



# Stewards Academy

## Newsletter December 2018



### HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to lead our exceptional school, especially in the lead up to Christmas. The **Stewards Christmas Tree** stands outside my office in all its glory, raising our spirits in this festive season. The tree was decorated by four Year 7 pupils, who were specially selected for their positive contribution to our Academy - what a super job they did!

On Monday I had the opportunity to serve our young people, quite literally, with their roast potatoes during our **Christmas Lunch** - with Mr Scholtes, our Senior Deputy Headteacher, in charge of vegetables and gravy! The diversity of our roles as senior leaders continues to be a pleasure and a surprise!



On Tuesday we were thoroughly entertained at the **Christmas Concert** with an array of singing, dancing and music. It was a complete sell out and we had to find extra chairs to accommodate everyone. A fabulous time was had by all!

This week is also the first of our new **"Praise Weeks"** for the whole school, with pupils who have a positive balance of points being rewarded with a special treat. Our new ClassCharts rewards system has proved to be very popular with pupils, as they enjoy the recognition received through positive points. I have particularly enjoyed rewarding excellence on my daily Climate Walks with my Headteacher postcards.

I am pleased to announce that our new **Flexi-suite** is up and running. Staff and pupils are enjoying this new facility, with dance classes, subject lectures, revision sessions, assemblies and staff training among the activities taking place. You may see from the photograph the curtained dance mirrors and the sliding wall (shown concertinaed), which divides the space into two learning areas when required. The space also includes two projectors with screens and sound equipment, which makes it a very versatile facility. This is now the main teaching area for our very popular GCSE Dance, with the classes enjoying the additional space.



In this edition, you will have the pleasure of learning about our new **Culture and Character Programme**, led by our Assistant Headteacher Mrs Ramsey. Developing character in our young people has always been an important aspect of the ethos of our school and it is heart warming to see this being taken to the next level with this programme.

I do hope that you have taken the opportunity to explore our new **website**; we will be continuing to add new information over the coming months. Our website now links directly to our twitter feed—please take the opportunity to follow us [@StewardsAcademy](https://twitter.com/StewardsAcademy) if you do not already. I also have my own headteacher account [@Stewards\\_Head](https://twitter.com/Stewards_Head), giving an almost daily insight into school life at Stewards. We are very proud of our pupils and staff and would love to share this with you.

It leaves me now just to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to continuing to work together in the New Year.

Kind regards,

**Helen Ginger**

**Headteacher**



# Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

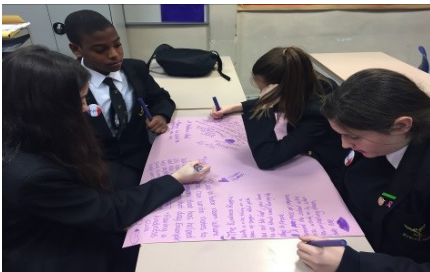
## Year 7 and 8 Form Representatives

This term the team has been meeting weekly, getting to know each other and considering how we might promote kindness around our school.

It has been lovely to see the pupils working together, particularly the way in which our Year 8 members have supported and encouraged the younger members of our team, who have grown in confidence and resilience in just a few weeks. The result of this has been impressive group work: the discussion has been purposeful and productive; all are invited to offer ideas and those ideas are then allowed to grow and develop.



Most recently, we have been exploring ways in which we might bring some of our ideas into Morning Prep. Suggestions so far include: a kind word of the day; a dedicated section on the tutor board where we can recognise acts of kindness; and monitors around school who report acts of kindness (perhaps anonymously!). We also plan to take our ideas into assembly so that our school community can see the work we are doing. We will continue to work on this during the Spring Term and I am confident that I will have more to report in our first newsletter of next year.



