



Stewards Academy Newsletter October 2019



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As ever, it has been a busy half-term and I continue to feel very proud of the progress made by our pupils, in both their academic studies and their personal growth.



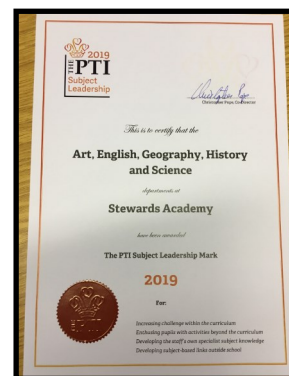
A particular highlight of this half-term, has been our new **assembly programme**. Whilst high quality assemblies have always been a feature of school life, the bar has been raised even higher this year with a range of topics such as mental health, kindness, safeguarding and wellbeing. I was privileged this morning to attend an assembly led by two of our students in celebration of Black History Month. Well done to Faith and Robert for presenting to over 800 pupils this week!



After half-term we will deliver the first of our **Community Briefings**. Each year group will be gathering together once a week during Morning Prep, in addition to their usual assembly, to hear about how they can better support each other in their learning and engage with opportunities presented to them.

Once again, I was very pleased to receive confirmation that a number of our departments have received the **Prince's Teaching Institute Subject Leadership Mark**. This recognition was achieved through demonstrating an increase of challenge within the curriculum, enthusing pupils with extra curricular activities and developing subject-based links outside school.

This half-term, we were once again blown away by the standard of entries in the **Modern Foreign Languages Charity Bake-off**. I was very pleased to help judge the entries, which of course had to involve a degree of sampling! Many thanks to all those parents who supported with the creation of the incredible cakes.



This week we say goodbye to **Trevor Bailey**, our Education Welfare Officer, as he commences his retirement. We thank Trevor for the work he has done in supporting pupils and their families with good attendance and punctuality, which is critical for academic success. We wish him well for the future! **Mrs Keys-Kidd**, who currently works as a cover supervisor at the academy, will be starting a new role as **Attendance Officer** after half-term.

Over the half-term break, work will commence on a new **state of the art toilet facility** in block 2 opposite the English classrooms. Our School Council have raised this as an improvement that our pupils would appreciate and it is wonderful to see this project get off the ground after many months of planning.

Wishing you all a wonderful half-term break,

Helen Ginger, Headteacher

GOVERNORS' REPORT

A number of governors were present at the Open Day early in the term and were delighted to see the large number of people, parents and children, who attended the event. Both the number who came during the day and in the evening were most encouraging and show that Stewards is still a popular choice with the people in the area. We would like to congratulate all those who worked so hard in preparing for the day; we were particularly impressed, as always, by those pupils who made speeches in the evening.

Last year I commented on the work being carried out to create the Flexi-suite to replace the old Gym; it was particularly pleasing to see it used as a reception area for the school tours during the day making the organisation easier and more pleasant for all concerned.

Earlier this month I attended the National Governors Association Eastern Region Conference which I found very useful. It was attended by Governors from schools in all sectors, primary, secondary and even nursery, also maintained (LEA), single academy trusts (like Stewards) and Multi-academy Trusts. It was interesting to hear views from many different viewpoints as well as the programme of talks on a number of subjects.

I wish you all, on behalf of the Governors, an enjoyable half term holiday.

Jeff Tarling, Chair of Governors



Leading Space Education
Quality Mark





Parental Communication



At Stewards Academy, we have always prided ourselves on the collaborative and trusting relationships we build with our parents. We recognise that only when we work together can we achieve the very best outcomes for our young people.

We welcome regular and constructive communication with our parents and wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the information regarding Parental Communication that is given on our website:

Parental Communication Information

To ensure that your communication or concerns are dealt with by the appropriate member of staff, contact details for each member of staff are given on our website. Contact with the relevant member of staff may be made by email, telephone or letter. Our preferred method is email as this is the most efficient way of communicating in school. We will always try to acknowledge your communication within 24 hours, excluding weekends and will respond as soon as possible thereafter. Please note that part-time staff may take longer to respond. To deal with your concerns personally, if contact is made via email staff will respond to you by phone call.

We are confident that our current procedures are sufficient and that we can alleviate any concerns you may have. Please be aware, however, that comprehensive solutions often require adequate information to be gathered. This inevitably requires time to gather the necessary statements/paperwork. We would therefore try to dissuade parents from arriving at the school without an appointment as the person they wish to see may be unavailable or may not have the appropriate information to hand.

