

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw nearer to the end of the Autumn Term, and reflecting on the last 15 weeks, I have to conclude that it has been somewhat of a 'term of two halves'.

The first half-term was broadly normal, both in terms of attendance, curriculum delivery and extra-curricular provision. This also extended into the first week of the second half-term, although, since this point, it has been increasingly challenging in terms of rising Covid-19 cases locally and the recent introduction of restrictions associated with the Omicron variant. Whilst I am deeply frustrated in what appears to be a retrograde step, I will continue to manage this in line with local and national guidance.

On a personal level, I have had the pleasure of attending *Elf the Musical*; watching parts of the Christmas Concert; meeting the Cross Country National Finalists and ESU Public Speaking Team; and presenting the Jack Petchey winners with their certificates and badges. I was also pleased that the House Reward Assemblies were able to proceed ahead and pupils' achievements have been (rightly) formally recognised and celebrated together.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.

Mr. N. Houchen, Principal

Merry Christmas

SKILLS BUILDER BRONZE AWARD



Congratulations to Mr. N. Dunn and the Careers Department for securing the Skills Builder Bronze Award.

The award recognises a commitment to the development of essential skills such as: speaking; listening; teamwork; leadership; creativity; problem solving; aiming high; and staying positive.

Click here for the [Bronze Award](#)

ATTENDANCE

For the Autumn Term, overall attendance was 92.2 % vs. a (current) national average of 87.3% (+4.9 %). Further, Covid-related absence (self-isolation) was 3.5 %. When added to the total for the term, overall attendance stands at 95.7 % and in line with the Academy's target of 96.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	90.4
Bowland	93.0
Elveden	92.6
Kielder	91.9
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	91.6
Whinfell	92.5
Overall	92.2

Click here for the [Attendance Report Update Letter](#)

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Academy is currently managing Covid-19 in line with local and national guidance.

Click here for all [Covid-19 Updates](#)

YEAR 11 GCSE INFORMATION

Click here for [GCSE Examinations Update Letter](#)

Click here for [Year 11 Mock Examinations Letter](#)

REMOTE LEARNING

Remote learning is delivered via MS Teams, a facility which allows teachers to host video and audio calls, share documents, conversations, files and notes, collaborate on virtual whiteboards and issue and mark assignments.

Click here for further information on [Remote Learning](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



During this half-term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) have been developing their presentation skills. They met to decide on the area of focus for Student Voice and created and

delivered a presentation to each year group on the key discussion points. In terms of the latter, pupils have been asked to look at how the current Rewards System can be improved and how the Academy's community involvement can be widened.



Following their presentations, the StLT then invited Form Captains to feedback on the discussion points. The StLT will then meet with Mr. N. Houchen in January to discuss implementation.



LITERACY ART

During the Spring Term, a gallery of 'Literacy Art' dedicated to book lovers and non-readers alike, will be displayed across the Academy.

The StLT have created a series of posters encouraging pupils to select a novel and read for pleasure, or to challenge themselves and read outside their usual genres. Most younger pupils enjoy reading at Junior School but this tends to subside, so, if you are looking for an extra present at this time of year, why not choose a book for your child to relish and revel in.

Several staff, as well as the StLT, have been photographed reading their favourite book, whilst recounting its impact. These posters will be arranged around the Academy to help encourage and inspire pupils to remember a book they have loved, to re-read it, or to find a new one that they will derive equal pleasure from.



BRONZE DOFE PRESENTATION



Congratulations to 92 Year 11 pupils who successfully achieved the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The pupils were presented with their award by Mr. N. Houchen along with staff who attended the expeditions and assisted the pupils throughout the year. We look forward to seeing more pupils achieve their Bronze Award in the next few months.

YEAR 7 NEWSPAPER

To reflect on their experiences during the first term at secondary school, Year 7 pupils have produced an inaugural 'Year 7 Newspaper'.

Each pupil was given a hard copy to take home and there are some really heartening and encouraging messages.

The major contributors include: Daisy M.-C. (7B); Violet-Rose B. (7B); and Patience S. (7B).



Click here for the [Year 7 Newspaper](#)

THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY PODCAST



A dedicated team of pupils from Years 7 – 10, with help from Mr. S. Harrison, have started a podcast with the aim of promoting positive news and focusing on the topics that really matter to the pupils. The team have planned, written and conducted interviews with pupils and teachers on a range of subjects, including - online safety, school clubs and 'finding your place'.

A massive well done to the core members of the podcast: Rosie W. (7A); Oliver D. (7B); Liam B. (7S); Robbie-Jay N. (8E); and Lewis C. (9S).



Click here to listen to the [Podcast](#)

Pupil Success

MUSIC PREFECTS

During this term, several Year 11 pupils have successfully applied for the position of Music Prefect. The Music Department is very busy on a daily basis and the Prefects ensure that pupils who are using the practise rooms are doing so in accordance with department policy. Each Prefect commits to one early morning and one lunchtime duty per week. The main responsibilities involve booking practice rooms at lunchtimes, monitoring the safe and sensible use of the rooms and ensuring that they are vacated on time and left tidy. Prefects are also required to represent the department at Open Evening, concerts and other public events.



Congratulations to: Korben B. (11E); Noah B. (11R); Lexie D. (11W); Charlie E. (11W); Scott G. (11B); Tianna G. (11W); Lewis H. (11R); Sage L. (11E); Aimee M. (11A); Eddie N. (11K); Olivia P. (11S); Layla W. (11A); Lucia W. (11R); Antony W. (11B); and Matthew W. (11A).

GEOGRAPHY CLUB OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Members of the Geography Club were tasked with creating their own globes. With DoFE helpers on hand, we made a spectacular 15 globes! As a big thank you, Geography Club was awarded a festive party to celebrate its first term back. Pictured; Ellie T. (10R); Maya L. (10A); Bessie S. (10A); and Ruby B. (7E).



MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRACTISE ROOMS

The Music Department is very fortunate to have a suite of four practice rooms which are used as performance and rehearsal spaces within lesson times, as well as being available for pupils to book at lunchtimes to complete private rehearsal sessions as soloists or ensembles. Each practise room has had a small makeover and now features an eye-catching mural on one wall to inspire and engage the pupils who are working in the rooms!



Practise Room 1



Practise Room 2



Practise Room 3



Practise Room 4

ENGLISH SPEAKING COMPETITION

The Academy returned to the English Speaking Union (ESU) competition this year, with Amal U. (10S), Adya S. (10E), Maame A. (10B) and Aila R. (10B) in our team.

The event was conducted on Zoom, which wasn't ideal, but this didn't deter Adya from presenting a fantastic speech relating to the quote, 'Human Rights are a Figment of the Imagination'. Rigorous research was evident in Adya's speech and when she was relentlessly questioned by an opposing team she dealt effortlessly with the inquisition.

Aila was our Chairperson, and her warm encouraging comments ensured effortless transitions between the various team members.

Amal delivered a series of intelligent and thought-provoking questions, showing real interest and attentiveness to the Speaker's chosen subject.

Maame was our reserve and she was present throughout the evening, ready to step in at a moment's notice!

Incredibly, our team did not receive any individual awards, nor did they win, however, to the team's delight, the ESU invited them to the 2nd round at Anglia Ruskin University on 2nd February!; obviously Adya, Aila, Amal and Maame had made a massive impression!

Sporting Success

BOROUGH CROSS-COUNTRY

On 10th November, the annual Borough Cross Country event was held at Blenheim Park. The boys raced in the morning and, following the cancellation of the event last year, were eager to retain their title as Borough Cross Country Champions.

The Year 7 team came 2nd behind an incredibly strong SHSB team, and the remaining year groups won their respective races, reaffirming Eastwood's dominance locally.

A special mention to the following pupils who won a medal in their individual race: Aydan H. (8A) Year 8 winner; Harry W. (9B) Year 9 runner-up; Beau M. (10A) Year 10/11 winner; and John P. (11B) Year 10/11 runner-up.



The girls' races followed, and there were some incredible individual runs. Overall, the girls finished 2nd in the borough, coming 2nd in every age group race and narrowing the gap with SHSG.

A special mention to the following pupils who also won a medal in their respective race: Chloe B. (7R) Year 7 bronze medallist; Jess W. (8W) Year 8 bronze medallist; Megan V. (9E) Year 9 bronze medallist; and Erin V. (11E) Year 10/11 runner-up.

All pupils ran exceptionally well and were a testament to the Academy.



ESAA CROSS COUNTRY CUP (REGIONAL)

The Regional Cross-Country Final of the ESAA Cup was held locally at SHSB. The course was flat, but deceptively long. The Junior Girls' team went first and, once again, ran exceptionally well. The rest of the field was incredibly strong and competitive and the Junior Girls' team finished 7th overall.



Next up were the Junior Boys' team. There were a few changes to the team from the 1st round and, if all went well, they had an outside chance of qualifying for the National Final.

It was a fiercely competitive race, but, due to a great start, some tactical 'packing' and Aydan H. (8A) finishing 2nd in the race, the Junior Boys' team finished 3rd overall and qualified for the National Final!

The final event of the day was the Inter Boys' race. The team came into this round as potential favourites to win after finishing 1st in an earlier round.



There was only one school that could potentially jeopardise our success - Coopers' Company and Coburn. Fortunately, for a second consecutive round, the Inter Boys' team exuded resilience and determination to win the Regional Final and go into the National Final as strong contenders.

All the boys ran superbly, with Beau M. (10A) finishing in 2nd place and Zac W. (10R) coming 3rd.

Sporting Success

ESAA CROSS COUNTRY CUP



The Academy attended the 1st round of the ESAA Cross Country Cup with a full complement of running teams. The event was held at The King John School which presented a deceptively difficult course.

The Junior Girls' team went first and ran exceptionally well, with Jess W. (8W) finishing in 3rd place. The team qualified in 3rd position overall and earned a spot in the next round.

The Junior Boys' team were next to race and, although there were no individual top 3 finishes, collectively, the team came 2nd overall and booked their place in the next round.

Next to race were the Inter Girls' team. Megan V. (9E) won the event, but unfortunately the girls narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next round and finished in 4th position overall.

The final race of the day was the Inter Boys' team. The team dominated the round, finishing 1st overall and securing their position at the Regional Final. A special mention to Beau M. (10A), who won the race, and Zac W. (10R) who came 2nd.

NETBALL



The Academy entered a Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 team in the Southend Borough Netball League, which started this half term.

Some of the highlights so far include our great performances against St. Bernard's High School, resulting in the Year 9 team winning 16 – 3; and the Year 10 team continuing their unbeaten run, winning 24 – 5.

In terms of other competitions, the Academy entered an Under-16 team in the Essex Cup and managed to successfully defeat De La Salle School, winning 27 – 24 in a nail-biting finish. The team is through to the last 16 and we look forward to reporting on their progress during the Spring Term.

ESAA CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL FINAL

The Academy travelled to the National Final in Newquay with the Junior and Inter Boys' teams. It was a comfortable but rather long journey to the South West.

We were up against the very best schools in the country who, like us, had to qualify through local and regional rounds. The course was undulating and some of the hills were very steep. To make things worse, the weather (gales in particular) was not particularly conducive to running.

Both teams ran amazingly well with the Junior Boys' team finishing 10th and the Inter Boys' team finishing 2nd. This is the third year in a row that the Academy has podiumed in this competition, something we are immensely proud of.

