

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter 'exam season' this is always a particularly demanding time of year. The 2017 cohort are the first to undertake reformed GCSEs in English and Mathematics and this will be extended to virtually all subjects for the 2018 cohort.

The demands of the reformed GCSEs are considerable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils and parents for the preparatory work that has been undertaken as schools transition this significant change in curricula and assessment.

Should parents or pupils have any further questions relating to reformed GCSEs, revision, examination timetables, or any other related topics, I have taken the liberty of providing a range of documents which can be accessed via the Academy website.

Click here for more information on [GCSE Exams](#)

This time of year also sees a change in student leadership. I would like to personally thank the 2016/17 Student Leadership Team (StLT) for their contribution during the academic year. It has been an absolute pleasure to see their interpersonal and leadership skills flourish and to have the privilege of being able to offer this opportunity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly elected StLT (below) and look forward to working with them during the academic year 2017/18.



KEY DATES 2017/18

The following dates have been confirmed for 2017/18:

INSET	Parents' Evenings
1 st September	16 th October (Year 7)
20 th October	30 th April (Year 8)
3 rd January	19 th March (Year 9)
4 th January	5 th March (Year 10)
5 th January	22 nd January (Year 11)

SUBJECT COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received Celebrating Success Subject Commendations this half term. On Thursday 25th May, pupils across all year groups received their certificates from Mr. N. Houchen in a special celebration assembly.



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016



The Academy would like to thank the 2016/17 Prefects and, in particular the StLT, for their considerable contribution – the bar has certainly been raised! To acknowledge this, the incoming and outgoing StLT met with Mr. N. Houchen and Mrs. K. Heath (Trustee responsible for Student Voice) for a 'special lunch' on Wednesday 10th May.

For their remaining time at the Academy, the existing StLT will be working closely with the newly appointed StLT to ensure a seamless transition.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017



Alex G. (SP), Josie H. (SP), Evie A. (SP), Megan W. (SP), Harry B. (SP)
Georgia G. (DHG), **Adanna A. (HG)**, **Sam B. (HB)**, Momin S. (DHB)

Following a rigorous appointment process involving: formal application; staff endorsement; duties; feedback from Pastoral Leaders; interviews with the StLT; and a staff vote, the new StLT was inaugurated on Tuesday 2nd May.

PREFECTS 2017

The Academy has a well-established Prefect System which reflects our policy of giving children responsibility. This system involves staff and pupils working together and encourages the development of initiative, reliability and maturity. In this way, the Prefects provide a strong support network for the younger pupils.

On Wednesday 10th May, Mr. N. Houchen presented the new cohort of Prefects with their ties and badges.

In total, 41 pupils were successful out of a possible 90 applicants.



Pupil Success

JACK PETCHEY AWARDS

On Wednesday 17th May the Jack Petchey Awards evening was held at the Palace Theatre. The Academy had 5 pupils win a 'Young Achiever's Award' for their various successes. It was a great evening and the pupils were a credit to their family and the Academy. Alongside this, the Academy's very own percussion ensemble were selected to perform as part of the evening's entertainment and they were absolutely brilliant. Considering most of the other performances were college students or university undergraduates, our ensemble of Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils were far and away the best act of the night.



Winners:

Chloe SA (10S), Kristians K. (8E), Sinead C. (10B)
Bella G. (9W), Luke C. (11E)



Percussion Ensemble:

Maia L. (10R), Luke C. (11E), Anna G. (8W), Archie G. (9S), Molly P. (8S)

HISTORY EXEMPLAR WORK

In History pupils were asked to create a protest poem which aimed to show the impact of the segregation and discrimination laws in the deep south of USA. 'Strange Fruit' by Billie Holiday, was used as a guide for pupils, but this poem by Cerys H. (10E) went above and beyond, covering all key areas and asking poignant questions of the reader. Well done Cerys.

At the back of the bus

There's a long white line separating the privileged.
Young. Old. Rich. Poor. If you're white you have more.
Black and white are labels. You are branded at birth,
Union of both our Lincolns fables.

Try stepping out from the murky sludge,
The stain of white, we call home.
Why do you put the drain of your water in our cup?
Should I hold your drink whilst you
Speak for me?

