

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Although only 5 weeks in duration, much has occurred during this half-term. Most notably, the release of validated performance data via the DfE School and College Performance Tables, the inauguration of EPAT, and a whole range of activities and events that are covered in this newsletter.

Mr. N. Houchen BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

ACADEMY NEWS

EPAT

Believe Succeed Together

On 1st February 2017, The Eastwood Academy formed a multi-academy trust with Bournemouth Park Primary School - Eastwood Park Academy Trust (EPAT).

The principal reasons for establishing EPAT were to:

- Form strong, collaborative partnerships with other local schools.
- Improve educational provision, standards and outcomes in local schools.
- Improve the transition from primary to secondary education.
- Improve recruitment, professional development and career opportunities for staff.
- Centralise business services, procurement and administrative functions, thereby generating efficiencies through economies of scale.

EPAT is also the hub for the Southend West School Sports Partnership (SWSSP) which provides specialist sporting services, provision and expertise to 54 schools.

Click here for more information www.epat.education

ACADEMY SUCCESS

On 19th January, the DfE School and College Performance Tables, were published.

For the 2016 cohort, the Academy achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.58, placing it in the highest performing category i.e. top 10% of schools nationally.

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

Nationally, the Academy was ranked **second** in a list of similar schools.

Click here for the [Ranked Schools Nationally](#)

Locally, the Academy was also ranked **second** in a list of over 30 schools in Southend and Essex

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

SUBJECT COMMENDATIONS



Congratulations to all the pupils who have received Celebrating Success Subject Commendations this half term. On Tuesday 7th February, pupils across all year groups received their certificates from Mr. N. Houchen in a special celebration assembly.



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



The Student Leadership Team (StLT) have continued to promote the importance of

Student Voice at the Academy. This half term, the team have organised follow up meetings with each year group. Form Captains have collated pupil feedback on the impact of the points raised in the Autumn Term and will shortly be meeting with Mr. N. Houchen to relay their findings.

Click here for more about the [Student Leadership Team](#)

PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Lewis H. (IIS) for the StLT Prefect Award. Lewis has volunteered to carry out a number of additional duties at break and lunch. To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Lewis with a certificate and gift voucher on Monday 6th February.

U13 AND U15 FOOTBALL SEMI-FINALS



On Tuesday 24th January, the U15 Girls' Football Team played in the semi-final of the Essex Cup. They were victorious with a comprehensive 3-1 win over Clacton.

The winning streak continued on Wednesday 25th January, when the U13 Girls' Football Team played against Chingford. Again, despite a number of challenging influences, they were victorious with a 3-2 win and secured another Essex Cup Final appearance.

This is the first time in the history of the competition that a school has contested the Essex Cup across two separate age groups in the same academic year – a fantastic achievement!

The dates for both finals are yet to be confirmed, but it is likely to be in March.



THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY ALUMNI



Melonie Clarke always knew she wanted to be a journalist ever since writing a film review for *Babe* in Year 6. Once at Eastwood, her love for English and Drama cemented this desire to work in a profession where she could spend her time writing.

On leaving university, she took the initiative and e-mailed every magazine and paper she wanted to work for, and was delighted when *The Lady*, Britain's longest running women's weekly, replied asking her to come in for a week's work experience. One week turned into two, which then became a six month internship, culminating in a permanent position.

Melonie has now been at *The Lady* for nearly four years and is currently Staff Writer and Web Editor. As well as the hard work that goes with being a journalist, she has had the pleasure of interviewing a number of celebrities and writing a number of well received features.

Please contact Mr. N. Dunn with details of the Academy's alumni.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils were given a task of creating a dish to meet the needs of a particular life stage e.g. toddlers, school children, teenagers, adults or the elderly. A selection of the best dishes are shown below - they look fabulous!



