

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

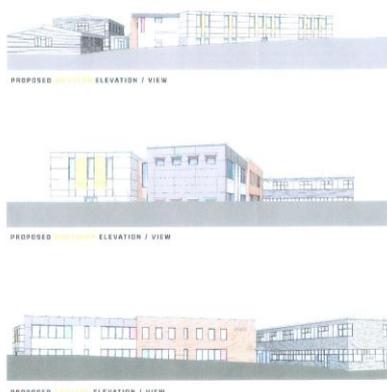
The Spring Term is always a particularly significant period, not least of which for prospective Year 7 pupils, in respect to National Offer Day (1st March).

The Academy continues to be heavily oversubscribed, with over 1000 preferences (including over 500 1st and 2nd preferences) for 200 places. At the request of the Local Authority, the Academy will be admitting 210 pupils in September to assist in the growing demand for school places.

As we accelerate towards 'exam season', I would like to wish all pupils, particularly Year 11, a very productive and enjoyable Easter break.

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

ACADEMY NEWS



In June 2015, the Academy was granted planning permission with regards to the demolition of the current DT Block and erection of a two storey Science and DT Block extending from the main part of the site.

Click here for the [Planning Letter](#)

Click here for the [Building Plans](#)

Subject to obtaining sufficient funds, the Academy aims to construct the 'new build' by September 2018.

ACADEMY SUCCESS



On 9th March, the Academy received a letter of commendation from Rt Hon N. Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards.

The letter stated that, based on the 2016 Progress 8 score (the Government's key measure of performance in respect to pupils' progress from primary to secondary school), the Academy was ranked in the top 5% of secondary schools nationally. Given that there are over 3000 secondary schools in England, the Academy is therefore ranked in the top 150 schools in the country.

Click here for the [Letter](#)

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance stands at 96.4%. This is 0.4% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 1.4% above the national average of 95.0%.

Congratulations to Elvedon, who continue (relentlessly) to lead the way!

| House | % Attendance |
|----------------|--------------|
| Ashdown | 96.1 |
| Bowland | 96.1 |
| Elvedon | 96.7 |
| Kielder | 96.2 |
| Richmond | 96.4 |
| Sherwood | 96.4 |
| Whinfell | 96.4 |
| Overall | 96.4 |

Click here for the Academy's [Attendance Policy](#)

Click here for pupils with a [100% Attendance](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

During this half term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) have focussed their efforts on improving communication between the pupil body and the catering company, Pabulum. Following the StLT's intervention, all pupils with allergies have been advised to speak to the chef to access a personalised menu. In addition, the weekly menu is now available to download from the Academy's website.

Click here for [canteen information](#)

As we approach Year 11 exams, the StLT have been actively involved with the recruitment process for the new Prefect Team. The StLT gave a presentation to Year 10 pupils about the role of a Prefect and the application process. Year 10 pupils have had the opportunity to speak to the current StLT to find out more about the role before they submitted their applications. Following a rigorous selection process, the new Student Leadership Team and Prefects will be announced after Easter and will be mentored and coached by the current Year 11 StLT.



THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY ALUMNI



Emma O'Hara attended The Eastwood Academy from 2006-2011. She took an active interest in the excellent Performing Arts Department and landed roles as Eponine in *Les Miserablés* and as Anita in *West Side Story*. She attended South Essex College to study BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts (Acting) where she experimented with many styles of acting, in many roles, including:

the title role in *Miss Julie*; Carol in *Oleanna*; one of the three witches in *Macbeth*; Tommy the Cat in *Dick Whittington*; and The Laundress in *The Trial*.

Emma graduated with triple Distinction and went on to attend The University of Essex to study Level 4 in Performance. She then took a gap year to travel, before auditioning for London Metropolitan University in Holloway, London, to study Acting and Theatre Arts.

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

PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Blythe P. (11E) for the StLT Prefect Award. The StLT feel that Blythe is a responsible Prefect who is both committed and reliable. She is always present at duties, even during her exams. To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Blythe with a certificate and gift voucher on Tuesday 28th March.

