

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw closer to the end of what has been an inordinately long Autumn Term, I am able to reflect on an extremely rewarding period for the Academy.

The term began with the Academy recording its best ever GCSE results, reaffirming its status as the most successful non-selective school in Southend and South East Essex.

Click here for the [DfE Performance Tables](#)

Click here for the [Progress 8 Scores for Local Schools](#)

In early December, the Academy was subject to a section 5 (two day) inspection following the section 8 (one day) inspection in March. The inspection went very well and I look forward to reporting on the judgements when the report is published in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and I look forward to your return in the New Year.

Mr. N. Houchen

Principal

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 96.4%. This is 0.4% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 1.8% above the national average of 94.6%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	95.2
Bowland	97.4
Elvedon	96.7
Kielder	95.8
Richmond	96.7
Sherwood	97.4
Whinfell	95.1
Overall	96.4

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)

SPORTING SUCCESS



Congratulations to the P.E Department for making the top 20 sporting state schools in 2018 as reported in the School Sport Magazine - a fantastic achievement. Click here for the [Top 30 State Schools](#)



OLIVER PERFORMANCE



The staff and pupils involved in this year's production of *Oliver* were rehearsing tirelessly from mid-September to bring a full scale production to the theatre on 28-30th

November. This was another excellent opportunity for pupils to perform with and play in a live orchestra and work on a professional set.

As always, the pupils involved have impressed us not only with their dramatic and musical talents, but also with their sustained commitment and camaraderie. One of the great opportunities these productions offer the pupils is the chance to build relationships between year groups and to share the experience together.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to help with the show.

OLIVER!

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



In November, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) held the first Student Voice feedback session for this academic year. The team presented to pupils in assembly, providing them with

more information about their role in the Academy and also the areas of focus for wider debate/discussion.

Pupils were asked to consider areas they would like the Academy to provide guidance on in terms of their personal safety and also improvements to the recreational areas. Form Captains were asked to discuss these points with their form groups and were then invited to year group sessions to feedback their viewpoints. By way of a follow up, the StLT will meet with Mr. N. Houchen in January to identify action points based on the feedback.



In terms of bringing the next group of Prefects through, the StLT will be presenting to Year 10 pupils in January about the Prefect application process.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Year 8 pupils have recently been making fruit plaits, allowing them to demonstrate their excellent bread making skills.



Fenton S. (8W)

Ermal K. (8E)

PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Grace C. (IIS) for the Monthly Prefect Award. Grace is extremely helpful in covering duties, in particular supporting the pastoral duties.

To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Grace with a certificate and gift voucher on Thursday 13th December.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



On the evening of Tuesday 11th December, a capacity audience attended the annual

Christmas Music Concert in the Academy Concert Hall. The audience were captivated by performances from the Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble, together with solo and ensemble items from KS3 and KS4 pupils.

Following the concert, the audience enjoyed refreshments whilst liaising with parents, pupils and staff. The concerts throughout the year are designed to showcase the array of musical talent within the school, together with providing an opportunity to reward the commitment that pupils have shown throughout the term by attending the array of extra-curricular music clubs that operate within the music department. The next event will be the Easter Concert held on the evening of Tuesday 2nd April 2019.

SOUTHEND MUSIC FESTIVAL



Oliver B. (7B) entered two classes at the Southend Music Festival and achieved Gold in both. One was a speaking event and the other a Disney musical solo event.

The Southend Music Festival encourages the study and practice of the arts of music, dance, speech, literature and acting. Performers receive verbal and written educational feedback from a professional adjudicator in each class.

A fantastic achievement Oliver, well done!

Pupil Success

WEST SIDE STORY



In November, Anna G. (10W) performed in *West Side Story* at the Towngate Theatre with Rare Productions. She has also won three trophies in dance festivals this term.

A fantastic achievement Anna, well done!

SWIMMING TRAINING IN SPAIN



In October, Brooke W. (10K) and Niamh H. (8E) went to Calella, Spain, for a week of training with Southend-on-Sea Swimming Club. In the seven days they were there, they completed 25 hours in the pool, plus land training.

Brooke also had a very successful weekend on 3rd November at the Swim England East Region Winter Championships in Luton. This is a senior competition with all the fastest swimmers in the East, irrespective of age. The qualifying times are very fast and Brooke qualified for 7 events and recorded 6 personal bests.

Congratulations to both Brook and Niamh.



DOY INSPIRING DIGITAL ENTERPRISE AWARD

Jasmine W. (9W) is the first pupil in the Academy to achieve the Duke of York Bronze Award for Inspiring Digital Enterprise as part of the Life Skills course in Year 9. To achieve the award Jasmine had to complete badges in a range of digital topics to collect over 250 points. The certificate is sent from Buckingham Palace.



