

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Spring Term has (eventually) seen a very welcome return towards (near) normality. I am particularly pleased that the restrictions and impositions associated with the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic have largely been removed and hope that the last remaining elements i.e. testing and self-isolation are no longer a requirement when the Coronavirus Act expires in March.

In terms of strategic priorities, the Academy is forging ahead with the development of the CREATE curriculum. The CREATE (Challenge; Regulate; Enhance; Assess; Target; and Enrich) curriculum, scheduled to be introduced from September 2022, is an attempt to bring together the key interrelated aspects of curriculum structure, design and delivery into a single coherent entity.

Alongside CREATE, the Academy has launched its Enrichment Strategy i.e. a whole-school coordinated approach to repair, restore and eventually enhance children's experiences and development. Mr. K. Danson will be responsible for leading and coordinating this strategy.

I will update you on the progress of both strategies later in the academic year.

Mr. N. Houchen, Principal

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is 92.2 % vs. a (current) national average of 85.9% (+6.3 %). Further, Covid-related absence (self-isolation) is 3.5 %. When added to the current total, overall attendance stands at 95.7 % and in line with the Academy's target of 96.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	90.5
Bowland	92.9
Elveden	92.2
Kielder	92.0
Richmond	93.0
Sherwood	91.7
Whinfell	92.8
Overall	92.2

PARENTS' EVENINGS - SCHOOLCLOUD



The Academy is currently undertaking parents' evenings remotely using SchoolCloud which allows you to book appointments online and attend via video-conferencing. www.eastwoodacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk. The remaining parents' evenings are listed below.

Year 7 - Monday 20th June 16.00 – 19.00 p.m.

Year 8 - Monday 9th May 16.00 – 19.00 p.m.

Year 9 - Monday 21st March 16.00 – 19.00 p.m.

Year 10 - Monday 14th March 16.00 – 19.00 p.m.

There is an expectation that parents engage fully with these events to support their child's progress. If there are any issues regarding your attendance, could you please e-mail your child's Head of House - [Pastoral E-mail Directory](#)

CURRICULUM PATHWAYS (OPTIONS)



Pupils in Year 8 should start considering the options process in preparation for the subject choices they will make in June.

There are a range of excellent websites that pupils and their parents can consult to gain further information. This will, of course, be supported by information, advice, guidance and support that pupils will receive in school.

Click here for [Careers in School Subjects](#)

Click here for [Careerpivot : Jobs by Subject](#)

Click here for [Where can your option choices take you? | My World of Work](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



At the start of the term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) delivered a presentation to Year 10 pupils about their role and the wider responsibilities of Prefects. They explained the steps involved in the Prefect recruitment process and how pupils could apply. Applications have now been submitted and successful candidates will be short listed and notified in due course.

The StLT has also been working on the feedback from the Student Voice discussions. The pupils have recently met with Mrs. J. Schmid, who is responsible for rewards at the Academy, to put forward suggestions on how this area can be further enhanced. The pupils will also meet with Mr. N. Houchen to feedback on other identified areas for improvement.

CLASSROOMS TO CARE HOMES



During the Autumn Term of 2020, Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in an initiative called 'Classrooms to Care Homes', which involved writing letters to Care Home residents in their Life Skills lessons; this was to help ease some of the loneliness due to lockdown and spread a bit of Christmas cheer. As it was so successful, and pupils really enjoyed writing the letters, we decided that it would be a great idea to continue this each year at Christmas.

One of the recipients of the letters was a young man with severe learning difficulties who was delighted with his letters, commenting that he was so happy to have lots of new friends! Pupils were able to watch recordings to see how their letters impacted their recipients, and many have been inspired to become more involved with their local community.

FOOD BANK

Throughout November and December, pupils, staff and families embraced the opportunity to give to others over Christmas by donating food items for the 'Reverse



Advent Calendar' initiative. The generous donations allowed us to create approximately 70 food parcels for One Love Soup Kitchen.

Volunteers of the organisation explained how our contributions would allow them to create an amazing number of food hampers for families across Southend, as well as provide hot meals for evening guests attending the Soup Kitchen.

The wonderful generosity and kindness displayed by members of our school community was greatly appreciated by One Love. The response was truly overwhelming - we thank all of our staff, pupils and their families for contributing so generously with this initiative.



THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY PODCAST



podcast

It's been a busy half term for the Podcast Team, writing and recording several interviews with pupils and staff.

Rosie W. (7A), Oliver D. (7B), Lewis C. (9S) and Ellie T. (10R) have been perfecting their interviewing and recording skills and have returned with another exceptional podcast.

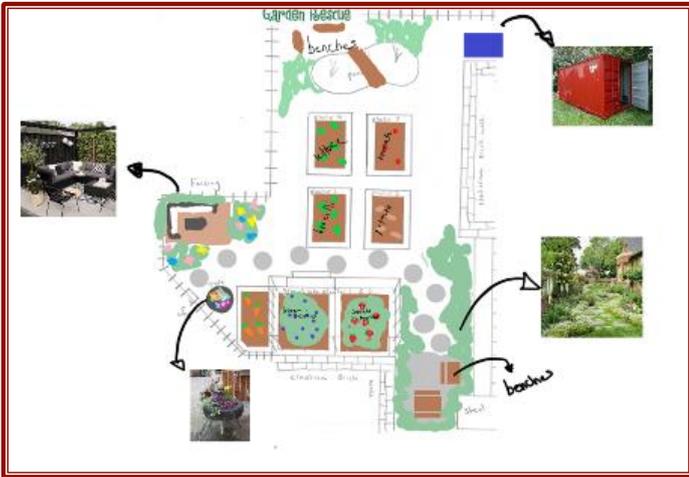
This half term the team have focused on inspirational people, both past and present, and also visited some of the many wonderful extracurricular clubs at the Academy to find out why these clubs are fun and also the wider opportunities that they offer.

Click here for the [Academy Podcast](#)

A big thank you to all the pupils and staff who agreed to be interviewed. "Podcast people, signing off" (Rosie W. (7A) for now.

Pupil Success

GEOGRAPHY CLUB'S 'GROUND FORCE' COMPETITION



On 24th January, over 40 pupils entered their creative and imaginative plans to redesign the Academy garden. Key features in the designs were seating areas, flowers to attract wildlife and a vast range of vegetables.

The trickiest decision was selecting a winner... In the end, the successful entrant was Aimee S. (9A). Aimee's design certainly brought the garden to life; it was practical, multi-use and vibrant.



Aimee was presented with a Geography Badge and gardening gift set - perfect for any budding horticulturist - by Mr. N. Houchen (below).

A big thank you to Aimee, iMedia pupils (thanks Mr. Dunn!) and our other wonderful entries. We cannot wait to get our hands on the garden this spring!



Alongside Aimee, is Kyla T. (10B), winner of the Academy's Young Geographer of the Year Award, who was also presented with a Geography Badge.

LITERACY AMBASSADORS

Every year the English Department recruit two Literacy Ambassadors from each year group to shine a light on the incredible writing that is produced at the Academy.

Literacy Ambassadors include: Joseph B. (7W) and Alyssia J. (7A). Milo B. (8S) and Teddie G. (8R). Hettie S. (9R) and Emily S. (9S). Maame A. (10B) and Aila I.-R. (10B).

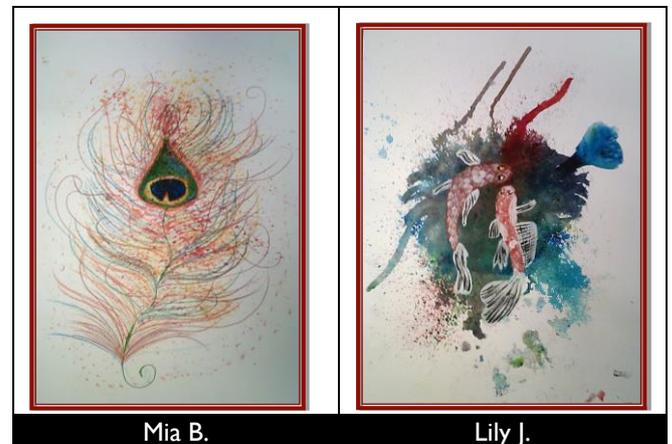


As part of the role, the Literacy Ambassadors have to write about a topical subject and express it from a young person's point of view. This is always such an interesting exercise as the views are often myriad, diverse and unexpected. This term we have asked our in-house authors to create a piece of writing that expresses their personal view of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and look forward to reading their pieces concerning this royal milestone. We will of course share their views in the next Newsletter.

