



Stewards Academy Newsletter October 2018



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of our first half-term of the academic year, I am very pleased to be able to share some of the successes of the last few weeks.

Our **Open Day** in early September was yet again a resounding success. We were inundated with hundreds of visitors, both for the daytime tours and the evening event. So many of our visitors commented on the warm and friendly reception they received from staff and pupils alike. Our prefects were particular stars, showing our visitors around the school of which they are justly proud.



Following the implementation of **our new reward system**, it has been wonderful to see pupil success recognised with over 15,000 positive points awarded this term so far! We look forward to giving pupils the opportunity to 'spend' their points after half-term. You will find more information over the page in our Stewards Learner article.



Later in September, we celebrated the **European Day of Languages** with a host of activities, including the 'European Bake-off'. I took great pleasure in judging the competition, a challenging task due to the high standard of entries - do see for yourself later in this newsletter. . Hundreds of pupils very much enjoyed buying and eating a slice or two, with proceeds going to MacMillan Cancer Support.

More recently our **Year 11 pupils have been working very hard** in their first round of Pre Public Exams (PPEs). They have shown incredible resilience and responsibility in the way they have approached this opportunity to prepare for their forthcoming GCSEs. A huge well done to Year 11!

We have finished this week with a whole school PSCE workshop; a road-safety event; a theatre trip to Motown the Musical and a Y11 Photography trip to Kew Gardens!

I hope to have given you a flavour of our half-term, but there is lots more to discover inside our newsletter, so please read on.

I would like to share with you an exciting development. **Our new website is due to go live shortly!** Extensive work has taken place behind the scenes over the last year to create a modern, user-friendly site that will ensure that all the information you need is at your fingertips. Do look out for this after half-term and take the opportunity to explore our new site.

Our **gym refurbishment** is now well underway and is due to be completed in the next few weeks. This new space will be multi-purpose and will be now known as the flexi-suite. I hope to share some photos with you in our next newsletter.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to remind our parents who currently have children in Year 6, that the national closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October 2018. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

As always, I continue to feel very privileged to work with the pupils, parents, staff and governors, who form the Stewards Family.

Kind regards,

Helen Ginger, Headteacher



Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

Culture and Character

This year, our new 'Culture and Character' focus builds on what we already do well here at Stewards. As an academy, we are proud to provide our pupils with an education that is not just about the academic, but one that seeks to develop our them as well rounded individuals. We promote a 'mind to be kind' ethos and encourage our pupils to gain a wealth of personal and social skills to enable them to successfully navigate 21st century life. The result, we hope, is that our pupils will leave us in Year 11, as positive citizens who can contribute to society as a whole.

This year, our 'Culture and Character' focus will be led by Assistant Deputy Head, Mrs Ramsey and Lead Teacher, Miss Francis, who will support our pastoral staff and are busy trialling some very exciting initiatives.

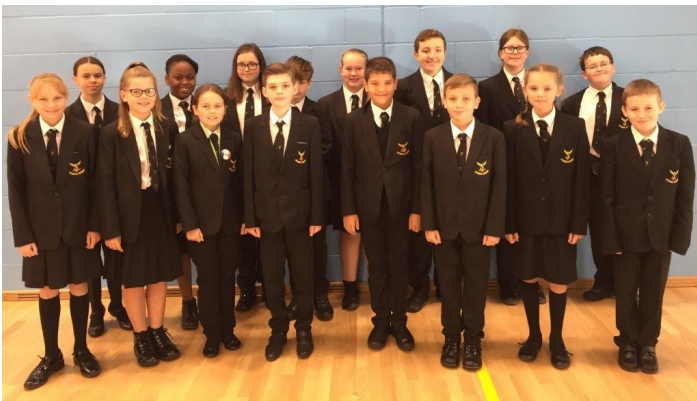
Recognition Round Up

This year, we are proud to launch a brand-new initiative called "The Recognition Round Up" system which actively seeks to recognise individual pupil achievements on a much more regular basis and has been created to support our 'positive points' system and 'Class Charts' programme.

