



Stewards Academy

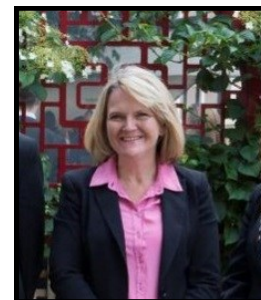
Newsletter May 2021



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Would you believe it has now been nearly nine weeks since all pupils returned to school! We knew that it would take some time for pupils to settle into the new school routine and build up their stamina for a full school day, but we have been pleasantly surprised at how admirably they have coped; we have yet again become accustomed to another 'new normal'.



During the first few weeks, we worked gently and empathetically with pupils as they adjusted to being back in school, but as you will be aware, we have begun to take a firmer approach to our high expectations, with the first of our Foundation Foci: 'Wear Perfect Uniform'. Having delivered a whole-school virtual Community Briefing so that all staff and pupils were really clear of our expectations, we have seen a considerable improvement and I am pleased to inform you that the vast majority of pupils are indeed now wearing perfect uniform. This was only possible with the whole-hearted support of you, the parents and carers, and once again I feel very grateful for the strong partnership that exists between the school and the parenting body.

It was particularly pleasing to celebrate the success of pupils with our Foundation Focus, with the first of our Hot Chocolate Fridays. One pupil from each tutor group was invited to have hot chocolate and treats with myself at breaktime in recognition of their success. I look forward to inviting the next group of pupils this week.



When the members of the Leadership Team were around school over the last two weeks, they also took the opportunity to award Foundation Focus Certificates to tutor groups and classes. These were used to raffle a box of chocolate treats for each year group. Well done to the winning tutor groups.



After half-term, our Foundation Focus will be: Arrive Punctually. This week in Community Briefing we will be sharing 'what excellence looks like' with pupils and I will also be writing to you to seek your support with developing this important personal attribute in all our pupils.

Before signing off, I must make a particular mention of our Year 11 pupils, who the majority of which will conclude their formal studies this week. We have never ceased to be amazed at how well they have managed with their studies and assessments in this all important year. They have indeed shown the COURAGE we profess as our values and should be wholly congratulated on their achievements. We wish them well and look forward to sharing some of their celebrations with you in the next newsletter.

Kind regards, **Helen Ginger** (Headteacher)



Jack Petchey Award Winners



Pupils and staff have nominated a number of pupils to receive a Jack Petchey award for the spring and summer terms. After discussion with members of the Student Leadership Team, the award winners have been selected. Congratulations to all our worthy winners.

Bryony Witt-Davies

Bryony has been an exceptional student throughout her time at Stewards. She has always pushed herself to achieve the highest possible outcomes in everything she does. Bryony has been an active part of academy life and participated in a diverse range of activities including School Council, performing arts, the honours programme (where she took part in the magistrates' court competition) and the Brilliant Club. As part of the Brilliant Club, she achieved a first-class dissertation on religious change in the thirteenth century. Bryony is also a great support to others and has selflessly made notes for a classmate who was unable to attend school regularly. She also stepped in to support a group in their practical drama exam at short notice. It has been a pleasure working with Bryony and we wish her well as she moves onto her A Levels.



Kemarah Denty

Kemarah has been nominated for a Jack Petchey award by her peers and staff due to her increased confidence, both in lessons and enrichment activities, as she has moved through the academy. She has become more outspoken on topics she cares deeply about and shares her views with others in a considered way. Kemarah has been an active member of the EMPV for a number of years and this year has been one of the leaders. She has helped to produce resources, attend meetings and create some excellent displays. Her passion and dedication to equality and justice have developed over time. Kemarah has inspired younger students through her work and her involvement in activities including the EMPV and dance. A well-deserved recipient of a Jack Petchey award. Congratulations.



Shane Gregory

Shane has been nominated for a Jack Petchey award by the SEND and Bridge team that have worked closely with him throughout his time at Stewards. He has overcome a number of obstacles and issues related to his preferred way of learning and always takes responsibility for his work and resources. Shane has really come out of his shell over the last couple of years and has shown great resilience and strength of character. He has grown into a polite, genuine young man who lights up the room when he enters. He has a quirky sense of humour and he is a pleasure to work with. Shane is always kind, considerate and caring of others. We are delighted to award Shane with his Jack Petchey award. Well done!



