



THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 4 • 2024



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your family had a wonderful Easter break and are now looking forward to the summer months ahead.

Our newsletter, once again, includes information about a whole host of events and activities that took place in the last half-term; well done to all those pupils who showed the **COURAGE** to take part and made the most of the opportunities presented to them. Our newly-introduced Phoenix Challenge, supported by the Stewards Passport, is further encouraging pupils to step out of their comfort zone and try something new, and pupils are certainly stepping up to the challenge as they work towards eligibility for our end of term reward trips.

The Summer Term is always one of preparation, with Y11 students moving into the last few weeks before their examinations; Year 9 students finalising their option choices and a new cohort of young people preparing to join the Stewards Family in September. It is always a privilege supporting pupils during these important transitions.

Last term, we said farewell to Miss Tovey (English), Mrs Edwards (Business and ICT) and Mrs Reeves (Music). We wish them well as they move on to pastures new. We welcome Mr Byrne (ICT) and Mrs Harvey (Music), who joined us just before the Easter break.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support in raising standards, as I set out in my recent letter to you. Our young people deserve only the best and it is our duty at Stewards to strive to improve every day.

Kind regards,
Mrs Ginger

HEADTEACHER
MRS GINGER



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@ Stewards Academy?



TEACHING & CURRICULUM

What Can We Do with our Children that Will Help School?

This is a question I am often asked by parents and carers who are keen to make sure that they use their time with their children in a way that supports their classroom progress. Of course, the answer isn't to spend all weekends and holidays working; it is essential to enjoy some well-earned rest and recuperation. A good balance of thought provoking activities with plenty of relaxation makes for good leisure time so that young people return fully rested and ready for the summer term.

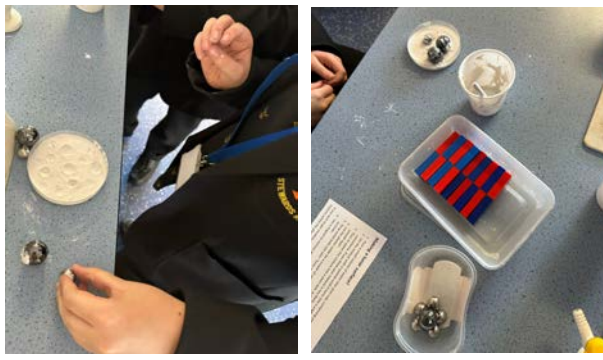
There are so many places to go and visit within an hour's travel of Harlow. A day trip to Cambridge or London, a visit to Epping Forest, a walk or cycle around our own lovely town in the springtime. All of these represent great days out. We may be lucky enough to have some sunshine so perhaps a trip to the Essex seaside may be possible. If getting out and about isn't possible, you could watch a nature, science or history documentary with your child and discuss it with them. You could watch the news and discuss it with them. There are so many things you can do which take little time, or fill a whole day. What matters is making sure that our young people continue to be inspired in their learning.

Spending quality time with parents or carers is always a valuable experience and very much complements their learning at school. Enjoy the summer months ahead!

Mr Drew

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

In a proactive response to the challenges posed by flooding, students embarked on a project to design flood-resistant homes. Drawing upon their creativity and engineering acumen, they envisioned structures equipped with innovative features to withstand rising waters. Their designs incorporated elevated foundations, waterproof materials, and efficient drainage systems, all aimed at mitigating flood damage and ensuring the safety and security of inhabitants. Through this project, students not only demonstrated their ability to tackle real-world problems but also highlighted the importance of sustainable and resilient architecture in the face of environmental threats.



DEPARTMENT FOCUS

21st Harlow Scouts Club Visits Stewards

The Cub Scouts visited the Astronomy club at Stewards, immersing themselves in the wonders of space. They delved into topics like celestial bodies, telescopes and the enigmatic moon. Through hands-on activities they constructed intricate models of moon landers and used periscopes to peer into the cosmos and planispheres to navigate the night sky. In addition to this, they meticulously crafted models depicting the lunar surface, gaining a deeper appreciation for the intricacies of our celestial neighbour. This experience sparked their curiosity and ignited a passion for exploring the mysteries of the universe.



