



Stewards Academy

October
2011

Newsletter



Creative Partnerships



Healthy Schools



Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard



WESTVIC
The West Essex VI Form College

Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Stewards achieved Academy status on 1st October and so the name "Stewards School" is to be replaced with "Stewards Academy." Our domain name is now stewardsacademy.org. The new blazer badge will be phased in from next September for the new intake. There is no requirement for parents to purchase anything new as a result of our change of status.

We were delighted to open the new Chinese Garden this term. The pupils tell me they really like it and it is a place of calm and peacefulness. My thanks to Mr Scholtes, Assistant Headteacher who led this project and to "Circle in the Square" for their excellent design work and support. The final design was based on an original idea from two pupils Alex Tidmas and Shannon McCabe who should feel very proud of the space that has been created at the heart of the school (see page 4 for further information).



Also this term we have opened the new Stewards Vocational Centre. Mr Fullick teaches a range of trades from plumbing to tiling and decorating. The year 9 and 10 students are learning valuable skills and many hope to continue into apprenticeships in the future. Our thanks to Kier for their support with this venture.



*Stephen Graham
10NP*



On 13th October David Hill, Executive Director for Children, Schools and Families in Essex, paid a visit to Stewards. He spent an hour with 30 members of School Council discussing a range of topics and listening to their views and opinions. Mr Hill's first impression was that the pupils were immaculate in their school uniform. He said "I wish I had a magic wand which I could wave over every school in Essex and create Stewards" – quite an accolade! He then went on to say that Stewards pupils were the most articulate and confident group of young people he had ever met, they had such evident pride in their school – the like of which he had never seen before. After meeting School Council, Mr Hill was a guest at our Cultural Food Evening which he seemed to enjoy immensely, (see page 3 for further information).

Stewards Open Day was very busy with almost 200 families visiting during the day and about 800 in the evening. My thanks to all the students who supported this occasion – either with school tours or lessons in the evening.



Lottie Shelton and Jack Baldwin

Congratulations to the English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography departments which have received the Prince's Teaching Institute Mark 2011. The mark recognises increasing challenge with the curriculum, further enthusing pupils through subject-based activities beyond the curriculum and development of staff's specialist subject knowledge.



Best wishes for an enjoyable half term.

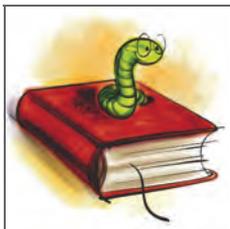
Rhonda Murthar

Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Young Writers



The following Year 9 and Year 8 pupils have been selected by the Editorial team in a poetry competition run by the Young Writers and will be appearing in the book Poetry Matters – The Midlands and The East.



The talented poets are: Jayda Williams, Chloe Taylor, Vanya Arabadzhieva, Bandon Payne, Harry Starkey, Louis Daniels-Dobson, Jordan Fletcher, Chelsea Townsend, Nathan Rudgley and Aiden Kimber.

Mr Johnson
English Department



Charity News



Jeans for Genes provides funding for the care and support of children with genetic disorders. They also help to fund research into genetics and the development of effective treatments and cures.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the 'Jeans for Genes' charity on Friday 7th October.

The total amount collected is **£860**

Congratulations to Year 8 who raised **£160** for their Charity Week

Well done.



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 school'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 lunch time or break time.

FINANCE OFFICE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upper School Showcase - 17th November Christmas Concert - 13th December



Cultural Food Event



Stewards School held its 6th annual Cultural Food Event on Thursday 13th October. The event had been in the planning for several months and guests were invited from all sections of the local community. Parents, staff and pupils all brought along delicacies to try.

This event is an absolute celebration of cultural diversity and racial harmony which is so strong at Stewards. We raised £167.23. This will go to the school in Ghana that Stewards is paired with.

A good time was had by all.



Mrs Erwood
Assistant Head Teacher

Open Day

Stewards threw open its doors to almost one thousand people on its annual Open Day. During the day over 200 people toured the school to go into lessons and have the opportunity to speak to pupils. Every visiting parent had an individual member of the School Council to take them around and tell them about life at Stewards. In the evening, over 800 people came along to hear Ms Murthar speak to the visitors about the recent successes the school has enjoyed and to see the range of exciting new facilities the school has to offer.