Citizen badges – Digital awareness, safety and ethics.

Worker badges – Tools and techniques which are useful in the workplace.

Maker – Digital creativity - how to build in the digital world.

Entrepreneur - Learn gamification techniques and how to make games.



DANCING SUCCESS



At the end of October, Ornela S. (8K) appeared in *Zaspectacular* - a dance production at Towngate Theatre. Following this, on Sunday 11th November, she performed at the Dynamic Dance Competition, finishing 2nd in Sea of Lovers. Well done Ornela!

EASTERN CROSS COUNTRY WINNER

In November, Megan H. (10E) took part in the Eastern Cross Country Championships and, after a superb run, was crowned the U15 Champion. Well done Megan!



GYMNASTICS CHALLENGE CUP

In November, Chloe T. (10R) took part in the Gymnastics Challenge Cup. She had an amazing day and achieved a fantastic Junior Silver Medal on the Floor.

Congratulations Chloe!



Pupil Success

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

Year 8 pupils have been studying WWI and have undertaken presentations in their History lessons on some of the weapons used at the time. Many of the girls decided to bake cakes, to go with their presentations, or make models of their chosen weapon. The outcomes were amazing and delicious!



Brooke A. (8R)
Flame thrower (worn by Ornella S.)



Emma G. (8S)
WWI Cake



Jessica H. (8W)
Tank shaped cake



Olivia P. (8S)
Cake with tank model

YEAR 10 MENTORING PRESENTATION

On Monday 26th November, pupils visited the Holiday Inn at Southend Airport to receive their certificates for successfully completing the Year 10 mentoring programme with Career Ready.



Career Ready are an organisation that support the needs of young people across the country with all things career related. Pupils were given a presentation about recruitment and working in hotels and hospitality and also given a tour of the different functions and facilities in a successful hotel. Congratulations to the pupils who passed.

PANTOMIME SUCCESS



Matthew G. (8W) and Lily S. (7W) have been performing in *Snow White* at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon. The pantomime received a five star rating and some glowing comments from *The Stage* magazine which is one of the top national critics.

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS



On Saturday 10th November, after successfully navigating four teams through the first round, pupils competed in the ESAA Regional Cross Country Final. Cheered on by PE staff, parents and Mr. N. Houchen, the teams performed tremendously well and obtained the following positions:

- Junior Boys – 1st
- Intermediate Boys – 2nd
- Junior Girls – 7th
- Intermediate Girls – 4th

1431 teams initially competed in the first round of this competition and the Intermediate Boys' and Junior Boys' teams secured a place in the National Final (only 12 teams in the country) on 24th November. To cap a wonderful end to proceedings, the Junior Boys' team finished 2nd in the National Final – a fantastic achievement!

ART CLUB



Over the past 6 weeks, KS3 pupils have had the opportunity to develop fundamental drawing techniques to develop their art skills.

Those who participated really pushed themselves, as each week the tasks became progressively more complex and challenging.

Pupils in the Art Club thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and engaged with the subject matter they were drawing in a range of creative ways.

It has been an absolute pleasure seeing the pupils flourish in their technical ability, well done to all who attended.



Events

CAREERS



There have been various career events over the course of this half term.

On Tuesday 6th November, selected Year 10 pupils had their ice breaker meeting with their Career Ready mentors. They found out more about the 12 session programme, got to meet their mentor and ask them questions about their career and current job.

Pupils also identified their key skills and which skills in particular needed improving.

On Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November, Year 10 pupils participated in a drop down event, focusing on 10 employability skills: Self-motivation; Organisational Skills; Working Under Pressure; Ability to Learn; Communication; Teamwork; Negotiation; Valuing Diversity and Difference; Problem Solving; and Numeracy / IT. Organised into teams, pupils worked through a survival scenario. Teams had to choose a leader, select items to help them in the jungle, respond to a snake bite and then answer a mathematics riddle.

On Friday 9th November, NCS presented to Year 11. NCS is a national three phase programme designed to improve employability, skills and experiences of young people.

<https://www.ncsyes.co.uk/>

On Friday 9th November, ASK apprenticeships worked with Year 11 pupils who took part in an apprenticeship assessment task. In small groups, teams had to think of a product that was less than £50 and was portable. As the teams were working, a team of assessors were making notes on creative thought, leadership and team management. After their presentations, teams were given feedback on which members impressed and why.