U13 ESSEX CUP CHAMPIONS



On Monday 13th March, the U13 Girls' Football Team competed in the Essex Cup Final against Brentwood County High School. The girls were sensational and stomped to victory with an incredible 7-1 win to become the 'Champions of Essex'. A special mention to Uzo Achebe who stepped in as goal keeper on the morning of the event, a year below the age bracket, having never played a game in her life! The team were: Uzoamaka A. (7R), Ellie A. (8R), Tilly B. (7S), Bethany B. (8K), Morgan F. (8E), Mia F. (8A), Emily G. (8E), Brooke H. (8K), Millie L. (7S), Kayleigh L. (7S), Kea P. (7E), Sienna S. (8K), Maddie S.(8R), Martha S. (7E).

ELVEDON PUPIL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Tigi W. (11E) for passing her Level 1 Coaching Diving Qualification.



Tigi has spent two months preparing for the event which lasted three days and involved thirty hours of both theory and practical exams.



Have you changed your contact details recently?

If so please make sure you come in and tell us or email enquiries@eastwood.southend.sch.uk

Pupil Success

YEAR 7 NETBALL TOURNAMENT



On Tuesday 28th February, in the freezing cold, the Year 7 Netball Team ventured over to Southend High School for Girls (SHSG) for their first Southend Borough Netball Tournament.

Game number one: an 8 – 0 defeat to SHSG A Team. We knew it'd be a tough opener and despite the score the girls played well.

Game number two: a 3 – 0 win over WHSG B Team. Knowing this was a must win game, the shooters made sure their shots counted.

Game number three: a 2 – 1 win against Belfairs. This was a very tight game, going 0-1 down and having to battle back; it could have gone either way.

Game four: a 1 – 0 win over St. Bernard's. They had Ms Stennett biting her nails; it was looking as though the winner of this game would make it through to the semi-finals.

Game five: 3 -1 against Shoebury B team.

Game six: the last group game, finishing with a 3 – 0 victory over Chase.

The girls were ecstatic, jumping around with joy! We knew they had made it to the semi-finals, but unfortunately lost 7 – 1.

The player of the tournament was a tough decision, but was given to Kayleigh Lehane, who showed an excellent skill level and accurate decision-making. Further, the squad showed great camaraderie, giving each other lots of encouragement on and off court.

The team: Natasha B. (7E), Tilly B. (7S), Kayleigh L. (7S), Georgia M. (7R), Isabelle M. (7K), Martha S. (7E), Olivia S. (7W), Kea P. (7E), Shandra R. (7S).

BOROUGH SWIMMING GALA



On Wednesday 8th March, 50 pupils participated in the Borough Swimming Gala at Garons where there were some outstanding individual and team performances.

Brooke W. (8K) defended her title as Year 8 Girls Backstroke Champion and Lydia D. (8K) won Gold in the Year 8 Girls Breaststroke event. Both girls represented the Academy in the Squadron and Relay, meaning they raced against girls and boys in Year 11, but still managed to beat them! Overall, Lydia won 5 medals - she medalled in every event she raced in, and Brooke was awarded 4 medals, narrowly missing out on 3rd place in the Champion Girl Race which was also against much older girls. Two highly talented girls who deserve a huge amount of recognition for their achievements in the pool.



Lewis B. (11B) is Year 10/11 Boys Backstroke Champion and has been throughout his entire time at the Academy - a phenomenal achievement. Throughout the gala, he swam with class and elegance, and he also won medals in every race he competed in, including the Champion Boys Freestyle Race, where he came 2nd. Ben T. (10S) also won Gold in the Year 10/11 Boys Breaststroke.

In the overall standings, the Boys' Team finished 4th and the Girls' Team 3rd - the most successful gala in recent history.

Pupil Success

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Congratulations to those Year 11 pupils who were recently awarded their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award.

The pupils have spent a year undertaking a physical activity, voluntary work and a specific skill. In addition, they have completed two gruelling expeditions, hiking 50 km over two weekends, braving the elements and encountering the local wildlife!

