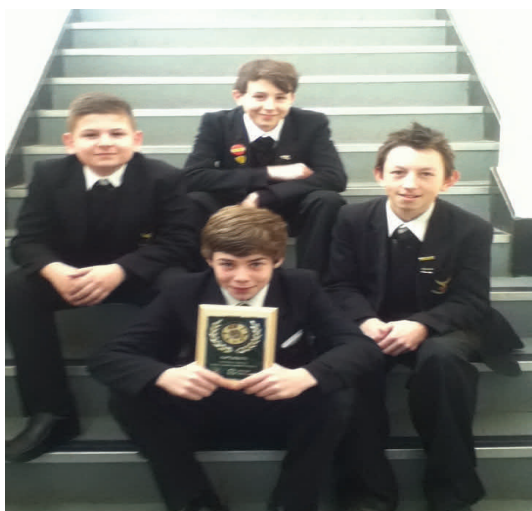
P.E. Department News

FOOTBALL RESULTS HARLOW AND WEST ESSEX DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISTRICT CUP 2011/12

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
St Marks	WON 4 – 2	WON 2 – 1	LOST 5 – 3	LOST 2 – 1	WON 2 - 0
Passmores	WON 5 – 3	LOST 6 – 5	LOST 3 – 2	WON 2 - 0	WON 3 – 1
Burnt Mill	WON 12 - 1	LOST 2 – 1	WON 4 – 1	LOST 3 – 1	DREW 2 – 2
Mark Hall	DREW 1 – 1	LOST 3 – 0	LOST 3 – 0	WON 3 – 0	DREW 1 – 1
St Nicks	WON 3 – 1			WON 4 – 2	

YEAR 8 PREMIERSHIP

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals +	Goals -	Goal diff.	Points
QPR	7	3	0	4	13	3	10	17
Spurs	7	4	2	1	10	4	6	16
Newcastle	7	3	1	3	4	5	-1	16
Chelsea	7	3	3	1	10	7	3	14
Man City	7	1	2	4	4	7	-3	13
Norwich	7	2	2	1	11	7	4	10
Man United	7	1	5	1	5	16	-11	10
Liverpool	7	1	4	1	3	9	-6	9



A big well done to these boys who finished as winner of their year groups Premiership competition – Kenan Krkic, Matthew Flemming, Matthew Oliver and Mason Cook. See you at Sports Presentation Evening boys!



Mr Preece
Assistant Headteacher

Performing Arts News

DISCO INFERNO

Burn baby burn!

This year's production of 'DISCO INFERNO' took audiences on a trip back to the colourful era of the 1970s, with a soundtrack full of well-known hits such as 'Blame It On The Boogie', 'Crocodile Rock' and of course 'Disco Inferno'.

The show tells the story of Jack, a young man who dreams of becoming a famous singer. On his 21st birthday he is presented with a unique opportunity by the devilish Lady Marmalade: fame and fortune in return for his soul. Jack accepts the offer, but soon discovers that having everything he has ever wanted comes at a price...

Auditions for the production took place near the beginning of the school year, with rehearsals starting shortly afterwards. Cast and crew members spent many sessions after school and even weekends preparing and rehearsing, learning the dialogue, songs and dance routines with confidence.

The dress rehearsal, which took place during Production Week, was watched by pupils from nine feeder primary schools who enjoyed the performance immensely. Many of the pupils commented that their favourite scene was the dramatic moment in which Jack (Mason Arnold) is shot by the evil Heathcliffe (Howard Mash)!

Other highlights of the show were 'I Will Survive' performed by Jane (Abbie Martin) and 'Boogie Nights' performed by the entire company and complete with plenty of disco dance moves.

We would like to congratulate everyone who took part in 'DISCO INFERNO' and we hope to see you auditioning again next year!



STEWARDS MUSIC SCHOOL

At Stewards Music School we offer individual tuition on Voice, Cello, Flute, Piano, Keyboard, Drums, Guitar, Bass, Clarinet, Trumpet and Trombone. Lessons take place on Wednesdays after school, please contact Miss Wang for timetable information.

Current fees are: £84.00 for 10 x 15 minute lessons, £140.00 for 10 x 30 minute lessons

Families eligible for Free School Meals can apply for a tuition voucher through Essex Music Services, which gives a discount on these fees.