When emailing the school, please provide:

- Your child's name and tutor group
- Details of your communication or concern
- Phone contact details and the most convenient time for a phone call

When ringing the school, please:

- Note that in most cases it will not be possible to speak directly with the staff member concerned immediately
- Note that reception staff will email the relevant member of staff on your behalf
- Provide your child's name and tutor group
- Provide details of your communication or concern
- Provide phone contact details and the most convenient time for a phone call

We ask that all communication is directed with courtesy and consideration. All our staff are committed to delivering the very best for your child and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity at all times. We reserve the right to end any communication that is not appropriate and to continue it at another time. We also reserve the right to not admit parents on site if they cannot abide by these expectations.

Mr Scholtes, Senior Deputy Headteacher

Safeguarding Update

This term, through our assemblies and Ethics and Values curriculum, we will be addressing a range of topics to ensure that pupils understand how to keep themselves safe, particularly outside of the school environment.

The first of our assemblies looked at the ways in which pupils use social media, and while we would all agree that the virtual world is a marvellous invention which enables pupils to have access to friends and information at the click of a button, I'm sure that we all have concerns as to what our children have access to, and how they might use that information.

The second topic we covered this half term was Mental Health and Wellbeing. We explored some of the pressures and difficulties that our young people face, and discussed managing the stresses of today's world. We looked at understanding the differences between a 'bad day' and, longer term, more debilitating feelings, and offered advice and guidance to pupils should they need support in this respect.

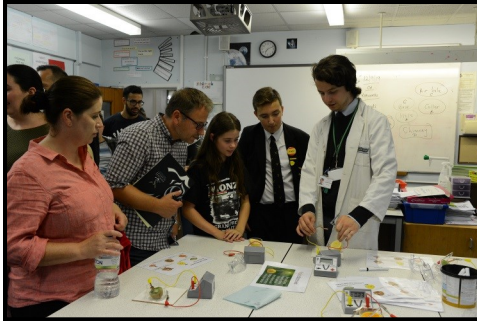
With Knife Crime across the UK being reported daily, and the rising numbers of those between 10-17 years old becoming involved in such activity, we are to continue the work we started last year in educating our pupils about the dangers surrounding carrying, or associating with, those who carry offensive weapons. We do understand that it is a very difficult subject, and there will be members of our school community who have been in some way, affected by knife crime, however, we cannot shy away from the issue, rather, we should be active and open and talking about it to our young people.

Mrs Ramsey, Assistant Headteacher responsible for Safeguarding, and Culture and Character



Open Day and Open Evening

It seems like a long time ago since we opened our doors and welcomed so many visitors on to the academy site but what a fantastic day and evening it was. I must say a huge thank you to all the staff and pupils involved and particularly the brilliant members of the School Council and Student Leadership Team. Not only did they attend a training session before other pupils had arrived back to school, they worked tirelessly on the day and evening showing our visitors around. A long day but certainly worth it! Well done everyone.



Prefects

Stewards Academy's Head Boy, Franklin, Head Girl, Esther, Deputy Head Girl, Grace and Deputy Head Boy, Seven, have a daily front of school and assembly duty rota. This idea came from the group as they feel it is important to see and speak to the student body regularly. Having one of the top positions of responsibility is more than just wearing a badge and being the face of the Academy, it is about making a difference and being there for those that have elected them.



Our new break and lunch prefect rota has been successfully running over this half term; with the pupils doing a superb job! The Year 10 pupils this year have had an opportunity to participate also and take on additional responsibility alongside the Year 11 pupils. This seems to be working well and provides support to the Prefect system in core areas such as the canteens. I have had lots of positive feedback about you, keep it up!

School Council and Student Leadership Team



Over 125 pupils serve as elected members of the Years 8-10 School Council or applied and appointed members of the Year 11 Student Leadership Team. It is wonderful to work with these pupils and to listen to their views and opinions. So far this term they have shared views about how their year is going, what they would like to do this year and ideas for our new Student Profile.



School Council meetings have been ably led by the Heads of School Council and our Head Boy, Head Girl and deputies. It is great for the younger pupils to see some of our most hard-working and dedicated pupils taking their roles so seriously.