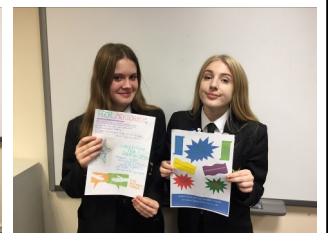
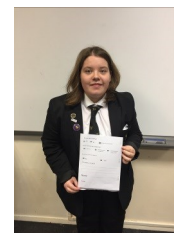
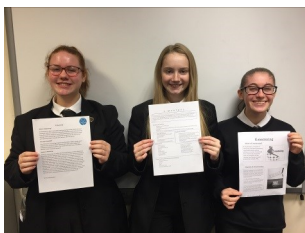
It has been a pleasure working with the team this term. They are a delightful and dedicated group of young people; I know they will go from strength to strength as the year progresses, and I am looking forward to continuing their journey with them in the New Year.

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

## Peer Mentors

This term, the Peer Mentor team has worked tirelessly to support our Year 7 and 8 pupils. They visit Morning Prep weekly and work with pupils, either individually or in small groups, in a number of ways. Library visits, private reading, the Independent Study Folder and organisation for the day have been a staple of their work this term. The team have also carried out independent research as a means of developing their role; introduced a *Thinking Box* to enable pupils to leave their mentor a message when they are not in Morning Prep; and designed promotional posters to explain the role of the Peer Mentor.

More recently, the team has been involved in spelling coaching and homework guidance, and is also in the process of designing a questionnaire which will offer pupils a voice in terms of how they would like to be supported by their mentors. Furthermore, their Games Club (which runs on Thursday lunchtimes) offered to pupils in Years 7 and 8, is now established, well attended and enjoyed by all.



It has been a very busy first term for the team; however they have risen to the challenge and have faced every obstacle and new idea with gusto! They are an incredible group of young people and I have really enjoyed working with them this term. I would like to thank them for their dedication and look forward to working with them next term.

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



# Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

## **Congratulations to our “Tutees of the Week”!**

Congratulations to all pupils across Years 7-10 who have been awarded “Tutee of the Week” this term.

Following the launch and success of the Class Charts programme in the Autumn Term, we have now embedded the concept of “Tutee of the Week” into our positive points programme at Stewards Academy. Every week, each tutor is given the opportunity to nominate one pupil who they feel is most deserving of the title. Nominations have been for a wealth of reasons, including attitude to learning, excellent work, one of the 5Rs, commitment to the wider school community or a demonstration of a particular positive attribute. It has been fantastic to receive so many nominations since September and to have had the opportunity to commend the nominated pupils in assemblies.



We recently had the privilege of meeting this term’s nominees for a celebratory photo. It was a wonderful experience and a chance to praise the pupils for their achievements. Well done to all!

## **Kindness Outside of the School Gates**

Working with the local and the wider community is really important to us at Stewards Academy and as part of our “Mind to be Kind” focus this year, we are asking Year 9 and 10 Form Representatives to come up ideas as to how we can extend our “kindness” outside of the school gates.

The students have considered how supporting their local community can bring a whole host of benefits. Lending a helping hand can help to make new friends, learn new skills, open up career paths and, most importantly, give something back to the wider community.

The Form Representatives have spent a number of weeks researching and are now in the throws of putting together a timetable of assemblies and projects for 2019 that they plan to present to Mrs Ginger.

Pupils have chosen a number of causes that they would like to get involved with, both inside and outside of school, and just some of these include, work at a “Soup Kitchen”, “The Samaritans Christmas Box Appeal”, “The British Legion Stationary Project”, “A Muddy Run for Cancer” and an “Odd Socks- Anti Bullying Day” for Autumn 2019.

Well done Year 9 and 10. Keep up the good work!

**Miss Francis**

## **School Council**

The School Council have had a busy half term preparing for different activities and discussing key topics in their year groups. Year 8s and Year 9s have chosen ‘Respect’ as their key focus for the year and have been exploring ways they can present their ideas to their respective year groups including assembly presentation, role-play and work booklets.

The charity reps have been very busy with Children in Need, preparing for the Stewards Christmas Appeal and other charity activities this term.

**Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher**



# Stewards Learner—Culture and Character

## Stewards Christmas Appeal

In preparation for the Stewards Christmas Appeal, posters and boxes were delivered to all tutor groups (courtesy of the Year 11s) to enable the collection of any donated items for those in need. Darcy and Sara also prepared and presented an assembly to years 7-9 explaining the purpose of the appeal. The appeal has been hugely successful in the last two years and this year looks to be just as good!

## St Clare Hospice

In support of our local charity, the Stewards Family is taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14th December with all money going to the hospice. We have also seen the return of the Christmas toys that were very popular last time and these have been snapped up by staff and pupils alike!



## EMPV—Ethnic Minority Pupil Voice

The first meeting of the EMPV was a great opportunity for pupils to share their stories and discuss what they would like the group to focus on this year. Next term the School Council and EMPV will be busy preparing for the Celebration of Culture week. Lots of exciting things ahead!

## Wider Key Skills Charity Event

The Wider Key Skills students took the opportunity to plan and execute a charity fundraising activity, selling cakes and soft toys to raise money for Mind—a mental health charity.



## Jack Petchey Award Winners

Pupils and staff have nominated a number of pupils to receive a Jack Petchey award this term. After discussion with members of the student leadership team the first of our award winners have been selected. Congratulations to all of our worthy winners this term.

### Rosie Smith

Rosie has always tried her best at school and is a hard-working and conscientious pupil. She is an excellent role-model to the younger pupils and her peers who value her dedication to charity work. This year, Rosie has led the charity team, of which she has been a member throughout her time at Stewards; she has diligently supported both local and national charities.

### Sara Ilett

Sara has shown great commitment to academy life over her 5 years at Stewards. She is dedicated to the Performing Arts and has participated in many productions, concerts and showcases.

Sara is a superb role model to her peers and younger pupils who value her kindness and support. She is a strong leader of the School Council and takes her position of responsibility seriously.

### Connor Gladwin-Brown

Connor has made huge progress academically and socially during his time at Stewards Academy. He has shown real determination to succeed and is the embodiment of the 5Rs: resourcefulness, respect, resilience, responsibility and reflection—attributes that make up an excellent Stewards learner. Connor should be congratulated for his hard work and is a worthy recipient of the Jack Petchey award.



Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher



# Stewards Learner—Charity News

## Children in Need



To support Children in Need 2018 the charity team at Stewards Academy decided on a theme of Heroes and Villains! All staff and pupils participated in a non-uniform day with many dressing up in their favourite hero or villain costume.



The winners of the competition were decided by Mrs Ginger and Mrs Ramsey. They were:

Cruella De Vil a.k.a Chloe-Anne Bidmead, year 7

Dr Strange a.k.a Harry Payne, year 10

Queen of Hearts a.k.a Olivia Neale, year 8

The Joker a.k.a Jayden Williams-Cousins, year 7



The charity reps led by Heads of Charity team- Amelia, Rosie and Jamie- produced some excellent cakes and delicious treats for the bake sale. Jamie also produced some beautiful wooden spinning tops that were snapped up by staff and pupils alike.



The total amount of money raised from the bake sale and non-uniform day was **£944.50**.

A huge well done to the Stewards Family for an excellent effort!

Special thanks must also go to Erin Pratt from year 8 for her superb cake.

**Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher**



# Spotlight on Child Development

## Child Development

This year saw the introduction of a new Child Development Course at KS4. It has proved to be a very popular choice and 30 pupils are currently studying the course.

Becoming a parent is one of life's major experiences, and it is also one of life's major responsibilities. Responsibility for the well-being of a child starts before conception and through this course we have started to provide learners with an overview of the roles and responsibilities of parenthood alongside an understanding of reproduction and pre-conceptual, antenatal and postnatal care.

By completing this unit, learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of creating the best conditions for a child to thrive. This includes creating a child-friendly home environment, including social safety and the care, management and prevention of childhood illnesses.

Students in Year 9 have had a successful start to Child Development this year.

Nearly one term in and we have already covered the following topics:

- Types of Family
- Deciding when to have a baby
- The Male reproductive system
- The Female reproductive system
- Contraception
- Health before conceiving
- Conception
- Developing of the foetus
- Multiple pregnancies
- Miscarriage
- Diet during pregnancy
- Exercise, Posture and rest
- Drugs and Disease
- Maternal care
- Labour
- Medical Assistance
- Family preparation



### Pupil Comments:

Lily-Mae Fry – “In Child Development I have covered so much information; we have covered topics such as multiple pregnancies and miscarriages which was very interesting.”

Lois Bryant – “Child Development has been amazing; we have learnt about things that I never thought I would have the chance to learn about. We are so lucky to be learning this in school as it sets us up for the real world.”

Lily Hill - “Child Development has been the most interesting subject I've ever taken. I've learnt so much and know all the information will help me when I decide to become a parent.”

Ms Mohamed, Science Teacher, Head of PSHE and Vocational Coordinator

## Governor's Report

The Autumn Term has been a busy time for the Governors, updating various policies, particularly those concerning finance and personnel matters, reviewing the finances for the year ending August 31<sup>st</sup> in preparation for meeting with our auditors and agreeing the budget for the current year. We have also met with the members of the senior management team who explained their various responsibilities.

At the time of writing, two of my favourite events, the Year 11 Mock Interviews and the Christmas Concert have yet to be held, but I am confident that they will be to the usual high standard, so I feel safe in congratulating all involved. I am sure that there will be nerves on both occasions but I am certain that all will acquit themselves well.

Finally as we approach the end of term, may I on behalf of the governors, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every success in the New Year.

Mr Tarling, Chair of Governors



# Reading Week

Our first reading week of the school year took place on 5th to 9th November and for the first time we had 'Science Fiction' as the theme. The week was packed with fun activities for pupils to join in and included a Sci-Fi short-story competition, book recitals in the Library from well know Sci-Fi book 'The War of the World's (with sound effects!), word searches, quizzes, and a drop everything and read session (DEAR) for 20 minutes each day across the whole school. The winner of the writing competition was Finlay Thurston-McGowan 7ROG who wrote a fantastic story which was full of suspense and mystery. The two runners up were Lexi Pemberton 7ROG and Cyd Champion 8TEC. The winner of the Science Fiction Quiz was Cyd Champion 8TEC, and winners of the word search and riddles competitions were Honie Dunn 8SD and Kati Brayne 8TEC. Congratulations to all of our winners. They all received a certificate and prize.



Winners Lexi Pemberton 7ROG, Finlay Thurston-McGowan 7ROG, Cyd Champion 8TEC and Kati Brayne 8TEC.

Incredibly so far this school year, 2550 books have been read totalling 52 million words! Pupils are busy reading books and taking quizzes to earn points towards their autumn target.

Mrs C Bailey, Reading Manager

## Art

### Young Curators 2018 - 19

On Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> November three Year 10 pupils from Stewards Academy took part in interviews for the Young Curators course which is run within the Gibberd Gallery.

The course involves visiting galleries, keeping a diary, working alongside artists and professionals to develop an understanding of the profession and to enable them to enhance their skills. Pupils will be curating exhibitions within the gallery space which will be open for the public to view.

I would like to congratulate all the candidates for applying, even though not all were successful, they still underwent the interviewing process and gained valuable experience.

This years successful candidates were:

**Zoë Pask**

**Briany Knevett**

Although unsuccessful this time, huge well done to Jude Geraghty for applying and undergoing the interview process.

We in the Art Department are very pleased with how the pupils conducted themselves and represented the school in what was their first formal interview.

### Adult Art Classes

Adult Art classes are available on a Tuesday evening for parents who have an interest in developing their skills or are looking to start a new hobby. Beginners are welcome and sessions can be tailored for individual interests and needs. Sessions are designed to help build confidence and assist in learning strategies on how to start a piece of work and develop in a variety of styles within disciplines such as drawing, painting, water colour and sculpture.

Sessions run from 6pm to 8pm on a Tuesday evening and costs £6 per session. If you are interested please contact Mr White.

GALLERY  
**Gibberd**



Miss Martin, Head of Art and Photography



# Performing Arts

## Shakespeare Schools Festival

Stewards Academy recently took part in the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival, which is an annual event which provides opportunities for young people to work with theatre professionals and perform in venues all over the UK.



The plays chosen this year were 'Twelfth Night' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Following an audition process, students were selected for principal and ensemble roles, technical theatre roles and marketing.

The students first attended a cast workshop at Harlow Playhouse led by representatives from the Shakespeare Schools Foundation, who organise the festival. This allowed them to get a feel for the stage and venue and work with casts from another local school.

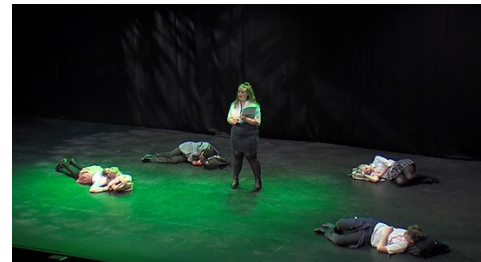
The final performance date arrived, and the casts arrived at the theatre for a technical and dress rehearsal to finalise sound and lighting cues, entrances, exits and blocking. By the evening, the audience had arrived to watch the cast present their plays with confidence and professionalism. Following the performances each cast was given an appraisal by the Festival Co-ordinator.

Here are some quotes from the pupils who participated:

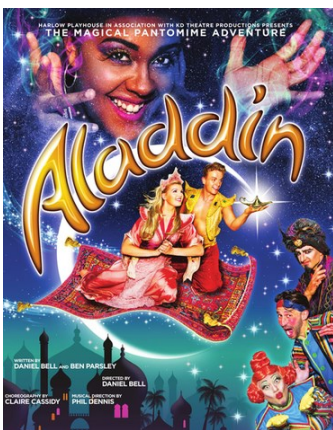
*"We made lots of new friends from the other school."*

*"The Playhouse is a completely different setting from school - this helped to improve my confidence."*

*"The cast workshop was fun and gave us a chance to explore our roles."*



Congratulations to Year 9 student, Liam Holt, who recently took his Grade 1 Saxophone exam and achieved a Pass.  
Well done Liam!



### Year 7 Pantomime trip to 'Aladdin'

A trip to the Harlow Playhouse pantomime was organised by Miss Dangerfield, PSM, for the Year 7s. Originally 100 tickets were booked but so in demand was the trip that we were lucky to get an additional 20! The pupils and staff had a fantastic time and it was brilliant to see local talent on display. All of our pupils were a credit to the Academy and really got in to the spirit of the show. Looking forward to next year!

Miss Johnson, Assistant Headteacher and acting Head of Performing Arts



## Games Captains 2018/19

Our Games Captains have been voted into their positions by their peers within their tutor groups. Their role is to organise the teams for the Inter-form Competition and Sports Day. Congratulations to all those that have been selected for the 2018-19 academic year and good luck in your new roles!

Mr Sanders, Subject Leader - PE



### Year 7

**Girls:** Katherine Obeng, Leslie Appiah, Sophie Osazee-Igbinomwanhia, Lexi Pemberton, Melissa Boon, Jessica Dackombe, Libby Lewis & Shauna Saahene.

**Boys:** Rokas Kalasinskas, Oliver Wizniewski, Gabriel Keita, Marcus Bridge, Steven Burch, Sean Brown, Jesse Ansen & Bradley Bartlett.

### Year 8

**Girls:** Leah Smart, Daisy Billington, Lucy Dobbin, Jess Bromley Cartwright, Tiffany Page, Divine Idehen-Amen, Neve Oehme & Courtney Burns.

**Boys:** Ben Noruwa, Jake Collier, Max Arnold, Rafferty Groat, Cyd Champion, Toby Clegg, Luis Ali, Charlie Hawkins & Adrien Spartachino.



### Year 9

**Girls:** Jessica Purser, Eva Hart, Daisy Dove, Chelsea Manton, Amarnie Morrison-Finlay, Mia Todd, Kemerah Denty & Elise Smart.

**Boys:** Patrick Snowdon, Levi Green, Dylan Walker, Danny Raymond, Tom Crick, Joshua Palmer, Jack Willis.



### Year 10

**Girls:** Aimee Presnall, Millie Parry, Emmie Harrison-Stent, Jessica Brayne, Arletta Czarnecka, Abbie Mace, Faith Idehen, Skye Stevens.

**Boys:** Fraser Mann, Logan Stephens, Morgan Arnold, Malik Hassan, Freddy Neal, Ben Carter, Harrison Matthews & Clifford Ahemd.







## Award Winning Swimming

The Harlow Sports Award ceremony was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Civic Hall. Nicola Arnold won the Unsung Hero award for all her work with the Harlow Swimming Club and she was then nominated for the County Active Essex Awards for her voluntary work with the Harlow Penguins. On 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Essex awards we were delighted to find that Harlow Penguins had won!

I was also there to represent Stewards Academy for the work we do with SEN children in the pool and in the new sports hall.



We have been running a SEN swimming lesson program, called Barracudas, for about 15 years. Every Tuesday after school we have about 40 children attending the lessons, and all our staff get involved one way or another.

The main objective for many parents is to see their children enjoying being in the water; once they are happy to get in each week the teachers can begin the process of teaching the basic swimming skills and many of our swimmers develop into accomplished swimmers.

The swimming team work on a one to one basis to give the children the confidence to enjoy the water and eventually learn to swim, which is a fantastic life skill as well as being great for general fitness.

Over the years we have taught many children and some Stewards Academy pupils have benefited from attending our lesson program.

We also run SEN trampolining lessons every Saturday morning which is attended by about 20 children. While not as important as a life skill the trampolining sessions offer many SEN children, especially Autistic children, the chance to take part in a club and enjoy the social aspect of taking part in sport as well as the physical exercise benefits.

We were nominated in the Services to Inclusive Sports category and we won that award. Kaylee Holgate was also nominated for an individual award and was one of the four finalists in the night.

We also have three volunteers that help us out every week and those children should also be congratulated for the effort they put in. Kate Lidbury has been helping for over a year now and is a 'favourite' for many of our swimmers. Sophia Johnson is a recent recruit for us and is already a big hit with the children and Fraser Mann has been helping on and off throughout all his Stewards Academy days and has recently been a more regular helper.

Congratulations to all off the Stewards Swim Team on this prestigious award.



**Mr N Mann, Pool and Lettings Manager**





# Year 11

## Merry Christmas!

The first full term is now complete. You only really have one full term left! Can you believe it? I can't! It really is time to make the most of every opportunity. This term has been really busy, and I am very pleased with how you have worked. You all deserve a well-earned break, so I hope you have a great time with your family over the Christmas period.

Please read the information below in preparation for the New Year:

### Homework and Coursework

All homework and coursework deadlines must be met. Start organising your time wisely to ensure this happens. If you feel you need help, don't forget about the extra-curricular options that are available to you. Please get everything completed when asked to. The later you leave coursework, the harder it will be.

### Pomodoro Revision

Please don't forget that this is available to you every Monday. Be in the hall for 3:15 start. It's a great learning environment and you can get support from teachers and friends.

### Exams

Please remember that your PPEs begin on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Although they are practice exams, I want you to prepare for them as if they were your real GCSEs. All your results will be going on your college applications, so please don't let yourselves down. You need the best grades possible in order to gain a place in your next educational establishment.

### Harlow Educational Progress Awards

I would like to congratulate Abbie Matthews (11MR) and Leroy Dube (11PG) for the progress they have made in their studies. In early December, these 2 students were invited to join 80 students across the whole of Harlow to receive an award. Well done and Congratulations!

### Christmas Festivities

I hope you all have a wonderful time together, enjoy your break and return to school with new goals and New Year's resolutions!

Mr G Hughes – Pastoral Lead

## Key Dates

### December 2018

Wednesday 19th December      Term finishes 1pm

### January 2019

Thursday 3rd January              Term starts - Week 2

Tuesday 8th January              GCSE Drama Trip - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Tuesday 15th January              Year 8 girls HPV 1 Injections

Thursday 17th January              Year 10 Parents Evening

### February 2019

Thursday 7th February              Year 9 and 10 UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Thursday 7th February              Year 8 Parents Evening

Monday 18th                              Half Term