Jade Edwards-Lowe

Jade is a delightful young adult and a pleasure to work with. She has fully embraced her education at Stewards and has been involved in a diverse range of activities including School Council, art (being part of the Young Curators programme), prefecting, the Kindness Challenge and charity work to name but a few. Jade is a hardworking and dedicated student and has a desire to do well. Her peers recognise the great support she has been to them and talk of her kindness to others. Jade is a superb role model to those in her own year group and to those in younger years. She has taken on the role of Head of House this year and although the year has been disrupted her views and suggestions will help path the way for next year's team. We wish Jade every success in the future!





Jack Petchey Award Winners



Danny Raymond

Danny has committed himself to academy life throughout his time at Stewards. He has been on the School Council since Year 7 and has represented the academy at Open Evening, with visitors and at sporting events. In Year 9, Danny was chosen to compete for Stewards Academy at the Harlow Schools Cross Country competition. This event was the start of his athletics career and he has since gone on to achieve fantastic results, whilst competing in cross country and middle distance running at school level, for Essex County and at Eastern Regional events. Danny trains and runs for Woodford AC and has set himself targets this year of a new personal best and top two placement in national championships. He has demonstrated absolute commitment to running since he discovered his talent and passion two years ago. He is a fabulous sporting role model to the younger students and we look forward to hearing about his future successes.



Hardson Palmer

Hardson is reliable, trustworthy and his friends respect him greatly, appreciating his supportive nature. He has grown in confidence throughout his time at Stewards, becoming more vocal on topics he cares about and in his performances. Hardson is a talented musician developing from a budding keyboard player in KS3 to creating his own music. He is also a talented artist and has produced some stunning work in a recent competition. Hardson has been one of the Heads of EMPV this year and has taken the role seriously and with great focus. He has articulated how he feels on key issues and has enabled others to express their views too. Hardson is a committed student and strives to be the best in all he does. A worthy recipient of this Jack Petchey award, congratulations!



Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment

Pupil Voice

The **student leadership team** have met this half term to discuss how they would like to remember their final year as members of the Stewards Family.

Their ideas have been taken on board and as lockdown measures start to lift, the academy staff are hoping to celebrate with them in a number of ways; a leavers assembly and shirt signing, a prize giving evening for nominated pupils (in place of our usual Presentation Evening that was unable to take place earlier in the year) and a celebration for the year group. Fingers crossed all measures are lifted in June so we can go ahead!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 11 pupils that have held positions of responsibility over the last two years. You have done an excellent job in tricky circumstances. A particular thank you also to Robert, Holly, Damion, Frankie and Obehi for all of your hard work and commitment this year. I have valued your input immensely.

School Council

Over the last couple of weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet school council members from Years 8-10. Our main discussion points have been the assembly programme and the use of mobile phones in school.

Suggestions for assemblies next year have been passed on and include information about option subjects and careers. Pupils like to hear from different people about their subjects/experiences and are looking forward to finding out more.

There was lots of excellent points raised about why phones should or shouldn't be in school and the impact social media can have on mental health. One point discussed was how when pupils are in school they should be able to focus on lessons and other enrichment activities without worrying about things going on outside school or about replying to their friends quickly. We talked of the anxiety felt from social media and about learning to have a healthy relationship with our phones, so we don't always need it to be physically on us.

Next half term, meetings will focus on planning for the next academic year and the application process for positions of responsibility will be opened.

Mrs da Vighi, Assistant Headteacher: School Organisation and Enrichment



Celebrating Success



Fortitude House



Well done for making it to the end of another half term in which we have been faced with new challenges and obstacles to overcome. As a school community, we are starting to get back to life as we know it and hitting the ground running with our 'Foundation Focus'. You should take pride in yourself and the uniform you wear as not only are you representing yourself but also the badge you wear both in school and around the area.

It has been lovely to see so many pupils attending the extra-curricular activities available, whether that be sports clubs, performing arts or science; seeing your enjoyment and commitment to these activities is lovely. Keep your eye out for upcoming house events taking place after half term to earn Fortitude lots of house points so we can take home the first House Cup!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 the very best of luck in the final few weeks of their GCSEs. I have been very impressed with the maturity and diligence the year group have shown in their attitude towards revision and their assessments. Pupils have extensively used all available opportunities to them, to put their efforts in to achieving the best they can. Keep striving to the best of your ability!