All of the pupils showed immense enthusiasm and commitment despite one of the camps being evacuated following localised flooding.

U14 ESSEX CUP CHAMPIONS



On Friday 17th March, the U14 Girls' Football Team travelled to Lakeside FC to see if they were able to maintain an incredible '3 from 3' Essex Championships in one week. They faced a very competitive Francis Bardsley team who had moved convincingly through the preliminary rounds. The girls started tentatively, but were 3-0 up at half time. It was an incredible 45 minutes where the opposition were just totally outclassed. Organised, competitive, driven - the girls were endless in their pursuit of victory. Stunning performances from Ellice C. (9E), Brooke H. (8K), Sienna S. (8K) and Charlotte W. (9R) ensured that we were, once again, Essex Champions with a 5-1 victory.

Essex is the largest county in the country and, as such, local competition is seen as some of the best in the UK, making the 3 county titles an incredible achievement for the Academy.

UKMT TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE



On Tuesday 14th March, four pupils competed in the UKMT Maths Challenge at Bancrofts School in Woodford Green. Kamal A. (9W), Roshan B. (8W), Cassidy D. (8S) and

Harry W. (9W) had all worked very hard over the last few months practising for this competition. It involved four distinct rounds, as well as the ability to work as a team to solve a number of difficult mathematical problems.

The first round consisted of ten questions to be solved, with varying degrees of difficulty.

The second round was a crossnumber where one pair had the across clues and the other had the down clues; a number of these questions relied on the other pair to solve a question on their puzzle first.

The third round was the 'shuttle' which relied on the previous answer to be inputted into consecutive questions.

Finally, the best round of the day, was the relay, which involved pairs solving questions and then running to the front to collect the next question for the other pair.



The team did extremely well in a very difficult field (largely grammar and independent schools) coming mid-table. Well done!

FOOD AND NUTRITION



Year 7 have been learning about the stages of bread making and the function of the ingredients. Pupils then had to test their skills by making four individual bread rolls in true 'Bake Off' style.

Congratulations to Akash D.S. (7A), the only pupil in Year 7 who scored a perfect 10.

Pupil Success

SOUTH EAST ESSEX DESIGN COMPETITION

On Thursday 23rd March, eight pupils exhibited examples of their work at The South East Essex Design Competition. They were called up one by one to discuss their pieces and answer questions.

All eight pupils were awarded a commendation. Congratulations – well done!

Arts Award

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Caris C. (11B) | Gold Award |
| Nicole C. (11E) | Silver Award |
| Lewis B. (11B) | Silver Award |
| Matilda J. (8W) and Molly P. (8S) | Silver Award |
| Arthur S. (11R) | Bronze Award |

Design Technology Awards

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Aaron A. (10R) | Silver Award |
| Phineas W.-M. (7B) | Silver Award |



Pupil Success

BASKETBALL ESSEX CUP WINNERS

On Wednesday 15th March, the Year 9 Boys' Basketball Team made the trip to Great Baddow High School to face the hosts in the Essex Cup Final. Baddow had recorded a comfortable 55 point win against SHSB in the semi-final which, when combined with beating Eastwood in the quarter-final pool group, meant they were strong favourites.



After a shaky start, the boys composed themselves to lead 18-15 at the end of the first quarter.

The second half began in alarming fashion, as Eastwood racked up five fouls in the opening two minutes. The boys showed grit, determination and class to get themselves back in front at 47-37. Time and again they made smart decisions when attacking the basket, finding the open man, normally Charlie Purdy, for well-worked baskets.

Baddow were not to be dismayed, bringing the score line back to 51-46, resurrecting their chances of victory. However, this group of Year 9 boys are a resolute collective, and they made the final two baskets of the quarter to give us a 55-46 lead with ten minutes of play remaining.

Baddow were unable to claw their way back into the game. Battered and bruised, we emerged triumphant, taking the title of Year 9 Essex Champions by a score of 78-67.



