

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the time of writing, I am slightly incredulous that we have reached the half-way point in the academic year....

In terms of the curriculum, the development of CREATE is moving apace and will form part of a wider review of the structure of Key Stage 3 and 4, which I will update parents and pupils on in the second half of the Spring Term.

CREATE Element	Description
Challenge	Stretch and extend learning to foster a deeper understanding beyond the content of the National Curriculum and GCSE specifications.
Regulate	Plan, monitor and evaluate specific aspects of learning to foster greater responsibility and independence – DRAFT.
Enhance	Consolidate and develop transferable literacy and numeracy skills.
Adapt and Assess	Adapt teaching to take account of different pupils' needs and provide an opportunity for all pupils to achieve. Undertake regular in-class assessment to monitor strengths and highlight specific areas of improvement.
Target	Consolidate identified strengths and develop and overcome areas of improvement.
Enrich	Enhance physical and emotional wellbeing; develop social, spiritual, moral and cultural capital; and provide opportunities and experiences to successfully transition to the next stage from secondary education.

In terms of attendance, currently this is 93.3 % vs. a national average of 91.0% (+2.3%) and persistent absence is 18.2% vs. a national average of 28.0% (-9.8%).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.4
Bowland	94.2
Elveden	93.2
Kielder	92.7
Richmond	93.0
Sherwood	93.9
Whinfall	93.0
Overall	93.3

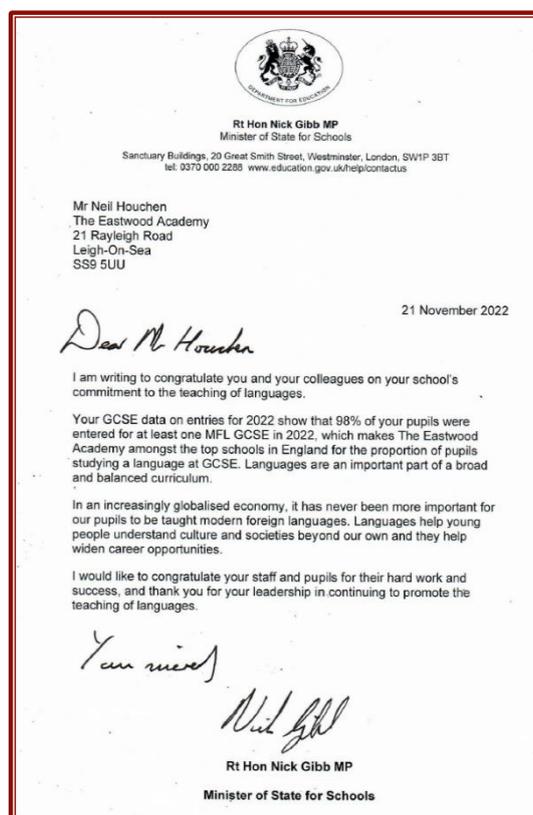
In recognition of the above, the Academy received a commendation from Fisher Family Trust (FFT) for recording an attendance level in the top 25% of similar schools nationally.

In terms of site/estate work, I am pleased to confirm that the Academy will shortly be embarking on an energy efficient infrastructural project involving the installation of solar panels, funded in part, by a one-off ring-fenced capital grant of £42, 000 from the Government.

Mr. N. Houchen
Principal

COMMENDATIONS

In November, the Academy received a letter from the Minister for Schools, Rt Hon Nick Gibb, commending its commitment to the provision of languages at GCSE.



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

During this half term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) have been working primarily on the recruitment and selection process for the incoming Prefect Team. This has involved the StLT presenting to pupils in assemblies about the roles available and the different stages of the recruitment process.

The Academy had over 100 applications, with 67 pupils applying for positions on the StLT. The next stage will involve applicants completing mock duty trials before feedback is sought from staff on pupils' suitability for the role.



In addition to the recruitment of their successors, on Tuesday 8th February, the StLT met with Mr. N. Houchen to feedback the main points raised within the forum of Student Voice. Mr. N. Houchen was impressed by both the scale and scope of the ideas and the drive of the team in pushing their suggestions forward.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



Throughout December, members of our school community came together to donate food items for the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative.

Once again, the wonderful generosity and efforts of our pupils, parents and staff allowed us to donate an amazing number of food parcels to One Love Soup Kitchen - approximately 55 boxes in total!

Our donations allowed volunteers at One Love Soup Kitchen to produce food hampers, gift bags and evening meals for individuals and families over the Christmas period.



JACK PETCHEY AWARDS



Isabella S. (IIR)

Isabella was nominated for this award for coming to the aid of people in her local community. On one occasion, Isabella assisted a child who had badly hurt himself whilst at a trampoline park; she administered first aid and ensured he was looked after. On another occasion, Isabella escorted a child, who had crashed his bike on his way to school, to their local school to make sure he got there safely. She really is a selfless person who is always considerate of others. Well done Izzy!

Aila C. R. (IIB)

Aila was nominated for this award for outstanding commitment to academic excellence – she really is incredibly motivated, so able and such a deserving recipient. Her drive and determination are testament to her astonishing work ethic – nothing is too much of an effort or challenge; in fact, she sees the challenges before her as important learning opportunities which will assist her on her journey to success. She is also Youth Mayor for Southend, again, using her drive and motivation to make change – not just for herself, but for the wider community. She is an inspirational pupil who will go far!

Gabrielle H. (I0K)

Gabrielle was nominated for this award following her appointment as a Student Ambassador for the Multi Schools Council - the first young person in the Southend locality to be appointed! We are very proud of Gabrielle for putting herself forward for this role as are her family and friends. Further, Gabrielle is a role model for other pupils, always achieving exceptionally well across all of her subjects, and is a kind, generous and courteous individual to boot! Well done Gabrielle!

Pupil Success

ESSEX BOYS U15 HOCKEY TEAM



Congratulations to Olly R. (10R) who has been successful in gaining a spot in the Essex Boys' U15 Hockey Team, along with his appointment as captain!

These achievements follow Olly's recent award as Youth Player of the Year at his local hockey club.



A fantastic achievement all round – well done Oily!

MUSIC THEORY EXAMINATIONS

On Wednesday 30th November, pupils from Year 8, 9 and 10 sat Grade 1 and 2 Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) examinations. The Music Theory examinations test pupils on their ability to read, write and understand music, including increasingly difficult Italian terms.

All pupils did exceptionally well, with seven achieving the highest grade (Distinction). Well done to all the pupils on passing their exams, in particular, Georgia S. (9R) who achieved 100% on her Grade 1 exam!

Please congratulate all the pupils on their achievements.

Grade 1:

Georgia S. (9R) – Distinction (100%)
Lucy H. (9W) – Distinction
Jaleel M. (9S) – Distinction
Connie W. (9W) – Distinction
Teddie G. (9R) – Distinction
Ellie W. (9K) – Merit
Chloe J. (9B) – Pass
Vicky N. (9W) – Pass

Grade 2:

Adam S. (8A) – Distinction
Gabrielle H. (10K) – Distinction
Oliver R. (10R) – Pass
Brandon W. (10S) – Pass
Tatianna-Vee B.M. (10A) – Pass

BOXING SUCCESS



Well done to Archie C. (9R) for his latest boxing achievement. Archie recently attended Cambridge for his 5th boxing fight and won!



LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ARTS CHAMPION

Over the past five months, Lois F. (9R) has been entering various competitions under the world-leading drama school - London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA). Lois recently took her Level 5 Award and passed with flying colours. She is currently the overall winner for the competitions below as well as the winner for each individual entry.

Canvey- Performer's Stage Festival -

Drama Solo Win
Overall DRAMA Prize

Essex Speech and Drama Championships

Verse Speaking - Win
Solo Acting - Win
Overall ACTING Prize

Southend Music Festival

Prepared Prose - Win
Monologue - Win (21 competitors)
Premier silver Acting - Win
Overall Junior DRAMA Prize



Art Display

Congratulations to Jack W. (7A) who has five pieces of art currently displayed at The Focal Point Gallery as part of the 'S for Southend' exhibition.

The work covers a range of techniques in addition to some larger collaborative work.



Pupil Success

SCIENCE CHALLENGE



Congratulations to Charlotte B. (7A) in 7XI Science, who won a £10 Amazon voucher for the best 'Model Cell Challenge' homework.

TROPHY PRESENTATION



Congratulations to Jack P. (11B) who was presented with a trophy at the Cadets Presentation Evening on Friday 20th January. Jack was awarded the trophy for demonstrating what it meant to be a 'true cadet'. The award is called 'd'Espirit de Cor' which means the 'true embodiment of a cadet'.

CHARITY RAFFLE



Following the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup, Ms. N. Lawrence decided to raffle off her life-size cut out of Lionel Messi.



Pupils were able to buy tickets for the draw which took place in the Science Department on the last day of Autumn Term. The winner was Aaron B. (11K). £60 was raised in total which has been donated to the [Donkey Sanctuary](#)

OUTSTANDING MATHEMATICIANS

During January, the Mathematics Department issued rewards to pupils for being 'outstanding mathematicians'.



There were only two winners per year group and selection was via teacher nominations. The award recognises commitment and enthusiasm for Mathematics as well as hard work and endeavour. The awardees collected their prizes which included an engraved calculator!

Amy W. (7A), Omar M. (7B), Joe D. (8A), Candice C. (8K), Ellie W. (9K), Ashton N. (9E), Jonnie S. (10B), Eddie C. (10S), Ruby R. (11S), Adya S. (11E).

2ND DAN NIDAN BLACK BELT



In September, Rio P. (9W) undertook a three-hour grading session and successfully achieved a 2nd Dan Nidan Black Belt. Rio has worked hard over the last two years trying to perfect everything, ready for the grading.

It's been two years since Rio received his black belt and he will now not be able to undertake a further grading until he is 21 years old. Until then, he will continue concentrating on his training for competitions. A fantastic achievement!

FRENCH REWARDS



Congratulations to the following pupils who have received their 10-Merit Award in French this half term - an amazing achievement – well done!

Alfie M. (7E), Georgie B. (7K), Amy T. (7W), Kiran P. (8A), Sarah S. (8B), Olivia B. (8E), Joseph B. (8W).

ART COMPETITION



Congratulations to Kulsuma S. (10S) who entered the Rotary Club Art Competition and came third with her entry.

The theme was 'sunrise and sunset' and Kulsuma's entry was well received, with judges commenting on her thought-provoking message and skilful paint execution when tackling the theme.

Pupil Success

U13 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM



Congratulations to the U13 Girls' Basketball Team who have made a great start to their season. Well done for all your efforts so far this year- your hard work and training is paying off!

BR: Skyla M. (8A), Sofia M. (8A), Millie M. (8R), Freya W. (8R), Grace E. (7R), Mia G. (7S), Eadie L. (7A) **FR:** Jasmy N-M. (8K), Alice B. (8A), Daisy M-C. (8B), Cameo H. (7E), Hannah M. (7K)

NETBALL

The U16 Girls' Team have kept up their winning ways and remain undefeated in the Southend Netball League. Erin F. (10E) won Player of the Match Award in both games this term for her brilliant shooting.

The Year 9s have also started 2023 well, winning both their games. Zarah F. (9B) received the Player of the Match Award against St. Bernard's for her great shooting and Sophie Mc. (9A) achieved the award in the Thorpe Hall game for her fantastic defending.

The Year 8s are also undefeated and have played some fantastic netball this year. Freya W. (8R) received the Player of the Match Award against Thorpe Hall, controlling the play throughout the game in her position as centre. Patience S. (8B) also received the Player of the Match Award in the WHSG game, demonstrating brilliant determination, quick movement and shooting ability.

Another team still undefeated in the league are our Year 7s; they all work hard for each other and demonstrate a great team ethic. Felicity W. (7B) received the Player of the Match Award against Thorpe Hall for her great movement and shooting and Nancy A. (7R) achieved the award in the WHSG game, for her superb interceptions and defending, despite not playing in her usual position. Well done girls! Good luck in your last few league matches and in the Southend Borough Netball Tournaments in March.



U16 Squad: Olivia F. (11A), Jessica L (11E), Katie S. (10E), Tiana W. (10R), Erin F. (10E), Sophia L. (10S), Gabrielle H. (10K), Hettie S. (10R), Megan V. (10E)



Year 9 Squad: Poppy B. (9W), Freya M. (9A), Jessica W. (9W), Zarah F. (9B), Desire K. (9S), Nancy M. (9K), Sophie Mc. (9A), Sienna C. (9B)

FIFA CULTURE COMPETITION



During the FIFA World Cup, all 35 form groups were given a country to represent during the tournament.

Upon the completion of the tournament, two trophies were on offer; the first, a prestigious prize for the winning national team and the second, an opportunity to display the culture of the country to our Student Leadership Team judges.



First prize went to Mrs. N. Lawrence's Argentinian team (10R) who proudly displayed their mascot of a life-sized model of Lionel Messi. (Pictured Harry C. 10R).

Second prize was a close contest with many tutor groups clawing at the chance to hold the trophy in their hands. A few forms to mention: Mrs. S. Stanley's musically talented 7A creating a rap about France; Mr. B. Salmon's crafty 7S Spaniards who decorated the classroom and themselves in red and yellow; Ms. E. Heath's 8S American lemonade stand; and Ms. V. Lang's 8W origami creations. One form stood above the rest with their interpretation of Saudi Arabia's culture. 9S tackled the challenge head on with Mrs. J. Edwards calling a team meeting to arrange her squad. Pupils brought in thobes to wear, dates to try, informative camel pictures and even performed a dance number to Arabian Nights. (Pictured Triumph S. 9S).



On Tuesday 10th January, Mr. N. Houchen met with pupils who were individually picked for their hard work and creativity to pull the school's community spirit together during the FIFA competition. Ms. E. Potts and Ms. V. Lang would like to thank staff, pupils (and parents!) for their commitment to this project and for the yummy cakes! Here's to the Women's Euros!



Maithri U. (7B), Gouri S. (7B), Olivia L. (7A), Angadpal T. (8S), Liam B. (8S), Macy R. (8W), Wesley K. (8W), Rosie W. (8A), Triumph S. (9S), Meer I. (9S), Cassie B. (9S), Lily J. (9A), Rehan J. (9R), Tomas A. (10W), Holly C. (10B), Kyla T. (11B), Lois M. (11W) and Precious M. (11W)

Events

MENTAL WELLBEING DROPDOWN

On Tuesday 24th January, Year 7 pupils attended a dropdown session focusing on Mental Wellbeing.

Eleni C, a music artist who has toured with Fleur East, Alesha Dixon and Little Mix was invited to deliver the session. She performed several of her songs, which was met with a lot of excitement and dancing. She then discussed various topics around mental wellbeing and the difficulties that she has personally had to overcome to get to where she is today.



Pupils were then invited to participate in a Q&A session, where a myriad of thoughtful questions and mature responses were articulated by our pupils.



At the end of the session, pupils had a chance to meet Eleni and collect a signed flyer.

JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

On Thursday 16th January over 30 Year 10 pupils participated in the Jack Petchey Speakout Challenge, to learn how to create a speech full of originality and impact.



The activity took all day, with Ore, the representative from Jack Petchey, providing the pupils with lots of ideas, tips and hints. At the end of the event, each pupil then delivered their speech to their team, with Ore, Mr. M. Pearl and Mr. S. Howard judging which speeches were the most effective.



The competition was fierce. Six pupils made it through, and they now have to enhance and improve their speeches

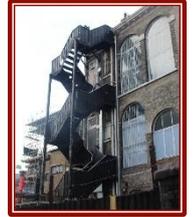
in the battle to be the representative for the Speakout Challenge Regional Final which will take place on Tuesday 25th April.

OCR NATIONALS I MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

On Wednesday 25th January, 20 Year 11 I Media pupils visited Southend High Street for their photography assignment.



The theme was 'the built environment' and pupils had to gain photographic evidence for their portfolio to include historical, modern, commercial and residential buildings.



Pupils planned their photoshoot, took the photographs and then edited selected images ready for a final display in an exhibition gallery and a printed magazine, *Rediscovering Architecture*.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship Week #NAW2023

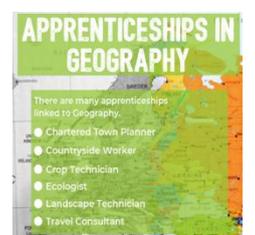
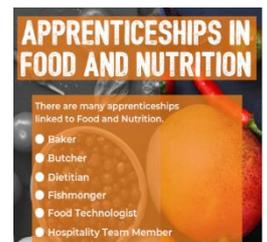
During PDE – 'Preparing for the Future' sessions, pupils across Year 8-11 have been finding out about

apprenticeships.

Pupils initially explored 'What is an apprenticeship?' including a key myth busting exercise.

Pupils discovered that there are over 600 different apprenticeships in England from Accounting to Zookeeper. Pupils also heard from apprentices working for Amazon; Great Ormond Street Hospital; the Royal Navy; Lloyds Banking Group; and Siemens. In addition, pupils also discovered a range of employers offering apprenticeship roles from the British Army; BT; McDonalds; National Rail; Stagecoach; Tesco; and Pepsi.

Pupils also explored how the subjects they study link to apprenticeships and the session ended with pupils creating a social media post promoting apprenticeships. The winning design will be used for the EastwoodAcademyFutureReady Instagram account.



Extra-Curricular

SPORTS LEADERS

During this half term, the Year 9 Sports Leaders have continued developing their communication and organisation skills. They have been planning fitness sessions and successfully delivering them to Year 7 pupils.



On Wednesday 25th January, some of the Sports Leaders had the opportunity to assist in the delivery of a Year 3 and 4 Cricket Festival. They were quite nervous before it started, apprehensive to what the event was going to be like; however, once it started, all the nerves disappeared as they showed both confidence and enthusiasm in leading the cricket activities. The feedback from staff was very complimentary.



Well done Sports Leaders!

LITERACY



As we begin a new year it is customary to want to take a glimpse into the future. To this end, we asked our brilliant Literacy Ambassadors to pen their hopes and dreams for the coming twelve months.

We yearned for an insight into what a young generation might anticipate for their future. They realised a range of dreams and opinions for themselves, their school, their communities and the world at large.

Recently published work can be found on the Academy website [Literacy for Pupils](#) page. A link to one such piece by Eva L.M. (7W) can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

[Toxic Positivity: The Dark Side of Optimism](#)

EASTWOOD PODCAST



This half term, the Podcast Team, Rosie W. (8A), Ruby H. (8A), Louis C. (10S) and Ellie T. (11R) conducted interviews with different groups of pupils about some of the exciting opportunities on offer at the Academy.

First, the team interviewed members of the Brilliant Club after their recent trip to Cambridge University and asked what the Brilliant Club is and why others should apply to join in the future.

Second, the team interviewed pupils who participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out competition to find out what the competition is and how it may help lead to new opportunities.

Third, Rosie W. (8A), conducted a very special interview with professional musician Eleni C. who delivered a captivating drop-down session to Year 7 pupils on mental wellbeing.

Lastly, the team interviewed the Diversity Committee about the upcoming 'Culture Day'. The team wanted to find out more about the role and function of the Diversity Committee and what they had planned for the day.

Click here for [The Eastwood Academy Podcast](#)

LANGUAGES CLUB



The focus for Languages Club this term was the celebration of festivals worldwide. This included: La Fête des Rois, a traditional celebration in France on 6th January; Russian

Orthodox Christmas Day, celebrated on 7th January; key festivals in Germany and German greetings; the delights of Welsh culture and language; the highlights of Irish culture and Irish greetings; Chinese New Year; and Valentine's Day celebrations around the world.



Thanks to our Language Ambassadors, Elsie N. (8E) and Gracie-Rose B. (8K) for running the club.

If you would like to get involved and share your knowledge of a language and culture, please come along to MFLI on a Thursday lunchtime.



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates in the end of term House assemblies.

ASHDOWN



BOWLAND



ELVEDEN



KIELDER



RICHMOND



SHERWOOD



WHINFELL