Charlotte and Ioana, two of our Year 11 Fortitude leavers have written a message to share with you all: "Our 5 years are done; today is a day of celebration! Year 11 comes around so quickly you won't even realise; it feels like we just come out of lockdown yesterday but we're leaving school now. Make the most out of these years, because when you get to the end it will hit you. Our best advice to give you is that you get your money back, but you don't get time back so go live your lives to the fullest."



Miss Venables

Bravery House



As we approach the end of a largely uninterrupted seven week half-term, it seems a good time to reflect on the challenges we have overcome as a school and community over the past 14 months, and to draw reassurance from the positivity to be found in the situation now compared to this time last year. While nobody could have predicted the long-term impact of the pandemic when school closed in March 2020, the way pupils have continually overcome the obstacles with which they have been faced in the time since has been inspiring to us, in terms of both Bravery and the school as a whole. Nowhere has this been clearer than in recent weeks with the Y11 assessment period. External exams may have been cancelled, but centre assessed grades have been extremely intense; the commitment and focus shown by Year 11 has been admirable. We are sure pupils will enjoy the benefits of all their hard work come results day, and we look forward to hearing about the next steps Bravery Year 11 pupils intend to take. It has not been an easy year with disruption throughout Year 10 and Year 11, but the resilience and determination shown, will stand pupils in good stead for the future. Other year groups should not be forgotten; the attitude to learning has been fantastic since we returned to full-time school in March, and it has been great to see pupils really appreciating the opportunities with which they are presented. The top positive point scorers for Bravery per year group are as follows:



Emily E (11TT)

Ben N (10EM)

Chidera O (9VE)

Alisha C (8PS)

Harrison C (7GES)



Celebrating Success



Valour House



Once again, a big applaud goes out to Valour House for your great work this half term. You continue to make Mr Hawk and I proud with your positive attitudes and excellent effort. It is now the final push towards the end of a very challenging year, and we know that you will continue to shine.

We want to highlight and congratulate these specific pupils for being Valour's top point scorers so far this term:



Form	Top scoring student for the Spring term overall	Total points
9RT	Rachael Carpenter	68
7JY	Lena Cichonczyk	50
7JY	Adriano Giambona	49
9RT	Callum Parrish	49
9RT	Lacey Smith	47
7NW	Harmony Clarke	47
7NW	Victoria Chochorowska	46
9UM	Andrej Sedliak	45
7JY	Ethan Root	45
7JY	Frankie Peddle	44

With summer just around the corner and the weather brightening, we hope to see many of you taking the opportunity to join some of the sports activities which have now restarted. Alternatively, you can also participate in the Phoenix Curriculum by joining one of the many of extracurricular clubs now available. This is a great opportunity for you to meet new friends, try something different and contribute to wider school life. Also, don't forget that by participating in the Phoenix Curriculum, you'll be earning points for Valour every week!

As always try your best, be happy and look after each other.

Mr Young & Mr Hawk

Prowess House



The last month has been witness to unprecedented scenes in Stewards, as our Year 11 pupils have been undertaking assessments for their GCSE grades. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to shine a light on the hard work and dedication our Year 11 pupils have shown and encourage the Prowess members in Year 10 to aspire to emulate these students when they are in their shoes a year from now. There are many pupils who are fine examples to our current Year 10s, who show what can be achieved by having the right attitude and being prepared to work hard.

In English alone the pupils have completed seven assessments with a further six in Maths, making thirteen assessments in these subjects alone; this figure really highlights the level of dedication and pays testament to the character and resilience of our young people, who have stood up to another challenge and can look forward to an upcoming, well deserved break this summer.

Although the hard work has mainly been done by the students, I would also like to take this opportunity to praise the hardworking staff members of House Prowess, who are in the process of preparing and marking our Year 11 assessments. It is a huge undertaking and one that has taken an incredible amount of planning and hard work, although we like to celebrate our pupils, in this moment a big well done to Prowess staff members is also well deserved!



Mr Compton & Mrs Woolley



UKMT Mathematics Challenges



Back in February, a group of pupils from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the online UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. The challenge involves answering a series of multiple-choice questions focussed on mathematical problem-solving, which challenges pupils to think creatively and logically. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are awarded to the top 40% of participants entered nationally.



We have now received the results and are very proud to announce that ten talented mathematicians have been awarded certificates.

Gold award: Ella Braby – also awarded Best-in-Year 9 and Best-in-School

Silver award: Edward Austin, Devalan Nair

Bronze award: Max Arnold, Rafferty Groat, Mihai Ispas, David Petrica,

Elsie Pudney – also award Best-in-Year 10

Fleur Salhi, Phoebe Tillett

Ella, Edward and Devalan also qualified for the Grey Kangaroo Challenge, an extension to the Intermediate Challenge. This took place on Thursday 18th March and they all received Certificates of Participation.

On the 29th April it was the turn of 60 mathematicians from Year 7 and Year 8 to participate in the Junior Challenge. We look forward to receiving their results very soon.

Well done to all the pupils who participated in this year's challenges and congratulations to our award winners.



Kangaroo challenge students



Year 9 winners



Year 10 winners

Miss Garvin, Subject Leader Maths



Afterschool Clubs and Activities



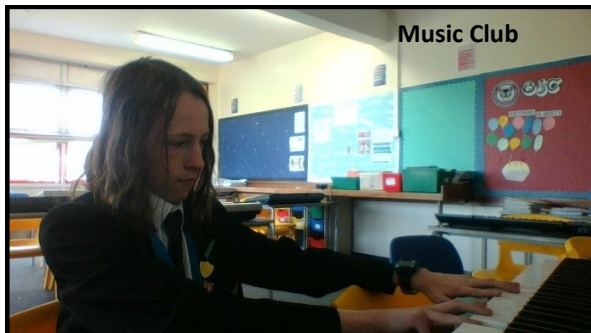
Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are all safe and well. It seems such a long time ago that I have been able to discuss with you the various extra-curricular activities and opportunities that are available for the pupils at Stewards Academy. As we move out of the most recent lockdown restrictions, we are now able to start our extra-curricular programme again. This will be an exciting opportunity for the pupils to re-ignite their interests in areas such as sport and the arts, as well as attending subject specific activities. The taking part in an extra-curricular activity has never been so important in supporting pupils with their mental wellbeing and reintegration back into the normality of school life; an opportunity to work together as part of a team or develop new skills in a particular subject or area of interest are just a couple of the benefits. It is hoped that as the term progresses a much broader range of activities will be available for the pupils to participate in, but to get things started I have included some of the opportunities that are currently available to pupils.

- A full range of sports clubs and teams
- Performing Arts clubs including music, drama and dance
- English creative writing club
- Maths club
- Chess Club
- Textiles/fashion club run by the technology department

I would like to take this opportunity as always to thank you as parents for all your support as we move out of a very difficult period and hopefully into a much brighter and more active future. Please do encourage your son/daughter to participate in at least one club or activity over the next few weeks.

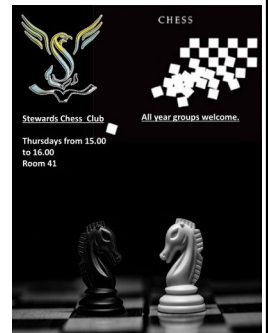
Obviously all activities will be subject to the usual health and safety and COVID-19 guidelines.



Music Club



Maths Club



Mr Scholtes, Senior Deputy Head

Wellbeing

Please remind your child/ren that they can tell us how they are feeling through Class Charts and the appropriate school staff. If they need any help and support, it's a really quick and easy way for them to make us aware.

Active Essex and Essex County Council are pleased to be offering FREE places on the Essex ActivAte half-term holiday programme for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and for those working families who could benefit from this additional holiday support.

These clubs provide a range of fun activities and a healthy lunch for every child attending. All clubs offer at least 4 hours of fun each day. To find your nearest Essex ActivAte club and to book your FREE place please see the website ActivAte

Your Half-Term - Active Essex





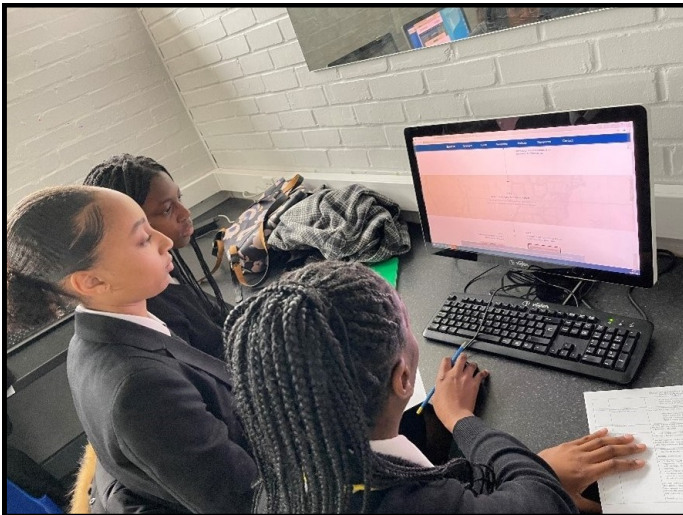
Face to Face Learning



We are all very glad to be back to Face-to-face learning here at Stewards Academy. Obviously still observing Covid guidelines in terms of social distancing, masks in some cases, use of anti-bacterial and consistent hand washing but to have our students back and the Academy buzzing again is a breath of fresh air.

The students have returned and considering their experiences over the last year have settled back extremely well. With a real drive and focus on our Year 11 the students have risen to the challenges of this year's bespoke examination system and have completed multiple assessments for each subject area to get them the grades they need for the next stage of their education, whatever that may be. Staff have commented how proud they are to see the commitment and energy expended by these young people to achieve the best possible grade in each of their chosen subject areas.

Having said this however, we cannot forget our younger students who have also risen to the challenge of getting back into the swing of things and achieving the best possible standard of work possible. It's great to see our school full again as we work full throttle towards the Summer holidays.



Mr Laing, Senior Lead Practitioner



Vacancy



Learning Support Assistant with First Aid, Monday – Friday – Term time only

September 2021.

31.25 hours per week, excluding breaks (8.45am – 4.30pm)

SCALE 3, Spinal points 4-5, actual commencing salary £14,099pa plus First Aid Allowance

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a talented and forward-thinking individual to work within this vibrant and successful Academy. The successful candidate will have a keen interest in working with young people, a calm and confident manner, proven communication skills and a dedicated work ethic.

Essential requirements are: desire to work with boys and girls aged 11 – 16 who require help in a variety of ways to ensure that they achieve their best and enjoy learning. You must be punctual, flexible, energetic and a committed strong team player. Due to the nature of the role, it is desirable for you to possess strong literacy and numeracy skills - minimum level of GCSE grade 'C' [or equivalent] in English and Maths.

Applications Forms are available to download from our website. All applications will be assessed upon receipt.

Advertised: May 2021

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ramsey
Room 1 Block 1



safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

If you have any worries about your safety or wellbeing, speak to a member of the Safeguarding team, or to any adult in school.

Senior Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Atkinson
The Bridge

Safeguarding Officers

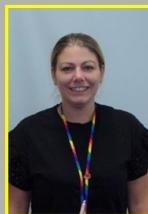
PSM Office



Ms Morley



Miss Dangerfield



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates

For safeguarding updates and information visit:





Key Dates



June 2021

Monday 7th - School returns - Week 1
Friday 11th - NSPCC Childhood day
Tuesday 15th - Year 9 Vaccinations
Thursday 17th - Year 10 Art & Photography trip to Burghley House
Friday 18th - Year 9 Vaccinations
Thursday 24th - Years 7 + 8 Parents' Evening (tutors)
Tuesday 29th - Years 7 + 8 Parents' Evening (tutors)
Wednesday 30th - Year 6 Taster day

July 2021

Thursday 1st - Year 6 Taster day
Tuesday 6th - Year 8 HPV first dose
Tuesday 6th - Year 10 Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio & Meningitis ACWY
Tuesday 6th - Year 11 Prize giving
Thursday 8th - Years 9 + 10 Parents' Evening (tutors)
Tuesday 13th - Years 9 + 10 Parents' Evening (tutors)
Wednesday 21st - Term ends end of P2