As an academy, we strongly believe that pupils should be praised for their achievements on a regular basis, not just at the end of term or at the end of an academic year. As part of our positive ethos, we focus on the celebration of success and seek to recognise both academic and non-academic accomplishments. We also believe that there should be celebration and praise for all pupils, not just for the high flyers in our classes, and we hope that the new 'Recognition Round Up' system will allow us to do just that.

The system works on a two-weekly cycle during which pupils are asked to display what they have been particularly proud of over this time on a 'Tutee Recognition Board.' These achievements are then celebrated in both the form class and in regular 'Recognition Round Up' assemblies. Pupils then store the evidence of their achievements in their Record of Achievement folders before the cycle starts again. The goal is that by the end of each academic year, pupils should have built up a portfolio of their personal achievements and will have a greater sense of their potential and worth.

Long term, we also hope that pupils will slowly build up the evidence of their achievements across their five years with us, to aid the creation of their personal statements, CVs and letters of application for sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships.



Year 7 Award Winners



TUTEES OF THE WEEK

Year 8 Award Winners

ClassCharts and Positive Points

We believe that an effective rewards system is vital, as it encourages and reinforces the types of positive behaviour we want from our pupils. Pupils who contribute and strive for excellence will be recognised through the reward system.

- Positive points can be awarded by any member of staff, at any time, to any pupil, if they feel a pupil is promoting the ethos of the school.
- Pupils and parents can track the number of positive points awarded through the ClassCharts app and the school website.
- Pupils will be able to access their positive points for rewards of their choice at specific times in the academic year.
- Pupils will need to decide whether they save or spend points for rewards, but points must be spent by the end of the academic year.
- The number of positive points a pupil receives will also allow them to access year group rewards and end of year trips.

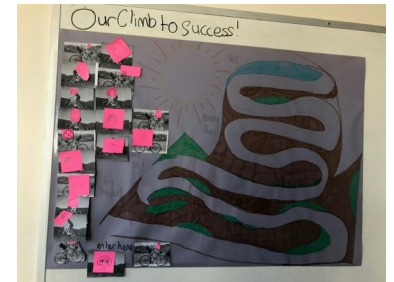
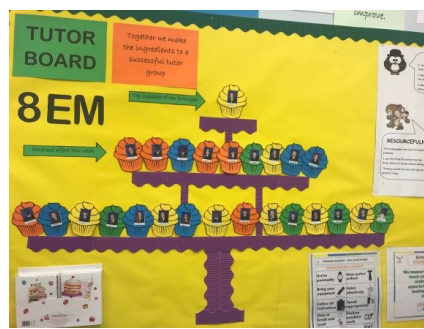
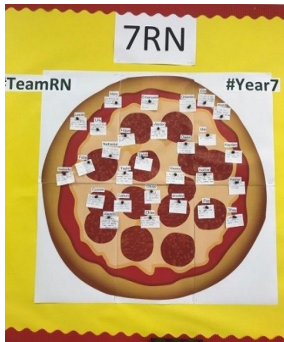


Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

Tutee Recognition Boards

As part of the 'Recognition Round Up' programme, our new 'Tutee Recognition Boards' are now up and running in form rooms and these display many of the achievements that our pupils are proud of this half term. Our enthusiastic tutors have been in competition with one another to produce the most creative design and we now have some fantastic boards on which our pupils are proud to display their achievements.

Well done to 7JAS, 7RN, 8SPL, 8SG and 8EM whose boards are displayed:



Miss Francis, Lead teacher for Culture and Character

Peer Mentor Scheme

In the Summer term, 22 of our Year 9 pupils underwent a rigorous application and interview process, followed by two days of 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.