Mrs Manivchuk

HOUSE

NEWS

STEWARDS ACADEMY



www.stewardsacademy.org



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Options Taster Day

On 29th February, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to try out various option subjects before making their final decisions on what subjects they would like to take in years 10 and 11.

The subjects included: Photography, Textiles, Food Prep, Construction, Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Religious Studies, GCSE P.E, Business Studies, Drama, Music, Design and Technology and Sociology - just to name a few.

The students were all in great spirits all day and enjoyed getting involved and experiencing new subjects.

We hope you found it helpful year 9, we can't wait to see you thrive in your chosen subjects next year!



Options Evening

On the 7th March we held our annual options evening for our Year 9 students and their families. They were able to speak to staff across the full range of subjects we offer to find out more information and get excited about the subjects they could be doing in year 10 and 11. We had a record number of people attending with some parents saying that they wish they could do their time at school again, due to how exciting and broad our range of subjects are!

We hope both the options evening and taster day have been helpful to everyone in year 9 and that they have got you even more excited for the next stage of your education.



Book Fair

From 29th February to 5th March we held our annual book fair. Some of our brilliant Year 8 students set up an incredible display in our library.



Award-Winning Author Ray Star Visits Stewards

On Monday 4th March, award-winning Author Ray Star, most known for the bestselling fantasy fiction trilogy 'Earthlings', conducted a creative writing workshop with our Year 7's and 8's. Ray worked with our students to encourage and prompt ways to bring about awareness and positive change for nature through literature. Our students were very excited to speak with Ray and had a great time completing the activities.

'Ray is a member of the Climate Fiction Writers League; her books are printed on recycled paper where possible and she plants one tree per book sale via Ecologi. Ray also worked with the Society of Authors Sustainability Working Group, to help create the 'Tree to Me' campaign, encouraging authors to advocate for sustainable book printing within the industry.'



#WriteForNature



Reading Matters

Earlier this term, we celebrated the second reading week of the year. There was a discernible buzz around the academy with pupils eagerly reading and talking about their favourite books.

Here are some of the activities which took place during the week:

- A visit by award-winning author, Ray Star who held creative writing sessions with some year 7 and year 8 pupils in the school library
- A Scholastic book fair which was held in the library and attracted lots of attention from pupils. The plan is to expand this in the future
- Staff all wore "favourite book" badges and key stage 3 pupils were keen to collect their list of names and trade them in for a lucky-dip prize
- Drop Everything and Read was again run every day with pupils and staff spending fifteen minutes reading their own books

Please continue to encourage your son or daughter to read daily for at least thirty minutes and if you need any guidance or support with this, please feel free to contact me via Class Charts.

Happy reading!

Mr Ginger

The University of Cambridge Visits Stewards

Representatives from Emmanuel College, a distinguished constituent college of the University of Cambridge, recently conducted an enlightening session for Year 10 students, aimed at demystifying university expectations, the array of courses available, and the pathways to further education. Through this interactive presentation, the Emmanuel College speakers shed light on the rigorous academic environment of Cambridge, emphasising the importance of intellectual curiosity, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence. Students were introduced to the broad spectrum of courses offered by the University, ranging from the sciences and engineering to the humanities and social sciences, highlighting the interdisciplinary approach and the opportunities for research and innovation. The discourse also navigated through the essentials of university life, including the admissions process, scholarship opportunities, and the supportive community found within Emmanuel College. This session served as a valuable guide for these young scholars, inspiring them to envision their future in higher education and to understand the steps necessary to achieve their academic and professional aspirations.



Mrs McGee

Mocks Magistrates' Court Trial

On Saturday 9th March, Ms James and I escorted a group of 12 students to the Stevenage Magistrates' Court to engage in a mock court trial competition against four other schools. The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition is designed to enlighten young individuals about the pervasive influence of law in their daily lives, providing them with a deeper understanding of the legal justice system's workings. Participants are encouraged to engage in critical thinking, construct coherent arguments, and enhance their self-confidence. This experience aims to furnish students with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the significance of law and the justice system within our society.

Although the final standings were not disclosed on the day of the event, this occasion marked the first time Ms James and I led a contingent of students to this prestigious competition, facing off against teams from two highly experienced schools. At the conclusion of the trial, the judges and the organiser commended Stewards Academy for their commendable performance, especially considering it was the school's inaugural participation in the competition.

Since January, the students have been collaborating remarkably well as a team, convening on a weekly basis to meticulously prepare for the trial. On the day of the event, they exhibited exceptional confidence and organisational skills, thereby upholding the academy's reputation with great distinction.

Mrs McGee



Year 11 Students Visit Curwen Print Study Centre

During the half term, Year 11 students visited Curwen Print Study Centre. The Curwen Print Study Centre has established a reputation for excellence in its field. The Studio is well equipped for workshops in Relief - Lino, Woodcuts and Cardboard Cuts, Intaglio - Etching and Dry Point, Solar Plate, Monoprinting, Screen Printing including Photo Screen, Stone & Photo Lithography.

Year 11 were exploring various types of monoprinting on the day and experimenting with the professional studio presses that were available to them. The students worked so hard that they fell asleep on the way home! I would like to thank Year 11 for giving Miss Nicholson and I such a wonderful day. Well done to all those who attended and gave up their time during half term.



Mrs McGee

Year 10 West Essex & Harlow Football Finale

The Year 10 football team finished the football season by playing in the West Essex & Harlow final against Burnt Mill at Harlow Town Football club. The lads were in great spirits on the minibus going to the game and were desperate to win their cup final for Stewards. There was a great team spirit and they needed to show resilience and determination to keep out the Burnt Mill opposition. The first few minutes of the game was a very cagey affair as both teams were testing each other out. Stewards then had a great opportunity to score the first goal as Aston was fouled in the penalty box to give us a penalty. Captain Yossa stepped out to put us ahead but unfortunately put too much power on it to send it sailing over the bar. The boys were quite disheartened at half-time not to be ahead as they had the greater chances and dominated possession. After a quick pep talk at half-time by Mr Steele & Mr Rayney the team took to the pitch to seek to put all their possession into goals. However, due to a momentarily lapse in concentration it led Burnt Mill to take the lead to quieten the large crowd from Stewards who had come to support the team. Stewards kept pushing for the equaliser and had a number of chances to get back in the game and should have been awarded another penalty but alas it wasn't to be their day. A big shout out to Miss Dorling for her support and her excellent photos during the game.

The crowd and opposition commented that Stewards showed great sportsmanship at the end of the game by shaking hands with their opponents and when they received their runners up medals. We couldn't have been more proud of you all for your performance on the pitch and your conduct afterwards. Next year you should win the final.

Mr Rayney



Jack Petchey Award

December 2023 - Tiia Konstantinou

Tiia has been nominated by her peers for her kindness, generosity and wonderful nature. She supports those around her both with school work and personal issues, offering comfort where needed, and is someone trusted to look out for others. In her role as Senior Prefect, Tiia has supported at numerous academy events and can always be relied upon to support charity activities. Tiia is an excellent role model to her peers and younger students through her attitude and work ethic. Well done, Tiia.



January 2024 - Lauren Dennis

A hardworking and unassuming student, Lauren commits herself to helping and supporting others. In her daily life at Stewards Academy, Lauren acts as a fantastic Peer Mentor to Year 7 students, helping them manage their time at school and being a brilliant listening ear. Outside of school hours, Lauren has dedicated her time to numerous volunteer projects. Lauren truly is an amazing and compassionate young lady who completes these acts of kindness willingly and without wanting lots of praise. We believe that she would make a fine recipient of this award.