COLOURS OF NATURE

Congratulations to Mia B. (8R) and Lily J. (8A) who achieved 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the Thorpe Bay Rotary Young Artist Competition.

The competition was open to all schools in Southend and Hadleigh, so the pupils have done exceptionally well to have had their art submissions placed in the top three by the judges. Well done girls!



Mia B.

Lily J.

Pupil Success

ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION COMPETITION



The Academy returned for the 2nd round of the English Speaking Union (ESU) competition, again with Amal U. (10S), Adya S. (10E),

Maame A. (10B) and Aila R. (10B) in our team.

The heat was (once again) conducted via Zoom, but our team had experienced this before; Adya's speech responding to the quote, 'Human Rights are a Figment of the Imagination', was even more crafted and honed, and she delivered it powerfully and emphatically. She was relentlessly questioned by an opposing team, but, as before, her answers were intelligently developed and appropriate, showing that she'd listened attentively.

Aila was Chairperson once more, warm and encouraging towards the participants, and even more confident than before.

Amal questioned the Speaker with thoughtful and interesting points for consideration, generously allowing the Speaker to respond in a productive way.

Maame was our understudy, and should be commended for her support to the team from day one, in spite of the fact that she knew she might not be taking part directly in the event itself – an amazing attitude and spirit of camaraderie.

Regrettably, in spite of an amazing performance from the team, they didn't make it to the 3rd round; however, they are already planning their return for next year's competition – bring it on!



BOYS' BASKETBALL

It's been a busy and exciting period for the Academy Basketball teams, with all year groups being involved in the Borough Cup and Essex Cup competitions.

Year 7

The Year 7 Boys' Team has made really good progress. Overall, the team finished in 3rd place in the borough which is a terrific achievement considering the calibre of the opposition.

Year 8

The Year 8 Boys' Team has made huge strides and is currently unbeaten in the borough. The team has made it into the quarter finals of the Essex Cup and are hoping to progress through to the later stages.

Year 9

Year 9 is often the most challenging period in terms of competitiveness. The lack of height in the current team has also added a competitive advantage to other teams; however, the team has fought really well and came close to beating some exceptional teams from St. Martin's and Shoeburyness High, which is a credit to their attitude and commitment.

Year 10

The Year 10 Boys' Team notched up two notable victories in the Borough Cup and is looking to make further inroads in the Essex Cup.

Year 11

The Year 11 Boys' Team is made up of some exceptionally talented athletes which has allowed them to be successful in both competitions.

The team is currently in the quarter finals of the Essex Cup and faces a trip to King Edmund VI Grammar School.



The team also made a positive start in the Borough Cup and upset the odds by beating a very competitive WHSB team. Unfortunately, once all fixtures were completed, the team were level on points with St. Thomas More and SHSB, and, due to the head-to-head element, narrowly missed out on the Borough Final.

Pupil Success

TABLE TENNIS REGIONAL ZONE FINALS



On 15th and 16th January, the U13 and U16 Girls' Table Tennis Teams travelled to Morpeth School in Tower Hamlets to represent the Academy in the Butterfly Table Tennis Zone Finals.

Competing against schools from London, Brighton and Kent, the girls were ready for two days of competitive play. Although the games were played individually, the overall results were a cumulative total from the individual performances.

Displaying great character, hard work and determination, the teams finished an impressive 2nd (U13) and 3rd (U16) – a fantastic achievement! By achieving 2nd place, the U13 Girls' Team qualified for the 2022 Butterfly Regional Final due to be held on Saturday 5th February in Bristol. We wish the girls the best of luck!



U16 Girls: Megan V. (9E), Kayleen H.P. (10K), Gracie A. (10R), Emily C. (9R)



U13 Girls: Sophie M. (9A), Sienna C. (8B), Freya W. (10R), Poppy B. (8W)

NETBALL

It's been great having so many Year 7 and 8 pupils attend netball training. They are all trying really hard to develop their skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the five Year 10 pupils who regularly assist, coach and umpire during their training sessions - Ciara B. (10S) Jessica L. (10E), Olivia F. (10A), Irene N. (10K) and Edie G. (10B).

The Southend Netball Leagues are well underway. The Year 7s saw their best win of the season with a 17 – 3 victory against Chase High. The Year 8s had a tough game vs. Chase High and, unfortunately, lost 11 – 6. The Year 9s achieved success against WHSG and Chase High with wins of 12 – 1 and 14 – 2 respectively. The Year 10s are continuing their unbeaten run (since Year 7!) over WHSG and Chase High with wins of 24 – 3 and 23 – 2 respectively. Good luck for the forthcoming fixtures!