The Inter Boys' team: Adam F. (10S); Kimi D. (10S); Harry W. (9B); Ellis R. (9A); Beau M. (10A), Ted T. (9W); Zac W. (10R); and Mackinley G. (10E)



Aydan H. (8A) – number 32 and Noah T. (7K) – number 35



FOOTBALL



Once again, the football season is upon us which is proving to be a busy but successful time for the Academy.

The 7, 8, 9 and 11 boys' teams are all progressing well into the latter stages of the Borough and South East Essex Cups. Further, all teams have reached the last 16 in the prestigious Essex Cup.

In terms of girls' football, the U13 Girls' team have managed to reach the quarter finals of the Essex Cup which is renowned for being competitive and difficult to progress through.

We hope to report on further progress in these competitions in the Spring Term.

Sporting Success

TABLE TENNIS – REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

On 4th October, the Academy Year 7 and 8 Boys' Table Tennis teams attended the 1st round of the Borough competition at St Thomas More High School. The teams played against tough competition but managed to qualify for the Regional heat after finishing as runners-up behind SHSB.

Ben P. (7R), Noah H. (8S), Milo B. (8S) and Zac N. (8B) travelled to Batts Table Tennis Club in Harlow to compete against the very best teams in the region. All played exceptionally well and ended up coming 2nd, narrowly missing out on a place at the National Final. An outstanding achievement!



On 20th October, the U13 and U16 Girls' Table Tennis teams attended the Essex Finals at Thorpe Hall. The girls demonstrated a great level of skill and determination as they competed against Thorpe Hall and Chelmsford Girls Grammar School, both very strong sides.

After a tense morning of competing, both teams finished in 1st place and qualified for the 2021-2022 Butterfly National Team Championship. The Zone Finals are due to be held on Saturday 15th January (U13) and Sunday 16th January (U16).

The U13 team: Sophie M. (8A); Freya W. (7R); Sienna C. (8B); and Poppy B. (8W).

The U16 team: Kayleen HP. (10K); Gracie A. (10R); Megan V. (9E); and Emily C. (9R).

We wish both teams the best of luck in the next round!



BASKETBALL

The basketball season kicked off on 10th November with the Year 8 Boys' team defeating Chase High School. Since then, all male and female teams have begun their respective local Borough Cup and Essex Cup campaigns.



Following a long period of time without any basketball fixtures, both staff and pupils were enthusiastic to start again. This was apparent with the new Year 7 team where there were regularly over 40 pupils in attendance at each of their training sessions. We wish all teams the best of luck in their upcoming fixtures.

RUGBY



Recently, there has been a resurgence of rugby at the Academy, particularly in Year 7 and Year 8.

On 14th October, the Year 7 Boys' team competed in a 9-a-side tournament at The Appleton School. The boys played 5 games in total and managed to win 3 and draw one. Sadly, in their last match of the tournament, a very strong Sweyne Park team prevailed in an evenly contested game.



Considering this was the first time some of the boys have competed in rugby, all involved demonstrated the virtues of discipline and respect, true to the sport.

Following the tournament, the Year 7 team have played against Chase High School, resulting in an Eastwood win, and are currently training well in preparation for the upcoming fixtures.

Events

ONLINE SAFETY SESSION

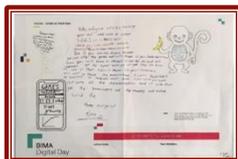


On 4th and 5th of November, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils attended an online safety 'dropdown' session. The activities included: the increased use of the internet; what is good about the internet; what isn't so good about the internet; how we should use the internet; and what we should do if there is a problem. Working in small groups pupils had the opportunity to discuss the issues, feedback and ask questions.

Click here for information on [Online Safety for Pupils](#)

BIMA COMPETITION

Climate change is potentially one the greatest environmental challenges the world has ever faced.



Pupils were given the task of proposing digital solutions to make it easier for people to make more environmentally sustainable and low carbon choices in their everyday life. Proposals included:

- Social media campaigns to raise awareness.
- Electric aeroplanes and cars.
- Augmented reality to complete eco challenges.
- Eco footprint personal tracker app.
- Carbon footprint product scanner app.
- Making better purchase decisions.

COLOURS OF NATURE COMPETITION

Good luck to all those in Art Club who have submitted an entry for the 'Colours of Nature' competition. You have all worked incredibly hard on creating your concepts and have produced some exciting outcomes. Winners to be announced in the New Year.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

The unfortunate cancellation of the Christmas Concert did not prevent the Academy music groups from performing! Pupils had been working incredibly hard all term to prepare for the event and, on Friday 3rd December, the Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble performed and recorded the Christmas Concert.

The concert features many talented soloists from across all year groups. After all our hard work we may have indulged in one too many mince pies!

The Music Department is very much looking forward to welcoming you to a **live** concert - the Spring Concert is currently planned for Tuesday 22nd March 2022. See you there!

Click here for a recording of the [Christmas Concert 2021](#)



The Academy Choir



The Academy Orchestra



The Academy Percussion Ensemble



The Academy Jazz Band

Extra-Curricular

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

On 4th November, the MFL department welcomed a former pupil, Sophie C. with a broad experience of learning languages, to share her passion with our pupils.



45 pupils were selected across KS3 and KS4 to attend Sophie's presentation, where she talked about how, at first, she had no interest in languages, but now currently speaks four languages! Sophie also talked about how that had changed her life and ignited a passion of travelling around the world, meeting lots of new people and experiencing a range of different cultures.



The French Ambassadors, Adya S. (10E) Amal U. (10S) Ashlee T. (10B) and Aila I.-R.(10B), helped with organising the event, accompanying pupils to the Conference Room, taking the register and sharing their personal journey on developing a love for

languages.

After both sessions, the Ambassadors conducted an interview with Sophie, that was recorded by Mr. S. Harrison and his team - Stuart H. (10A) Alfie C. (10R) and Aaron B. (10K). In the interview, the girls summarised Sophie's story by asking her a few questions about why she had decided to study languages and the benefits, including career prospects. The recording will be used for Mr. S. Harrison's school podcast and will soon be uploaded on the website.

The feedback from our pupils was really positive. They all appreciated Sophie's presentation and cited how it had inspired them to consider taking a more active part in French lessons and also to practise French outside of school by watching international shows on Netflix and using language apps.



As a department we would like to thank everyone who made that inspirational day possible and we want to encourage our pupils to continue building resilience in learning a language. Remember:

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way." **Frank Smith.**

ELF THE MUSICAL



Between 24th-26th November, pupils performed a sell-out run of *Elf the Musical* – enthralling friends, family and staff with their incredible talent and ensuring everyone left the theatre in a festive mood ready to decorate for Christmas! Taking on some of the lead roles were Oliver B. (10B) as Buddy the Elf; Mia C. (10A) as Jovie; Tony L. (9A) as Walter; Phoebe T. (10W) as Emily; and Ollie F. (7S) as Michael. They were joined by a stand-out supporting cast and an ensemble who dazzled the audience with an abundance of festive cheer in every dance, song and scene.

The Performing Arts Department is incredibly proud of the pupils and thankful to everyone who was involved in the show. We wish everyone a joyful and restful Christmas break – and don't forget: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!"



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

A huge thank you to all those who entered the Art Department Christmas Card Competition. After a difficult decision, Mr. N. Houchen chose Amelia T. (7S) as this year's winner. He loved her painterly mark making and the warm mood that was achieved in the composition. Amelia's design will be used for the Academy's 2022 Christmas card.



**Winner:
Amelia T.
(7S)**



**Runner up:
Daisy E.
(8W)**



**Runner up:
Mia B.
(8R)**

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates in the end of term House assemblies.

ASHDOWN



BOWLAND



ELVEDEN



KIELDER



RICHMOND



SHERWOOD



WHINFELL