Charity news

A busy half term so far with over £400 raised for Jeans for Genes day and over £300 for Macmillan following the 'Bake Off!' led by the MFL department and supported by the charity team reps. The Heads of Charity team have been doing a brilliant job and have prepared and led three meetings so far. The next activities they are busy planning are for Children in Need, poppy selling and the Stewards Christmas Appeal. More information to follow via the student bulletin and Parentmail. Well done team!





EMPV

We made a brilliant start to the new term, with our first EMPV meeting led by our newly appointed Heads of EMPV, Faith Idehen and Matylda Szczerba. They spoke about diversity and the part we play in making the world a better place, starting first within our communities. It is currently Black History Month and the Stewards Family will be focusing on the success of past and present inspirational figures. The EMPV Group are currently planning to lead a series of assemblies next week in celebration of Black History Month and are busy planning activities for our 'Honouring the past, Inspiring the future' competition. Planning for our cultural dance, food and fashion event is in full swing, more information to follow.



Mrs Edwards, EMPV Lead

Year 7 Year Council

We have held our first year council meeting with Year 7, led by the Heads of School Council. This was an opportunity for any pupils in Year 7 to come along and share their views about how Year 7 is going for them and what they want to get out of the year. It was lovely to hear so many wonderful stories of what they have been up to and what they would like to participate in this year. I look forward to seeing them again at our next meeting.

Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment

Peer Mentor Scheme

In the Summer term, 17 of our Year 9 pupils underwent a rigorous application process, followed by extensive training, in order to qualify as Peer Mentors. The Peer Mentors are a committed group of young adults, who make themselves available to support younger members of our school community.

Our Peer Mentors will work on a one-to-one basis with members of Year 7, meeting with them weekly to assist them with organisation and homework, and settling into their new school life. At least once every half term, they will also visit their allocated tutor group, to make themselves available to answer any questions and address any concerns that pupils may have.

Mrs Ramsey, Assistant Headteacher responsible for Safeguarding, and Culture and Character

Year 7 Ambassadors

For the sixth consecutive year, Stewards pupils were invited along to speak at the annual PTI Primary Headteachers Conference. Elissa Zakaria, Nathan O'Dell and Luca Spires, all in year 7, spoke to the delegates about their primary experience and how their transition to secondary school has been for them. The audience was totally absorbed to hear from the pupils about the teaching and learning strategies that worked for them. They recalled their favourite lessons and experiences of primary school and gave insightful advice to the assembled delegates on how best to run their schools. Mrs Erwood and myself were extremely impressed with the confidence demonstrated by our Year 7 ambassadors, which shone through in the perceptive comments that they made in their presentation. These young pupils have certainly set the bar high and it is very obvious that each one of them has a very bright future.



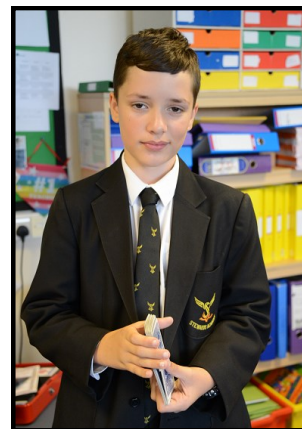
Miss Francis, Assistant Head Teacher Key Stage 3



An Evening of Magic



Mr. Waters and I have been practicing magic for a long time together. He has been teaching me since I started in the Bridge, around a year ago. Mr. Waters said to me a week before Open Evening, "Would you like to perform magic on open evening in The Bridge from 6 until 8pm?" With no hesitation I said yes! After a long day at school, I headed home for a short time, had a snack and back to school I went. It was odd since there were very few pupils around and it was dark. Once I had my little setup in The Bridge ready, people started to filter through. It was slow at the start, but after a little while more and more people started to come and watch; at some points even a small crowd gathered! Many acts were performed - I must say it fills me with joy and excitement to see so many people amazed and made happy by me. To think I have the power in a way to make someone happy, excited or intrigued - it's just incredible. It gives you a feeling I can't describe and that's true magic. That's why I love magic and that's why I want to perform in the future.



By Joshua Canham, 8EW.

Tutee of the Week



Congratulations to this half term's 'Tutees of the Week'. Pupils across years 7 to 11 are awarded this title by their tutor for either attitude to learning, organisation, commitment to studies, support of their peers or for involvement in school life.

Over the last seven weeks, a wealth of pupils at both Key stage 3 and 4 have been awarded the title of 'Tutee of the Week' and have been identified for their efforts during Morning Prep and assembly time. This year we are extending the award out to year 10 and year 11 pupils who certainly deserve recognition for their hard work, resourcefulness and resilience in their pursuit of their GCSEs.

Well done to all.

Miss Francis, Assistant Headteacher

Top Positive Points Scorers

At Stewards Academy, our positive points system and use of the Class Charts App continues to motivate our pupils to excel in all that they do. Congratulations to our highest positive points scorers this half term who have really set the standard with their scores.

Teodora Nicolae 7HMB
Elissa Zakaria 7ELH
Clifford Edwards Lowe 7MG
Madison Lintonbon Baker 8EW
Holly Battelley 8ROG
Ella Stacey 8RN
Rachael Carpenter 8SE
Divine Idehen Amen 9SD
Ben Noruwa 9EM
Tiffany Page 9FD
Reese Perkins 10CH
Grace Clare 10KT
Phoebe White 10JS
Wisdom idehen Amen 10LCR
Chloe Collis 11PBT
Seven Hassan 11RT
Esther Ntow 11PH



Miss Francis, Assistant Headteacher



Performing Arts



It has been a busy half term for the Performing Arts department with clubs, trips, rehearsals and auditions all taking place!

Clubs

Clubs have been up and running since the start of term with opportunities in Drama, Dance and Music. Year 7 Dance Club has seen the biggest number of attendees ever with over 50 pupils trying it this term.

It is wonderful to see so many pupils wanting to be regularly involved in the different activities. Keep it up!

Shakespeare Schools Festival



On Tuesday 8th October cast members of Hamlet (Year 11) and The Taming of the Shrew (Years 8-10) went to The Playhouse to participate in their cast workshops led by a professional director and SSF staff. Pupils took part in a range of warm-ups, including an extensive vocal warm-up designed by a National Theatre practitioner, and character exploration. The casts also performed an



excerpt of their play and had dedicated time with the professional director who provided some feedback and advice. All the pupils conducted themselves superbly and had a brilliant time.

Rehearsals continue as the casts get ready for performance on the 7th November to a packed auditorium at The Playhouse!



Music Gig

At the time of going to press our musicians are busy preparing for their first 'gig' at the Harlow Rock School venue. After the closure of The Square we have been looking for a suitable venue for pupils to experience what it is like to play in a different location and Harlow Rock School have stepped in to help. More on how it went in the next newsletter!

Hairspray auditions!



After 4 weeks of singing sessions and three nights of auditions, the show is cast!

A huge thank you to all the pupils that auditioned and congratulations to all that have received a part. Rehearsals start after half term.

We will be looking for a student crew also, look out for more information.

The production will take place in the week beginning 23rd March.



Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment



Year 7 Netball

Year 7 have started off their netball journey this half term with lots of enthusiastic girls turning up to training every Tuesday and Thursday. The girls have also begun to play against some of the schools in the town with more fixtures to come after half term. As well as the first set of fixtures, Year 7 have also played in the Harlow schools tournament playing against schools from Harlow and Loughton. Well done girls, keep up the hard work!



Year 7 Rugby

Year 7 have begun their rugby journey at Stewards this half term by taking part in fortnightly tournaments hosted at Harlow Rugby Club, as well as training on a Tuesday and Thursday. The boys have started to develop their awareness of the game and team working skills in their games each tournament, scoring a number of tries and putting in some hard-hitting tackles. Thank you to Matt at Harlow rugby Club for coming in to help with training on a Tuesday evening.



Table Tennis

This half term Stewards has been invited to take part in U14 and Senior boys and girls table tennis competitions hosted at Passmores Academy. All competitors have been attending lunch time practise to develop their table tennis skills and tactics. Each competitor played extremely well winning their games and showing their awareness of the game, taking points from their competitors. Keep up the hard work!



Twickenham Visit

On Tuesday 24th September, four Year 10 pupils were lucky enough to attend Twickenham stadium as part of the 'Canterbury of New Zealand and England Rugby's design a kit competition'. It was an early start for the boys, making their way to Twickenham for a tour of the stadium, standing pitch side, sitting in the home team changing rooms, holding an England cap and watching highlights of games played at the stadium. After the tour and a hearty lunch, the boys were faced with the challenge of designing a new rugby jersey for Stewards Academy to wear at training and fixtures. The boys final design will be entered into the competition to be judged by Canterbury. Well done boys!

Miss Venables, PE Teacher





Year 7

As the first half term of the new academic year comes to a close, I would like to congratulate Year 7 on an excellent start to Stewards Academy. On the whole, the transition from primary to secondary school has been extremely smooth and most pupils have indicated that they feel safe, happy and settled in their new learning environment. As Pastoral Lead, I have had the pleasure of visiting many lessons over the last 7 weeks and I am pleased to report that learning has been calm,

positive and productive. I have been extremely impressed with the level of maturity, enthusiasm and dedication that year 7 have shown towards their studies and have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback that I have received from staff about Year 7, examples of which include; 'excellent', 'fantastic' and an 'absolute pleasure to teach!'

It has been a whirlwind journey for year 7 in their first half term at Stewards, filled with a variety of exciting events, opportunities and many BIG changes. At the start of term many Year 7 pupils were proudly involved in Open Day, helping out in individual departments and/or delivering speeches to over 400 prospective parents and children in the hall. It was an extremely busy evening with so many visitors in attendance, but as always, your children, in collaboration with 'Team' Stewards, did very well and their passion for their new school was infectious! Thank you, Year 7, for your outstanding contribution!

Year 7 have also been involved in a Modern Foreign Languages 'Bake Off', School Production auditions, Cross Country selection trials, Netball and Rugby Fixtures and Tournaments, Charity work, and something very special that encapsulates the heart of everything we are about at Stewards – 'The Great Kindness Challenge!'

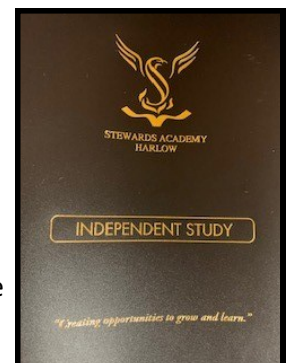
The Great Kindness Challenge is a national project that has been taking place through assemblies and in Tutor time and is an initiative that encourages pupils to think about the importance of being kind to others and to actively come up with and implement ways of doing this. Year 7 have been undertaking various activities in relation to this project including writing mission statements and poems, creating a kindness celebration board and devising and implementing random acts of kindness for their peers and the wider community. They have responded so well to this challenge, actively holding doors open for others, complimenting each other, helping peers out with their homework, comforting friends when they've felt sad and helping each other to get the support that they need when they're going through difficult times. I've also witnessed more involved acts including cake making, 'cancer' walks and the team production of a tutor box for a little girl or boy less fortunate than others. It has been incredibly touching to watch your pupils demonstrate such selfless acts of kindness across the half term and I am so very proud of Year 7 for all their efforts. Thank you, Year 7, for working together to 'be kind', to 'put others first' and to 'make someone's day!' You are a real credit to Stewards Academy!



Academic Prep for Year 7

The autumn term has seen the introduction of Academic Prep for our Year 7 pupils. The programme runs after school on a two weekly cycle and provides our younger pupils with the opportunity to learn how to study independently and to develop a host of essential study skills, early on in their academic life. This half term, the year group have been introduced to the 'Look, Cover, Say, Check', and 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' models and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed revising content from their current knowledge organisers across their subjects.

Finally, I want to say a big 'thank you' to all parents for your hard work in supporting your child through their first half term at Stewards. The transition from primary to secondary school can be a very stressful and daunting time for pupils and parents alike, but with the support of yourselves and subject staff, all pupils have successfully adapted to the big changes that secondary school presents. Well done Year 7 on a brilliant start at Stewards. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you!



Mrs Bartlett, Pastoral Lead Year 7



'Don't be anything less than everything you can be'

Year 8

So far so good Year 8! Your attitude, your attendance and your punctuality have all been fantastic and I am hoping it will continue. The first half term is nearly complete and I am very pleased with your contributions to school life.

Many of you have come back to school with the right attitude, understanding the importance of working hard. This year is a chance to shine. You need to make sure that every piece of work stands out, meeting your homework deadlines, and striving to be number one in your class. Don't settle for second best! Well done to those who have supported evening events, and who have attended extra-curricular activities. The first interform event, the cross country, was a seriously competitive event! It's the perfect way to get fit, learn something different, and meet new friends. Half term is a time to relax and enjoy yourself, but remember that this break is a busy time. You have Halloween on Thursday 31st October and Bonfire Night to look forward to. Enjoy your well earned break, be sensible and stay safe.

What an excellent start!

Great start to your GCSEs year 9! Your attitude, your attendance, your punctuality and the work that you are completing have all been fantastic and I am hoping it will continue. The first half term is nearly complete and I am very pleased with your contributions to school life.

Year 9

Many of you have come back to school with the right attitude, and are now realising the importance of hard work. Working hard this year will put you in good stead for the next two years. Make sure that every piece of work stands out, every course work and homework deadlines are met, and that you strive to be number one in your class!

If you are going to be stay on top of your game, you must remember the 5 Rs: Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Resilience, and Reflection. Each one is just as important as the other. Never let your standards drop.

You deserve a break so enjoy yourself, but remember that this break is a busy time. You have Halloween on Friday 31st October then Bonfire Night to look forward to. Be sensible and stay safe, see you next half term.

Mr D.Treamer - Pastoral Lead Year 8 & 9

Year 10

Continuing to work well!

Well done to so many of you who have started off on the right track! You really are maturing and are working to meet our high expectations. The first half term is nearly complete and I am very pleased with your contributions to school life.

The intensity and pressures are demanding, but if you remain organised and committed then you will most certainly be ready for what is to come in year 11. Please don't forget about the following important points for this year:

The 5 Rs

If You are going to be stay on top of your game, you must remember the 5 Rs: Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Resilience, and Reflection. Each one is just as important as the other. Never let your standards drop.

Work experience

Remember Year 10, you **MUST** organise your work experience placement yourself. Your placement is your responsibility so half term is an ideal time to organise it. All placements are invaluable as they will be able to highlight which skills you excel at and which will need more work on. All experience will look great on your CV and can be a great talking point in an interview. If you are struggling for ideas, then please see Miss H Care or Mr G Cooper.

Be safe and enjoy your half term break.



Mr G Hughes, Pastoral Lead Year 10 & 11



Year Group News



As the first half term comes to a close, I would like to congratulate Year 11 on an excellent start. With a new structure to the day, it has not been easy for Year 11 to adapt, but they have taken the new change with great resilience and I am very proud of the maturity and responsibility they have shown.

Year 11

Uniform, behaviour and attitude from the majority of our students has been fantastic and I can see that they mean business. Realisation is starting to kick in about it being their last year here and that hard work is the only thing to do to ensure they are successful. Their hard work now will most certainly help them gain a place in either college, sixth form or an educational apprenticeship.

Sitting PPEs in November will help the students with what strengths they have, and what areas they need to work on. It is very important for students (and parents) to understand that the staff are here to help. I don't want them ever to be afraid to ask for help. The more help the better!

The points system is working very well and remember there will be a 'spend' week leading up to Christmas whereby students can exchange 20 points for 2 late starts in the same week. Alternatively, students can keep their points and head towards the £25 voucher (100points +) which is available at the end of the year.

Keep up the good work and enjoy your half term.

Mr G Hughes, Pastoral Lead Year 10 & 11

Key Dates

October 2019

Monday 28th - Friday 1st

Half Term

November 2019

Monday 4th

Return Week 2

Thursday 7th

Shakespeare Schools Festival - Harlow Playhouse 7pm

Wednesday 13th

Children in Need Day

Thursday 14th

INSET day (4)

Friday 15th

INSET day (5)

Monday 25th

Year 11 PP Revision Parents' Evening - time tbc

December 2019

Tuesday 3rd

Parents' evening Year 7 & Year 8 (tutors)

Wednesday 4th

Noises Off Theatre Trip - Garrick Theatre

Thursday 5th

Year 7 Pantomime trips

Thursday 5th

Parents' evening Year 9 (Tutors)

Monday 9th

Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 10th

Parents' evening Year 9 (Tutors)

Wednesday 11th

Year 9 & 10 RE trip to Sta Albans

Wednesday 11th

New York Trip Parents Meeting - 6pm

Thursday 12th

Parents' Evening Year 7 & Year 8 (Tutors)

Friday 13th

Christmas Jumpers

Monday 16th

Year 7 Christmas Lectures Science

Tuesday 17th

Christmas Concert

Thursday 19th

Dance Fusion show- celebrating 10 years -

Time tbc

Thursday 19th

Term finishes 12 noon

January 2020

Monday 6th

Spring Term Commences - Week 1

Thursday 9th January

Parents' Evening Year 11 (Teachers)