Whilst individual acclaim will certainly be earned by Charlie Purdy, who scored a career-high 32 points, he will be the first to tell you that this victory was due to the unrelenting drive to succeed, and belief that working as a collective, we will achieve together. The boys are an absolute credit to the Academy and have worked tirelessly to get to the milestone they have achieved. They will go down in Academy history as only the second team to achieve Essex Cup status.

The team: Ben A. (9A), Ben A. (9R), Ben B. (9A) missing with injury, Will B. (9S), Harry B. (9S), Ewan L.-S. (9K), Brandon N. (9W), Charlie-George P. (9K), Ben S. (9A), Josh S. (9R), Ozzy W. (9B).

YEAR 8 NETBALL TOURNAMENT



Pupils got off to a flying start winning 7 – 0 against Southchurch, showing they meant business this year! Next up, were St. Bernard's B Team and a 3 – 0 win, with Hannah Barker making some amazing interceptions.

Following this victory, was the strongest team in the competition - SHSG A Team. The team started well and fought hard, but lost 8 – 1. At this point, we had been the only team to score against them!

Belfairs were our next opponents and, not letting the defeat dampen their spirits, the girls blasted out of the blocks and won 4 – 0.

The next game was against Shoeburyness. We were quick to go into a 2 – 0 lead, but then, the 'heavens opened'. Both teams started dropping the ball and sliding around the court. They held onto the lead and then rushed to get into the mini bus to dry off.

There was a long wait for the last game of the tournament against WHSG B Team. The girls pushed and triumphed again, winning 2 – 0.

Unfortunately, in the semi-finals, WHSG A were just too strong and won 13 – 2, not missing a single shot.

The whole squad played exceptionally well, reaching the semi-finals for the first time. For consistently controlling the games, using her superb skill level to assist her team mates, the player of the tournament was given to Katie Holt. Moreover, in terms of the most improved player, this went to Grace V. (8R).

The team: Sophie A. (8A), Hannah B. (8W), Aaliyah B. (8B), Beth B. (8K), Morgan F. (8E), Mia F. (8A), Katie H. (8R), Talia M. (8A), Grace V. (8R).

Pupil Success

YEAR 9 NETBALL TOURNAMENT



On Thursday 23rd March, the Year 9 Netball Team travelled to SHSG for the annual Borough Netball Tournament. We arrived early to ensure the girls had a thorough warm up and realised straight away it was going to be tough. It was freezing cold, with strong winds causing the ball to be blown all over the place.

Our first match was a 'must win' against St. Bernard's. We started strong, with excellent passing and controlled the game. It took a while for the shots to go in, due to the high winds, but they did eventually, resulting in a 3 – 0 win. As we walked off court our GK, Freya, commented that she had nothing to do during the game!

The second game was against a SHSG A Team. We held our own for the first half, with our defence making some brilliant interceptions. Freya was definitely not complaining of having nothing to do in this game! Unfortunately, SHSG shots started flowing in and, despite Beth's amazing goal from near the edge of the circle, we lost the game.

Our third game was against SHSG B Team. The girls battled hard but SHSG were scoring all their opportunities. We then lost our GD due to an injury and ended up losing the game.

Player of the tournament was Holly Ling, showing excellent ball control and skill throughout.

The team: Freya B. (9R), Ellice C. (9E), Ellie F. (9R), Ellie L. (9E), Holly L. (9E), Ella L. (9R), Libby M.-W. (9R), Beth P. (9E), Catalina V. (9B).

DRAGONS' DEN



On Wednesday 22nd March, five teams took part in Dragons' Den 2017. Following three weeks of creativity and hard work, pupils had to pitch their design ideas to a panel of 'Dragons' in response to one of two briefs; to either create a unique technological product that fills a gap in the market, or to devise a unique product that would enhance the learning and attainment of pupils.

The Dragons for the evening were Mr. N. Houchen, Mr. P. Barrett, Mrs. K. Heath, Mr. S. Alcorn and Mr. N. Dunn.

Pitches included: a watch which was aimed to increase the safety of dementia sufferers; a new system to identify pupils who brought a mobile phone into school; and a holographic teaching aid to project 3D images into the classroom.

Following each pitch, the pupils were subjected to extensive questioning from the Dragons and it was a real pleasure to witness how well they coped, including their well-considered, well- reasoned and articulated answers.

After much deliberation, the winning team was announced as Team Dem Zone: Chloe C. (9K), Ellie L. (9E), Ella L. (9R) and Millie W. (9K) who pitched their invention for a safety watch for dementia sufferers.

In second place came Team CHAO-TECH: Alex B. (8S) and Rhys D. (8W) with a holographic teaching aid.

Third place was awarded to Team No Phone: Grace Ro. (8E), Amber T. (8A), Brooke W. (8K) and Maddison W. (8W).

Events

SKI TRIP



On Friday 10th February, pupils embarked on the annual ski trip to a small resort known as Tonale, situated in the snowy hills of Italy.

On board everybody was excited about the trip ahead, except for Mr. S. Watkins, who was more concerned about missing the Six Nations RU Championship.

On arrival, the weather conditions were flawless, with perfect blue skies five out of the six days, allowing for optimum skiing conditions.

The pupils were placed into groups after a quick test of their skiing ability and were immediately able to hit the slopes. Over the six days, all those on the trip made amazing progress, eventually taking on some of the more difficult runs the resort had to offer. There were a few comical tumbles, but all in all it was, as always, another amazing experience for both pupils and staff. For further information, please see Mr. D. Bracknell.



CAREERS CONVENTION



On Monday 20th March, the Academy held its annual Post-16 Careers Convention. The convention was represented by 21 different exhibitors including a number of Sixth Form colleges, FE colleges, CIAG and apprenticeships.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship week ran from 6th – 10th March.

During the week pupils participated in a number of different activities including: understanding apprenticeships; how to find an apprenticeship; higher and degree apprenticeships; apprenticeship quiz; and application tips/interview checklist.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS



On Tuesday 7th March, Year 10 pupils 'dropped down' from their normal timetable to work with a guest speaker – Kanuka Simpson.



The day started with Kanuka speaking to all Year 10 pupils. He shared both experiences and suggestions on how they can take action to improve their concentration, focus and exam results. Kanuka then led two workshops encouraging pupils to think differently, and to consider how they might move outside of their 'comfort zones' so they can grow, take more control and fulfil their potential.



On Wednesday 29th March, pupils from Years 7-10 had the opportunity to listen to a special guest speaker - Aldo Kane. Aldo is a former Royal Marines Commando, who now makes his living working as a stunt co-ordinator and TV adventurer!

He has worked on several Hollywood blockbusters (including the "Marvel" films), BBC natural history documentaries and many other TV programmes. Aldo talked about the many lessons that his extraordinary experiences had taught him. Each of his ten "Lessons from the Edge" came from a different experience, including rowing across the Atlantic, collecting samples from inside of an active volcano and being charged by two black rhino in Africa. Aldo delivered a fascinating and thoughtful presentation which encouraged many pupils to ask questions about decision making, determination, goal setting and ambition.



Extra-Curricular

NETBALL TRAINING SESSION



On Thursday 23rd February, the Academy were privileged to have Ashleigh Neal, a professional netball player from Australia, visit and lead a training session for our Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the practices and games she led during the session, which focused on movement and driving towards the ball. The pupils listened intently to her advice and coaching tips which helped them greatly in the Borough tournaments this term.

There was time at the end for the pupils to ask questions, and they got a small insight into the life of a professional sports person.

The details that Ashleigh imparted focused on training programmes, diet and nutrition and expectations of a professional athlete.



Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the day and we look forward to many more from professional sports people.

CAREERS

Working with 'Career Ready', the Academy hosted two events.

Year 10 pupils participated in the Explore Programme - exploring ways that people can get a job and understanding the qualities employers value. The group spoke with Essex and Suffolk Water about different job roles and access to jobs within the organisation.