February 2024 - Emily Naylor

Emily's self-esteem has grown dramatically over the years, from someone in lower school who struggled significantly with anxiety, to a young lady who is now thriving with confidence. She has taken advantage of a number of activities, both inside and outside of the curriculum, including Drama, Dance and various roles of responsibility, and has demonstrated real resilience, determination and independence in her approach to improving herself! Emily is a mature, kind and polite young lady, who freely gives her time to support her peers and similarly appreciates the support she receives from staff.



Congratulations to All!!!

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

On the 15th of February, Year 10 pupils were excited to be joined by a speaker from the Jack Petchey Foundation and participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, which encourages young people to use their voice for positive change. During the workshop, pupils improved their confidence, public speaking and presenting skills through fun and challenging activities. Almost all participants presented a two minute speech on a topic important to them (without notes!) to the rest of the group demonstrating just how far they'd come in a few short hours from nervous to speak before a crowd to confident in their ability to have their voice heard. All pupils who took part should feel very proud of how they presented themselves and what was uniquely important to them. The best speakers will go on to compete for a place representing Stewards Academy in the regional West Essex final.

Miss Wilcox-Hart



3D Printing Club Visit The National Space Centre

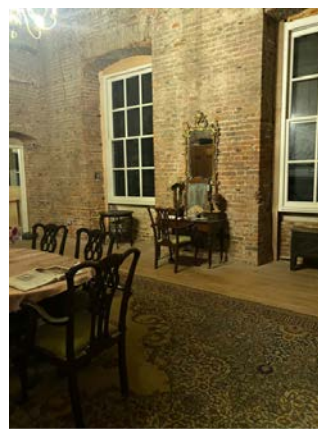


On 22nd March, our 3D printing club spent the day at the National Space Centre in Leicester with our Careers team. The award-winning National Space Centre has six interactive galleries, the UK's largest planetarium and a 42m high Rocket Tower.



After blasting off up the M1, we had a day packed with out of this world experiences. From climbing the rocket tower to learning about the life of an astronaut before, during and after going into space. The National Space Centre in Leicester gave 3D printing club so many ideas that we hope to be able to replicate and implement, as well as having a fun STEM related day out that everyone who came along enjoyed thoroughly. After learning about the life of an astronaut, we had a bottle rocket challenge to see who could get the highest, which sparked a lot of competition between the two teams and then we continued to learn about the first landing on the moon. Overall, it was an amazing day out and we all learnt so much about space and the processes around getting a rocket to space.

Ethan Jones (11EKG)



Year 11 GCSE Photography Trip

On 13th February, our Year 11 GCSE Photography class took a trip to Copped Hall in Epping to take photographs for their GCSE work. They enjoyed a tour of the historic building and grounds and found out lots of information about its history from the fantastic volunteers. The students were in great spirits all day, even when taking photographs in the rain!

The students have all chosen their own theme for their work, for example: fragments, groups or landscapes. It was great to see them all taking photographs of things relevant to their own projects and thinking outside the box when it came to deciding on what composition, lens etc. would work best for their theme.

Copped Hall is in the process of having restoration work completed and the students had the pleasure of seeing both restored and original parts of the building and grounds.

Everyone had a great time and found the trip extremely beneficial to their GCSE work. A huge thank you to Mrs McGee for organising and running the trip!

