

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter 'exam season' this is always a particularly demanding time of year. 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 the curriculum 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 on the Academy's 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 2017/18 Student Leadership Team (StLT) for their contribution during the academic year. I've really enjoyed working with the team and I have been impressed by the progress they have made in their pursuit of improvements within the Academy. To acknowledge their contribution, the team were invited to a Rewards Lunch on Thursday 10th May where they were presented with a certificate and a voucher.



As the outgoing team departs, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly elected StLT and look forward to working with them during the academic year 2018/19.

SUBJECT COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to all the pupils who received Celebrating Success Subject Commendations this half term.



ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 96.3%. This is 0.3% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 1.3% above the national average of 95.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	96.0
Bowland	97.4
Elvedon	95.9
Kielder	96.0
Richmond	96.5
Sherwood	96.5
Whinfall	96.5
Overall	96.3

KEY DATES

The following dates have been confirmed for 2018/19:

INSET	Parents' Evenings
3 rd January	17 th June (Year 7)
4 th January	7 th May (Year 8)
22 nd July	18 th March (Year 9)
23 rd July	4 th March (Year 10)
24 th July	21 st January (Year 11)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



The incoming StLT were invited to a Rewards Lunch on Thursday 10th May. Mr. N. Houchen presented them with their 'Student Pass' and they had the opportunity to meet the outgoing team.

In April, both the outgoing and incoming teams met with PC Sawyer and PSCO Hollands to discuss safety concerns



that the pupil body had raised in respect to Eastwood Park.

On Wednesday 2nd May, the StLT fed back to the Local Governing Body and plans are in place to

continue to lobby Southend Borough Council.

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

PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Catalina V. (10B) for the Monthly Prefect Award. Catalina is always ready to help out, complete duties on other days, sometimes completing a number of additional duties in a week.

To acknowledge this commitment, Mr. N. Houchen presented Catalina with a certificate and gift voucher on Tuesday 22nd May.

YEAR 11 FOOD AND NUTRITION

As part of their GCSE Food and Nutrition course, Year 11 pupils had to complete a three hour practical exam, producing three dishes, whilst demonstrating as many skills as possible. Here are some examples of their fantastic culinary delights!



Evie A. (11K)



Matthew D. (11B)



Rebecca E. (11A)



Zoe H. (11A)

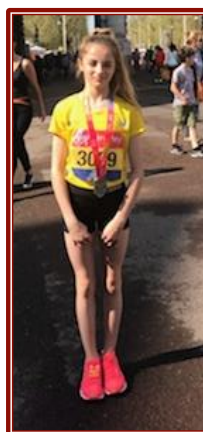


Leah M. (11R)



Ellie P. (11A)

MINI LONDON MARATHON



Due to the amazing success that Megan H. (9E) has had during this year's cross country season, and claiming the prestigious title of U15 Essex Champion, she was picked out of hundreds of runners to represent Essex and the East of England in the Mini London Marathon, which took place on Sunday 22nd April.

The conditions for the day were extremely hot for running but she battled through with another amazing performance. Megan claimed

an overall 14th position in the race despite running against Year 10s. Her time for the 3 mile race was an incredible 17 minutes 55 seconds. That time also claimed her an overall 2nd place in the East of England group of competitors. A fantastic achievement by Megan and a day that she will never forget.

Pupil Success

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Essex Cup Final

In April, the U14 Girls' Football Team played in the Essex Cup Final against Passmores School. In the programme notes, the Chairman had written an article stating that if Eastwood were to win the final, the Academy would be the most successful school in the history of the competition. Unfortunately, it was not to be. The team lost 5-2 to a very strong Passmores outfit. However, a cup final and making the 5th round of the National Cup has marked a really progressive season.



Borough Tournament



In April, the U15 and U13 Girls' Football Teams competed in the Borough Football Tournament, organised by Southend United.

The U15s were crowned Borough Champions and remained undefeated throughout. A special mention to Beth H. (10B) who won player of the tournament and was presented with a Southend United team shirt. The U15s are the most successful football team in the Academy's history. They have been successive Essex Cup Champions – U13 and U14, made it to the quarter finals of the National Cup, and are the 2018 Borough Champions. This team has only lost one game in the last 4 years. A remarkable effort from the players.

The U13s achieved a Silver Medal and were a very worthy runner up, only losing one game throughout the tournament. Well done girls.



GYMNASTICS QUALIFIER

Maya D. (7W) took part in a qualifier competition at Colchester with over 40 other gymnasts.

She came 1st overall, after coming 1st in beam and 2nd in floor and bars. Congratulations Maya.



ACTIVE LIFE PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 28th March, Olympic Volleyball player, Rachel Laybourne, visited the Academy as part of the Active Life Programme. The programme uses sports ambassadors to encourage pupils to engage positively with Physical Education.



The following pupils were chosen to be 'champions of sport':

Ellice C. (10E), Ellie F. (10R), Ellie L. (10E), Holly L. (10E)



A group of Year 8 pupils were then chosen to receive 'top tips' from the champions and Rachel. They also engaged in a range of activities e.g. team building which will be trialled throughout the year.

Originally, through the Sky Sports Programme, Rachel had visited the Academy to promote the success of the myriad of school sports teams. Now she feels that she has 'completed the circle' by providing programmes to encourage sport for all.



Events

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May, Year 10 pupils visited the Olympic Park, Westfield, and Hackney Wick as part of their Human Geography fieldwork.



Pupils had the opportunity to view the regeneration from the John Lewis Observation Platform; interview the managers who participated in the regeneration plans; and

have a guided tour to the roof top gardens. Pupils had to complete a variety of tasks at each of their fieldwork sites such as sketches, interviews and environmental surveys.