Paying for segregation is demeaning,
Being the subject of it is worse.
Whatever direction the bus is going in, doesn't matter
Watch as they spit in my face,
With your money at hand.
Superior.

Those whom only watch wouldn't change a thing,
Those who entertain the audience of white would give their life.
Money couldn't buy such a precious need,
Not only to be part of the white luxury,
But to feel equal; somewhat similar.
The same.

Facilities stripped of quality,
Choices stripped of humanity,
Rights stripped of a voice.
"Honey, keep your voice down and your hood up.
You might be heard!"

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 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 are still leading the way!

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	96.2
Bowland	96.2
Elvedon	96.6
Kielder	96.1
Richmond	96.3
Sherwood	96.3
Whinfell	96.3
Overall	96.4

Events

YEAR 10 FOOD AND NUTRITION MOCK

As part of their GCSE Food and Nutrition course, Year 10 pupils had to complete a 3 hour mock exam. They had to produce three dishes in three hours, showing a variety of skills. They could pick from three tasks either designing a menu for a vegetarian, a Mediterranean menu or a menu high in fibre for teenagers. Below are some examples of the meals produced.



Evie A. (10K)



Georgia G. (10R)



Katie J. (10E)



Ellie P. (10A)

ENGLISH SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CUP

On Wednesday 17th May, pupils participated in the 1st round of The English Schools Athletics Cup which took place at Chelmsford Athletics Stadium. The pupils showed tremendous grit, determination and drive and it was an absolute pleasure to see the cohesiveness and unity of the teams, regardless of their year group.

All four teams reached the Regional 'A' Final which is a first for the Academy. The Regional Final will take place in Bedford on 15th June, the day before the Borough Finals, which will ensure all the athletes are kept very busy!



YEAR 11 GCSE ART EXAM

As a culmination to the course, Year 11 Art pupils had 10 hours to create their final artistic piece.

Their starting points were selected out of a list of words set by the Exam Board and included: 'detail'; 'wrap'; 'music in art'; 'out of place'; and 'assembled'.

The pupils produced their final pieces using a variety of mediums to communicate their intentions.



Nicole C. (11E)



Sammy C. (11A)



Connie B. (11K)



Alice W. (11S)



Arthur S. (11R)



James S. (11B)



Lewis B. (11B)

Extra-Curricular

DofE PRACTICE WEEKEND 1

On Saturday 6th May, Year 10 pupils (61 in total) completed their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition at Belchamps.

The pupils were a real credit to the Academy, covering 25km in highly changeable weather conditions, whilst carrying their entire kits, including tents, roll mats, sleeping bags, clothes, food and cooking equipment.

Staff and pupils alike, indulged in a few culinary delights including bacon risottos, chicken curry, spaghetti bolognese and, of course, homemade brownies from Maia L. (10R).

After an epic football match, bonfire, watching bats circle over our heads, and then toasting marshmallows, the pupils were exhausted and finally went to sleep at 10.30pm – although a few who were a little excited were still wide awake at 2am.

Although there were many successes over the weekend some pupils really stood out for their hard work, support of others and gritty determination – Keylan A. (10E), Josie H. (10R), Charlie LS. (10E), Jack R. (10R) and Harry S. (10A).



DofE PRACTICE WEEKEND 2

On Saturday 13th May, the second group of Year 10 pupils (64 in total) completed their Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition at Belchamps.

Once again the pupils were a real credit to the Academy with one member of the public stopping us to compliment staff on the pupils' conduct, maturity and resourcefulness.

Saturday's weather was particularly favourable but Sunday greeted the pupils with heavy downpours and wet kits!

Mr. S. Harrison led the Saturday evening sing song around the campfire and there was some great marshmallow toasting from Alex G. (10E) and Allysha J. (10A).

Although there were again many successes over the weekend, some pupils really excelled – Daisy P. (10S), Tyler S. (10E), Will W. (10K) and Josh W. (10A)



DofE SUCCESS



On 28th March, staff and pupils attended a DofE event at the Civic Centre and received an award for the most improved completion rates in the borough.

Click here for the [Certificate](#)