



Stewards School

Easter 2011

Newsletter



Creative Partnerships



Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard



Name _____

Tutor Group: _____

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils,

STEWARDS SCHOOL ACHIEVES LEAD SCHOOL STATUS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

Earlier this term Carol Singh, the National Programme Director for Gifted and Talented Education and Stefani Shedden, Senior Adviser for National Strategies, visited Stewards School to examine our provision for able and talented young people and accredit the work we are doing. They met staff parents and governors, observed lessons and talked to many students. As a result, Stewards School has exceeded the requirements for leading practice and become a Lead School for Gifted and Talented, recognising expertise, not only within the school but also in terms of outreach work in support of other schools. In the report, they say;

"There is an ethos of aiming high that is shared by staff (who want to be outstanding teachers) and pupils who want to achieve the best grades, and progress to higher education."

In order to achieve Lead School Status we had to demonstrate high standards of pupil achievement, effective provision within the classroom to meet the needs of gifted and talented pupils, excellent collaborative work and a proven track record of leading effective outreach work with other schools. The report describes much of our practice as "exemplary".

"Collaborative work is a strength of the school and there is evidence of many years of engagement in opening up gifted and talented enrichment and extension opportunities for Harlow Schools, and Stewards pupils."

Miss O'Neill, Assistant Headteacher, and Mrs Kenny, Learning Mentor for gifted and talented, are to be congratulated for their specific leadership of this area of the school's work. Naturally, we are absolutely delighted with this national recognition.

Stewards has always prided itself on being a school for all abilities and to receive the accolade of Lead School Status for the education of gifted and talented students is a tremendous achievement.

Stefani Shedden will be visiting Stewards again on 29th March in order to present students with their prizes and certificates at our annual Presentation Evening.



SPECIALIST SCHOOLS TRUST AWARD FOR EXAMINATION SUCCESS

Once again Stewards has achieved a National award for the progress students make during their time at the school. We have received this award for several years running. It recognises our success in the 2010 GCSE results in terms of pupil achievement when the school was placed second in Essex in terms of value added.

Rhonda Murthar

Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY IN CONSIDERATION OF STEWARDS SCHOOL CONVERTING TO ACADEMY STATUS

The Governing Body of Stewards School has resolved to proceed with consultation with a view to applying for academy status. The Governing Body wishes to consult with staff, parents and other stakeholders before making a final decision.

As a Foundation School, Stewards already has a degree of independence from the Local Authority; for example, staff are already employed directly by the Governing Body rather than through the Local Authority. Academy status is open to Stewards as we are rated by Ofsted as a "good school with many outstanding features".

The benefits that could be gained by acquiring Academy status are greater autonomy, financial benefits and greater collaboration between schools. Stewards is already a founder member of the Harlow Education Trust and we are committed to working closely with other schools. There is a strong desire to maintain the school's individual character, culture and ethos and Academy status will not change any of these. Governors do not foresee the need for any change to the curriculum, admissions or staff employment regulations as a result of Academy status. Indeed, in many ways, students and staff will not notice any difference compared to our current position as a Foundation School.

The Government has made a clear statement that it wants all schools to become academies in due course. As an Academy, Stewards would receive funding directly from the Secretary of State for Education. Currently the school's funding is via the Local Authority and 10% is held back for the provision of core services. Academy status would mean the school receives additional funding and has the freedom to choose which services it wishes to purchase.

Information about academies can be found on the following website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>

Further information including the consultation timescale and frequently asked questions can be found on Stewards School website: www.stewardsschool.co.uk

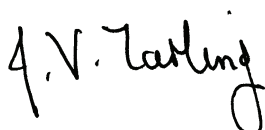
Governors are holding a meeting for parents at the school at 6.00pm on Monday 4th April. The meeting will include a presentation about Academy status and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please let us know if you can attend the meeting on 4th April by returning the slip attached below. Once this meeting has taken place we would like to invite you to send any written responses regarding the proposal to convert to an Academy. If you would like to make any comments, please send these by letter or email to:

Mrs J Wood, Assistant Clerk to the Governors, at the school, marked "Academy Proposal – Parental Views." So that we are clear that it is our parents who are responding, please could you give the name of your son/daughter, their date of birth and their current form. Governors will not be able to consider unsigned / anonymous comments.

Email address: jwood@stewardsschool.co.uk

The deadline for responses is Friday 8th April at noon.

The Governing Body will meet on Wednesday 4th May to consider all responses to this consultation and to decide whether to proceed with the application to change the status of Stewards School to an Academy. Governors will notify you of the outcome as soon as possible thereafter.



Jeff Tarling
Chair of the Governing Body



Rhonda Murthar
Headteacher

Important Information

GOVERNOR NEWS

One of the regular features of Governor Meetings is consideration and approval of school policies covering various aspects of school life. At a recent meeting we considered and confirmed the schools current policy banning mobile 'phones in school. On balance we feel that the potential for disruption in school caused by the use of mobile phones by pupils outweighs any benefit that having a 'phone might give and have therefore agreed to continue the current policy.

Parents are being notified via this Newsletter of the schools intention to consult concerning a proposal to convert to Academy status. The Governors would welcome your attendance at the meeting on 4th April and to hear your views both at the meeting and afterwards. This is an important step for the school and we are committed to a full consultation before the final decision is made.

Jeff Tarling
Chair of Governors

1TO1 TUITION VISIT

On Tuesday 15th March, Stewards received a visit from the Department for Education. The purpose of the visit was to look at how the school planned and delivered its 1to1 Tuition programme. Stewards has been identified as having excellent practice by Essex Local Authority, based upon pupil progress.

The government set up the 1to1 scheme in September 2009, with the aim of providing individual tuition to pupils who needed support to improve their achievement in English and Maths. Each pupil receives an hour of tuition once a week for a period of ten weeks. Their class teacher identifies the areas that they need to work upon, and their tutor then plans a programme of sessions to help them to improve. At the end of the tuition programme, the pupil and tutors evaluate the programme and what they need to do to maintain the improvement.

This initiative has proved to be very successful, as is shown by the improved grades that pupils achieve at the end of the ten week programme. Evaluations by tutors, staff, pupils and parents are very positive and talk about the real gains made by pupils, not only in terms of achievement, but also in confidence and motivation. In the first year of the scheme, we tutored nearly 100 pupils to great effect. In the current academic year, we were allocated 135 places, but because of our success we were allocated a further 40 places.

On the day of the visit, staff, tutors and pupils were interviewed, and all spoke well about the positive impact of 1to1. Our visitors were particularly impressed by the pupils and their obvious enthusiasm for the tuition programme and the way it has helped them to achieve much higher results.

The 1to1 tuition initiative is just one example of the interventions introduced by the school to support our pupils and ensure that they leave with the highest possible qualifications. It supports the good teaching at the school and recognises that children can learn effectively in a variety of settings.

G. Carrol
Deputy Headteacher

Reply slip

GOVERNORS CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF

STEWARDS SCHOOL CONVERTING TO ACADEMY STATUS

Please send this slip to the school office marked for the attention of Mrs J Wood, Assistant Clerk to the Governors.

I / We will be attending the Parents Consultation evening on Academy status on Monday 4th April at 6.00pm

Signed:

Child's name: Tutor Group:

Geography News

History News

Pupils in Year 7 Geography classes were given a home work to design and build accurate cross section models of volcanoes. Their task was to research the internal structure of volcanoes such as Mount Etna in Italy. Pupils had to then design a small volcano model using whatever materials they could find and show what the inside of a volcano should look like with accurate labels. Pupils had to show where several features of a volcano would be located on the cross section. They had to show where a magma chamber, main vent, secondary cones and a crater would be found. They could also add other labels if they thought it would be appropriate.

Pupils brought their models into school just after the February half term and had to explain firstly how they made the volcano and secondly they had to explain the internal structure of a volcano. They presented their models to their class, helping them to develop their presentation skills. They had to answer questions about how they made their models from both their teachers and their peers. They also had to explain the consequences of volcanic eruptions.

Mr Hickman
Subject Leader for Geography



Pictures of year 7 pupils with their volcano models

We were very proud to be able to send representatives to the annual Commonwealth Observance Day Service at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HRH The Queen and Prince Phillip. Mrs Erwood went along with pupil representatives Sharon Schirra, Lottie Shelton and Hannah Tinsley. The theme for the service was 'Women as Agents of Change' and there was an address from The Queen as well as Annie Lennox and Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Mrs Erwood said "It was an inspirational day for all those involved and the girls came away with a sense of pride and purpose which will stay with all of us for a very long time."

Mrs Erwood MBE
Assistant Headteacher



Gifted & Talented

A visit to London on Wednesday 16th March enabled 13 pupils to attend a lecture at Imperial College London. The lecture was entitled "The Incredible Shrinking Laboratory", and focused around the PhD research work of Professor Andrew de Mello and his students from Oxford University and Imperial College. Professor de Mello is currently Professor of Chemical Nanosciences, and he gave an intriguing lecture on the creation and development of a Lab-on-a-chip technology that has been driven by the concept of miniaturisation and how it is applied to chemical and biological problems. The lecture was followed by a tour of the central London campus which was led by an international student ambassador called Esther from Canada. She has come to the United Kingdom to study Biomedical Engineering on a Postgraduate course. Esther had a wealth of information and history about the college to share with us and we had the opportunity to visit her research laboratory. To have a behind-the-scenes look at this leading university in the heart of London was a truly inspiring experience.



Emmanuel College at Cambridge University was the destination for a group of year 10 pupils in February. The university hosted a **Challenge Day** for our most able pupils. The day consisted of an informative talk about all the famous people who have graduated at Cambridge University from Samuel Pepys and Oliver Cromwell to Sacha Baron-Cohen (Ali G), Bill Oddie, Konnie Huq, Stephen Fry and Stephen Hawking. With a world class reputation the pupils were guided through the admissions procedure and advised on the importance of studying particular subjects for further education that would lead to their higher education subject choice at degree level. A guided tour of Emmanuel College and a visit to various colleges around the city gave our pupils the opportunity to see what studying in a university on an open



campus would be like. A lunch in the college refectory where huge oil paintings of past professors keep a watchful eye over you as you eat your lunch was a memorable moment. Throughout the day a series of lateral thinking questions were posed to the pupils and really did get us all thinking on a different level; for example "how many animals of each species did Moses take into the ark?" and "if John's mother has three children, one is named April, one is named May. What is the third one named?" (answers below). Thank you to Charlotte Richer from Cambridge Outreach for inviting us to the day and Mr Perrin for accompanying us on the trip.

Moses took no animals into the Ark, It was Noah that took the animals into the ark.
The third child was called John

**Mrs Kenny,
Gifted & Talented
Learning Mentor**

Science News

CREATING A POND IN STEWARDS ANCIENT MEADOW

Harlow Museum have maps which show that the grassy area alongside Stewards School has been an orchard and meadow since the 1800's. Over the last 3 years Stewards students have helped Harlow Conservation Volunteers (HCV) work in the meadow, cutting the grass, making habitat boxes and studying the wildlife that lives there. This week we helped HCV finish the creation of a small pond to encourage new aquatic wildlife to the area.

Last year the HCV identified a particularly boggy part of the meadow, dug the hole then left it to see if it would hold water without a liner; it didn't so this year we levelled it, covered the walls with old carpet before lining it with the PVC pond liner. Then the fun part started, filling it with water. Water from the hose just trickled in so we decided to do a bucket run; filling buckets and running the 150 meters from the tap to the pond; what fun we had.

Thomas Goodenough 8HS *'I really enjoyed making the pond. My favourite part was getting in and emptying the small amount of water which had collected in the hole before we could line it. We got very wet and muddy.'*



Lauren To 8PM, Andrew Tomlins (HCV), Harrison Hickey 9PH, Matt Fleming 7VM and Thomas Goodenough 8HS emptying the pond before lining it.

'BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE' AT SCIENCE ALIVE

Stewards students were invited to attend a teacher focused event at the Science Alive Gallery, at Harlow Leisure Zone, illustrating the exciting resources and workshops available there. Science Alive offers many interactive science and maths activities and our students had a wonderful time trying them out. They also visited the planetarium and made air rockets. In the afternoon Professor Ron Douglas gave a presentation which asked the question: 'Does my Goldfish See Colour?' After a fascinating talk about colour and how we and the rest of the animals in the world perceive it the answer to the question is yes and they see colour better than us!

Joseph Thomas said *'it was absolutely brilliant. The expedition to Parndon Wood Nature Reserve was a real eye-opener. We came back with Deer poo and bits of bark and litter. The Cookie-cutter shark mentioned in Professor Ron Douglas's talk was very interesting, and I was allowed to bring my darlek!'*

Louise Baker said *'It was a great event. The workshops were very enjoyable and the presentation was funny and educational at the same time.'*



from left to right : Charlotte Baker, Matthew Allen, Thomas Goodenough, Adam Pope, Louise Baker, Harrison Hickey, Isaac Lucia, Vanya Arabadzhieva, Tyler Hampson, Joseph Thomas with darlek, Jon O'Connor, CEO of Science Alive, Rebecca Willbourn in the Science Alive Gallery.

CONSTELLATIONS!

It was a beautiful cold and icy night; the sky was so clear that it made recognising the constellations very easy. Constellations are areas of the sky designated by astronomers to help them locate stars and planets. Andy Gannon's talk about the history of constellations and star identification was very entertaining and Stewards Sky Watch Group had a wonderful evening.

Mr Berni Hinkley and Steven said *'The night was very good. Getting out and seeing the planets and stars was brilliant.'*

Stephanie Pope said *'It was very good. I learnt that there are lots of constellations. I thought that there were about 20 but there are 88 mainly designed around an animal shape.'*



Theresa Harrison looking at the Moon through Andy Gannon's telescope.

Science News

ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION (ASE) REGIONAL SCIENCE AND CPD CONFERENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SCIENCE LEARNING CENTRE EAST OF ENGLAND AT STEWARDS SCHOOL SCIENCE SPECIALIST

For the third year running Science teachers from all over the region came to Stewards School to attend the ASE Science and CPD Conference. The main theme of the Conference was 'Informal Learning', learning that goes on all around us in everyday life as well as that planned for a lesson. They looked at using local resources provided by organisations such as the Essex Wildlife Trust, the RSPCA, Science Alive and Anglia Water who provided excellent workshops. Sponsorship, to keep the costs down for the delegates, was provided by the Science Learning Centre East of England who were heavily involved in the Conference providing a stand in the exhibition and

workshops for primary and secondary school teachers and technicians. Science technicians were well provided for with their own strand of workshops on Health and Safety, Olympic Science and how to support practical work in the classroom. The exhibition was an important feature of the Conference containing both national and local exhibitors such as Essex Wildlife Trust, King Harold School showing their STEM club work and the Royal Horticultural Society. Quotes from delegates:

Run this conference again.

New exciting investigations to have a go at.

Plan some Olympic linked/cross curricular activities for next year.

Very good, appropriate and useful

Keep organising these events

Excellent/enthusiastic/good presentations

Further opportunities for STEM projects

More networking/Conferences/opportunities for students to present

A good balance of topics

Really inspiring

Best year so far



'I wonder if it will explode?'

'SPACE FOR ALL' YEAR 8 CURRICULUM DAY

Attention NASA! Stewards School has a whole bunch of budding astronauts that you might be interested in soon. Year 8 cohort spent the whole of Tuesday in Space. They began the day with a 'Who Done It?'. A group of 7 aliens were taking part in a competition; they had all produced a project which was locked in a safe in their living quarters. Lucy was the favourite to win the competition, and her hopes were scuppered by someone who broke into her safe and destroyed her project. Year 8's task was to sift through the evidence scientifically to find the culprit. Later on they all found out what it would be like to be an astronaut. Year 8 found out that astronauts can be pilots, engineers, scientists or even teachers but they must be fit. During training astronauts must learn to speak English and Russian; Year 8 learnt the Russian alphabet and a few Russian words like 'kosmonav' and 'kosmos'. The design of the Space suits worn by astronauts is very important so the students designed their own taking into account the harsh conditions out in space. Travelling in space was another aspect of the day so they learnt about rockets and even made some. All the students entered an in-house competition by writing a letter to NASA applying to go to Space Camp to be an astronaut. The winning entries were given free tickets to go to the Science Museum Live On Tour show at Harlow Playhouse.



Making alien headbands for the 'Who Done It?' activity. From left to right: Corey Harrison 8JG, Lilly Stavrou 8THH, Rachel Brett 8THH, Austin Dixon 8DJ, Brandon Payne 8CPT and Aiden Kimber 8HS.

Mrs Wright
Curriculum Development Technician

Essex Carrying the Flame

FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

Carrying the Flame is an Essex based initiative to inspire a new generation of children and young people related to the Olympic theme and support the 2012 legacy. Essex Carrying the Flame also contributes to other policies, such as increasing attainment, promoting health, safety and well-being of children and young people.