The pupils then proceeded to the second site at Carpenters Lock where they assessed the environmental impact of the regeneration.

At the third site the pupils had a tour of Hackney Wick which enabled them to see the most graffiti covered street in Europe, assess the impact of the Olympic legacy and analyse how the regeneration has caused a socio-economic gap between the two areas.

On the second day pupils were granted permission to visit the Eco-centre which provides water and heating to 11,000 local houses and educates locals and visitors on how to conserve energy and protect the environment using local resources.

Pupils also had the chance to walk through the entire Olympic Park to conduct



investigations on the regeneration and its impact on tourism and the economy. Sadly, this also meant that we had to see West Ham's (new) stadium...

CAREERS CONVENTION



On Monday 23rd April, the Academy held its annual Careers Convention. The convention was represented by 19 different exhibitors and over 150 pupils and parents from Years 9-11 attended. Pupils had the opportunity to enter a prize draw by collecting stickers from providers they spoke too. The winning ticket, selected at random, was Bella G. (10W).

Click here for the [Careers Guidance](#)

Click here for the [Provider Access Policy](#)

LITERACY EVENING

On Monday 23rd April, the Academy held its annual Literacy Evening.

Topics that were discussed included: why literacy matters, pupils' reading choices, the links with the reformed English GCSE and general advice on how to encourage (and enjoy) reading.



LITERACY TIPS

<p>ONLINE</p> <p>The BBC has excellent interactive videos & resources to get to grips with reading, writing, spelling, grammar and reading & listening</p> <p>www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english</p>	<p>CONVERSATIONS</p> <p>At mealtimes, ask each other about your day. Get better responses by avoiding questions with yes/no answers, and trying 'second-level' questioning.</p> <p>Q: What did you enjoy doing today? A: Art. Q: What was it about Art that you liked doing? A: We were using acrylic paints to draw pictures in the style of Picasso...</p>	<p>READ BY EXAMPLE</p> <p>Whether it's a recipe, newspaper or magazine, children typically imitate the habits of older people in the family. So pick up a good book for a Sunday afternoon read!</p>
<p>GET BLOGGING</p> <p>Sit together and start a great blog about the special events such as holidays. They encourage a reflective mindset and are a great record to refer back to in the future. Top Tip: make sure that your child does not post inappropriate information!</p> <p>http://www.seconds.blogspot.com</p>	<p>HAVE A LAUGH!</p> <p>Buy a good clean joke book and share jokes over the dinner table. Avoid using the web where jokes may be age-inappropriate.</p>	<p>READING BOOKS</p> <p>Every secondary school student should be able to engage in a suitable reading book. The key to this is finding a book of interest. You could start by showing an age-appropriate film and then finding similar books, for example:</p> <p>Alien Predator/Dominator: Anthony Horowitz Bond II like Beckham: Naniender Dhama Goal: Robert Rigby Harry Potter series: J.K. Rowling</p>
<p>PLAY GAMES</p> <p>Taboo, Scrabble, Hangman, Articulate! Baggage. Don't forget to read the rules first!</p>	<p>E-BOOKS</p> <p>Encourage gadget loving reluctant readers. Some feature inbuilt dictionaries making it quick and easy to look up unfamiliar words. Starting at around £29.</p>	

Events

HISTORY VISIT TO YPRES



On Friday 27th April, the History department and a tour guide provided by Anglia Tours, took thirty Year 9 History pupils to Ypres to visit the trenches and cemeteries of WWI. Our coach departed early enough to reach Belgium by 10am, and our first stop was the trenches. After being talked through the reality of trench

life, pupils then got to walk through the network of authentic trenches themselves, some even feeling brave enough to use the tunnel system. (Un)Fortunately no-one fell in the mud.



After this, we visited Hill 60 and looked how combating poison gas has improved, from having to use the ammonia in your own urine, through to actual gas masks. This also gave pupils the chance to see how close some of the enemy trenches were (less than 20m) and the sheer destruction caused by miners using explosives.

We also visited a couple of cemeteries, where the sacrifice of these young men really hit home. This part of the day ended with each pupil standing in front of a gravestone. After a moving speech, Frank (our guide) finished with the line "Now we're going to do something these young men cannot do: we are going home". Having spoken to parents, it wasn't just the staff that were moved by this.



Pupils then enjoyed dinner at a restaurant and a visit to a delicious chocolate shop. The day ended with pupils attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This is held every night and is to commemorate the 53,000 deceased soldiers, named on the gate, who were never found. Caitlin B. (9E), Owen D. (9A) and Amber T. (9A) took part in the ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of the Academy.

DOFE PRACTICE EXPEDITION



The weekends of 4th May and 11th May saw 156 pupils participate in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expeditions. The day began at 8.15am and pupils then had to navigate a 12km 6 hour route around the local area before descending onto Belchamps camp site.

On the weekend of the 4th May, pupils walked in extremely hot conditions with the thermometer hitting over 25 °C. They arrived at camp exhausted but elated. After putting



up their tents most of the pupils promptly played endless games of football, swing ball and manhunt before hunger took over

and they began the long task of discovering how hard it is to cook for 7 on a Trangia! Staff bravely sampled a varied selection of menus, including some rather chewy pasta, some wonderful pancakes and an amazing bolognese from the multiple mini Bear Grylls in training.

On the weekend of the 11th May, pupils were completely drenched in the downpour that continued for most of the day and night. The bonfire proved popular whilst most staff enjoyed the peace and quiet as pupils huddled for cover. Day two involved another 6 hour walk but this time a much less strenuous 9 km hike.

Over both weekends there were tears, tantrums, hundreds of gnat bites, blisters, a lot of sun burn, lots of soggy pupils, vast amounts of marshmallows and sweets consumed. Everyone involved had a great experience.