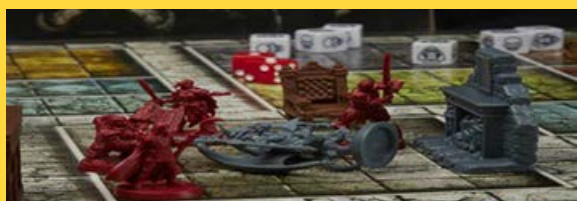


Mrs C. Keys-Kidd

Board Games Club - HeroQuest

In 1989, Game Workshop in collaboration with Milton Bradely aimed to create a game, that would introduce the children to tabletop games such as D&D and Warhammer, but ended up doing so much more. They created HeroQuest. A fast action-packed game, built upon the tropes of Sword and Sorcery. The game introduced many a person to the hobby. Sadly, going out of print in the early 1990s, after several successful expansions and a spin off. Despite this, HeroQuest left a mark. So much so that in 2021 Hasbro (specifically Avalon Hill) opted to remake HeroQuest and all its expansions. Even now, new content is being created by Avalon Hill for HeroQuest. Last year, I had bought the new HeroQuest, and it has been frequently played at the club. With its expansions, Return of the Witch Lord and The Frozen Horror, have even found their way to the table. However, in December of last year, with my birthday approaching, I decided to find and buy a copy of the original from eBay. Having just played it at the club with Louie Hayden-Smith, Zack Van De Merwe, Malachai Sullivan, Dante Price, and Max Bosman each playing a pesky hero, whilst I took the mantle of Morcar (basically the Dungeon Master), I can confirm that HeroQuest is as fun to play now, as it was when my uncle introduced it to me five years ago, or when it was first played in 1989. HeroQuest holds a special place in my heart, and in many others. And will be played at club for many more years to come.

George Springthorpe (9CH)



**Dragon Club Presents –
Board Game Club
Every Tuesday after school
Room 11**

Are you ready to fight alongside Dragon Club against the forces of evil, and travel to far off worlds filled with Orcs, goblins, skeletons, kobolds, dragons, and Dungeon Masters?

Then visit Dragon Club board game afternoon- every Tuesday after school at Mr. Springthorpe's classroom (English - Room 11) from 3:15 -4:30.

Get the chance to fight monsters, cast spells, and uncover secret treasures in the worlds of D&D, Talisman, Warhammer, Pokémon, Yugioh and HeroQuest!

See Chairman George Springthorpe 9CH or Mr. Springthorpe for more info.





THE
CREATIVE WRITING
CLUB
WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Calling all writers years 7 - 11.

Come along and enjoy good company, learn about exciting publishing opportunities and national competitions, learn new writing skills, and develop your creativity.

Every Thursday 3:20 – 4:20

Mr. Springthorpe Room 11

Writers of all levels welcome!

If you cannot attend, you can still join and submit work.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS WANTED!!!

Year 10 Creative Writing Example

Writing Hand

I am right-handed,
My hand moves left to right,
A blank piece of paper
Soon to be covered.

The red ink absorbed by my sleeve,
The light pink shade overcomes my white shirt,
"roll up your sleeves!"

My heart races,
I can't do as they say, not even a little bit.
My secrets lie beneath a thin layer of fabric.

I try to forget,
Temptation reminds me.
But I lock that feeling behind closed doors.

You write your secrets in a diary.
I am your diary.

Phoebe-Jean Hodgson – Year 10

Year 11 Students Visit Hertford Regional College

On Tuesday 12th March, a group of our year 11 students spent the morning at Hertford Regional College with our Careers team. They enjoyed a tour of the facilities and learning more about College, Apprenticeships and T-Levels as well as hearing about specific subjects such as Sports, Childcare, Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism, Construction, Business and Creative Media.

They heard from the tutors of the courses about what is expected from them on a college course and also learnt about the different jobs and Degree Apprenticeships that they can go into after taking these subjects.

They also got the chance to hear from students currently in their first year at Hertford Regional College about their experience studying there so far.

A great time was had all round!

Mrs C. Keys-Kidd



National Teen Book Club

After the Easter break, Stewards Academy will begin to work with Speakers for Schools to introduce the National Teen book Club in partnership with Penguin Publishing. Young people can join the enriching book club to discover a love of reading, build their confidence, and hear from guest speakers to learn more about careers in publishing and related industries.

The students will read 6 books a year and every Wednesday from 3:15pm-4:15pm during the club, they can join live sessions to discuss the current book. National Teen Book Club will be held every Wednesday after school in the Library.

If you are interested in joining, please see Miss McGowan.

Mrs C. Keys-Kidd

Staff Shout-Outs!

‘Congratulations to Miss McGowan who is getting married over the Easter break. We hope you have the most wonderful wedding day! - Admin Team’

‘Shout-out to Mrs Root for dealing with all ClassCharts enquiries and Year 9 Options. She always works so hard and always has a smile on her face!’