We're very pleased that for the first time this year, we are able support all pupils in Years 7 and 8. The Peer Mentors will work with their tutor groups throughout the year, visiting them weekly to support them with organisation and homework, and for the younger pupils, settling into their new school life. We also have two dedicated Library Mentors to assist pupils in selecting books and helping them along on their reading journey.

This year, our Peer Mentors are also giving up their social time to offer a lunchtime 'drop-in' session to Year 7 pupils, to help with the questions or worries that may arise in the early weeks of the new term.



Form Representatives

This year, our Form Representatives will focus on our *Culture and Character* initiative. The theme of our meetings this term will be 'Kindness', with pupils in Years 7 & 8, and 9 & 10 coming together in groups to explore ways in which we might be kinder to one another, making our school community an even nicer place to study and work. Following discussions in our weekly meetings, pupils will take those ideas back to their tutor groups for further exploration. Towards the end of the term, they will lead assemblies to showcase the work we've undertaken.



We have also asked our Form Representatives to monitor their tutee recognition boards to ensure that they are kept up to date, and that the achievements of their peers are displayed for all to celebrate!

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



Spotlight on Single Sciences

At Stewards Academy we pride ourselves on our provision of the single sciences, offering our gifted scientists the opportunity to study three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. Yet again this year our scientists achieved outstanding GCSE outcomes of which we are very proud.



Exam News

Triple Science is taught very well, with an abundance of practical activities to support the students learning. This is evidenced by the fact that students perform extremely well at GCSE with our grade 9-4 figures exceeding the national average and our grade 9-7 figures far exceeding the national average.

Results for the Year 11 leavers are typical of the level of student achievement in Triple Science at Stewards Academy.

Using percentage of grades levels 4-9 as a marker of achievement

At grades 4-9 (equivalent to the old A*-C)

Biology achieved 100% , Chemistry achieved 96% pass, Physics achieved 100%

At grades 7-9 (equivalent to the old A-A*)

Biology achieved 37% , Chemistry achieved 37%, Physics achieved 44%



We thought you would be interested in learning a little more about what and how pupils learn in these subjects...

Science students at Stewards Academy have started the year with a range of practical activities designed to pique their curiosity and further their knowledge.

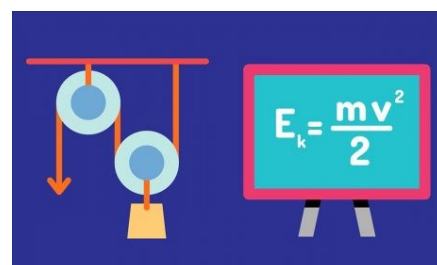
9sc1:



9sc1 have been studying energy with Mr Perrin this term. Pupils have been learning about different types of energy and the principle of conservation of energy – energy can neither be created or destroyed, merely transferred from one form into another. This week 9Sc1 have been studying kinetic energy – the energy of moving things. The class was set the task of working out in theory how fast Aaron Skinner could run without being able to use a stopwatch to time him or any device to measure the distance he ran. The class successfully did this by measuring Aaron’s mass on a set of bathroom scales and using the equation $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$. To see if the theory worked the class then timed how long it took Aaron to run a set distance and compared his actual speed with the theoretical value. It turns out Aaron can run.



Aaron Skinner and classmates investigating kinetic energy under the watchful eye of Mr Perrin.

