

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On 12<sup>th</sup> August, the Academy recorded another outstanding set of GCSE results, reaffirming its status as the most successful non-selective school in Southend and one of the highest performing schools in the country.

Headline figures include:

95% 9-4 in English.

92% 9-4 in Mathematics.

91% 9-4 in English and Mathematics.

EBacc Average Point Score (APS) of 5.10.

Attainment 8 (A8) of 55.36.

Progress 8 (P8) of +0.84.

[Click here for the GCSE Results Report](#)

The academic year 2021/22, I sincerely hope, will be one which broadly resembles pre-Covid times and one in which we can substantively move forward. Circumstances permitting, I will certainly do my utmost to facilitate this.

Mr. N. Houchen, Principal

#### ATTENDANCE

For Autumn Term 1, overall attendance was 94.0 % vs. a (current) national average of 86.3% (+8.8 %). Further, Covid-related absence (self-isolation) was 1.9%. If added to the current attendance, overall attendance would be 95.9% and in line with the Academy's target of 96.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	92.8
Bowland	94.5
Elveden	93.1
Kielder	94.4
Richmond	94.4
Sherwood	94.3
Whinfell	94.2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>94.0</b>

During w/c 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Academy will recommence its distribution of half-termly Attendance Reports.

[Click here for the Attendance Report Letter](#)

#### SUMMER SCHOOL

In July 2021, the Academy ran a summer school for all incoming Year 7 pupils (and some pupils in Year 8) which provided an opportunity to:

- Receive face-to-face teaching in a range of subjects to make it easier for pupils to access the secondary curriculum.
- Build a community with their fellow pupils.
- Forge relationships with new teachers.
- Familiarise themselves with their new school environment.

[Click here for the Summer School Report](#)

#### COVID-19 UPDATES

The Academy is currently managing Covid-19 in line with the documents below.

[Click here for all News and Correspondence](#)

[Click here for the Covid-19 FAQ and Risk Assessment](#)

[Click here for the Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#)

#### REMOTE LEARNING

Remote learning is delivered via MS Teams.

MS Teams is an all-in-one hub for the collaborative classroom. Teams meetings allow teachers to host video and audio calls, share documents, conversations, files and notes, collaborate on virtual whiteboards and issue and mark assignments.

[Click here for the Remote Learning Policy](#)

[Click here for the Remote Learning FAQ](#)

[Click here for the Office 365 Letter](#)

# Pupil Success

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The StLT have been involved with several events since the start of the academic year e.g. they attended school during the first INSET day to support the Year 7 pupils' transition; and also assisted Ms Walden with the running of the World Mental Health Day in October. In terms of their overarching responsibilities, as part of their Prefect role, they are required to complete a break and lunch duty. All Prefects had fully embraced this duty and have been working hard to support the supervision of the pupil body.

The StLT have also welcomed the new Form Captains who were democratically elected to represent their forms. The StLT, together with the Form Captains, will determine the key issues which will be presented and discussed in a meeting with Mr. N. Houchen.

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

## LANGUAGE AMBASSADOR AWARDS



During September, the MFL Department had the pleasure of awarding four pupils with the Language Ambassador Award. This award is given to pupils who exhibit an outstanding commitment to MFL, both inside

and outside of the classroom. Adya S. (10E), Amal U. (10S), Ashlee T. (10B) and Aila I.-R. (10B) have shown a huge dedication to MFL. They have given up their own time to help run the MFL lunchtime club, as well as offering departmental support during the Eastwood Week of Languages. A huge congratulations – well done!

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Aamira H (7K) on winning the Creative Writing competition with her entry 'The Road to Success'; an incredible story of perseverance, resilience and determination. It is a modern tale of a young person who fights to provide for her family, whilst keeping her own dreams alive. Aamira is seen here



between Miss A. Steed, Head of English and Mrs. L. Child, Literacy & KS3 English Co-ordinator, holding the Amazon voucher she has won. As a Year 7 pupil, Aamira has only recently joined us and has

already made a significant contribution to her literacy journey - we will be watching her progression closely and with interest.

## STUDENT VOICE

At the beginning of September, pupils had the opportunity to apply for the role of Form Captain. The process involved an application form, public speech and formal election. The role of a Form Captain is to represent the 'voice' of their form in any aspect or issue relating to the Academy and to feed this back to the StLT. Congratulations to the successful pupils below.

### Year 7 Form Captains



### Year 8 Form Captains



### Year 9 Form Captains

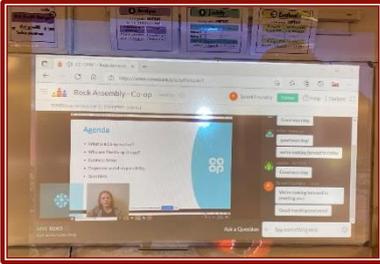


### Year 10 Form Captains



# Events

## VIRTUAL CAREERS DAY

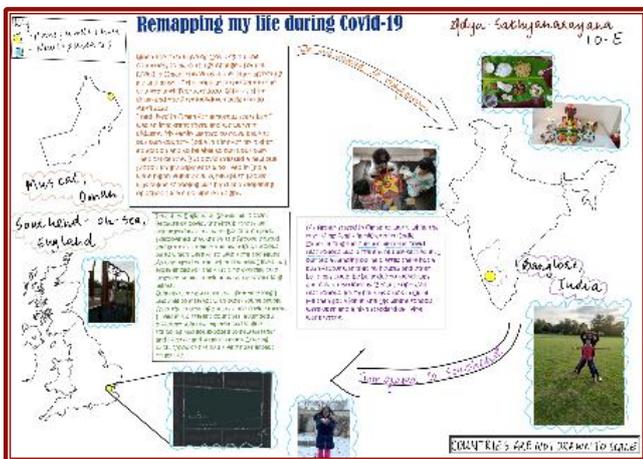


On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Academy participated in Rock Assembly 2021. This event is an amazing and inspirational day, with the principal aim to encourage young people to 'think big' about their future.

Rock Assembly comprised of a range of interactive online workshops hosted by employers and universities. The Academy hosted 'Careers in the Media' with the BBC; 'Tech and the Future' with Dell Technologies; 'Introduction to Nursing and Midwifery' with the NHS; and insight sessions with UK universities (Sheffield Hallam, Manchester University and University of Dundee).



## YOUNG GEOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



In association with the Royal Geography Society (RGS), the competition for the Young Geographer of the Year Award, involved 'Remapping our Lives'.

Pupils were asked to produce a map showing how Covid-19 had affected them personally and the area they have/had been living in. Two pupils perfected their map skills and won a prestigious geography badge - Kyla T. (10B) and Adya S. (10E). Both participants' work has been sent off to the RGS and we eagerly await the outcome.

## MENTAL WELLBEING DROP DOWN

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Year 7 pupils attended a drop-down session on Mental Wellbeing delivered by Mr. S. Harrison and Ms H. Walden.



Pupils were encouraged to discuss what 'health' means to them and then explore how to remain both physically and mentally healthy. Pupils were given a range of techniques and tools to help support and improve their mental wellbeing e.g. mindfulness activities, such as exercise, listening to music, breathing and colouring. Pupils also produced bunting which consisted of positive messages which we used to decorate the hall for World Mental Health Day the following week.



During the session, pupils participated in a mindfulness breathing exercise where they were asked to close their eyes and focus only on their breathing; an exercise designed to calm the mind and relax the body.



Pupils were also treated to a motivational speech by Denzel Washington in which the fear of failing is discussed. Various examples of successful people were explored, demonstrating that overcoming failures and mistakes can often lead to success and shouldn't be used as a hindrance. We encourage all our pupils to 'fall forward,' build resilience and continue to grow and strive as individuals.

## PUMPKIN SCAVENGER HUNT



During 11<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October, pupils from Geography Club presented the Academy with a spooky scavenger hunt. Pupils were asked to find clues around the school to make a Halloween-related word, spelt out by certain countries. With lots of eager pupils running around the school to win the

Academy's homegrown pumpkin, one lucky winner was picked at random. Congratulations to Angadpal T. (7S) for winning the first ever Academy pumpkin! Thank you to all pupils and staff involved for making this a successful event.

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](mailto:enquiries@eastwood.southend.sch.uk)

# Events

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



In the week preceding World Mental Health Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Academy ran several events and activities.

Nobody can deny that it's been a particularly challenging 18 months for us all. The Academy therefore wanted to equip our pupils with the 'tools' that could help improve their wellbeing and boost their resilience.



The day was extremely successful, and both pupils and staff alike benefited from a change in the usual structure to focus on their wellbeing.

An extended Form time allowed pupils to discuss what mental health and wellbeing meant to them, as well as what we could do to improve our own wellbeing. Later in the day, the pupils partook in mindfulness activities such as colouring, reading, guided breathing, meditation and yoga. Pupils even had the chance to watch our very own 'Staff Band' perform!



The afternoon was handed over to teambuilding exercises and challenges, as well as a mental wellbeing quiz.



## CHARITY BAKE SALE

The Academy extended break time for a bake sale of gargantuan proportions to raise money for YoungMinds, a mental health charity. In total, a whopping £700.60 was raised - a big thank you to everyone who donated to this cause.

Ms H. Walden selected the 5 'best' bakers, one from each year group, an incredibly tough decision due to the sheer volume of cakes. Well done to our 5 bakers that we selected. There were a huge number of pupils who would have definitely been deserving of a Paul Hollywood handshake!



Sarah S. (7B)



Lily J. (8A)



Liam R. (9S)



Kayla K. (10A)



Lillie C. (11A)



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# Modern Foreign Language Events

## EASTWOOD WEEK OF LANGUAGES

During w/c 20<sup>th</sup> September, the Academy celebrated Eastwood Week of Languages.

It is estimated that over 7,000 languages are spoken across the world and the Eastwood Week of Languages was an opportunity to raise awareness of our linguistic diversity and learn more about different languages and cultures.

Pupils were invited to participate in a range of in class and group activities, e.g. general knowledge, language awareness and quizzes.



## EUROPEAN CUISINE



During the Eastwood Week of Languages, the Canteen worked with the MFL Dept to prepare a number of European dishes for pupils to try.



## INTER-TUTOR COMPETITION



This year's inter-tutor competition was designed to celebrate linguistic diversity

within the Academy.

Over 19 members of staff came forward to be videoed, speaking different languages, and our pupils had to decide which languages were being spoken. The languages included Korean, Malay, Swahili as well as numerous European languages. The pupils and staff really enjoyed this quiz and this year's winners were - IIR! The runners-up were 9K, 10A and 11A. Well done to all and thanks to all the tutor groups who participated.

## YEAR 8 – EIFFEL TOWER CHALLENGE



Each Year 8 class was given the challenge to build their own Eiffel Tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows. The pupils had great fun, not only trying to replicate the shape, but also developing

teamwork skills.

There were 12 winning groups across the week for 'Creativity', 'Strength', and the 'Tallest Tower'. Congratulations to the following pupils:



Henry D, Callum L, Evelyn S, Evie R, Curtis R, Ravit N, Sadie R, Teddy G, Evie N, Jack P, Aydan H, Elsie T, Yahya A, Mason L, Jaleel M, Shay T, Leon P, Cassie B, Ruby G, Ammar A, Honey-Rose Q, Jack V, Francesca H, Jack M, Zac S-B, Liam T, Katelyn H, Chloe J, Reuben L, Murphy C, Kiyon B, Ruby S, Sophie M, Ashton M, Leon H, Roxy O, Chloe F, Elsie N, Jake T, Hudson B, Varsha P, Oliver P, Harriet B, Ashton N, George P, Jayden B, Jazmin D, Lilly J, Katy R, Kiera H, Sophie G.



## LANGUAGES CLUB

During the weekly Languages Club, pupils (and staff) shared some delicious African food prepared by Zach R (IIR) and his family. Thank you so much for sharing this with us all.



# Extra-Curricular

## SUMMER MUSIC TRANSITION AND ENRICHMENT DAYS



On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, the Music Department delivered two transition and enrichment days. Over 50 pupils from across all year groups enjoyed two days of singing and instrumental music making, with sessions in choral singing, jazz improvisation, percussion and orchestral skills.

After many months in the Academy where ensemble music making was not possible, it was thrilling for pupils to take part in live rehearsal and performance. It also allowed pupils to meet others who share their keen interest in music and was particularly valuable as a transition tool for our musical Year 7 pupils who shared a good couple of days performing music, making new friends, meeting staff and having fun!



## ALLERGY AWARENESS



A polite message to remind all pupils and parents that there are several pupils in the Academy who suffer with allergies, some of these allergies can be severe, resulting in anaphylactic shock. Therefore, can we ask that all pupils take care when handling food items and make sure that all wrappers and unwanted food items are discarded appropriately in the bins provided. We would like to thank you for your continued support with this.

## ELF THE MUSICAL



Start your Christmas festivities the right way, by having a 'SparkleJollyTwinkleJingly Time' supporting the Academy Christmas production of *Elf The Musical*!

Showing Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Tickets can be purchased from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from the Academy Finance Office at a cost of £11.00 for adults and £9.00 for concessions.

'The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.'

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



The Scholastic Book Fair arrived at the Academy on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, a welcome return after recent events!

The Principal, Mr. N. Houchen, kindly provided every Year 7

pupil with a voucher to assist in purchasing a book. It certainly had an impact because the Fair was 'mobbed' by eager pupils, probably the busiest opening day I've personally witnessed!

It was fantastic to see so many pupils genuinely excited by the opportunity to purchase books for personal reading, particularly as reading for pleasure is not only a great pastime but really helps pupils with their reading and writing skills within the English and wider curriculum.



# Extra-Curricular

## GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS RETURN!



On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 110 Year 10 pupils embarked on their Human Geography fieldtrip to Stratford, London, tasked with assessing the success of the regeneration schemes.

Pupils undertook environmental surveys; decibel noise tests; and field sketches at Westfield Shopping Centre, the Olympic Park Stadium, Carpenter's Lock and the Lea Canal in Hackney Wick.

In addition, our pupils then took to the streets to interview members of the public to gather their views on the impact of regeneration.

The fieldtrip is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to implement the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in class into a practical forum. For many, this was their first trip to the Olympic Park and it enabled Mrs. N. Lillywhite, Ms E. Potts and Mr. B. Foley to give an insight into an area that we have seen change so rapidly.

The results that the pupils gathered will help them to answer several hypotheses in class, which will ultimately be assessed in their GCSE examinations. Well done to all of our intrepid geographers!



## SILVER DOFE



October marked the start of 30 Year 11 pupils beginning the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



With their expedition scheduled for July, the pupils are working hard to complete their training in route care planning; cooking on Trangia stoves; first aid; and compass bearings. Our committed pupils are also spending 6

months volunteering and learning new skills as well as 3 months improving their fitness ready for their 40 km treks through the New Forest.

In total, our amazing Year 11 pupils have already given up 540 hours of their time volunteering with charities and organisations; making a superb difference to these groups. Trangia safety and cooking were all quickly mastered under the watchful eyes of Mrs. N. Lillywhite, Mr. S. Harrison and Mrs. M. Pacey.



# Art Showcase

## YEAR 7 AND 8 ART CLUB



This half term, many Year 7 and 8 pupils have volunteered their time to attend an afterschool Art Club. They have been working on ideas for a competition themed around 'colours of nature' and it has been fantastic seeing pupils creatively exploring ideas and developing techniques.

Pupils worked in small groups and took inspiration from the artist Andy Goldsworthy, who uses natural items to make his outcomes.



## YEAR 7 AND 8

Year 7 - capturing ellipses accurately.

Year 7 and 8 – observational still life assessment outcomes.

Year 8 have worked hard to observe proportions of wooden figures into their artworks.



Adam L. (7B)



Mia F. (8B)



Elsie N. (8E)

## YEAR 9

Footwear observational studies and artist links.



Katie S. (9E)



Sienna W. (9A)



Caecy L. (9A)



Megan V. (9E)

## YEAR 10

Observational studies and presentation sheets



## YEAR 11

Abstract responses inspired by music and mark making.



# Sporting Success

It has been wonderful to see school sports fixtures resume this term and our pupils have certainly made the most of the opportunity. Over the course of the half-term, over 200 pupils have represented the Academy in over 40 fixtures across a variety of disciplines – a great start to the academic year!

## NETBALL

It has been great to see so many girls out at netball training, working hard to improve both their fitness and skill levels.



The Academy have played a few friendly matches, including a Year 7 win (11 – 7) and a Year 10 win (15 – 14), both against Shoeburyness. These matches were in preparation for the Southend Schools Netball League, which starts after the half term break.



## FOOTBALL

The U13 and U14 Girls' Football Teams have kicked off the new season with great starts, both delivering amazing performances in their Essex Cup campaigns. The U13 Girls impressively won 6-0 and 4-0 against St Martins and Beauchamps respectively, while the U14 Girls achieved similar successes, winning 5-1 and 5-0 against Appleton and St Cleres. Both displayed extraordinary levels of skill, teamwork, and determination, progressing through to the second round of the Essex Cup.



## RUGBY



The Year 7 Rugby Team played in their first ever tournament for the school. For some pupils, it was the first time they had ever played rugby!

The pupils played exceptionally well over a total of 5 games. They won 3 games against FitzWimarc 'B'; King John; and Appleton. They tied against the FitzWimarc 'A' team but sadly lost against an incredibly strong Sweyne Park side.

The pupils were excellent and showed true spirit and tenacity throughout the tournament against fierce opposition. We hope this is the beginning of another strong sporting discipline at the Academy.