The next enrolment session for Music School will take place on **Wednesday 18th April** in the Music Room, 4pm to 6pm.

Performing Arts News

ROMEO AND JULIET

Hot on the heels of the production came a real treat from Year 10 GCSE Drama students - a performance of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet watched by Year 7 students, teachers and a number of parents. Assisted by Miss Johnson, the Year 10s took charge of the entire production themselves including acting, filming, producing and directing the play. Some of them were new to performing on stage in front of an audience, and were understandably nervous, but when the curtain opened they acted confidently, clearly and enthusiastically.

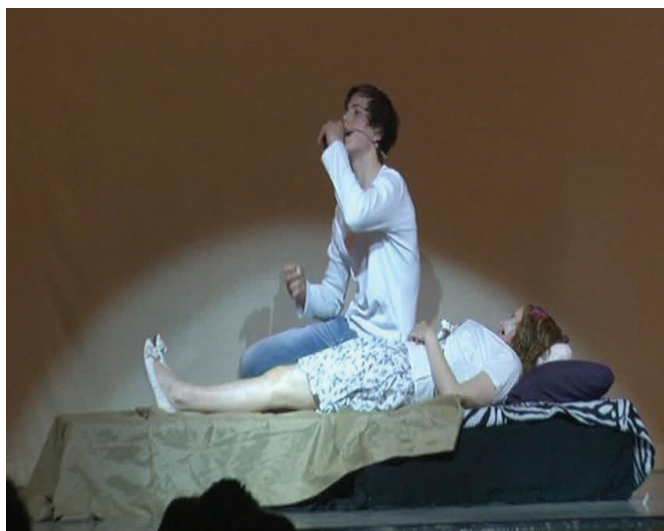
Here are a few comments from the Year 7 students who watched Romeo and Juliet:

"It was excellent to see something written by Shakespeare. It was very different. Year 10s have worked really hard to learn the old English, it was marvellous!" - Hira Shakoor, 7CW

"I thought that the Year 10 play was amazing, it was like you were professional! I loved the way you expressed yourself on stage. I'm speechless!" - Lauren Sykes, 7CW

"I think that the performance was wonderful and that they spoke very loud and clear. Also, they were very brave to perform it in front of a whole year group". - Tanisha Wildman, 7GM

Performing Arts Team



Where Are They Now?



Tyrone Samuels is 24 and he left Stewards in 2004 to do a BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting) at Harlow College. After completing this course he was accepted on a BA Hons Drama course at Kingston University London.

Since leaving university, he has performed at The Rose Theatre as part of the International Youth Arts Festival 2010, The Etcetera Theatre and The Lion and Unicorn Theatre in Camden as part of the Camden Fringe Festival.

Tyrone is also involved in short films both as an actor and director of photography for Venture Wolf Productions. His latest film, entitled 'Glass Ceiling', is in post-production.

He is currently rehearsing 'Measure for Measure' which is going to be performed at three different venues in March.

**Ms Batterham
Drama**



Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out Challenge'

A group of our Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a prestigious public speaking workshop. The workshop is designed to prepare the pupils for a national competition which will take place later this year. The day was a tremendous success. Pupils had the opportunity to develop key public speaking skills that will serve them well at GCSE and in their future careers.

We are all looking forward to the next stage in the competition. Two of our pupils will compete in the regional finals, hosted at Davenant Foundation School. For more information on the competition please see the link below.

Here are some pupil comments from the day:

Jasmine – *'The word to describe this workshop is Breath-taking. I loved it. The overall outcome is that I gained self-belief.'*

Daniel – *'I feel that this day was very helpful towards my future. Thanks.'*

Becca – *'Speaking has never come natural to me but it's something I've know I have to do. Today has taught me skills and also taught me to be confident and how not to care what other people think and just go for it. Thank you so much.'*

Nqoba – *'This was one of the most beneficial things I've done in this school.'*

Kirsty – *'It was a very good day to boost up confidence. I was quite nervous but after I spoke I felt better.'*

Jordan – *'A very enjoyable learning experience with humour involved. Excellent workshop.'*

Aphra – *'This training has inspired me and taught me who I really am.'*

<http://www.speakoutchallenge.com/pages/home>

Miss Keenan
English Department

BUDDING YEAR 7 AUTHOR – GEMMA BURTON

After listening to children's author Bali Rai, who came to visit Stewards on Tuesday 13th March, Gemma Burton 7CW decided to write her own book called 'Witch Twins'.