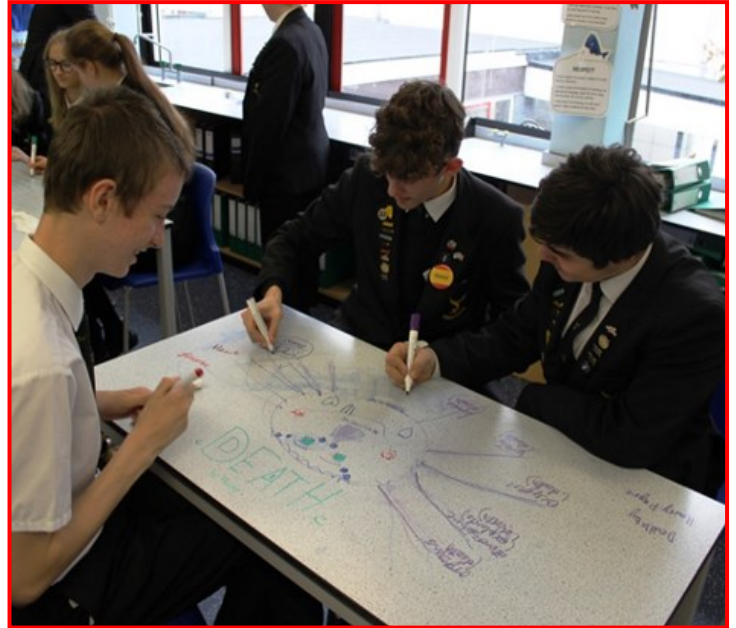




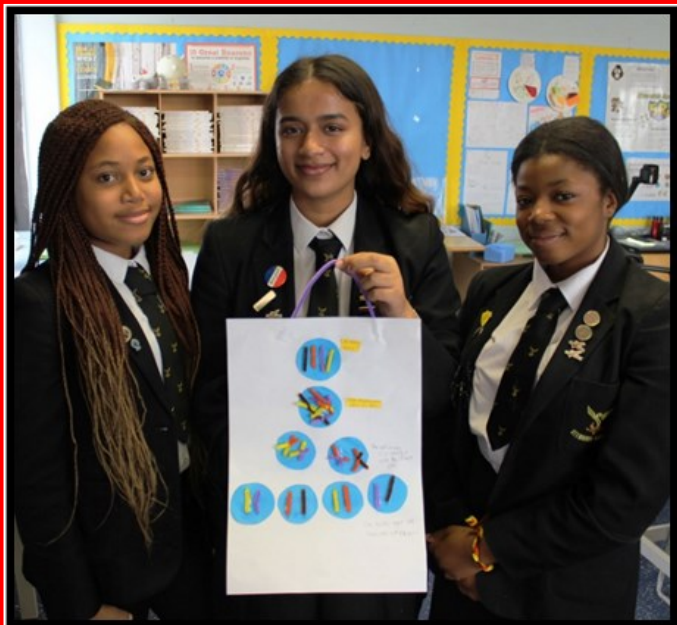
Spotlight on Single Sciences

10sc1:

10Sc1 are beginning to study Homeostasis with Mr Nolan. This is the bodies ability to maintain a constant internal environment for itself. Here they are concept mapping as many functions as they can think of that would need to be controlled within the body. After sharing all of their ideas, key themes such as maintaining body temperature, blood sugar levels, and the balance of water were identified. They will be learning how these processes are regulated by the nervous system and by hormones via the endocrine system. Opportunities to discuss their thoughts and ideas in this way is invaluable in helping students to develop their scientific oracy.



Harry Neville, Kai Henson and Harry Payne creating a concept map to consolidate their existing ideas prior to sharing and discussing them with other members of the class.



11Sc1:

11Sc1 have been studying Meiosis in Biology with Ms Manivchuk. They have been learning how this process is important in generating the sperm or the eggs cells. Meiosis is an important process of cell division which ensures that the sperm or the egg contain the correct selection of inheritable information—DNA. The genetic information for a human is contained in 46 packages called chromosomes. 23 of which come from the mother and 23 from the father. This duplicate information has to be sorted by meiosis so that only a single copy of each chromosome is placed in each sperm or egg cell. Duplicate information at this stage can cause genetic diseases such as Downs Syndrome, resulting from an extra copy of the 21st chromosome.

Mr Perrin, Subject Leader for Science

Rejoice Eghoki, Aleasa Ali and Olamide Nduka using pipe cleaners to demonstrate what happens to the chromosomes in Meiosis, so that the sperm or egg cells produced are unique





Stewards in the News...



Stewards Academy meets Bake Off!