The first part of the Stewards year 7 event took place on Tuesday 8th March and had a PE/Art theme. Our aim was to challenge all pupils to become better learners and better people, with increased emphasis on having a go and having an opinion – without stepping back and letting others dominate events. The day involved higher level discussion taking place, teamwork and the best ideas being produced.

Each form class was split into Olympic Countries and worked in both Art and PE for 2 hours in the day. Pupils had the opportunity to participate in some Olympic sports – Water polo / Handball / table tennis / Hockey and Judo during their PE session. During Art, working groups had to design logos and think about T-shirt designs that best represented their country

The second day is scheduled to take place in June where pupils will participate in more Olympic sports and produce their final T-shirt design to be put forward to be judged. The winning design will be put into production and every pupil in that form will receive the T-shirt.

COUNTRIES MOTTO FOR THE DAY

FORM	COUNTRY	MOTTO -
NF	AUSTRALIA	If Your Mind Believes, Your Body Will Succeed
MH	USA	Teamwork Makes The Dream Work
MT	GREECE	No Fear, No Failure
MK	MEXICO	Where There's A Will, There Is A Way
RP	SOUTH AFRICA	Perspiration Equals Inspiration
RMP	FRANCE	Where Effort Goes A Win Follows
VM	JAMAICA	Never Say Never
JJ	CHINA	Fall Down 7 Times, Rise Up 8 Times

Pupil comments –

Tyler Bull – *'I liked the Art when we had to make a motto and come up with our own logos. The PE was great, I enjoyed the way we had to work with other pupils we hadn't worked with before. It was a great day'.*

Sophie Pykett – *'I liked the Curriculum Day because we always had something to do. In Art because we were coming up with our own ideas and creating designs. We also made our logo 'Teamwork makes the Dream work'. PE was fun because we all got included in everything'.*

Mr Preece
Head of P.E.



P.E. News

INTERSCHOOL SWIM MEET - THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

FRONT CRAWL

YEAR GROUP	NAME	TIME	POSITION	YEAR GROUP	NAME	TIME	POSITION
Yr 7 Boys	Josh Eke	27.08	2	Yr 7 Boys	Josh Eke	34.40	2
Yr 7 Girls	Chloe Eves	29.59	1	Yr 7 Girls	Tayla Leathers	26.09	2
Yr 8 Boys	Mason Arnold	20.79	1	Yr 8 Boys	Mason Arnold	26.27	-
Yr 8 Girls	Louise Devlin	29.98	3	Yr 8 Girls	Poppy Rogers	34.52	2
Yr 9 Boys	Daniel Reading	25.88	1	Yr 9 Boys	George Wilson	34.77	2
Yr 9 Girls	Ellie Evans	32.66	3	Yr 9 Girls	N/A		
Yr 10/11 Boys	Billy Clark	29.58	2	Yr 10/11 Boys	John Withington	34.91	2
Yr 10/11 Girls	Lottie Shelton	25.55	2	Yr 10/11 Girls	Charlotte Beckett	26.66	1

BACKSTROKE

BREASTSTROKE

YEAR GROUP	NAME	TIME	POSITION	YEAR GROUP	NAME	TIME	POSITION
Yr 7 Boys	Alex Johnson	47.96	4	Yr 8 Boys	Mason Arnold	8.35	1
Yr 7 Girls	Chloe Mitchell	34.73	2	Yr 8 Girls	Chloe Scott	15.46	4
Yr 8 Boys	Mason Arnold	29.38	-	Yr 9 Boys	Daniel de Franca	15.03	1
Yr 8 Girls	Megan Baldwin	44.94	4	Yr 9 Girls	Jasmin Hind	11.48	1
Yr 9 Boys	James Pickering	28.89	1	Yr 10/11 Boys	Matt Walton (2 lengths)	21.20	1
Yr 9 Girls	Jasmin Hind	30.09	1	Yr 10/11 Girls	Alex Tidmas	10.21	1
Yr 10/11 Boys	Luke Barnard	31.41	2				
Yr 10/11 Girls	Zoe Pickering	30.92	1				

BUTTERFLY

FRONT CRAWL RELAY (4x 1 Length)

YEAR GROUP	POSITIONS
Yr 7 Boys	N/A
Yr 7 Girls	2
Yr 8 Boys	N/A
Yr 8 Girls	4
Yr 9 Boys	1
Yr 9 Girls	N/A
Yr 10/11 Boys	1
Yr 10/11 Girls	1



Next Swim Gala to take place on Tuesday 5th April. Stewards swim team has also been selected to represent the Harlow schools in the West Essex competition.

P.E. News

HARLOW SCHOOLS NETBALL TOURNAMENT 2011

Well done to the year 7 and 8 netball teams who competed in the Harlow Schools Netball Tournament on Tuesday the 15th of March at Mark Hall.

Year 7 Team: Chloe Mitchell, Charlotte Richards, Megan Walker, Sian Curtis, Kelly Owen, Hannah Charles, Lauren Spencer and Jessica Noruwa.

YEAR 7 RESULTS

Stewards v Passmores	Stewards v Burnt Mill	Stewards v Mark Hall	Stewards v St Marks
1-9	0-5	0-3	0-4

Year 8 Team: Louise Devlin, Megan Baldwin, Maisie Treacher, Elise Stingemore, Ella Clarke, Hannah Kizilcan and Poppy Rogers.

YEAR 8 RESULTS

Stewards v Passmores	Stewards v Burnt Mill	Stewards v Mark Hall	Stewards v St Marks
8-9	1-15	1-9	5-11

Miss McGarry
P.E.

International Dimension News

BEIJING OPERA VISITS STEWARDS SCHOOL

On Monday 14th February 2011, the London Beijing Opera Company was invited into Stewards School to work with year 7 pupils. The purpose of the day was to allow year 7 pupils to develop a greater understanding, knowledge and appreciation of Chinese culture. Year 7 gathered in the school hall for period 1 to watch a demonstration of traditional Chinese opera given by Mrs Kathy Hall. She talked about the history and traditions of Chinese opera. She demonstrated how Chinese performers use their voices and year 7 also participated! Ms Hall then performed a series of songs from Chinese opera.

Following the demonstration in the hall, all year 7 classes were then given the opportunity to work in one hour long workshops with two specialist Chinese artist, Ms Hall and Mr Li. Ms Hall showed four year 7 classes how to do Chinese brush painting and Mr Li 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 practise how to use traditional Chinese brushes and art paper. With more input from Ms Hall and Mr Li, pupils were then able to complete their own work. Pupils in the brush paint workshop with Ms Hall completed some beautiful pictures of birds and other animals, pupils with Mr Li produced Chinese New Year messages. All pupils worked very hard to produce some very pleasing and good work.



Mr Hickman
International Dimension Co-ordinator

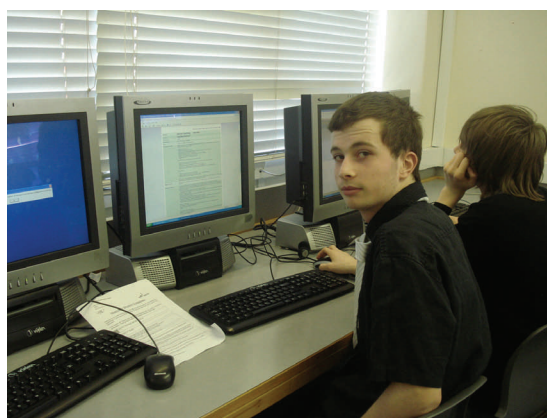
Work Related Learning News

FOCUS ON WORK EXPERIENCE – CURRICULUM DAY

Congratulations to Yr 10 students for their focus during Curriculum Day when the whole year group spent the day with their tutors learning more about what to expect during their work placements which take place **6th – 10th June this year**.

Interviewing techniques, Health and Safety information and learning to work as part of a team were just a few of the skills covered.

What to wear and what not to wear was a very popular workshop and as you can see from the photographs Yr 10 were immaculately turned out. They will be a credit to their school and their parents during their placements – that's for sure.



Thank you to everyone who came to the work experience briefing for parents held on the evening before the focus day for students.

Our colleague **Ellena Mould from HEEP** (Harlow Employer and Education Partnership) and **Ellie Harbutt (Yr 11)** gave excellent presentations about their experiences of the work placement programme, paving the way for Curriculum Day.

HARLOW CAREERS FAIR

Students from Yrs 9, 10 and 11 joined more than 30 exhibitors at the cross town Careers Information Fair held at Harlow College recently.

Information about Apprenticeships, Higher Education in Harlow, Why and how to choose A levels and an introduction and explanation of course levels as well as the opportunity to talk to employers from different sectors of the workforce gave the young people of Harlow an insight into 'their next steps'.

Jack Baldwin (Yr 10) found the presentation about A Levels particularly useful.

Thank you to **Amy Kilcare (Yr 11)** for being an excellent Ambassador for Stewards School when meeting, greeting and advising parents and students where to find the answers to their questions.

Extended Schools

ART EXHIBITION AT THE GIBBERD GALLERY

As you will be aware from the last newsletter a group of Stewards Art and Design and Photography students are currently exhibiting their work at the Gibberd Gallery as part of the Harlow a Sculpture Town initiative which is aimed at celebrating the town's diverse collection of sculpture and community art. If you have not yet seen the exhibition it is well worth a look with the work from the students receiving some very positive comments.

Those thinking of studying Art at Harlow College might also be interested in visiting as examples of artwork from their diploma course are also being exhibited.

The Exhibition finishes at the end of the month.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The Creative Partnership Programme is in its final year and students have been working alongside a variety of creative and performing arts practitioners. We are working towards a big event in the summer term to officially open the food garden.

It is hoped that the day will not only give the students the opportunity to showcase their work but also create sustainability for the garden across the curriculum demonstrating how the garden can be used as a learning environment for subjects such as Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, English and Maths. A group of students have also been busy planting and sowing seeds ready for the garden. The produce will be used within food technology and the school kitchens so let's hope it's a bumper crop.

We are still keen to involve any community groups that are interested. If that's you, please contact Mr Scholtes at the school.

ART IN MOTION

Last week a group of students from Stewards School spent the day working with local artist Philip Melling. They had previously attended a couple of workshops that involved Art and PE. The theme for the project was the figure in motion, and students were asked to design a piece of sculpture that demonstrated this.

The final part of the project was for the students to work alongside Mr Melling producing the final piece of work, which was to be made out of metal. All the students were instructed on how to cut their designs out using acetylene cutting equipment. All the students coped really well and mastered the equipment successfully.

This was a great opportunity for all those involved and one that the students enjoyed. We eagerly await the completed piece of work that should be delivered to the school within the next few weeks.

Have a good Easter



Mr Scholtes
Assistant Headteacher

Charity News

RED NOSE DAY

Congratulations to everyone who contributed towards our magnificent total of £950 for Red Nose Day. Particular thanks go to Nqoba Mvitsho in Year 9 who took part (with some 'encouragement' from his sister Amandla!!) in a leg waxing for charity. He alone raised nearly £200. Thank you to all the staff who dressed up as children to raise money.

Mrs Erwood MBE
Assistant Headteacher



Performing Arts News

Welcome to the House of Fun!

This year's school production of 'Our House' was a triumph, with fantastic performances from all the actors, singers and dancers who took part. Many months of rehearsal and preparation resulted in an energetic and lively show featuring many well-known Madness songs.

'Our House' is a story about Joe Casey, who tries to impress his girlfriend on his sixteenth birthday by breaking into a flat. When the police turn up, he is faced with a decision; should he run away or give himself up? At this point, Joe's life splits in two. The audience then watch both Good Joe's and Bad Joe's stories unfold.

The dress rehearsal was performed in front of 300 staff and pupils from nine local primary schools, with evening performances taking place on 9th, 10th and 11th March.

Highlights from the show included **'It Must Be Love'**, performed by Jed Smith (Joe) and Amandla Mvitsho (Sarah), **'Baggy Trousers'**, performed by Ben Miechielsens-Tournier (Reecey) and of course **'Our House'**, performed by the cast, chorus and dancers.

The whole cast showed tremendous commitment over the rehearsal period, learning many lines, songs and dance routines. Pupils also supported the production behind the scenes, assisting staff with lighting, costumes, music and stage crew. For our Year 11 cast members, this was their final performance on the Stewards stage; we will be very sad to see them leave in the summer but as this production has shown, there is lots of new talent emerging among Years 7 to 10! We look forward to seeing some of this year's cast return again for the next production. Speaking of which, what will it be? Watch this space...

Some comments from primary schools:

'Very humorous and enjoyably loud!'

'The singing and dancing was absolutely excellent'

'It was magnificent'

'I would love to watch it again'

'I give it 10 out of 10'



Miss Doughty
Performing Arts Technician

New York Trip

Our "Time" in New York

Time is at a premium during trips to New York, there is no doubt that this year was highly successful due to wonderful time keeping. We left school at the respectable time of 11.30, where we were well rested for the long journey ahead. There wasn't any snow to delay us by 24 hours or waiting at airports for 16 hours! We arrived at Heathrow and ran into Will I am from The Black Eyed Peas... or as Mr Wormald called him "Will I never" (I admit, without Mr Harman identifying him, I wouldn't have had a clue!) Unfortunately he ran away to the VIP Lounge.

Our flight to Newark, New Jersey was fairly uneventful; time was saved with the new system where the dreaded green form for immigration is no longer required. However, the customs form still managed to occupy Brody and Ashley for more than an hour. The fact that Mitchell had arrived in The States via most of Europe beforehand was interesting – No you don't write every country you have ever been to! As usual, Stewards pupils are complimented by the stewards onboard about their fantastic behavior.

We arrive in New York, to warmth! We grab our first American McDs and retire to bed for the 8 o'clock start in the morning! The only problem with the hotel was requiring a couple of extra pillows despite the controversial reviews on the internet, sometimes a little knowledge is a dangerous thing!



I must admit I was up a little early having not quite adjusted to the 5 hour time difference, but Ms Johnson appreciated her delivery of coffee and doughnut at 6 am! Yes its true, New York, never sleeps! Everyone is on time for breakfast, which is unique, a breakfast delicatessen where you can select your food, pay and eat. Efficiency is amazing; all of us are fed and watered within half an hour to start the day out. This year, we are telling pupils to take coats off and leave them behind, its warm, no you don't need to look like the abominable snow man, sorry but those special warm hats and gloves bought at Christmas are not required. That morning we travel to Staten Island to photograph the Statue of Liberty, Battery Park and Ground Zero. This shocks me that nearly 10 years later, it's still not finished, although the Freedom Tower (replacement and memorial to the Twin Towers) is about a third built. But it is still basically a building site. We



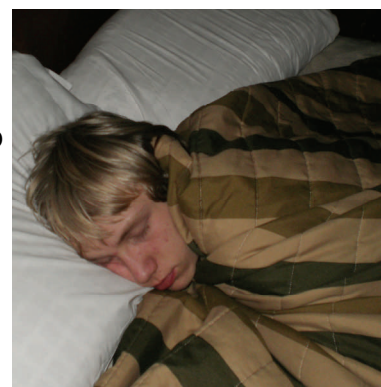
visit St Paul's Church and pay our respects to those lost on 9/11.

We decide (well the staff do) to avoid the chaos of Century 21, and head off to climb the Brooklyn Bridge, we have the now traditional Stewards New York Trip



Group photograph. The Brooklyn Bridge is the only place in the world, where it possible for a plane, to go over pedestrians that go over cars that go over trains that finally can go over boats. We head to the subway station to go uptown and come across the inevitable street performers -the equivalent of "Diversity" on the Streets! Now it's Mr Harman's treat, with the exchange rate not being that fantastic he is determined to get bargains at New Jersey Gardens, a discount designer outlet mall. 32 of us jump on the local bus (yes they were a bit

shocked), leave Manhattan to shop for England – I think Mr Harman won! We eventually return back to go for dinner at the Stardust Diner on Broadway. It is the highlight of the trip, with Broadway Performers serving us New York burgers and singing on tables! A very weary, group eventually return back to the Hotel having left it, 15 hours previously! Bed cannot come quick enough – There are pupil comments saying, we have done so much!



New York Trip

Next morning, pupils meet us at 9am, after they have breakfasted and are ready for another full day, the weather is even warmer!! It's the hottest day on record for the date, and we are going out in T shirts! Sunglasses in hand, we are heading out to Grand Central Station, I never quite get over the beauty of this station, it's more like a cathedral than a train station. Downstairs we visit the food hall and for the first time this year I get New York cheesecake, to die for! Then we walk the 20 blocks to Bloomingdales, where the obligatory "little brown bags" are bought. Now it is midday, and it feels like summer, a balmy 67 degrees in Central Park and we go Ice Skating? It's usually freezing, giving the need for hot chocolate! This time, half the group wants to sun bathe and play in the park. So we split the group and the die hards amongst us: Mr Wormald, Mr Harman and 12 pupils go to skate in the sun, with the backdrop of snow on the ground, its



scenery for a film! After this its 5th Avenue and grabbing yellow cabs back to the Hotel. Except Mr Harman and I who are the last two left at the Apple Store so we decide to get a Rickshaw! I highly recommend it, a leisurely pace back to the hotel to take in the views of the return journey, I did feel sorry for the man cycling us though, until he tried to con us on the price. That evening we go to the Harlem Globe Trotters at Madison Square Gardens. I must admit I find watching the crowd more entertaining, they don't seem to watch at all, just order food to eat: actually Stewards pupils especially Liam, was as bad...! After this, we head for Times Square to take in the neon lights and atmosphere. That night, I check our itinerary, for once we have been on schedule everywhere, done everything, no time lost at all! Every minute of our 15 hour day filled to the brim.

We are now on Saturday, our last full day before heading home on an all night flight. So much to slot in, find Ms Murthar her mug, buy pupils their little mementoes, decide on the awards for pupils, Empire State building, The worlds' largest department store to devour (Macys), the Apple store to be visited to buy Ipad's and to be ready to leave at 6pm to go to the airport. Bags packed and stored in a room at the hotel, we split the group. Mr Wormald and Ms Johnson the Empire State group, Mr Harman and I go in search of a specific mug. Meanwhile, I've been looking for a watch, I can't cope with batteries and for some unknown reason motion watches don't work on me. Mr Harman



informs me I need an Eco-drive watch, it works on light. So we go to Macys to look, I find the one I want, but we are running out of time so decide to buy it after we have met the Empire State Group. All pupils accounted for – they present me with the exact watch I had been looking at! It's beautiful!

More shopping, coach to airport, the awards given in the departure lounge and key rings given out. The pupils give all the staff presents! We are all so touched; this is a very generous and kind group. I will always remember the time and place I received my watch! I hope that I gave the pupils the time of their life on this wonderful trip to New York!

Finally on Sunday at 1pm, I arrive home, time for bed, 20 hours of sleep to be exact!

Mrs Fargeot

News Articles

HALF TERM WORKSHOPS

Over February half term the Music department was host to another round of music workshops, provided by tutors from Creative Music. Stewards pupils were introduced to a variety of musical instruments and, working in small groups, were given the opportunity to learn new skills and play together as part of a band.



WORLDS APART COME TOGETHER

We combined the Lower School Choir with the Staff Choir to perform at St. Paul's Church in Harlow on Tuesday 15th March.

Students from Year 7 and Year 8 joined school staff to take part in the free concert, organised by Harlow Council to commemorate the 500-day countdown to the 2012 Olympics. The theme of the evening was 'Worlds Apart Come Together' and the choir, led by Miss Wang, performed 'Kang Ding Love Song' and 'The Rhythm of Life'.



MUSIC SCHOOL

Just a reminder that the next enrolment session for Music School will be held in the Music department on **Wednesday 27th April** from **3pm to 6pm**, with lessons starting on **4th May**. Please attend if you would like your child to have instrumental lessons next term.

Fees remain at £84.00 for 10 x 15 minute lessons, and £140.00 for 30 minute lessons. If your child qualifies for Free School Meals, you can apply for a discount on these fees. Please contact Miss Doughty at the school if you would like any further information.

News Articles

'MOVE IT' DANCE AUDITIONS

On Saturday the 12th of February 15 students took part in the Pro Excel 'Move It' dance auditions at Stewards. The students were Shanice Watkins, Keisha Haye, Paige Woodhouse, Lauren Wright, Marrisa Oshin, Phillippa Townsend, Matt Walton, Emma Barker, Billie-Jo Favell, Megan Hood, Abbie Martin, Keeley Anderton, Bethan Randall, Megan Baldwin and Latoa Mupomba. They were vying for a place on the 'Move It' project which included a five day dance workshop and the opportunity to perform as a dance group during half time at Twickenham on St George's day. It was a nerve wracking day for the students who had to learn a routine taught by a top UK choreographer and perform it in front of the Pro Excel judges. The students excelled and 12



out of the 15 students will now be part of the 'Move It' dance group performing in Twickenham at half time during the London Wasps vs Bath rugby match. Well done to Shanice, Keisha, Paige, Lauren, Marrisa, Matt, Emma, Billie-Jo, Megan, Abbie, Bethan and Latoa. Good Luck in Twickenham!!!!

Miss McGarry
P.E. Department

MOBILE PHONES

All parents and pupils should be aware of the school policy that mobile phones should not be brought to school. It is within the rights of the school to confiscate a pupil's property such as their mobile phone, in order to maintain an environment conducive to learning. If property is confiscated, it will be held in the school safe. Any confiscated items will be returned at the end of the week, on a Friday at 3.00. This rule is clearly stated in all school literature including the following

- Behaviour policy – this can be found on the school website
- Learning Log
- Literature given to parents/pupils in year 6 and year 7

As you are aware from the home/school partnership found in the Learning Log, we believe in working together with families in order to maintain high standards and ensure that pupils are able to achieve their best at school. We are sure you would want to support us in the best interests of your child.

CHARLOTTE BECKETT 10MW

I started swimming when I was 6 months old and have not looked back since. I swim 3 times a week with the Stewards Swim School and in January I took part in the annual Gala where I was lucky enough to receive a gold medal for being part of the Red winning team. I also won 3 trophies. They were for setting a 'New Pool record for Backstroke', being the 'Group Winner for 13years+' and I was also awarded the girls 'Swimmer of the Year' trophy. I really enjoy swimming and would like to be able to become a swimming teacher when I have left school to pass on my skills.



Year Group News

Year 7

By the time you read this, Year 7 will have sat their first examinations at Stewards. In order to prepare them for future examinations, they were given a practice run in the hall so that expectations were absolutely clear. I am looking forward to seeing their results and I am sure that if they prepared well, they will also be pleased.

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 Facebook. Children may write things that they would never say to people's faces and certainly not in front of adults. Where possible we discourage such networks, but if your child knows that you will be monitoring the sites regularly, difficult situations can be avoided.

Finally, may I again thank you for your support and wish you all a happy Easter.

Ms Batterham
Head of Year 7

Year 8

This year tutor groups have been taking assemblies about Inspirational people. THH took a video of everyone in the form, talking about who was their inspirational person and why. Interestingly enough a lot mentioned their parents, for all they did for them. The latest was taken by 8JG. Their assembly was all about Daley Thompson, and there was role play in the assembly in which Corey Harrison played the part of Daley. It was both interesting and enjoyable as you can see from the pictures below. Other tutor groups who have not taken their assemblies are now worried about what they are going to do.

We recently received a very nice certificate from the charity Concern to thank us for raising £365.54. This will be framed and displayed in the school.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that the Upper school courses evening is on Thursday 31st March at 6.00pm. It really is important that you make every effort to attend this evening to find out about the options that are available for next year. This will also be an opportunity to ask any questions, and look at work that has been produced in the past. Lastly, can I ask you to ensure that your child comes to school with all the correct equipment he or she needs for each lesson.

Mrs Ellis
Head of Year 8



Year Group News

Year 9

This half term has seen Year 9 Students performing in the School Production of 'Our House'. The music of Madness evoked the 80's and stars such as Abbie Martin and Dennis Perry shone in major roles. Abbie produced a very mature performance as Mum and Dennis used his comedy talent to great effect! The dancers in our year group performed to some great choreography. It was a real joy to watch and I urge all of you to attend a school production in the future. The standard is always excellent and the performers put a lot of time and effort into both rehearsals and performances. We are definitely looking at stars of future school productions in Year 9! I would also like to encourage any budding actors, singers or dancers to audition for future productions.

Please look out for an invitation from Mrs Hampstead with regards to the College Taster Day on 5th April. This letter will be handed to you very soon and it must be signed by your Parent/Carer and returned to school as soon as possible. You will not be able to attend the Taster Day if the letter is not returned. The Taster Day is a great opportunity for our year group to look at what Harlow College can offer our students. There will be an opportunity to not only look around the College but to speak to staff and to participate in activities.

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that any personal belongings that are brought into school are done so at your own risk. Please make sure that your name is clearly marked on any of your belongings.

Learning Logs are a vital part of your school equipment. Please make sure that they are signed by your Parents/Carer every week.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter holiday. We are already coming rapidly towards the last term of the year. Year 9 is flying by and it continues to be a challenging and exciting year for our students. Enjoy the holiday and come back ready to keep up all of your hard work.

Ms K Ewington
Pastoral Support Manager

Year 10

Pupils in Year 10 have had a busy half term with preparing for Work Experience and for their examinations. It has been a pleasure to see the way in which both challenges have been approached by most pupils.

Mrs. Hampsted is delighted with the number of pupils who have made the effort to find their own work experience placements, more in than any previous year group. Pupils using the online selection system have chosen their placements with considerable care. Such thorough preparation bodes well for a successful work experience. You will be aware that some pupils were entered for a mathematics examination during work experience week. The date for this has now been changed and the majority of these candidates will now sit this examination in November.

The Year group continues to miss the presence of Ms Francis but we are pleased to report that she is now recovering from her illness and is looking forward to returning to school some time next term. Mr. Ford will carry on 'holding the fort' until she is back and any issues for concerns can be directed to him.

Mrs Orwin
Assistant Headteacher

Year 11

Dear Parents, not long to go but probably this will seem like the longest wait as your children prepare for the final dash to the finish. In order to make this as smooth a dash as possible I would like to point out one or two things now.

The rule on phones has not changed "No phones in school", nor has the rule on piercing /tattoos so please don't treat your children to either of these until they have left us.

If you would like to inform us of the arrangements you have made regarding the cars for the leavers day assembly on the 4th of July, school will organise a running order and let you know in good time, of course it will affect your position in the line up if you don't give us enough notice. The evening is currently being organised and as usual you will not be told the venue. The pupils will be taken by coach and returned to you at midnight, no alcohol is permitted as they are our responsibility and are under age. This is always a lovely day for parents, pupils and teachers so we look forward to seeing you. You will also receive a letter with more detailed information.

Now down to the nitty gritty of exam preparation. You will be given more information about revision and any extra support available to your child. Could I encourage you to take advantage of this. Some courses do not finish until the end of the school year so please check before booking your holidays. These last few weeks are vital. College and sixth form places are conditional and the competition is fierce. If you want the best chance of your first choice place you need higher points than the next person so really what I am saying here is there is no room to relax. Please feel free to contact me if you need any more information about the topics above and let's look forward to a profitable exam session following thorough revision and preparation. The rewards of the leavers day and the exam results in August will mean all the more if we have all worked together to be the best we can.

Mrs Bird
Head of Year 11

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

29th	Presentation Evening 7.00pm
31st	School Council Meeting Upper School Courses Evening 6.00pm

APRIL

7th	Stewards Challenge
8th	TERM ENDS - Finish 1.00pm
26th	TERM BEGINS
27th	Music School Enrolment 3.30pm
28th	Year 11 Performing Arts Evening 6.00pm
29th	BANK HOLIDAY - ROYAL WEDDING

MAY

2nd	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY Bude Trip Leaves
4th	Music School Starts 3.30pm
5th	School Council Meeting
6th	Bude Trip Returns
12th	EMPV Meeting

30th May - 3rd June 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