‘A massive thank you to our fantastic Careers Team. Our Adviser Mrs Hurst for all of your work with our year 11's during this important time in their lives. You always go above and beyond and it doesn't go unnoticed! And Mrs Keys-Kidd who works tirelessly behind the scenes - Mr Laing

‘Shout-out to all the admin staff who work so hard behind the scenes to make the school run.’

Learning Support Assistant Required

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Learning Support Assistant to join our team at Stewards Academy.

If you want to join our family-friendly, vibrant school with exciting challenges, we want to hear from you. We are looking for enthusiastic and passionate people to work with our young people with Special Educational Needs.

Maths and English GCSEs (C grade or above) are preferred with a general knowledge of ICT.

28 hours, 45 minutes per week (start time 8:45am)
39 working weeks per year (44.7 paid weeks per year)

Salary: Scale 3 Point 5 - £16,113.52 pro rata per annum (including fringe allowance)

Closing date: Monday 25th March 2024

Interviews: To be confirmed

To apply please complete and return the application form with a covering letter and current CV to hr@pclc.co.uk

Abbotsweld Primary Visits Stewards

Abbotsweld Primary Academy spent an afternoon with Stewards Academies award winning Design and Technology department. They took part in Food and Textiles Technology activities with help from some of our students.

It was great to see everyone enjoying the activities and we hope it has made the students of Abbotsweld excited about the potential of being a student at Stewards Academy in the future.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the planning and in the day itself. A great time was had by all and the results were fantastic!



Safeguarding - Break the Vape

We continue to guide and advise students against the dangers of vaping. As we all know this is a big concern for you as parents and for us in school. Some young people in Essex are addicted and struggling to get through the day without using vapes. Last week, years 7-10 had assemblies lead by an external agency, delivering important information about the dangers of vaping, what's in a vape and the addictive nature of vaping.

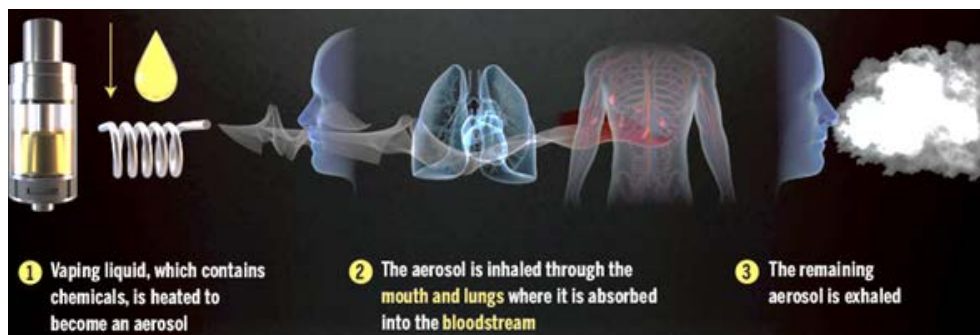
Here is some information shared with the students:

Are you allowed to vape with parents permission? - **No**, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy, sell, or use a vape. If you are caught vaping underage, you could face a fine or even criminal charges.

Can vaping in the house affect children? The vaping liquid contains many harmful chemicals and studies show using an e-cigarette in indoor environments may involuntarily expose non-users to nicotine. Nicotine is a highly addictive substance which can harm adolescent and young adult brain development.



We continue to make students aware of the harm they cause themselves by vaping. Help is available – the doctors can help if your child is addicted to vaping, there is a nicotine patch which can be used to wean people off vaping slowly. Please contact your doctor if this is something you think would help your child.



STEWARDS SAFEGUARDING TEAM 2023



Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Atkinson
The V Safeguarding Office

safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

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

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mr Myatt
Admin Office

Safeguarding Officers: PSM Office



Mrs Morley



Miss Dangerfield



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates



Mrs Hardiman



Mr Hughes
Admin Office

For Safeguarding updates and information please visit:

