

## Message from the Principal

As another academic year draws to a close, arguably, it's been one of the most successful and enjoyable in my time as Principal.

The Academy achieved its best GCSE results, leading to the unprecedented position of **second** (when compared to similar schools nationally) in the DfE School and College Performance Tables. This subsequently led to the Academy being 1 of 5 schools selected from the 3,268 secondary schools in the UK, to appear in *The Parliamentary Review 2015/16* - a highly privileged and humbling experience.

The Academy has continued to extend its involvement and influence in local and national events, including the Ofsted Triad School-School Improvement Project and, more recently, the proposed conversion to a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The celebrating success juggernaut has shown no signs of abating, and, to recognise the sheer breadth and diversity of pupils' achievements, they have, for the first time, been collated into an Celebrating Success Brochure, which, together with this Newsletter, will be published on the website.

On a final note, I wish all staff, parents and pupils an enjoyable summer break and look forward to your return in September.

Mr. N. Houchen  
Principal

## Trip to Boulogne, France

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 40 pupils and staff made an early start across the channel to spend the day in Boulogne-sur-mer, France.

The morning was spent looking around the town including the famous Ramparts, Church and Town Hall, each containing a wealth of history. Next we jumped onto the coach and made our way to Le Centre Commercial Auchan. Pupils were able to test their linguistic skills by ordering food and drink in the local cafés as well as buying some souvenirs.

Finally, we went to PJ Chocolate Shop in Calais. Here we were able to see how chocolates are produced, from cocoa bean to the end product. We were all able to sample a variety of different chocolates and decorate our own chocolates to take home. Pupils were again able to flex their French language skills when purchasing chocolate gifts for family and friends.



## Student Leadership Team

Congratulations to the 2016/17 Student Leadership Team who were recently appointed through a rigorous application and interview process. The incoming team had the opportunity to meet their outgoing counterparts during a 'special lunch' with the Principal on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.



## Armed Forces Day

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, pupils were given the opportunity to wear a 'service personnel' uniform in recognition of Armed Forces Day. In total, 24 pupils took part, representing groups including: Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Army, Air Cadets, St. John's Ambulance and Royal Navy Sea Scouts.



***Believe, Succeed, Together***

# The Eastwood

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## ESSA National Athletics Final



Following qualification for the National Finals on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the Junior Boys' Athletics Team travelled to Bedford International Athletics Arena to take on the best schools in the country.

The Academy has made the National Final in the past but has never achieved a podium position. With 3,268 secondary schools in the country competing at a regional level to even qualify for the National Final, the task of medalling is always a gigantic task.

The Junior Boys' Team competed in both track and field events, smashing many PBs in the process. The spirit, desire, will to win, and 'band of brothers' togetherness, together with undoubted talent, paid dividends with the Junior Boys' Team being crowned as ESAA National Schools Athletics CHAMPIONS!

This is the highest achievement that can be bestowed upon a school sports team and will live long in the memory.

In the year of the underdog, the dream has been realised....believe, succeed, together!

Junior Boys'  
Athletics Team,  
ESAA National  
Champions 2016.



## Eastwood Scholars Programme



### The Brilliant Club

The Eastwood Scholars Programme is an academic programme run jointly by The Eastwood Academy and The Brilliant Club, an organisation which aims to widen access to university.

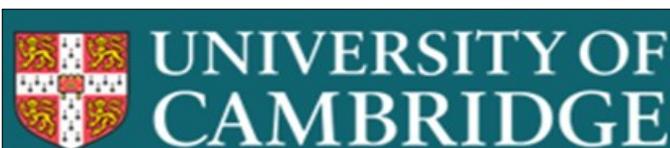
Twelve of the most able pupils across Year 9 and 10 were selected to participate in the programme which is delivered by university lecturers.



The pupils attended a launch trip on the 8<sup>th</sup> June to St. John's College, Cambridge, one of the partner universities involved in the programme.

The visit involved a tour of the college, a study skills session and the chance to meet students and admissions staff. Additionally, the pupils attended their first tutorial with their PhD tutor in the academic setting of the university.

Participants: Marija Boicuka, Freya Brown, Sam Cotgrove, Alex Green, Beth Gudgin, Jess Martin, Hannah McGavin, Alanna Myles, Lydia O'Connell, Phoebe Phillips, Leanna Rainforth, Momin Syed.

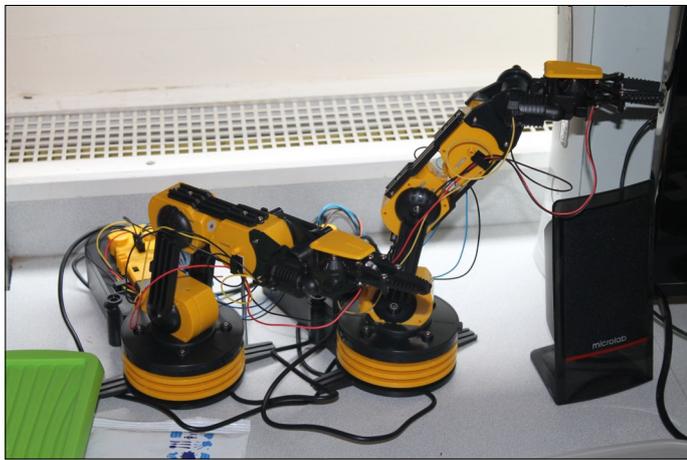


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## Raspberry Pi Visit



Community computing has moved even further forward with a recent visit from a Senior Education Researcher from the Raspberry-Pi Foundation, who spent a day at the Academy.

Such was the success of the visit, that the Academy is indelibly documented on the Raspberry Pi website blog. For the full details of the visit, please go to: [www.raspberrypi.org](http://www.raspberrypi.org)

## Employability Masterclass

On 5<sup>th</sup> July, the Academy had the pleasure to welcome the Young Enterprise Employability Masterclass to present to Year 10 pupils.

The session was all about enriching pupils' CVs to highlight their skills and experience. The presenter, Gos, delivered the materials in an engaging, interactive, funny and enthusiastic way that allowed the pupils to develop their employability skills. Gos reinforced the importance of standing out from the norm, to tell a 'story' about themselves.

Pupils then took part in a roleplay activity. Half the group were employers and half were job-seekers. Each half had a set of different candidates and employers and, after a 3 minute interview, the job-seeker moved to the next employer.

Feedback from the pupils indicated that this was a really valuable activity.



## Trip to Oxford University

On 26<sup>th</sup> April, a group of Year 10 pupils set off at 05.45 for Oxford University. The fundamental purpose of the trip was that of raising aspirations and broadening horizons.



In the morning, pupils were given a tour of the city, taking in sites such as the library, Bridge of Sighs, Blackwell Books and the Museum of Natural History. The tour finished with a visit to St. Catherine's College.

After lunch, pupils were given an academic taster session entitled, 'stem cell research in fish' with a PhD Biology student, Tomek Dobrzycki.

The day ended with a talk from Oxford staff who provided information on Post-16 options, scholarships and the process of applying for a place at the university.

## Student Leadership Accreditation

Student Leadership Accreditation (SLA) is a programme which operates as part of the Personal Development strand of the Year 11 KS4 curriculum.

Over 50 pupils were entered for and achieved the SLA, 39 of these achieving the highest accolade (Gold). In order to showcase their leadership skills, pupils had to work with groups of pupils at KS3, devising and leading a series of 5 lessons that would be of benefit to them. The pupils were entirely responsible for the planning, preparation of resources and execution of their devised sessions. The pupils worked tirelessly to plan and deliver these sessions which included: team-building games designed to raise confidence and self-esteem, a variety of sporting and fitness activities, the creation of art work and the composition of music.

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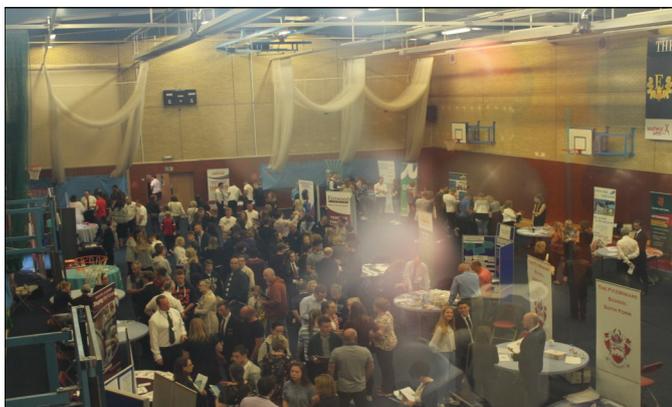
## Art Exhibition



The Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition was a true spectacle and enjoyed by pupils and staff across the Academy. Many of our pupils have stunned colleges at their interviews with their highly personalised projects and high-quality portfolios.

## Careers Convention

The Academy hosted its annual Careers Convention on Thursday 30th June. Please refer to the website for the brochure, detailing the breakdown of 6th Form colleges, FE colleges, exhibitors and CIAG providers.



## Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

To celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the English Department took 27 pupils for a three day Shakespearean extravaganza!

We visited all the special Shakespearean houses, sites, Tudor World and the church where he was buried, whilst soaking up the culture in the picturesque location of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Pupils were introduced to the comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and took part in presentations, workshops and demonstrations to heighten their understanding and appreciation of Shakespearean language, contextual background and the structure of the play. The highlight of the trip was the theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



## DofE Silver Award

Between 2nd - 4th July, a group of Year 11 pupils ventured into the wilderness of the New Forest, Hampshire, for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expedition. The pupils had to endure a 3 day hike, walking around 35km over the weekend, carrying everything that they needed in their rucksacks. They also slept under canvas for 3 nights and were fully self-sufficient. A great experience and team-bonding exercise.



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