Stewards Academy celebrated the European Day of Languages with a Great European Bake Off competition!

The winning entries were: Millie Ward and Scarlett Bowers from Year 7, Teddy Keys-Kidd and Lillie Wright from Year 8 and Katie Swallow and Izzi Spooner from year 9. All winners will be receiving prizes during assemblies this week.

Lucia Rafferty, Subject Leader for MFL, said: "The languages department are all very proud of the fantastic effort made by students. We look forward to the return of the Great European Bake Off in 2019!"

Miss L Rafferty, Subject Leader MFL



National Poetry Day

Stewards Academy celebrated National Poetry Day on 4th October. The theme was 'change'. Pupils and staff participated in a range of poetry related activities in the Library.



Congratulations to Luis Ali who was the winner of the poetry writing competition.

Mrs Bailey, Reading Manager

Bullying

The boy you beat up yesterday committed suicide a few hours ago
 The girl you called fat is starving herself
 The girl you hit, she's getting abused at home
 The man you laughed at for having scars on his head,
 Well he fought for our country
 Your actions have consequences, everyone has feelings
 So
 Please CHANGE!



Performing Arts

Shakespeare Schools Festival



Stewards' Drama department is participating in the Shakespeare Schools Festival for the eleventh year this year! Following last year's tragedies– Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet– this year we are going for the comedies! The year 10 GCSE Drama class will be performing A Midsummer Night's Dream and the year 8/9 cast will be performing Twelfth Night.

Cast members and members of the technical team had great fun at their cast workshop on 9th October. They had a 2 and a half hour session at The Playhouse, Harlow with theatre professionals from the SSF. Pupils explored language and character techniques as well as working on extracts from their plays.

Tickets are now on sale from The Playhouse and through the academy for the performance evening on Thursday 15th November.



Motown Theatre Trip



52 lucky pupils got the opportunity to travel to London to see Motown the musical on 16th November. Not only is this a fantastic show but it stars one of Stewards alumni– Amandla Elynah. Amandla is a 'swing' meaning she plays a multitude of parts! We were lucky to see her as a Supreme.

Amandla visited the academy in the summer term and met the now year 10 GCSE Drama class. She gave a talk about her education and career to date and looks forward to visiting us again soon!



Pupils were blown away by the show and loved seeing someone they had met in it. One student that is hoping to follow in Amandla's footsteps said: "It was brilliant meeting someone who went to Stewards and now performs in the West End. Her dreams really have come true and that is something I would like to do in the future."

Essex Music School

The term is well underway now with 60 students from Stewards, our local primary schools and other secondary schools attending. A range of instruments are on offer along with a variety of ensembles that pupils can participate in. These include; wind band, ukulele, music technology, vocal group and theory.

Vouchers are available to support pupils who have FSM or if household income is below £22,000.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Tina Hathaway

tina.hathaway@essex.gov.uk / 07554 225645

Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher



Swimming

The ESSA 61st Secondary Schools Team Championship for Herts Bucks and Essex was held at Woodside Pool in Watford on 28th September 2018. The boys performed admirably against some of the best private and Grammar schools in the region.

The senior team performed brilliantly winning their heat, a first for Stewards. The team eventually finished a very respectable 7th place in both the medley and the freestyle.

The Year 7 and 8s team didn't fare as well in their events, finishing in 15th position overall against some strong opposition, however they will be back next year to improve on their performance.

Both teams should be proud of their efforts on the evening. There was a fantastic camaraderie between both teams and the team manager (Fraser Mann). Several of the boys achieved personal best times, highlighting their commitment to the team and the Academy.

A special mention must go to Neil Mann and Nicola Arnold for their continued support of swimming at the Academy.

The team was made up of; William White, Charlie Jenkins, Max Arnold, Daniel Monk, Ethan May, Morgan Arnold and Kai Henson.