Year 9 pupils took part in the Aspire programme – aimed at raising aspirations around different careers and helping pupils consider and plan their own career path.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE



On Wednesday 1st March, pupils performed three percussion items as part of a programme comprising musicians from a large number of local borough schools at the Palace Theatre. The comments received after the event heaped praise on these young people for their talent, professionalism and conduct. Their performances were as good as any on the stage that night (and a highlight for many of the audience members). A great achievement, considering that many of the acts comprised of musicians currently taking their A-levels!



Representing the Academy was the Percussion Ensemble, drawn from pupils in Years 8 – 11, and a group of very promising Year 7 pupils who joined them on the stage to perform a West African drumming piece (some of whom have never performed live before last night).

| African Drummers | Percussion Ensemble |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Uzoamaka A. (7R) | Henry B. (11K) |
| Tia A. (7K) | Luke C. (11E) |
| Ashlin B. (7R) | Anna G. (8W) |
| Kitty B. (7K) | Archie G. (9S) |
| Holly G. (7B) | Maia L. (10R) |
| Chelsea M. (7R) | |
| Grace S. (7S) | |

Celebrating Success

BREAK WITH THE PRINCIPAL



On Thursday 23rd March, pupils were invited to attend a special break with Mr. Houchen. Pupils were congratulated on their sporting successes and enjoyed some refreshments and convivial conversation.

DUKE OF ENDINBURGH

On Tuesday 28th March, six pupils received their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award at the Civic Centre in a ceremony attended by local councillors and the Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinators for Southend. Not only was it a great pleasure to see Lewis Catling, George Dacosta, Callum James, Callum Popham, Amber Priestnell and Henry Smith, representing the Academy and receiving their awards, but an Eastwood Duke of Edinburgh video was chosen to be shown to all of the schools and parents in recognition of their hard work. Furthermore, the Eastwood staff present – Mrs. Lillywhite, Mrs. Pacey and Ms. Stead were then called to the stage to receive a certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme in recognition of the increased completion rate from September to March 2017.

A big thank you to the staff who commit hours of their time in lesson, after school and/or on the weekends.

Click here for the [Certificate](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX - MATHS WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 28th March, pupils attended the University of Essex, Colchester, to take part in a series of maths workshops aimed at promoting Maths beyond GCSE level.



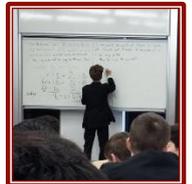
The first part of the day was a talk in the lecture theatre from Katie Steckles, who talked about the 'Greatest Mathematical Puzzles' and prizes provided by the [Millennium Problems](#), for which £1,000,000 is the main price. Some of the pupils were definitely interested at this point! Adanna stepped up straight away to volunteer an answer for one of the other non-monetary questions posed, and the rest of the talk was concerned with

'outside the box' solutions to real-life problems, including some pancake flipping.



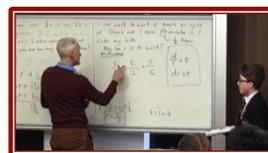
The second part of the day was a workshop concerned

with the strengths of social media relationships. The pupils were discussing who the most important link in a social media clique was – the person with the most friends, or person who has the most links to more isolated people. Alex G. (10E) and Nicole T. (10A) both had very good ideas which they shared with the rest of the group.



The third workshop was looking at randomness and how you can tell if something has been faked or actually randomised.

The final workshop was a series of maths logic puzzles. Alex managed to come up with a solution to one of the problems using a method that the professor had never seen done before. Alex had to stand at the board and explain to the rest of the group (how to use his algebraic



method of solving it.

A great opportunity for the pupils and one that they will remember.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all pupils who were presented with certificates in the end of term House assemblies.
This includes pupils who received Subject Commendations this half term.

ASHDOWN



ELVEDON



BOWLAND



RICHMOND



KIELDER



SHERWOOD



WHINFELL



Have you changed your contact details recently?
If so please make sure you come in and tell us or email enquiries@eastwood.southend.sch.uk