Year 7 Team vs. Chase High



Year 8 Team vs. Chase High



Year 9 Team vs. Chase High



Year 10 Team vs. Chase High

YEAR 7 RUGBY



The Year 7 Rugby Team is fast becoming a competent outfit, more than capable of competing with the local rugby powerhouses. More and more pupils are trying their hand at rugby and selection for the 12-a-side team for fixtures has become tough with over 20 pupils competing for the spaces. A huge thanks to all the pupils for their attitude, commitment and application in building this 'new' sporting discipline at the Academy.

Events

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



National Apprenticeship Week 2022 (7th -13th February) is the 15th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships. The week brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2022 is 'build the future'; reflecting on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

During the week, pupils completed a range of tasks and exercises related to apprenticeships which will be reported on in the next Newsletter.

For further information on apprenticeships, click on the links below:

[Become an apprentice \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

[NAW2022 - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Resources for Parents \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

[Subject Snapshots \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

To find out more about Careers at the Academy –

Click here for [Careers \(eastwoodacademy.co.uk\)](https://www.eastwoodacademy.co.uk)

MENTAL WELLBEING DROPDOWN



On 28th January, pupils in Year 7 to 10 attended a dropdown session focussing on mental wellbeing.

Eleni C., a music artist who has toured with Fleur East, Alesha Dixon and Little Mix, was invited to deliver the session. She performed one of

her songs, which was met with a lot of excitement and dancing, and then discussed various topics around mental health and the difficulties that she has personally had to overcome.



Pupils were then invited to participate in a Q&A session, where a myriad of thoughtful questions were voiced by our pupils. At the end of the session, pupils had a chance to meet Eleni

C. personally and collect a signed flyer.

A special mention to Ellie T. (10R), Thomas N. (7A) and Liam B. (7B) for their insightful and inspiring comments during the session.

To complement the event, throughout the week during form time, pupils were encouraged to discuss a range of mental wellbeing matters, including resilience and how to overcome failure.



Extra-Curricular

FRANTIC ASSEMBLY



As part of their preparation for the Devising Unit, Year 10 Drama GCSE pupils undertook a workshop with 'Frantic Assembly'. Frantic Assembly are a professional physical theatre company who have created a distinct approach to devising contemporary theatre-making.

The workshop introduced the pupils to a physical approach to creating, exploring forms of interaction and lifts. This has provided an invaluable resource for the pupils to embrace and use to create more innovative work.



Sophie L. (10E), who took part in the workshop, described her experience as an "amazing opportunity" and said that she had "thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt so much from it".



The Drama staff would also like to personally thank Oliver B. (10B) who donated his Jack Petchey Award money to fund the workshop.

SAFER INTERNET DAY – 8TH FEBRUARY

Safer Internet Day (SID) is a global initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people.



SID inspires a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Each year in the UK, SID explores a new issue or theme which is impacting the lives of young people. For 2022, the day celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet and the ways they are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. The platforms young people use are spaces for connection, community and collaboration, which is why the day challenges them to foster supportive relationships and respectful communities, whilst equipping them with the skills they need to keep themselves and others safe in these spaces.

In terms of the key activities, Year 7 pupils have created their own SMART guidelines in Computing, and Year 8 and 9 pupils have completed online safety badges from the iDEA Award. (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award).



To access more information about internet safety:

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

Click here for [Online Safety for Parents](#)

Click here for [iDEA Award](#)

WHODUNNIT?

After reading this half term's short story, Chemistry, pupils were asked to find evidence and create a watertight argument, preparing for their court case before a Supreme Judge (Miss. C. Adams). Pupils had to prove who they thought was to blame in Grandfather's demise. Pupils displayed a significant amount of collaboration and showed themselves, for good or for bad, to be true detectives and lawyers.



Celebrating Success

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

ASHDOWN



BOWLAND



KIELDER



ELVEDEN



SHERWOOD



RICHMOND



RUN 40 MILES IN JANUARY CHARITY EVENT



Congratulations to Oscar H. (7K) who has just completed the 'run 40 miles in January' challenge, raising £200 for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. He showed great resilience - even completing some of the miles in his garden when he contracted Covid!

WHINFELL

