



Stewards Academy

Newsletter February 2020



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to address you once again as we move into the second half of the Spring Term.



As ever at Stewards there have been a host of activities and events running alongside the everyday teaching and learning. Last half-term Year 8 were treated to a French Performance: Les Garçons; our Brilliant Club students graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge and fifty pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 attended a '**Women and Girls in Science**' day at the **Aerozone**, Stansted Airport's dedicated education facility—to name but a few!



This half-term began with a laudable buzz, as pupils explored the long-awaited **new toilet facilities**. Since my appointment has headteacher the toilet facilities have been mentioned time and time again by pupils as something they would like to improve in their school. The School Council have been instrumental in taking views and bringing this issue to my attention. Myself and the governors whole-heartedly agreed that it was important that the pupils were provided with improved modern facilities to make their day at Stewards even more comfortable than before. Considerable thought and attention to detail went into the design process and we are very pleased with the final product. The taps with built in hand-dryer have been a particular hit with the pupils and I have been inundated with exclamations of appreciation from pupils.



We continue to work on raising standards at Stewards and this term has seen the introduction of our **Foundation Foci**. We have been sharing with the pupils through our Community Briefings the importance of immaculate uniform, high standards in Morning Prep and excellent punctuality. Working together and articulating how these will help pupils develop excellent habits for the world of work has led to a superb response with pupils as they consider how they personally can continue to develop as a well-rounded and respectful citizen. We ask that you support us by ensuring that pupils arrive on site by 8:55am. You would have received a letter recently explaining how we will be highlighting the importance of punctuality with pupils. They are most welcome from 8:30am when we offer facilities such as Breakfast Club and the library for quiet study.

We welcomed this term a new Senior Lead Practitioner, **Mr Laing**. Mr Laing has extensive experience in technology and will be a welcome addition to the team. His responsibilities will also include whole school development. We also welcome **Mr Morgan**, Technology Technician. We said goodbye to Mr Waters (Learning Mentor), Mrs Murphy (LSA) and Mrs Holland (Curriculum Development Technician) as they move on to new opportunities. We wish them well in the future.

This term we are all very excited about our forthcoming production of **Hairspray**. We hope to see many of you there on 24th, 25th or 26th March. Information about tickets will be available shortly.

We continue to appreciate the support you offer as parents and carers in providing the best of educational experiences for our young people

Kind regards,

Helen Ginger

Headteacher



KS3 and KS4 Curriculum Review



At Stewards Academy we feel it is important to regularly review our practice to ensure that we provide the very best of educational experiences. As you may be aware we have recently reviewed our curriculum offer and a decision has been made to move to a more traditional 3-year KS3 in September 2020; this will mean that students will no longer be expected to make their option choices until the end of Year 9.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support and contributions to the consultation process. As a school we feel strongly that this decision is in the best interests of the pupils, ensuring that pupils develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of each curriculum area preparing them for the new and more challenging GCSE qualifications. I have included some of the key points that were taken into consideration during the decision-making process.

- As you are probably aware the level of challenge of the new GCSEs has increased significantly over the last three years. With this in mind, the point at which pupils are ready to access this challenging content was in question.
- To this date, at Stewards Academy pupils have begun their GCSE courses in Year 9, making their option choices towards the end of Year 8. This means that they study fewer subjects in Year 9, narrowing their curriculum.
- We have asked ourselves whether pupils have the necessary knowledge, skills and maturity to begin their GCSE courses and make important decisions which may influence their future after only two years of secondary school education.
- We still find from year to year that a significant minority of pupils at the beginning of Year 9 request changes to their option choices, which may suggest that they were not ready to make an informed choice at this stage. Also, under consideration is the potential that the early commencement of GCSEs creates unnecessary pressure for young people at too early an age.
- You may be aware that there has been plentiful discussion around the early narrowing of the curriculum and organisations such as the Department for Education and Ofsted are clear that the expectation is that the National Curriculum at KS3 should be covered in its entirety; this being the entitlement of all pupils to have a broad and balanced curriculum. This is based on extensive research of what works best in education.

The diagram below gives an example of the curriculum that students will follow. Pupils will continue to study the majority of subjects in Year 9 following on from the Year 7 and 8 curricula. One exception is that not all pupils will continue with languages in Year 9 but instead will begin a vocational option pathway, which is in line with the current model. Essentially, we will adopt a 3-year KS3 curriculum in all subjects except languages.

It is proposed that a meeting for parents of Year 8 pupils will be arranged in the near future to explain the new curriculum offer and the two pathways that pupils follow ensuring that you as parents are kept fully informed. As always, we have the best interests of our pupils at the forefront of any decision and once again thank you for your continued support.

Curriculum Model 2020/2021

	2020/21														
Year 9	Eng 6	Ma 6	Sci 6	Lang 4	Gg 2	Hi 2	Rs 2	Tech 2	Pe 3	ICT 2	Ar 2	Dr 1	Mul 1	EV 1	OPT I O N
	Eng 6	Ma 6	Sci 6	Voc 4	Gg 2	Hi 2	Rs 2	Tech 2	Pe 3	ICT 2	Ar 2	Dr 1	Mul 1	EV 1	

Mr Scholtes, Senior Deputy Headteacher



Pupil Voice meetings

It has been a busy half term of meetings for the School Council and Year 7 Year Council. Our main foci have been discussing 'Respect' and the new format of Morning Prep. We have had some extra guests joining us this term and it is always interesting to hear their views on key topics. Thank you to Mr Hughes and Mrs Bartlett for your participation. The School Council representatives will be doing more work on respect next half term and seeing what they can actively do to promote it with regards to looking after the school environment and in social time. We will also be welcoming Mr Hawk to meetings next half term to discuss some new ideas for 2020-2021.

Charity Team news



At the start of December I presented an assembly entitled 'C.R.A.C.K.E.R.S.' to all year groups; focusing on celebration, reflection and forthcoming charity work. It was wonderful to have such a response from the academy community and to see so many pupils and staff taking part in the different activities.

Over £250 was raised for St Clare Hospice on our 'Add Something Festive Day' and we collected enough food and other items for 22 large boxes for members of the local community.



For the first time we also had a 'Tree of Remembrance' in the Chinese Garden. Mrs Atkinson and The Bridge team arranged a very poignant turning on of the lights ceremony and over 150 pupils and staff put words of reflection on the tree.

The charity team are now busy in discussions for a summer term event. More information will be shared later in the year.



Harlow Youth Council

In December the student body participated in the elections for the Harlow Youth Council. Stewards Academy had 3 Year 8 pupils standing in the election and we were delighted to hear that all 3 were successful in the election. Congratulations to Finlay Thurston-McGowan, Ella Braby and Leslie Appiah on your success. We look forward to hearing more about what you are up to.



Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment

EMPV

Well done to Faith, Seven, Danny and Wahid, who participated in an interview conducted by students from Harlow College this week. We are delighted to have been involved in their public service short film; students were asked to express their thoughts on equality and diversity within the society that we live in. They were also asked about how they as individuals can make a positive change to help people that are discriminated against for their colour, sexuality and gender.

Plans have started for our Cultural Food and Fashion event which will take place on Monday 4th May 2020. Our students have come together to brainstorm ideas for outfits, dance performances and menus for the evening. Students are really looking forward to this event which has been a huge success in previous years.

This term we have had a look at the role that media plays in creating stereotypes and breeding hate in the local community; these sessions have been led by Faith and Matylda, our EMPV leads. We have increased in numbers this term meaning that we have had to look for a bigger venue to host our lunchtime meetings. We are overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of all members of the Stewards family and we look forward to coming together in May to show



Spotlight on Performing Arts



Year 11

Our Year 11 students in Dance, Drama and Music have been working hard this term in readiness for their practical assessments. Preparations have taken place in lessons and the exam candidates have also had the opportunity to come a long on a Friday after-school for additional intervention and support. It has been pleasing to see so many of the pupils taking up this opportunity.

GCSE Drama students have already completed 40% of their course and are currently working towards their Component 3: Texts in practice exam: this will take place on February 28th February. They are performing a range of extracts from plays including 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' and 'Lord of the Flies.' Some students have chosen to take on a technical role within this component and design costumes for the performers.

GCSE Music students will be completing 60% of their course in the week beginning 2nd March. This is the deadline for their two compositions and for the recording of their solo and ensemble performances. All work will be internally moderated and then sent to the external moderator for verification.

GCSE Dance pupils are working towards their final practical unit; having completed their performance unit before Christmas. They are currently utilising their creative skills and choreographing their own solo/ group piece in response to the set brief.

I am extremely proud of all their hard work and resilience in preparing their practical work. I look forward to watching and hearing their final pieces.



Year 9 Barbican Box

The Drama department are very excited to work alongside the Barbican Theatre, Complicite Theatre Company and Harlow Playhouse this year with their Year 9 Drama students. Both GCSE classes will devise a piece of drama based on 'Political Power.' The students have been given a box of stimuli to devise around and will perform their pieces on the Harlow Playhouse main stage in June. This is a great opportunity for them to enhance their devising skills ready for their exams next year and to perform on a professional stage; working alongside professional mentors and directors. More information about dates and tickets will be available in the summer term.



Hairspray



Rehearsals for our whole school production of 'Hairspray' are well under way. The story is set in the 1960's and follows a girl called Tracy in her quest to dance on 'The Corny Collins' show. When she wins her place and befriends Seaweed and his gang, she fights for social change and integration in society.

On Saturday 25th January we had an additional rehearsal to run the dance choreography and I was overwhelmed with the hard work and professionalism the cast showed. There is a definite excitement about this production. Dates are 24th, 25th and 26th of March. Information about tickets will be available shortly.

Miss Thurley, Head of Performing Arts



Spotlight on Technology



New Staff

This new year we are looking at a new look Technology Department; we welcomed two new members of staff to the Department following the Christmas break. Mr. Laing, a senior teacher who will be working across the Academy on Teaching and Learning as well as within the Department as a Lead Practitioner raising standards and improving student attainment and engagement. Our other new member of the team is Mr Morgan who supports the teaching in the Department as our Technician. Mr Morgan replaces the very popular Paul Mignot who passed away last year.



Our Year 11

We have focused most of our efforts on our Year 11 cohort initially setting up a daily afterschool Intervention Programme which has been well attended by the majority of our students. They have enjoyed a healthy snack and refreshments as they work into the evenings on their practical projects and have taken to this new initiative well.

Phase 1 Refurbishment

We look forward to Phase 1 of our refurbishment programme that will be taking place over the next year. Initially we are decorating the main walk through area and installing new display cabinets which will lift the aesthetics of the department and provide our students with vital information about our new Key Stage 3 STEM clubs that are coming up, careers information, GCSE exemplar material and KS3 and KS4 data so students can track their own progress and instill some competition into them! We will also be adding some vibrant vinyl lettering quotes from famous designers around the new painted area to inspire our students.



Trips and Visits

Year 8 students interested in STEM and Textiles will soon be invited to our first trip to the Science Museum and the V&A Museum in London where they will have some amazing technological experiences. We are hoping to offer more trips next academic year that will demonstrate to our pupils what is on offer if you follow a pathway in Technology to further education.

The Future

This is a very exciting time for Stewards Academy Technology Department, both students and staff are looking forward to what lies ahead. **Watch this space for more information on how we are going to grow our department into a Hub of excellence in Harlow and indeed Essex.**

Mr Laing, Lead Practitioner Technology



Jack Petchey awards December– February

Our pupil led Jack Petchey award committee have diligently looked at all nomination forms and decided on the next 3 successful award winners. Each of the pupils has shown dedication and commitment to academy life and have been nominated by both staff and pupils.

Many congratulations to our worthy winners.

Ella Johnson

Ella has been nominated for a Jack Petchey award for her dedication and commitment to Dance since her time at Stewards. Ella has shown great perseverance in developing her performance and choreographic skills; continuing to push herself to try new things. She absorbs and takes on board all advice offered to her and the staff that work with her in this area praise her highly. Ella has performed on many occasions over the years and has choreographed performances pieces that she has taught to other students. She helps to lead the younger dancers at Dance clubs on a weekly basis and is a superb role model to them all.

Ayse Kaya

Ayse is a lovely young lady and an attentive, well-organised student. She is an enthusiastic learner who consistently strives to reach her full potential in all that she does. Her work as a Senior Peer Mentor has led to nominations from staff, her peers and younger students that all recognise and appreciate her maturity and commitment to the role. The younger pupils talk of her kindness and support with their work and when they need someone to talk to. Ayse leads a team of peer mentors that support Year 7 tutor groups and is a thoughtful and experienced voice at meetings.



Fay Mills



Fay is a wonderful student and has been nominated by her peers for her positivity and resilience when faced with difficult situations. Fay underwent surgery for scoliosis and had a period of time in recovery. In the lead up to her surgery and afterwards Fay maintained her studies and kept a smile on her face no matter what. Her friends speak of how much they admire her and appreciate her friendship. Fay is a very determined young lady that makes the most out of all opportunities. She is a worthy winner of this Jack Petchey award for her bravery and fortitude.

Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment

Governors Report

Having spent much of the Autumn Term looking at finances in preparation for a successful auditors report prior to submission of the accounts, this term we have been preparing ourselves for our next OFSTED inspection which could be in the near future. This is particularly important as it will be under a new framework, so the information we need to provide will differ from that needed last time. To this end we have spent time attending events in order to give us a clear picture of the requirements of the new framework in order to provide an accurate picture of Stewards for the inspectors.

We are also looking at plans for improvements to the site, some of which have already started, and other changes which we hope to announce in the not too distant future.

Jeff Tarling, Chair of Governors



Year 7 Girls



Year 7 girls have had a busy half term with a number of basketball and football competitions competed in.

It was the girls first competitive basketball fixture and first exposure to basketball since starting Stewards, all of the girls involved showed great determination and resilience in learning new skills, tactics and rules to take part in the competition. On the day the girls all worked extremely well together scoring lots of baskets and piecing together their new knowledge to take the wins in their games coming 4th overall.

Later in the week Year 7 also had their last football tournament of the year held

at Passmores. A chance to show off all of their commitments to training sessions both at lunch and after school. A few players where unable to play due to injuries and other commitments so a couple of last minute changes to the team occurred, however all of the girls worked extremely well together and showed great resilience in each of the games played. The team where unlucky in their placing, just outside of the top 4 but all involved enjoyed the games and are looking forward to working together in Year 8 and 9 when football starts again for everyone. Keep up the hard work girls!



Year 8 / 9 Girls

The Year 8 and 9 girls football team had their final district tournament of the year towards the end of the half term. This was a chance for the team to show off all of their hard work and dedication to the sport and the improvements they had made as a team. An unlucky loss for the first game didn't set the girls back in their stride as they went on to win the rest of their games of the tournament. The girls scored lots of spectacular goals and didn't concede any goals against the teams they faced. Overall the girls came 2nd in the tournament just missing out on first place. Well done girls.

Year 8 and 9 girls also had their first basketball tournament of the year this week playing against the local Harlow schools to show off their skills, knowledge and understanding of a growing sport for girls in the UK. The girls showed great resilience and determination throughout the tournament working together to score baskets and stop the other teams scoring against them. After some closely fought games the Year 8 and 9 a team came 4th overall. A great effort from all involved.

Miss Venables, PE Teacher



Year 7 Boys

Stewards Academy hosted the Year 7 District Basketball 4 on 4 Finals on Thursday 6th February. Stewards displayed an excellent all-round performance and are now District champions! which we look to keep hold of next year.

Congratulations to all the boys who contributed to the success of the Year 7 Basketball team winning all our games! The boys worked well as a team, showing good determination and resilience throughout the tournament. James Snowdon, Joshua Anin, Corbin Dickson, Emmanuel Kamba, Alfie Wilkinson, Kofi Osei, Kenzie Rayner

Special mention to Josh Anin, James Snowdon and Corbin Dickson for outstanding performances noticed from the hosts of the tournament. Corbin Dickson was awarded MVP for the district finals scoring a massive 14 baskets! I am proud of every player and I look forward to the next round of basketball in Year 8.

Mr Young, PE Teacher





Year 10/11 Boys

The senior basketball team have had a frustrating year in terms of their fixtures. They have only been able to play 2 of their allotted 4 fixtures due to postponements / cancellations and forfeited fixtures.

The team beat St Marks comfortably but lost to the eventual winners of the Harlow section, Passmores. The seniors were given victories against Burnt Mill and Mark Hall, meaning they finished the basketball season 2nd, although wanting to play more games.

The majority of the team consisted of Year 10 players and so they will have further opportunities next year.

Well done to the following boys who represented the school with distinction; Patrick Snowdon, Alfie Wilson, Caleb Ansen, Ben Noruwa, Paul Osazee, Daniel Monk, Tony Carr, Killian Tebich, Morgan Arnold.

Special thanks to Patrick Snowdon and Josh Palmer who have helped officiate and score for the Year 7, 8/9 fixtures, Holly Keys Kidd and Emily Kelsey for scoring for the senior games.

Mr Sanders, Subject Leader PE

Phoenix Curriculum Creative Writing



Our Creative Writing Club has gone from strength to strength this term, with pupils with wins in two competitions!

Congratulations to Isabella, Taygan and Edward on winning the Young Writers competition .

More congratulations go to Phoebe and Taylor who were chosen as winners of the mini-saga competition.

All five pupils will have their work published for all to enjoy.



Mrs Wilson, English

Key Dates

February 2020

Friday 28th

Year 11 Script exam - Performing Arts

March 2020

Monday 2nd

Year 11 Music recording exam

Tuesday 3rd

Year 11 Music recording exam

Tuesday 3rd

UKMT Maths Challenge

Wednesday 4th

Year 11 Music recording exam

Thursday 5th

Parents' Evening Year 11 (Tutors)

Thursday 5th

Ski Lessons - session 3

Saturday 7th

Mock Magistrates Court Trip - Stratford

Tuesday 10th

Parents' Evening Year 11 (Tutors)