Inter-Form Competition: Cross Country

The first inter-form event was cross country and there was a huge turnout across KS3. Pupils were aiming to secure points for their respective forms and colours whilst trying to qualify for the school cross country team for the WESSA fixture at Burnt Mill.

Congratulations to the following pupils who finished 1st in their respective age groups;



Year 7: Gabriel Keita and Rachel Carpenter

Year 8: Millad Otaki and Divine Idehen Amen

Year 9: Danny Raymond and Daisy Poole

Year 10: Morgan Arnold and Amie Presnall

Current Colour Standings for the Inter - Form Competition

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Total	Position
BLUE	0	10	14	14	38	2
GREEN	10	4	11	0	25	6
PINK	16	13	4	8	41	1
PURPLE	9	7	0	0	16	8
ORANGE	11	7	8	7	33	4
RED	4	8	0	6	18	7
WHITE	14	10	8	0	32	5
YELLOW	6	6	14	11	37	3

Mr Sanders, Subject Leader PE



Pupil Voice

School Council

The School Council have had a busy first couple of weeks with preparations and training for Open Day and Open Evening tours. As always the pupils were a credit to the academy with many parents and visitors taking the time to comment on how good pupils were as tours guides both in person and via email. Hearing such high praise of our pupils is always wonderful and demonstrates how passionately pupils feel about the academy. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Michael Casey of Your Harlow who wrote a lovely article about the evening– commenting on how busy the academy was! Nearly 1000 visitors flocked to visit the academy across the day and evening– the School Council and prefects were certainly kept busy!

School Council members have attended regular meetings this half term, with the core Student Leadership Team meeting weekly. Discussion topics so far have focused on one of the 5Rs – Respect, and what this looks like around the academy. My thanks to the Year 11 pupils that prepared and delivered assemblies to KS3 pupils on respecting the academy site. Pupil voice is a powerful tool in supporting the key messages of the academy.

Year7 speakers

Not daunted by the prospect of only having been at Stewards a week, a number of year 7s volunteered to speak at Open Evening in front of two full audiences. The chosen pupils, representing a range of primary schools, spoke articulately and confidently about their first week as part of the Stewards Family. The pupils were: Leslie Appiah, Erin Baldry, Emily Braham, Amie Bryant, Charlie Cripps, Lucy Eels, Gabriel Keita, Connor Longley, Madison Lintonbon-Baker, Danny McCarthy and Millie Ward.



Charity Team

The charity team did sterling work collecting donations for Jeans 4 Genes day. We did this slightly differently this year with pupils and staff wearing normal uniform on the top half. Although some pupils were apprehensive about the change to a 'typical' non-uniform day those that embraced it raised £300 for charity, well done!

Preparations for next half term's charity events are now underway. It will be a busy time with Poppies on sale, Children in Need activities, and the Stewards Christmas Appeal. More information to follow after half term.

Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher

Governor's Report

A number of governors were present at the open day earlier 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 who made speeches in the evening.

I hope many of you will have seen the work being carried out on the old gym area, where we are creating a new flexible learning space, continuing our plans for the improvement of Stewards to give us the facilities we need to provide the best learning environment we can.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term holiday.

Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors



Year Group News

Year 11

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.

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.

The students attitude towards their first set of PPE's has been brilliant and I hope their results will match the attitude shown. Sitting PPEs early in the year helps 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 new 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 11

Key Dates

NOVEMBER 2018

Thursday 8th November	Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 12th November	INSET Day
Tuesday 13th November	INSET Day
Tuesday 13th November	Year 11 Drama Devising Exam (10am - 1pm)
Thursday 15th November	Shakespeare School Festival - Harlow Playhouse (7pm)
Friday 16th November	Children In Need Day
Thursday 22nd November	Year 9 Parents Evening

December 2018

Monday 10th December	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 11th December	Christmas Concert (6pm)
Thursday 13th December	Ski Trip Parents Meeting
Wednesday 19th December	Term finishes 1pm

January 2019

Thursday 3rd January	Term starts - Week 2
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