Speeches on the evening included ex-Head Boy Ben Stevenson who recently achieved 16 A*/A grades at GCSE. Current Head Girl Lottie Shelton and Head Boy Jack Baldwin spoke about their pride in their school and the highlight of the evening were the 3 Year 7 speakers who had only been at Stewards for 7 days when they spoke to an audience of more than 400. Becky Dodds, Alex Curaba and Chelsea Schirra spoke about how well they had settled at their new school and how the older pupils and prefects had helped them settle in. Alex Curaba spoke about how happy he was every morning knowing he was going off to spend the day at Stewards!

As one parent said; "Without exception, every student we met was polite and courteous. They were also exceptionally articulate in explaining why they like Stewards and the subjects they enjoy ... I was very impressed. Your students are a credit to you".



Mrs Erwood MBE
Assistant Headteacher

Chinese Garden

The new Chinese Garden was opened to a fanfare of celebrations on Friday 23rd September. The idea was originally developed by two students, Alex Tidmas and Shannon McCabe, whose vision was developed by Tim Ward and Andy Newman from Circle in the Square. Stewards School has developed strong cultural links with the Suzhou School in China, which has included student and teacher cultural exchanges. These experiences have supported the project and its development. The main features within the garden have been strongly influenced by Chinese culture and design which we hope will support the students with their appreciation and understanding of Chinese culture. The garden will be accessible by all students throughout the day, and it is hoped that it will provide them with a suitable area which they can enjoy socially as well as in an educational capacity.

Mrs Erwood MBE
Assistant Headteacher



Geography Department News

YEAR 11 FIELD TRIP TO BISHOP'S STORTFORD

On Thursday 22nd September, 23 year 11 GCSE Geography students travelled to Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire. The field trip is essential to gather information and data that will be used for the pupils' controlled assessment. The controlled assessment accounts for 25% of the total marks in GCSE Geography. Our pupils aim to prove if tourism could make a significant



The centre of Bishop's Stortford which our pupils studied in detail.

impact in Bishop's Stortford. To help prove or disprove their hypothesis, our pupils conducted a geographical enquiry by interviewing local people and asking them for their opinions, conducted attitudinal surveys, took photographs and map surveys of the town centre in Bishop's Stortford.

Our pupils will now spend time analysing the large amounts of data they have gathered, writing up their results and developing a controlled assessment portfolio of 2500 words.

Stewards School pupils hard at work.

Mr Hickman
Subject Leader for Geography

Maths Department News

On Saturday the 8th October the Mathematics department took three Year 11 boys to the University of Hertfordshire Open Day to look at what the university has to offer. The boys spent several hours looking at the automotive and aerospace engineering departments to see how their Mathematics could be applied in the real world. During this time the boys saw how a Formula 1 motor racing simulator and an aeroplane simulator could support the study of automotive engineering.

An enjoyable day, all three boys left enthused at the prospect of further education and the prospect of going into industry or related careers.



Jean-Luc Taylor, Jack Hood and Jai Sharma using The Formula 1 simulator



Jai Sharma using the aeroplane simulator

Performing Arts News

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL WORKSHOP

In preparation for their upcoming performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', pupils took part in a cast workshop at Broxbourne Civic Hall, along with a group of students from Havering College. After taking part in a few warm-up games and exercises, the cast performed scenes they had been rehearsing and, with the help of the workshop leaders, were able to improve and enhance their work and develop a greater understanding of the play. The final performance will be held on **Thursday 3rd November** at Broxbourne Civic Hall.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our extra-curricular programme got off to a great start, with record numbers of students attending Lower School Dance Club and Rock Club in the first few weeks.

On Friday afternoons some of our GCSE Drama students run a Drama club for Year 7 and 8. A group of more than 25 students participated in some warm-ups and began to construct their own short performance pieces in groups.

"The atmosphere was very welcoming. It helped me to improve my drama skills and boost my confidence." Jamie Venables, Year 7

"I enjoyed the games and working with new people from other year groups." Anita Ogedengbe, Year 7



DISCO INFERNO



We recently held auditions for our next school production, 'Disco Inferno'. Over 75 students from all year groups attended, performing a song of their choice from the show and taking part in a short set dance in groups. Cast list will be announced shortly.



If you have any 70s-style costumes, accessories or props you would be willing to donate for use in the production, or are able to give up a little of your time to help with making costumes, please contact the Performing Arts Department. All help will be gratefully accepted!



The performance dates are 7th, 8th and 9th March 2012.



Science Department News

GSK 'GENES IN A BOTTLE' WORKSHOP

Science Alive Gallery

How cool is it to extract DNA from your own cells and wear it in a bottle around your neck? Years 8 and 9 students from Stewards School found out how cool when they visited the Science Alive Gallery at the Leisure-zone this week. They collected cheek cells from inside their mouths and subjected them to a chemical process releasing the DNA. This DNA, which resembled white cotton wool, was then sealed inside a small bottle which they wore as a necklace. A slide show featuring cells and their components was also shown inside the bubble theatre.



Mr Perrin's Year 8 science class extracting DNA in the 'pit' at the Science Alive Gallery.

Allannah Barke 9JG: *'I enjoyed extracting the DNA from my cheek cells because it was something I had never done before and it was fun to experience. I learnt a lot about cells and what my DNA looks like which was quite cool.'*

George Strachan 9PM: *'It was educational, hands-on and interesting. I learnt a lot about DNA and cells that I didn't know before. The GSK staff were also friendly and helpful.'*



Leanne Hooper 8VM extracting DNA from her cheek cells.

Mrs Wright
Curriculum Development Technician

'WORLD OF CHEMISTRY' EVENING EVENT

Pops, bangs and spontaneous combustion were experienced by primary school children and their parents when they attended the World of Chemistry event at Stewards Academy. Five aspects of chemistry were on display in the labs: 'Plastics and Polymers', 'Fire', 'Food Chemistry', 'Kitchen Chemistry' and a 'Who Done It' forensic activity featuring the Simpsons. The children could try their hand at many chemistry experiments: making custard bouncy balls, comparing the voltage output from different fruit batteries, watching screaming jelly babies, 'money to burn', exploding film canisters, self-inflating balloons, finger printing and chromatography to name just a few. The labs were filled with smoke, explosions and sweet and sour smells that reminded the primary school parents of their chemistry lessons when they were at school. A touch of 'all our yesterdays' with a modern twist.

A visiting parent said: *'It was a fantastic evening. There were enthusiastic and knowledgeable teachers and articulate, polite students providing a huge variety of interactive fun, 'pop' science activities that were guaranteed to gain the children's interest.'*



PE Department News

WEST ESSEX CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION 2011

This year's Cross Country was held at Burnt Mill School on Thursday 13th October. There were schools competing from all over the West Essex District with some very talented runners. As a school we took 31 students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for commitment whilst running and for representing the school so well!

A special mention should also be given to the pupils who achieved some excellent results: Michael Bow, Rosie Poole, Ryan Burgess, Danny Palmer, Stefan King and Luke Pykett.



Year 7 (10 runners, 6 to count)

1	Charlie Dowers	27	Kirsty Webber	53
2	Stanley Saunders	11	Alice Neville	51
3	Baylie Gasson	51	Megan Cunningham	57
4	Michael Bow	6	Jessica Ralph Smith	58
5	Brandon Magumise	44	Izzie Dorkin	13
6	Jackson Rushbrook	52		

Year 8/9 (10 runners, 6 to count)

1	Danny Palmer	8	Aimee Shipp	62
2	Billy Wickenden	48	Jessica Noruwa	42
3	Tyler Bashford	44	Hollie-Mae Pipe	26
4	Mason Joscelyne	60	Rosie Poole	2
5	Ryan Burgess	5	Louise Devlin	58
6	Alistair King	49	Hannah Burns	13
7			Maisy Treacher	40
			Chloe Mitchell	18

Year 10/11 (10 runners, 4 to count)

1	Stefan King	2	Adele Burns	21
2	Luke Pykett	9	Taylor Fletcher-Rox	24
3	Lewis Fry	16	Ellie Montague	25
4	Liam Luck	29		

*Mr Preece
Head of PE*

INTER-FORM TENNIS

We have introduced an Inter-Form competition within PE this year, comprising of 6 events throughout the calendar year. The first of this year's events was Tennis. Each form put forward one boy and one girl to represent them in doubles playing against all others in their year group.

