

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

It is important that I first thank all the staff at the academy for their hard work this term. As you will see in this newsletter it has been incredibly busy. I have enjoyed visiting, and taking part in, different lessons, meeting pupils and speaking to many parents.

It was a pleasure to meet many of you during the Year 7 and Year 11 information meetings. It meant a lot that so many parents were able to find the time to come in and learn more about the school and their child's learning.

It is essential that pupils take time to enjoy the February break as next term is even busier in terms of events and challenges including:

- selecting both Prefects and members of the Student Leadership Team from pupils in Year 10.
- pupils in Year 9 will start to look at, and consider, their GCSE option choices
- Various trips (we now have over 25 trips running!)
- National Careers Week

Year 11 pupils are making good progress and now have eight school weeks before the start of their GCSE examinations. As always, we are providing a wealth of resources and opportunities to support them as part of our RISE programme. I wish them well during this time. I spoke to Year 11 this morning and reminded them of the importance of the coming months and the wealth of support available to help them manage during this time.

Finally, I do hope that you as parents find some time to relax and enjoy the break. As always if there are comments, questions, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or the relevant member of staff.

Best regards,



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As an Academy, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative this year. The donations were greatly appreciated by those at the Southend Storehouse. On our visit, Miss. B. Cooper and Miss A. Bishop met



various volunteers and people from the local community who visit the Storehouse who couldn't believe the quantity of boxes donated. It was so lovely to see the reaction of everyone - Miss Cooper said it was the most rewarding year to date. The volunteers were overwhelmed by the amount of goods donated and wanted to personally pass on a huge thank you to our pupils, parents and staff for their donations. Every year we manage to surpass our previous year's collection, and it cannot be done without all of your hard work and generosity. Thank you so much.



ATTENDANCE

Across the academic year so far, overall attendance was 94.1% vs. a current national average of 91.1%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	94.3
Bowland	94.0
Elveden	94.1
Kielder	94.5
Richmond	93.5
Sherwood	94.5
Whinfell	93.8
Overall	94.1

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Leadership Team (StLT) have started the recruitment process for the next cohort. The StLT created a presentation and ran the assembly for Year 10 pupils on the steps in applying to become a prefect. Over 80 Year 10 pupils have submitted an application form with 50 pupils wanting to be considered for the Student Leadership Team. In the next half term, Year 10 pupils will complete mock duties while staff consider which pupils will meet the job requirements of a prefect.

FOOD PREPARATION

The Year 7's have enjoyed learning the stages of breadmaking and the function of the ingredients. They have also been practising their shaping skills.



Poppy Jo B. (7A)



Dexi M. (7E)



Jackson F. (7K)



Jake R. (7W) and Aviya L. (7R)

GIRLS RUGBY DEVELOPMENT



On Wednesday 7th February, 9 Year 7 girls had the opportunity to participate in a girls' rugby development afternoon, hosted by Westcliff Rugby Club. They had a great afternoon scoring try's and making some epic tackles (and getting extremely muddy)! Pupils pictured from top left to bottom right- Sky B. (7B), Rosie M. (7S), Amelia T. (7W), Savannah M. (7E), Elsie B. (7B), Dexi M. (7E), Kadee W. (7W), Harmony Q. (7W), Chloe B. (7K).



CHIEF SCOUT GOLD AWARD

Congratulations to Kirk B. (10K) who was invited to a presentation ceremony at Eastwood community centre on Sunday November 5th where he was Awarded with the 'Chief Scout Gold Award'. This Award is the highest award a Scout can earn.



Having Autism and Learning difficulties make this even more of an accomplishment for Kirk. To receive the award, you need to complete nine challenge badges, plus six activity badges. The Nine Challenges are: Adventure - World - Creative - Expedition - Outdoor- Personal - Skills - Team Leader - Teamwork.

KARATE SUCCESS FOR RIO

Congratulations to Rio P. (10W) for competing in the KUGB National Youth and Student Championships at the end of 2023. Rio won the silver in Kumite. Rio won 3 fights to get to the final. The final was a 4 minute fight and neither opponent scored a point. In the end it came down to judges' flags and unfortunately the win was awarded to Rio's opposition as he showed



more aggression. Speaking to Rio after the fight, the head judge said in all the years he'd judged finals he had never seen it so close and being a draw.

At Rio's first competition of 2024, the EKCC Championships, he won bronze in pairs Kata. What a difference the Christmas break makes, you can never rely on your last performance. It shows it's all in the continuous training.



Pupil Success

ESU DEBATING TEAM

The ESU Debating Team – Aiman Z. (11P) Ashton N. (10E), Kulsuma S. (11S) and Ademi I. (11A) gave it their all at The Brentwood School on Thursday 25th January, competing with Sandon School, two Thorpe Hall School teams and Brentwood. The quality of the teams over the years keeps improving and this year was no exception.

However, there is no doubt in my mind that Aiman's speech was the best one, with her insightful and humorous consideration of the definition of "Success". She was so calm and poised, totally unruffled and the audience were rapt. She told me afterwards that she was really nervous during the speech – there was absolutely no physical indication of that – she was superb. Kulsuma's chairing was, in my opinion, the most memorable performance that I have witnessed in any of my ESU teams – she was having a party up on stage and we were all welcome to join! I don't know how she managed to smile so much and talk at the same time but she did, and I loved her 'butterflies' analogy during her introduction!

Ashton was totally composed and delivered some excellent questions to the speaker, whose speech was on prescription charges – quite an adult topic!

Finally my thanks to Ademi, who attended as our reserve, ready at a moment's notice to jump in if needed – in the end the ESU judge employed her to oversee the timings for each of the teams!



Before the final announcement I couldn't really call it but Eastwood had definitely held their own – both the Sandon

teacher and the Thorpe Hall teacher had approached me during the interval to say that Eastwood, in their view, had won. Sadly it wasn't to be – Brentwood had won and they're now through to the next round, and we wish them every success.

MUSIC EXAM

Congratulations to Emily L. (9R) who passed her grade 4 flute with a merit.

FRENCH MERITS

A huge congratulations to the pupils listed below who have recently achieved their 10 merit award in French. This is a fabulous achievement, which demonstrates continued effort in the subject. Well done!

Finley M. (7A), Lucia M. (7A), Sofia M. (7B), Poonam P. (7B), Ruby S-D. (7B), Freddie C. (7E), Violet F. (7E), Yayin P. (7E), Lillia N. (7K), Evie P. (7K), Nelly W. (7K), Olivia B. (7R), Aniko S. (7R), Ryder V. (7S), Alexis C. (7W), Bridie L. (7W), Thenujaan P. (7W), Emmeline R. (7W), Jack R. (7W), Caitlin M. (8A), Sharad P. (8B), Silveya D. (8K), Lilly A. (8W), Marshall H. (8W), Leanise T. (9K), Noah T. (9K), Harley W. (9S), Ella-Rose B. (9W), Felix M. (7W)

A huge well done to Lily-May S. (7S) and Amelia P. (8R) who were presented with their 20 merit French achievement badge this week. This is a fantastic achievement and shows an excellent level of effort and commitment in the subject. Congratulations to you both.



THE BRILLIANT CLUB

A number of pupils are taking part this year in the Brilliant Club program. They are tasked with completing tutorials alongside a PHD tutor and writing an essay which will be graded at a degree level. This year they are tasked with investigating and writing a piece on "Cultural Genocide". This is a great achievement for those taking part and we look forward to seeing the results! The pupils included are: Poppy B. (10W), Milo B. (10S), Phoebe B. (10W), Emma B. (10R), Thomas C. (10W), Mosfique C. (10W), Ruby F. (10K), Aidan H. (10A), Stefana I. (10R), Meer I. (10S), Jensen J. (10B), Freya M. (10A), Cruz M. (10W), Ava O. (10B), Triumph S. (10S) and Jessica W. (10W).



Events

READING ROOM



This term we have opened up the wonderful *Reading Room* in EN2. Pupils can use this room as a relaxing and quiet space to enjoy their favourite book. Or, if they're looking for inspiration, they can

peruse the range of KS3 and KS4 books we have available and escape to a world beyond our own!

STORYTELLER VISIT



On Thursday 1st February, we had the privilege of inviting an accomplished Storyteller during National Storytelling Week to perform for our Year 7 Pupils. Chip Colquhoun, from Epic Tales, spent the whole day running different workshops with the pupils. The day began with a whole year assembly, during which Chip tested the pupils on their knowledge of the history of storytelling, before revealing to them that this art has



been going on for thousands of years. He then spent an hour with each Form Group promoting reading for pleasure and explaining the benefits it has on imagination and creativity. Chip also spent time re-telling classic stories, with a twist before ending with a re-enactment of Roald Dahl's famous work, which involved the pupils acting as cats, birds and water creatures! It was a fabulous day, enjoyed by all.

EXPLORING MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS AND POSITIVE CHANGE DROP DOWN



We are delighted to share the success of a recent session led by Mr. J. Clark and Mr. W. Piercy focusing on the unique challenges faced by our Year 8 and 9 boys in both societal and school

contexts. The overarching theme of this engaging session centred around a captivating social experiment that left a lasting impression!

The Experiment: every time a bell rang, four leaders (who were in on the experiment!) courageously stood up. The goal was to assess whether the rest of the crowd would follow suit. The outcome being pupils followed the crowd and stood up with them, not knowing why!

Throughout the session, we delved into important discussions aimed at empowering our young minds:

Redefining masculinity

Promoting respectful treatment of women and each other

Analysing group behaviour dynamics

Addressing offensive language

Delivering crucial lessons on vaping

The Impact: Anonymous surveys conducted with the participants revealed a profound impact on their perspectives. The relatability of lessons, shared by two young male teachers who've navigated similar challenges, resonated deeply with our audience.

We are committed to fostering an environment that encourages open conversations and positive change. As we continue to support our pupils on their journeys, we look forward to more sessions that inspire growth, understanding, and respect.



Extra-Curricular

LANGUAGES CLUB

Wow, these few weeks have gone by so fast. We kickstarted this half-term finding out about La Galette des Rois, a favourite French cake baked with a lucky charm for the Epiphany in France on the 6th of January and watched a famous YouTube content creator from New York speaking fluent Welsh in... Wales! Then I presented France's fastest mode of transport, the SNCF TGV train! We watched a video that showed how fast it was at top speed. If you blinked you missed it!



After this high-speed business, we settled down to Ashwita A.(10E) and Angelina B. (9K) talking in Hindi.



We practised the Hindi alphabet and learnt how to say some basic Hindi words! Mr. S. Wilson was our very special guest speaker

for this term. He spoke to us in Russian, and we learnt how the different letters in the Russian alphabet were pronounced. Billy S. (9A), in particular, is to be commended for speaking in a perfect Russian accent – even Mr. S. Wilson was impressed!

We were then showed how to speak and pronounce some basic Russian phrases: Здравствуй те! We also looked at Russian culture and enjoyed watching their music and traditional costumes from an all under-18 year-old dance cast! It was brilliant to watch and see how skilled these young people were. The music was phenomenal! If you would like to get involved, language club meets every Wednesday lunchtime, re-commencing 28th February, in MFL 3.



By Robbie-Jay N. (10E)



GEOGRAPHY CLUB GOES WILD

Our intrepid geographers have started a new topic and its one that they won't forget as they are adopting an elephant!



We are working with the World Wildlife Fund to adopt an elephant and find out as much as we can about this endangered animal.

The geography club pupils have been making elephants out of recycled milk bottles and decorating them with tissue paper. They are also undertaking a project that is helping them find out about habitat, food and threats. We hope to show you their completed work in the next newsletter.

GAMES CLUB

Games Club, which was initiated as a way for Year 7 pupils to make new friends, has evolved into a lunch club of fun, laughter, and friendly competitions. Welcoming pupils across all year groups, these afternoons are where children can eat while playing games like Dobble, Uno, Chess and Connect 4, to name a few.

Mr. K. Danson, who runs the club, says: "It's so nice to see pupils coming on their own then being invited into a game with other pupils they don't really know. Chess and Uno are definitely the most popular games." This can certainly be witnessed with crowded tables of mini Uno tournaments or winner-stays-on challenges of Chess - Ivan W. (11K) holds the current Chess Master title.

Games Club runs every Tuesday and Thursday lunch in EN9. Come along, relax and enjoy.

LIBRARY



As well as the Reading Room, Year 7 pupils have also had the opportunity this term to visit our local Kent Elms Library. During their

Literacy lessons, pupils pop out to speak with the librarian, understand which books and texts they have on offer and even browse for a book themselves with their new library cards. These exciting trips will continue into the next half term as well.

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



PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT EMAIL

The Academy has an email address to allow parents to report any achievements of pupils outside of school. This can take the form of sporting achievements, dance/drama, community-based activities or indeed any other form of success parents would like the Academy to celebrate and recognise.

A short explanation of the achievement and photos should be emailed to the Academy, which will then be shared in the half-termly Newsletter.

E-mail: achievements@eastwood.southend.sch.uk