Evie A.
(10K)



Sinead C.
(10B)



Matthew D.
(10B)



Rebecca E.
(10B)



Georgia G.
(10R)



Amelia M.
(10B)

Pupil Success

SWIMMING CHAMPION



Lewis B. (11B) has been swimming competitively for Southend on Sea Swimming Club since the age of 9. He currently trains up to 10 hours a week and has attended several week long training camps at Crystal Palace, London and in Barcelona, Spain. Lewis competes in up to 12 open gala competitions throughout the year, swimming not only to record a personal best time but to also gain qualifying times for the Essex County Championships and the East Region Championships.

This season Lewis has qualified for every event at the Essex Championships. Whilst he has made the finals at the Essex Championships every year, he'd never won a medal. This year, however, Lewis came 1st in the 200m Backstroke and stepped up onto the podium to receive Gold. He is now Essex County Champion in the 16 age group. He also gained top 8 positions in the 5 other events he competed in.

In early February, in addition to becoming Essex County Champion, Lewis was awarded 11 1st place trophies from his club's own championship. He was also awarded "Swimmer of the Year" by his club at the Annual Presentation Evening because of his fantastic commitment to his training, respect for the sport and team mates and his outstanding achievements this season.

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance has remained at 96.5%. This is 0.5% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 1.5% above the national average of 95.0%. Congratulations to Elvedon, who are still leading the way!

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	96.2
Bowland	96.2
Elvedon	96.8
Kielder	96.4
Richmond	96.5
Sherwood	96.5
Whinfell	96.5
Overall	96.5

Click here for the [Pupils with 100% Attendance](#)

SOUTHEND ON SEA YOUTH COUNCIL

Congratulations to Daisy S. (9A) who has been elected to represent the Academy on the Southend Youth Council as a Youth Councillor and Junior Chancellor of Finance. If any pupils are interested in attending the Youth Council, the meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month, 5-7p.m. at the Civic Centre.



Click here for more about the [Southend Youth Council](#)

CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 1st February, Year 7 and 8 pupils competed in the County Cross Country Championship.

A special mention to the following pupils who qualified for the Essex Cross Country Team:

- Reece M. (7E)
- George H. (8A)
- Kristians K. (8E)
- Brook W. (8K)
- James E. (8K)

Also, a special mention to the following pupils who qualified as reserves for the Essex Cross Country Team:

- Zach C. (7B)
- Sophie A. (8A)
- Oliver G. (8E)
- Jay K. (8W)



Finally, to top off a fantastic day, the Year 8 Boys' Team won the overall competition and were crowned Essex Champions. This wonderful achievement now means that the Academy currently

holds County, Regional and National Champion honours in either Athletics or Cross Country.

Events

GOOGLE VISIT



There was great excitement on Wednesday 11th January when over 600 pupils took part in 'virtual field trips', courtesy of the Google Expeditions Team.

Pupils were given the opportunity to use virtual reality goggles and software to visit countries far and wide, explore marine life at the Great Barrier Reef, re-visit major historical events, and take a look inside the human body.



Pupils from Year 7 explored ecosystems from around the world; Year 8 were able to learn about tectonic activity; Year 9 studied the rainforests of Borneo; and Year 10 watched clips linked to contrasting levels of development around the world.

YEAR 11 REVISION

A wide range of resources are available on the website.

Click here for [Guide to Managing Exam Stress](#)

Click here for [Revision and Examinations Guide](#)

Click here for [Study Skills Presentation](#)

Click here for [Revision Presentation](#)

SPELLING BEE



The Spelling Bee held at the beginning of December was huge fun and enjoyed by all of Year 7 and Year 8. Two pupils, one boy and one girl, from each form

offered themselves up, like lambs to a Spelling Bee slaughter.

There were four rounds and each round produced its own champion, who won a £10 Amazon voucher, with the runner up winning a chocolate Christmas stocking.