After some fiercely contested games played in sweltering conditions the winners from each year group were;



YEAR GROUP	WINNING FORM	BOY	GIRL
7	GM	Alfie Steele	Charlotte Munslow
8	MT	Alex Dodd	Kelly Owen
9	DJ	Aiden Holloway	Louise Devlin
10	SE	Daniel Stevenson	Renata Kiraly
11	MW	Jack Webber	Charlotte Beckett

Congratulations to the winners and all those who took part in the competition.

*Mr Sanders
PE Department*

PE Department News

UNDER 14 NATIONAL NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday the 8th of October the year 9 netball team played in the 1st round of the under 14 national netball tournament at Davenant Foundation School. They were the only team there representing Harlow. They played their first game against West Hatch and won the game through hard grit and determination with a score of 6-5. Their second game was against a much stronger and experienced Davenant team and they fought hard but in the end lost the game with a score of 1-11. Stewards came in 2nd place in the under 14 tournament and they will now go through to the 2nd round of the national competition on the 20th of November in New Hall. Congratulations to the team Louise Devlin, Maisy Treacher, Shannon Andrews, Hannah Burns, Hannah Kizilcan, Elise Stingemore, Chloe Mitchell and Sian Curtis. Good luck in the next round!



Miss McGarry
PE Department

NETBALL NEWS



So far we have played Passmores, Burnt Mill and St Marks. The year 9 team had a victory against Passmores, and the year 7 team beat Burnt Mill 8-4. All the other matches have been defeats, but some by a very narrow margin. As the season continues I am confident that all teams will make significant progress.

Thanks to all the staff who help with netball: Miss McGarry, Miss Dangerfield, Miss Bromage and Mrs Goddard.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 9/PE

RUGBY RESULTS

Year 7

Vs Passmores L 10 – 17
Vs St Marks L 0 – 20
Vs Burnt Mill – L 7 – 12
Vs Mark Hall – L 10 – 19
Vs St Johns - L 10 – 20

Year 8

Vs Passmores W 20 – 14
Vs Mark Hall W 20 – 0
Vs St Marks W 41 – 0
Vs Burnt Mill W 20 – 0

Year 9

Vs Passmores W 45 – 0
Vs St Marks W 32 – 17
Vs St Johns – W 36 – 19
Vs St Nicks – W 55 – 5



Seniors

Vs Passmores W 54 – 0
Vs St Johns – W 48 – 0

MUSIC SCHOOL

Would you like to learn a musical instrument?

Stewards Music School offers specialist one-to-one tuition on the instrument of your choice. We currently have specialist tutors available for Flute, Cello, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Piano, Keyboard, Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet and Saxophone.

For further information please contact Miss Wang at the school. Enrolment for next term will be held on **Wednesday 4th January 2012.**

Work Related Learning News

CAREERS INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR YR 11 STUDENTS

As part of the work related learning programme during this half term, Year 11 students have listened to information and advice from Sixth Forms, Colleges, Employers and the Apprenticeships Service as well as from ex students who are now embarking on their Key Stage 5 studies.

Preparation for Mock Interviews formed part of the careers programme delivered throughout this half term and we are grateful to our business and community colleagues for joining us for the actual mock interviews recently. The interviews are such a valuable experience for our students.

Students were smart in appearance, prepared and positive - many were nervous, many were a little tongue tied, but **very many** have told us it was a worthwhile experience which they will remember in years to come.

Thank you to our colleagues from The Princess Alexandra Hospital, from GSK, from Harlow District Council, from Epping District Council, from HEEP (Harlow Education and Employers Partnership), from HEC (Harlow Education Consortium), from The Armed Services, Chris Greenhill, Peter Gould, Cliff Mitchell, Wendy Wilkinson, Karen Cracknell and Governors Jeff Tarling, David Guest, Brian Moldon, Andrew Armitage, Paul Rogers and Sue Young for their support.



*Mrs Hampstead
Vocational Learning Mentor*



Technology Department News

YEAR 10 FUSED PLASTIC BAGS

Year 10 had an exciting opportunity to make a bag using fused plastic in their product design lessons. This has given them a better understanding of the importance of recycling and sustainability.

The competition was judged by Ms Murthar and the winning bag was produced by Nathan Elliott (10SL), 2nd place to Priska Akonedo (10PH) and 3rd place to Ben Kuczko (10NP). All bags can be seen displayed in Technology.



*Mrs Martin
Technology Department*

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 school 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, your child should not incur medical fees.

Passport

The school 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 0845 606 2030), 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.

**Mrs Willson
Administration**



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION TIMES

MORNING – 8.45 am AFTERNOON – 1.55 pm

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING



ABSENCE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	SCHOOL ACTION
Genuine Illness	Parent/Carer to contact Absence Line for <u>EACH</u> day of absence	Parent/Carer to provide a note for up to 3 days of illness (to be handed in at the Attendance Office)	Parent/Carer to provide medical evidence for more than 3 days of illness (to be handed in at the Attendance Office)	School will authorise <u>ONLY</u> if a note/medical evidence is provided <u>AND</u> attendance is above 93%.
Unavoidable Medical Appointment	Parent/Carer to contact Attendance Office with information	Parent/Carer to provide appointment card/appointment letter	Pupil must sign in at the Attendance Office	School will mark as present. <u>HOWEVER</u> failure to provide appointment card/ appointment letter will result in pupil being marked late.
Unavoidable Lateness	Parent/Carer to contact Absence Line if running late	Pupil <u>MUST</u> sign in late at the Attendance Office		If no genuine reason given for lateness pupils will be given a detention for the time they have missed – if they are late 3 or more times in a week they will be issued with a Head of Year detention
Holidays	NOT TO BE TAKEN DURING TERM TIME			

Failure to comply with the above procedures could result in absences and lateness being recorded as unauthorised. This has serious consequences and the Education Welfare Service may become involved which could ultimately lead to fines being issued and legal action being taken.

ALL ABSENCE HAS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR

ABSENCE LINE - (01279) 772511

Mrs Barker Attendance Office

Year Group Information

Year 7

Year 8

Year 7 have made a wonderful impression on their teachers, they have settled in well and appear to be enjoying everything Stewards has to offer, especially the extra curricular programme. Their comments in a recent survey showed how well they had adjusted to the rigours of secondary school and they commented on how quickly they had learnt their way around the site. I feel you can be justifiably proud of how well they have become part of the Stewards family, they look smart confident individuals and we are delighted with them. Can I remind parents that jewellery is not permitted and that this does include earrings even if your children tell you otherwise. Next Newsletter I will be including samples of pupils work and I am sure you will be delighted to see and hear what they have been up to in their first term at Stewards. If you do need to speak to me please do not hesitate to ring school to make an appointment to see either myself or the pastoral support manager Mrs Atkinson.

Mrs Bird
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 CHARITY WEEK

The pupils have been working hard on ideas to raise money for our Charity Week which took place over the week beginning October 10th. The children and tutors gave up 4 lunch times to put on a variety of activities some of which were active ones such as Beat the Goalie, a Wii session, and 'Cups'.



There were also guessing activities such as the weight of the cake, the name of a soft toy and how many sweets were in the jar. Many pupils had made things such as bracelets, key rings and delicious cakes and biscuits and finally there was an opportunity to design and make your own badge. Year 8 pupils entered brilliantly in to the spirit of the week and we hope to make a large sum of money for our chosen charities, one of which is the Make a Wish Foundation and the other a local children's charity. Many thanks to all of you who supported this event in any way.

Well done Rosie!

Rosie Poole in 8 MT set a new league record when she ran in the London Met League under 13s event. She won the event in a time of 12 minutes 12 seconds and was 26 seconds in front of her nearest rival. Fantastic Rosie!

Ms Batterham
Head of Year 8

Year 9

Year 9 seem to have settled really well into their new options, with the exception of a very small minority who didn't really understand what their chosen subjects involve. Here are a few comments that students have made:

"I took hospitality as one of my options, and I'm really glad I did. So far we have made scones and fairy cakes. I always look forward to Hospitality as I love cooking." Allannah Barke.

"I personally enjoy music very much. I find it interesting and I have no regrets about taking this GCSE course. We are studying dynamics of sound and learning about notable composers." Cory McLellan

"Construction is a really fun hands on course. It's interesting and gives you a good set of skills for the future in life and work." James Newman.

"I am enjoying my options because I get a chance to do the things I like. Also, I get the chance to meet new people that are interested in the options I like." Morgan McLaughlin.

"You are treated like you're older, and this makes you feel more independent." Aiden Holloway

"I am finding my options really fun and interesting." Jamie Ibbott

"I like my options even though GCSE PE is hard. Mrs Goddard always gives you a chance to catch up, and do the best we can." Shannon Wemyss

"I am enjoying my options so far, and I have learnt a lot more than I thought I would. I have enjoyed everything I have done in the beginning of the courses." Margarita Lawrence.

These are just a sample of many positive comments made. Students just need to continue to come to lessons fully prepared, and with the correct equipment. They also need to meet deadlines set, and always ask for help and clarification if they fail to understand anything.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 9

Year Group Information

Year 10

Year 10 continue to make pleasing progress in both their core and options subjects. They have now started their examination courses and punctuality and attendance are vital to that success. In order to enable your child to meet the challenges of Key Stage 4 I ask you not to apply for leave of absence during term time as this will impact greatly upon pupil progress.

As well as helping to develop independent learning, homework is also instrumental to academic success and we ask for your continued support in making sure that coursework and homework is completed and submitted in good time. When signing your child's Learning Log please discuss the tasks set. Ask your child to explain what they need to do to ensure that they understand the task. Discuss how they plan to complete the task with them and confirm the deadline for the work to be submitted. This will allow you to build a clear picture of the work your child has been set and will be an opportunity for your child to discuss any issues with you. Should you have any questions regarding coursework or homework please contact the relevant subject teacher, rather than your child's tutor, as they are the experts in that field.

Preparation for work experience placements is well underway with the Work Related Learning team reporting high levels of interest and commenting on the independence and maturity shown by pupils. Tutors have distributed Health and Safety Risk Assessment forms for pupils wishing to find their own placements. These need to be returned to school by the end of this term. An information evening will be held on Tuesday 1st November at 6pm. This will cover the application process; employee, school and pupil expectations and will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions or raise points of concern.

Mrs Ramsey
Head of Year 10

Year 11

Well done Year 11, I am pleased with the start that you have made to your final year. You now know your estimated grades in each subject and have taken advice to set up an Individual Action Plan to target the key subjects that you will need Post 16.

Time is moving swiftly for us now, and with a half term already completed, every day really does count.

Remember that it is vital to put the hours in every day after school. Success will not come from classroom study alone. Make use of the many revision sessions provided by departments after 3pm, particularly in the core subjects: English, Maths and Science. Create a weekly timetable of the revision sessions that you plan to attend and stick to it!

It is also important to make use of the half term holiday. Set aside time to complete homework, coursework and to revise. Your mock examinations begin on the 2nd December so putting the work in now over half term will certainly pay dividends.

The Year 11 Careers programme is going well and the recent Careers Education Information and Guidance week was a huge success. Can I use this opportunity to thank the parents and students who attended our Post 16 Information Evening, the advice we received at this event was invaluable.

Learn from the feedback that you received from your Mock Interviews. Our interviewers were very impressed with you as individuals. They commented on how well prepared you were in terms of your research into your chosen career and also in terms of yourself presentation skills. However a major area for improvement is your supporting written evidence at interview. It is therefore very important to use next half term to improve on the quality of your Personal Profile, to refine your CV and to create a first class College Application form.
Enjoy your half term break.

Miss Francis
Head of Year 11

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

24th-28th HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

1st School Council Meeting
Work Experience Parents Information Evening 6.00pm
2nd Curriculum Day
8th Graduation Evening 6.00pm
15th Yrs. 10&11 Parents Support Evening 6.30-7.30pm
17th Upper School Showcase 6.00pm
18th 'Children In Need' Day
24th Yr. 11 Parents Evening
29th School Council Meeting

DECEMBER

1st Target Setting Day
13th Christmas Concert 6.00pm
14th Stewards Challenge
15th Christmas Dinner
16th **TERM ENDS - 1.00PM**



ABSENCE LINE

The absence line to report pupil absence is

01279-772511

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



Mrs Barker
Attendance Officer



Dear Parent or Carer

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

There are vacancies for parent governors on our academy's governing body and I am writing to invite nominations to fill the vacancies.

Parent governors play an important role as members of the governing body, which is responsible for directing the conduct of the academy and for promoting high standards of educational achievement. The term of office for parent governors as determined by the governing body is four years. Training is available for all governors and those new to being a governor are encouraged to attend induction training.

If you would like to stand for election please arrange for the enclosed nomination form to be completed and returned to the academy not later than Monday 14th November 2011.

Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the academy on the day that nominations close. Parents/carers putting their names forward are invited to provide some brief biographical details suitable for inclusion in the ballot paper (should this be required). Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 hours per academic year or more or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections.

The enclosed sheet summarises the qualifications to serve as a governor. Anyone standing for election must certify that he/she is not disqualified for any reason.

If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Yours sincerely

Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Qualifications to serve as a governor

Schedule 6 of the Constitution Regulations covers the qualifications and disqualifications of governors.

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of his/her election or appointment and cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if he or she:

is detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 during his or her period of office;

is subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or an interim order;

has had his/her estate sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;

is subject to:

a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Act 1986

a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a County Court administration order);

has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under Section 34 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from participating in the management or control of any body;

is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children;

is disqualified from working with children or subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002;

is disqualified from registration for childminding or providing day care;

is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;

has received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before or since becoming a governor;

has received a prison sentence of 2 years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;

has at any time received a prison sentence of 5 years or more;

has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;

is employed at the school for more than 500 hours per academic year if wishing to stand for parent governor at the same school;

is an elected member of the Local Authority (applies to parent and community governors only).

Appointment of Ex-offenders – information for applicants

The Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000, extends the definition of 'Regulated' positions for which criminal records checks can be made through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) under the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975 from time to time enacted and amended. One such regulated position is that of school governor.

Appointment to the position of school governor will not be confirmed until a satisfactory clearance has been received by the Local Authority (LA). The LA has a nominated person who will deal with criminal records checks for school governors and they will remain confidential to that person and the County Council's Disclosure Unit which is responsible for processing the checks. A previously issued Criminal Records Disclosure Certificate will not be accepted. You should speak to the nominated person at the LA if you already possess a current Criminal Records Disclosure Certificate.

Criminal records will be taken into account for school governor recruitment purposes only when the conviction is relevant. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from appointment as a school governor. This will depend on the background, nature and circumstances of your offence(s).

Essex County Council meets the requirements of the Criminal Records Bureau and its code of practice in relation to the processing, handling and security of disclosure information. A copy of the County Council's policy on the employment of ex-offenders is available at the school for information. If you would like to see a copy of the Criminal Records Bureau's Code of Practice, please contact Essex Governor Services who will arrange a copy to be sent to you.



NOMINATION FORM FOR THE ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

Name of Nominee

Address

I wish to submit my nomination for the election of Parent Governor

I confirm (i) that I am willing to stand as a candidate for election as a parent/staff governor and (ii) that I am not disqualified from holding office for any of the reasons set out in the School Governance Regulations.

Signature

(Date)

The nominee may provide information about him/herself on one side of A4 to go out with the ballot papers. (should an election be necessary)

Completed nomination forms must be returned to the school by Monday 14th November