It is an interesting story about two witches who need to find and save their mother. Well done Gemma!..... and watch out J.K.Rowling!

Mr Wormald
7CW Form Tutor



JASMIN ROBINSON 11DS MEETING PRINCE CHARLES

Earlier this month Jasmin was lucky enough to meet with Prince Charles, representing the Essex Scouting Association. She was chosen to do this as it was felt that she was a great representative of young people's views. She was interviewed by ITN and appeared on the London Tonight programme.



International Dimension News

CHINESE ART WORKSHOPS IN STEWARDS ACADEMY

On Monday 6th February 2012, two Chinese artists were invited into Stewards Academy to work with Year 7 pupils; their names were Mr Riuji Hu and Mr Le 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. All Year 7 classes were then given the opportunity to work in one hour long workshops with either Mr Hu or Mr Guo. Mr Guo showed four Year 7 classes how to do Chinese brush painting and Mr Hu showed four Year 7 classes how to do Chinese calligraphy using traditional writing brushes. 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. Pupils with Mr Hu produced Chinese New Year messages. All pupils worked very hard to produce some very pleasing and good work.



Pupils practicing their brush painting skills

Mr Hickman

International Dimension Co-ordinator

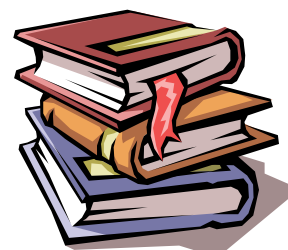


Mr Hu demonstrating calligraphy



Pupils in 7GH practicing their calligraphy skills

Library News



The following pupils took part in the 6th Essex Book Awards which took place from November 2011 to February 2012 :-

Elliott Johnson 7GH, William Johnson 7JK, Tegan Tukana 8MK, Charlotte Baker 9EO, Louise Baker 9HS and Thomas Kitchen 9CPT.

The challenge was to read the six shortlisted books, review and then vote for their favourite one.

The overall winner was *Half Brother* by Kenneth Oppel and the pupils will get the opportunity to meet the winning author in the summer term, well done to them all.

Just to remind all parents that we are now collecting both Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers and the collection point is in the library. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Armstrong
Librarian.

Essex Book Festival

Recently we hosted a very successful event as part of the annual Essex Book Festival when award winning author Bali Rai came along to meet pupils, staff and members of the public to discuss the themes for his very successful books. A passionate advocate for pupils reading their way to success – both in the classroom and in life generally – and an articulate supporter of libraries both in schools and within the local community – Bali Rai held his audience enthralled. He gave a lively, hard hitting presentation on topics and themes close to his heart as a British Asian growing up in the multi-cultural city of Leicester. His books do not make easy reading as they address the issues of arranged marriages, honour killings and familial abuse but they did provoke thoughtful and considered points of discussion from the pupils who attended the sessions during the day. Over 150 pupils came along to hear Bali Rai speak, many of them members of the award winning Ethnic Minority Pupil Voice Group. The public event was chaired by English teacher Mr Greenaway. Organiser Assistant Headteacher Mrs Erwood said *“Such prestigious events really give our pupils a fantastic opportunity to meet inspirational role models. Bali Rai certainly was such an inspiration to everyone who had the opportunity to meet him today.”*



Mrs Erwood
Assistant Headteacher



Parent Mail Information

Communications from the Academy –
PARENT-MAIL

In previous Newsletters I have published information about the new system of communication with parents and carers. Forms have been sent home asking families to send in their mobile phone numbers for TEXT messages, and eMAIL ADDRESSES so that we can email urgent information to you. It was a slow response and after many months we still have a number of families who have not returned their form.

We are in the final stages of implementing this great new system which has many advantages. If your child is out on a trip and there is a delay, you can be notified immediately. Likewise if your child has an accident or becomes unwell during the day. Many printed letters are sent home via pupils, but they do not always get passed on, and vital information may be missed by parents and carers. In addition, in due course we hope to establish ParentPay so that you can make direct payments for trips and school lunches, which is much safer than pupils carrying money around with them. As this is to be the method of communicating all Academy information to families, we are anxious to reach those people who have not yet responded. Very well done to Years 7 and 8 who between them have an over 90% response rate.

Staff will be trying to make telephone contact with those families who have not so far returned their form as we need to have everyone included in this system, unless you specifically say you do not wish to participate.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Mrs P Jenkins Business Manager

Important Information

PUPIL LUNCH OVERDRAFTS

A reminder to all parents/guardians - please ensure that your child has 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 Finance Office to ask for a £1.00 overdraft on their cashless catering account. For this amount your child can purchase either a sandwich, baguette, jacket potato, pasta pot or salad pot - **it is not given for pupils to only purchase cakes and/or drinks**. Pupils must ensure they repay the £1.00 into their catering account **on the next working day**. Persistent non-payers will not be allowed further overdrafts if money is still owed.

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

*Mrs Willson
Finance Office*

ATTENDANCE NEWS

PARENTS/CARERS – YOU MAY BE TELEPHONED IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT REGISTER ON TIME OR SIGN IN AT THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE
IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PUPILS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR EVERY DAY

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 TO MAKE UP THE TIME

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

STEWARDS CHALLENGE NEWS

444 PUPILS QUALIFIED DURING THE AUTUMN TERM 2011 TO GO ON THE FREE STEWARDS CHALLENGE TRIP ON 29TH MARCH – WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE PUPILS FOR ACHIEVING THE CRITERIA – KEEP IT UP!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THESE MATTERS

*Mrs Barker
Attendance Officer*

Year Group Information

Year 7

Year 8

By the time you read this, Year 7 will have sat their first examinations at Stewards.

They were all prepared very well and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner.

Their uniform continues to be excellent but we would remind you as summer approaches that we do have a school skirt which is available from Top Form and no other skirt is acceptable.

We are delighted at how many of Year 7 have joined our EMPV group.

It was good to see Year 7 prefecting on several occasions looking smart and responsible.

The year group have had the wonderful opportunity to entertain the local residents with an afternoon tea party. They have baked cakes and sat and shared stories with them and the choir sang beautifully.

I would like to ask for your support in monitoring your child's use of social networking sites.

Many of the quarrels and fall – outs that we deal with are exacerbated by sites such as face book.

May I again thank you for your support and wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Mrs Atkinson
Pastoral Support Manager Year 7

It has been a busy time for Year 8 pupils recently as it approaches the moment for them to make choices about their GCSE subjects. The Parents' Evening was extremely successful with a turn -out of nearly 90%. Your commitment to your child's education is reflected in the serious way that they are going about making their choices. I have had many conversations with children, as have many staff, and I am impressed with their high level of questioning and the thought that they are putting in to their future. I hope that the Options Evening was helpful for you. Should there be any questions that you still need to ask, please do get in touch.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter.

Ms Batterham
Head of Year 8

Year 9

So, only one term left before the year is finished. The time has passed very quickly, and most students have taken advantage of the extra time they have to complete their chosen options. At the present time, students are involved in internal exams. This is excellent preparation for the real thing, and students need to ensure that they are properly equipped. Students need to bring all the stationary they might need in a clear pencil case, and if they want water, this has to be brought in a clear plastic bottle that has no label on it. Mobile phones and MP3 players are not allowed to be on their person, and have to be handed to the invigilators. Failure to do so could lead to serious consequences.

I have been pleased to see that so many pupils continue to be involved in a number of extra-curricular activities. I thoroughly enjoyed watching "Disco Inferno" and seeing Mason Arnold, Howard Mash and Daniel Millar performing as principals in the production. I would encourage students to make the most of opportunities available in the next couple of years, to avoid regret in the future.

Finally a reminder about uniform. Skirts should be a reasonable length, and no make-up or nail varnish is allowed. Plimsolls are not acceptable, and should be replaced by proper shoes for the summer term.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 9

Year Group Information

Year 10

Year 11

It only seems moments ago that Mrs Ramsey and I were discussing our last entry for the school Newsletter and here we are rapidly approaching the Easter holiday!

This academic year is fast disappearing and the reality of being Year 11 students is not far away.

This Easter holiday is the time when our year group will need to make their telephone calls to their Work Experience placements. Mrs Hampstead has discussed this with the students during Assemblies. If there are any questions or queries about making the phone call please contact Mrs Hampstead who will be happy to help. Work Experience takes place in June and our year group has been congratulated by Mrs Hampstead for their work in finding their placements. The placements provide a very valuable experience of work for our students and it has been very successful in previous years. I am sure that this year will be no different.

I would also like our year group to take time over the Easter Holiday to consider whether they have the makings of a future Head Boy, Head Girl or Prefect. Our Senior Leadership Team here at school will be looking for Year 10 students to step up to the mark and to apply for these very prestigious roles in the coming weeks.

These roles involve a lot of responsibility and represent the pinnacle of a school career. The current Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefects will be very hard acts to follow but I am sure that amongst our year group are students who will be capable of filling these roles. I would like our students to take the time to speak to our current Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefects to find out exactly what the roles involve and to consider their applications.

This term also saw another fabulous school production. 'Disco Inferno' was a big success and some of our year group strutted their stuff on the stage and took the audience back to an era of flares and platform heels! Congratulations to all of the students who were involved.

There has also been another wonderful performance, this time of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, by our drama students. Both front and back stage roles were undertaken by our students who had Year 7 and staff alike spellbound by their performance.

The end of Year 10 also marks the beginning of a new era as we see the current Year 11 sit their exams and leave school. Our year group (where has the time gone?!) will be at the Head of the Student Body. Years 7-10 will be looking up to them as they become the new Prefects and Head Boy or Girl. I am sure that our year group will step up to the mark and provide an excellent example. Our year group is, and always has been, full of potential. Now is the time to shine and to prove that we can fill the very big shoes left by our current Year 11.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all very Happy Easter. Enjoy the holiday and come back to school full of new ideas about ways that you can shine in Year 11.

Ms Ewington
Pastoral Support Manager

As we come close to the end of our journey at Stewards, we require one last push to fulfil our potential both as a year group and as individuals. Final exams have been completed in some subjects like PE and Photography and pupils have been busy working hard in core areas to complete all of the coursework that is required. Pupils are aware of some of their final exam results in core areas, and as a result, what they now need to do to secure their predicted grades in the summer.

The English Language GCSE results arrived this term which has given pupils a clear idea of their current grade and what they need to do to gain a C or above in their final result. Some pupils will be required to resit in May, whilst others have been working on controlled assessments to secure their estimated grade.

The final GCSE exam period starts on 14th May and revision programmes should now be in full swing so parents should be overseeing these at home. The Easter holidays will be a vital time for students. Pupils should have created an extensive revision programme for the two week period either at home and/or by making use of the Easter Revision Sessions put on by staff. As I have said many times, the hours pupils put in now in their own time will pay dividends in the future. Success cannot be achieved by work in class time alone.

I wish everyone in the year group all the best in this final stage of their secondary education. I know if they set their minds to hard work and burning the midnight oil then they can achieve great success. Self sacrifice now will open the doors to post 16 education and a prosperous future.

Miss Francis
Head of Year 11

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

27th	Presentation Evening 7.00pm
28th	Target Setting Day
29th	Stewards Challenge
30th	Term Ends - 1.00pm

APRIL

16th	Term Starts
18th	Music School Enrolment - 4.00pm
25th	Music School Starts - 3.00pm

MAY

7th	May Day Bank Holiday
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JUNE

4th-8th	Half Term
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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

EASTER REVISION CLASSES FOR YEAR 11

Date	Time	Subject	Teacher	Room
Monday 2 April	9.30am – 3.00pm	Geography	PH	Rm 41
		French	DS	Rm 37
		Science Coursework Catch-up (by invite)	RP and SE	Labs 5 and 6
Tuesday 3 April	10.00am – 4.00pm	Dance	JH	Dance Studio
	9.30am – 3.00pm	Science Revision for Resits Units 1 - 4 (by invite)	RP and SE	Labs 5 and 6
Wednesday 4 April	9.30am – 3.00pm	Drama	DJ	Drama Studio
	10.00am – 12 noon	Maths Foundation (by invite)	HG	Rm 19
Thursday 5 April	9.30am – 3.00pm	Media	JF and DT	ICT 6
		Technology	VM	Tech
Tuesday 10 April	9.30am – 3.00pm	Media	JF and DT	ICT 6
	10.00am – 4.00pm	Dance	JH	Dance Studio
Wednesday 11 April	10.00am – 12 noon	Maths Foundation (by invite)	HG	Rm 19