Our own superb Master of Ceremonies, Mr. S. Howard, asked the questions, including some devilishly hard words e.g. anachronistic, kinaesthetically and rambunctious. Some of the teachers struggled with those! All in all it was a wonderful way to spend an hour immersed in the joy of literacy.

The 2016 winners were:



	Year 7	Year 8
Boys	Arun J. (S)	Mariam K. (E)
Girls	Daisy A. (W)	Callum D. (B)

Next year we plan to have a 'Champion of Champions' play off and find the 'Ultimate Eastwood Spelling Champion',

LITERACY EVENING

Following our very successful Literacy Evening last year, we are looking forward to welcoming you to this year's event on Thursday March 2nd at 6pm.

Year 7 parents are encouraged to attend and enjoy an evening of speeches, quizzes and games, all aimed at promoting a love of literacy.

Extra-Curricular

MATHS COMPETITION



On Monday 6th February, a group of four Year 10 pupils travelled to King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford to take part in a regional maths competition. Ben K. (10S), Amber. (10S), Josie H. (10R) and Jess M. (10K) all represented the Academy exceptionally well in a very difficult field made up of mostly grammar schools. They achieved a huge number of points, just slightly shy of scores reached by our local grammar school rivals, and as a result were placed in the top 10. They can all be exceptionally proud of themselves, and the way they 'held their own' in a very competitive field.

COMPUTING

It has been an inspiring half-term in Computing. Year 7 have been coding their own computer games. Year 8 have been focusing on developing skills required for a career in the digital industries of the future.

During lunchtime computing clubs pupils have embarked on computing challenges set by peers, including game design competitions and attempting extended tasks linked to the activities completed in lessons. A friendly gaming club has been established on Wednesday lunchtime to allow pupils to experience retro arcade games re-built for the Raspberry Pi. On Friday lunchtimes pupils have been encouraged to develop their own independent projects, plans for which include a Morse Code transmitter and receiver and some Ultrasonic distance sensing gloves.

We conclude the half term with E-safety week in line with Safer Internet Day on 9th February. All pupils in Year 7 and 8 will be undertaking sessions dedicated to the ever changing role of the internet in our day to day lives and how to remain safe in an online world. Pupils will be guided to our own website where E-safety resources for both pupils and parents can be found.

Click here for more information on [E-Safety](#)

Community computing has also continued to grow with primary school visits being re-designed to increase the challenge and achievement of the pupils, who can now expect to learn how to code computer art, some simple codes to 'hack' Minecraft, and complete simple electronics projects using the BBC Microbit.

CAREERS

On the 23rd January there was an assembly from Karen Tinnams from PROCAT, a specialist college established to meet the workforce development needs of businesses. She spoke about advanced apprenticeships to support advanced engineering capability, and bespoke training solutions to develop the expertise and skills of the existing workforce.

Click here for more information on [PROCAT](#)

National Citizen Service is a government-backed programme, which takes place during the school holidays. It's a great way for young people to learn the skills for work and life they need to succeed in the future, whilst having an amazing time. It costs £50, with all meals and activities covered. The Academy may be able to offer bursaries to those who need financial support.

Click here for more information on [NCS](#)



On Monday 6th February, Apprentice Ambassadors from Thames Water led an electronics based activity and talked about starting their careers in engineering. They spoke about becoming an apprentice and the day in the life of an engineer.

DEBATING COMPETITION

On Monday 6th February, Adanna A. (10R), Lia C. (10A) and Alex G. (10E) swung into action once again for the second round of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition at East Anglia University. Adanna was the perfect example of composure, delivering her speech to the audience clearly and assertively; Lia chaired another speaker's presentation, her natural sincerity and courtesy shining through; and Alex refused to let the guest speaker get away with vague answers, showing that he had listened intently to the speaker's speech and their subsequent responses. Unsurprisingly, for the second time, Alex won a certificate for 'Questioner of the Evening'.

Alas, our pupils' performance wasn't enough to land a further invitation to the next round but we were up against a strong field, mainly from independent schools.