In the second session, pupils were invited to search for and look up different apprenticeship opportunities. Logging on to the findanapprenticeship website, pupils registered for an account and then searched for opportunities. They were also given some useful hints and tips when making an application.

<https://findapprenticeshiptraining.sfa.bis.gov.uk/>

ANGLIAN WATER

On Tuesday 13th November, Year 10 pupils received a visit from a member of the Anglian Water Team. Ellie, who deals with education at the Chelmsford Water Treatment Plant, engaged the pupils with a talk on processes involved in the treatment of waste water. As well as learning about the processes, pupils were able to engage in hands on activities, learning about sustainability, renewable energy and a little bit of history! Waste water treatment plays an important role in the GCSE Science syllabus and cross curricular links were also made with Geography.

All members of staff involved agreed that pupils contributed well and were thoroughly engaged throughout the talks. Having an industry expert deliver this important section of the specification provided pupils with an insight into how science works in the real world!



GCSE POETRY LIVE



In January, 40 Year 11 pupils will be attending the GCSE Poetry Live event at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. Here they will be able

to listen to several of the poets who have contributed their poetry to the current AQA GCSE anthologies. This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to hear about the poets' own interpretations of their work so that they can develop more insightful approaches to their interpretations of the poems in the GCSE examination. The poets will also field questions from the audience – this is always an interesting activity for both the poets and pupils alike.

In addition to this, in the afternoon, a senior examiner from the AQA Board will conduct a talk on how pupils can refine and extend their observations on the poetry in the examination, with helpful hints and tips on securing the very highest grades.

Extra-Curricular

ARTS AWARD THEATRE VISIT



On Thursday 8th November, Arts Award pupils travelled to London to watch *The Trench* at the Southwark Playhouse. The performance was incredibly creative and was inspired by the true life tale of miner William Hackett, the only tunneller to be awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery in WWI. Theatre company - Les Enfants Terribles - depicted this story with a fantasy twist, the use of puppets, stage props, poetry and live music to achieve a dramatic and diverse story.

MFL DAY TRIP TO LILLE, FRANCE

On Friday 7th December, 44 pupils and staff made an early start across the channel to spend the day in Lille in northern France.

The first stop was at PJ Chocolate factory in Calais. Here pupils were able to see how chocolates were produced, from cocoa bean to the end product. They were also able to sample a variety of different chocolates and were able to



decorate their own chocolate to take home. Pupils also tried out their French skills to buy some chocolates as gifts for their family and friends.



From there pupils travelled to Lille where they spent time looking around the Christmas market, sampling local food and using their French to buy some Christmas gifts. Later in the afternoon pupils had a short amount of time in Euralille, finishing off their Christmas shopping. Despite the rain, this was an excellent day enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. The pupils were a real credit to their families and the Academy.



CERAMIC WORKSHOP



On Monday 12th November, Year 10 GCSE Art pupils took part in an all-day ceramic workshop. The day began with 8 bags of clay and concluded with all pupils creating a 3D sea inspired ceramic form, featuring detailed surface textures. Pupils worked through all four GCSE assessment objectives in an intensive hand-building, making process.

A range of exciting outcomes were produced, with ambitious shapes and textures achieved. Well done to all involved, fantastic making skills demonstrated.



ALCOHOL AND DRUGS DROPDOWN



On Tuesday 20th November, pupils from Years 7 – 9 participated in a workshop on the normalisation of drugs and alcohol. The session was led by ex-police officer, Gary Collard. Pupils were educated about the misuse of drugs and alcohol, including the short term and long term effect of usage, different categories and penalties for possession. Pupils watched videos, listened to real life case studies and participated in a quiz to help with their knowledge and understanding.

MUSIC TRIP TO 'THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS'

On Sunday 18th November 40 GCSE music pupils and gifted musicians from KS3 went to the Cliffs Pavilion to watch the London Concert Orchestra performing a variety of film music composed by the prolific composer, John Williams. Pupils were enthralled by performances of music from *Jaws*, *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *E.T.* to name just a few. Many of the pupils had never seen a live orchestra perform before and it was simply wonderful to witness their enthralment and excitement when watching the orchestra in action. Many thanks to the staff who attended this event to make this opportunity for the pupils possible.

Celebrating Success

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

ASHDOWN



BOWLAND



ELVEDON



KIELDER



RICHMOND



SHERWOOD



WHINFELL



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

There have been some wonderful entries showing a wide range of art mediums and creative approaches for the Christmas card competition. Congratulations to the winning design by Macie L. (9W) which will be the 2019 Academy Christmas card.



Macie L. (9W)
Winner

Brooke A. (8R)
Runner up

Joshua F. (7K)
Runner up

Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS

