

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, the Academy recorded another outstanding set of GCSE results. Given that this was the first year of external examinations, after a two-year hiatus, I am extremely pleased with the outcomes.

Headline figures include:

- 95% 9-4 in Mathematics.
- 87% 9-4 in English.
- 86% 9-4 in English and Mathematics.
- EBacc APS of 5.19.
- Attainment 8 (A8) of 56.23.
- Progress 8 (P8) of +0.59.

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

In terms of other key issues over the summer, I am pleased to announce that the Science redevelopment and refurbishment work is now complete. The completion of the second phase of the work had been delayed in recent years, but I am relieved that this is finally finished and staff and pupils can benefit from the modern laboratory and learning environments.

As for the year ahead, I would like to formally welcome the Year 7 pupils, and wish them, and their counterparts in other year groups, a very successful and fulfilling year.

Mr. N. Houchen  
Principal

#### SUMMER SCHOOL

In July 2022, the Academy ran a summer school for all incoming Year 7 pupils (and some pupils in Year 8) which provided an opportunity to:

- Receive 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](#)

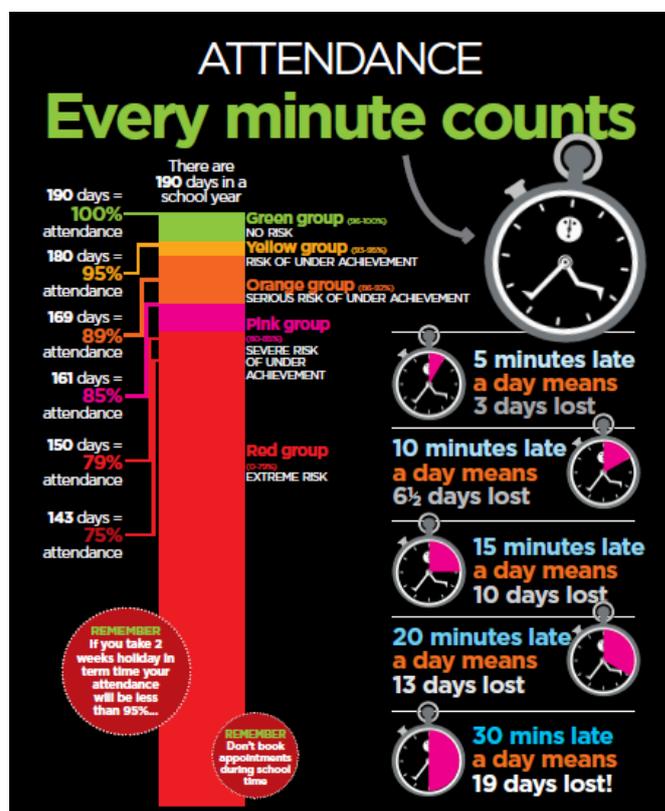
#### ATTENDANCE

For Autumn Term 1, overall attendance was 94.8 % vs. a (current) national average of 92.7% (+2.1 %).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	94.3
Bowland	96.0
Elveden	95.2
Kielder	94.8
Richmond	93.9
Sherwood	94.8
Whinfell	94.5
<b>Overall</b>	<b>94.8</b>

During w/c 31<sup>st</sup> October, the Academy will e-mail individual pupil Attendance Reports covering the first half-term.

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)



# Pupil Success

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

From September, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) launched its extensive Prefect Duty Rota. Prefects are a vital resource in supporting staff and pupils, in particular, those newest to the school i.e. Year 7. To aid identification, Prefects wear yellow lanyards so younger pupils can quickly recognise who to speak to if they have any questions or need assistance.

Individual members of the StLT have also been involved in presenting during the allocated assembly slot of 'Theme of the Week'.

Adya S. (11E) presented alongside Mr. P. Barrett on the theme of 'Family'. Adya spoke about the Hindu tradition of Pitru Paksha and how the tradition is about honouring and remembering ancestors.

Maame A. (11B) presented with Mrs. L. Hodgson-Clark on the theme of 'Society', which coincided with Black History Month. Maame spoke about her own personal experiences and challenges growing up as a black British citizen and also discussed ways to embrace and celebrate Black History Month.

## ACTIVE ESSEX PANATHLON TEN PIN BOWLING

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, six pupils visited Hollywood Bowl in Basildon to take part in the Active Essex Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling Challenge, catering specifically for pupils with SEND.

The main focus of the competition was to encourage active participation in sports and physical activity.

The team came an amazing 3<sup>rd</sup> place and received a trophy, medals and certificates for their efforts.

The pupils were: Rehan J. (9R), Adonis I. (10A), George W. (9A), Jake T. (9S), Ellie T. (11R), Maddie M. (11K)



## FORM CAPTAINS

At the start of an academic year, each form group elects a new Form Captain. Candidates in each form must complete an application, give a brief presentation and then put themselves forward for the 'form vote'. Congratulations to the following pupils who will constitute the 'Student Voice', providing feedback from their form group on how pupils' school experience can be improved.

### Year 7 Form Captains



### Year 8 Form Captains



### Year 9 Form Captains



### Year 10 Form Captains



# Pupil Success

## BASKETBALL SUCCESS

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Jasmyn N.-McG. (8K) competed in the East Region Intercounty Basketball Tournament, competing against the best U13 Girls' Teams in Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, and Bedfordshire. Essex was victorious, completing the tournament undefeated. The photo opposite shows Jasmyn with her Gold Medal and the U13 Girls' Intercounty Basketball Tournament Trophy.



## PALACE THEATRE SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT

Congratulations to the following pupils who performed in the Palace Theatre Summer Youth Project:

Oliver B. (11B), Hannah M. (10W), Tony L. (10A), Mia C. (11A), Evalyn P. (9A), Maryse F. (10K), Stuart H. (11A), Safia W. (10R), Maliyah W. (10S), Taylor S.-W. (10B), Josh F. (11K).



They rehearsed for six days in the summer holidays to put on an amazing show. The chaperones and staff at the Palace Theatre complimented our pupils on their conduct and positivity!

Southend Theatre Scene said:

*"The main cast are all ably supported by a fabulous ensemble, each and every one of them staying in character throughout and proving that they are able to take on direction and stay focused; not easy when there are often almost 90 people on stage. The choreography is magnificent. You can see the sheer delight in the faces of all the cast on stage in the final bows and encore when their voices boom in unison and this is reflected in the equally delighted audience's face, who were all up on their feet on opening night, to applaud this fantastic production".*

## SIGN LANGUAGE CHOIR



Maryse F. (10K) is part of a Sign Language Choir called Love2Sign. Recently she competed in a national competition against other choirs and won a Silver Medal.

Such was their British Sign Language (BSL) competency and fluency, that the judge actually believed the members of Maryse's choir were deaf!

## JSKA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Congratulations to Rio P. (9W) for his performances at the JSKA European Championships 2022, an event held over two days, and which coincided with Rio having broken a finger and not being able to train properly for a month. Below are the results from Rio's competitions – a great effort!

### Team Events Day 1

Gold in Team Kata for 13 - 14 years European Champions 2022

Gold in Team Kumite for 13 - 14 years European Champions 2022



### Individual Events Day 2

Silver European Champion in Individual Kata for 13 - 14 years category

4<sup>th</sup> in his individual Kumite



## FREE RESOURCES FROM AMAZON



Amazon is currently offering free curriculum-linked resources to support children's learning.

The resources are organised under 4 categories:

- Free learning resources.
- For parents and carers.
- Well known publishers.
- Something for everyone.

Click here for the [Free Amazon Resources](#)

# Pupil Success

## NETBALL SUCCESS

Well done to all the pupils who have been attending netball practice and training hard to develop their technique and skills. Also, a huge thank you to the Year 10 girls who have been coaching and officiating Year 7 and 8 sessions: Megan V. (10E), Erin F. (10E), Hettie S. (10R) Katie S. (10E) and Alex G. (10B).

As a result of our Year 7 Girls' Team having a successful season last year, we entered them into the U14 Essex Netball Cup. They played their first-round match against Greensward at the beginning of October but, despite their excellent effort and determination, Greensward proved too strong and they ended up losing the game. Violet B. (8B) was awarded Player of the Match for her tremendous interceptions and influence during the game.

We also entered the U16 Essex Cup to stretch and challenge our Year 11 Girls' Team, who have had a fantastic netball career over the past four years. They played their first-round match against Gable Hall, finishing the first half 8 – 4 up. In the second half, they exploded into action and the goals kept on coming, achieving a well-deserved 28 – 8 victory.

Player of the Match was awarded to Jessica L. (11E) for her great defensive play throughout, keeping her opponent out of the game. Good luck in the next round girls.



### U16 Essex Cup Squad

Kayleen H. (11K) Olivia F. (11A), Jessica L. (11E), Gracie A. (11R), Erin F. (10E)

Hannah E. (11K), Ciara B. (11S), Megan V. (10E)

The Southend Schools Netball leagues will start up after half term, so look out for the fixture information.

## SOUTHEND BOROUGH TABLE TENNIS

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, the U13 and U16 Girls' Teams participated in the Southend Borough Table Tennis Competition. Both teams won their age groups and progressed through to the Essex Finals. We wish them all the best in the next round!



**U13 Girls:** Isabelle B. (7R), Freya W. (8R), Amy W. (7A), Erin M. (7B)



**U16 Girls:** Gracie A. (11R), Kayleen H.P (11K), Emily C. (10R), Bessie S. (11A)

## 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](mailto:achievements@eastwood.southend.sch.uk)

## FRENCH MERIT SUCCESS



Congratulations to Vedanth A. (8S) for achieving 10 merits in French this half term. This is a fabulous achievement – well done!

# Events

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Academy celebrated European Day of Languages. We invited 60 pupils and teachers from Heycroft Primary School to spend the morning at the Academy. Some of our Year 8 pupils worked alongside our visitors to support and guide them through the morning's activities.

In small groups, we completed an Eiffel Tower competition where pupils had to make models using only paper straws and tape. We had some fantastic designs, and it was extremely difficult to choose winners, however, we finally awarded prizes for the 'Most Creative', 'Tallest' and 'Most Like the Eiffel Tower'.



Pupils also completed a language-related treasure hunt around the school – our Year 8s did a brilliant job of guiding our visitors round the clues and supporting them in choosing answers.

Our visitors then got the chance to spend some time in our MFL classrooms, completing a mini taster lesson in French and a language video quiz.



We had an excellent morning, hosting a fantastic group of young people. Further, our Year 8 pupils were excellent ambassadors for the Academy and we are extremely proud of them.



## EASTWOOD WEEK OF LANGUAGES



During the week of 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Academy celebrated the 'Eastwood Week of Languages'.

It is estimated that over 6,000 languages are spoken across the world today 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, ranging from general knowledge of European countries to learning tasters of other languages.

Pupils also participated in an Inter-Tutor Competition designed to raise awareness of the many different languages spoken by celebrities.

Lots of form groups participated but the winner and runner-up were both from Whinfell - 7W and 8W respectively.

Well done to all and thanks to all the groups who participated.



Pictured are Whinfell representatives: Harrison L. and Brooke M. (7W) and Edward B. and Emma D. (8W)

In Languages Club this half term, we have been focusing on linguistic diversity. Pupils have had the chance to learn Arabic, taught by our pupils Lara S. (7A) and Omar M. (7B); German, taught by Faye P. (8W) and Mrs. Haiser; and Spanish and Portuguese taught by Jennifer G. (9S), Melanie C. (8W) and Eva L.-M. (7W).



After half term, pupils will have the chance to learn Hindi, Bengali, Japanese, Gujarati, Telugu, Russian and Sign Language. If you would like to get involved in sharing your knowledge of another language and culture or would like to learn the one or more of the languages above, come along to MFLI on Thursday lunchtime.

# Extra-Curricular

## BBC RADIO ESSEX

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, nine pupils, primarily from Year 10, but also the Eastwood Podcast Team, were given a private tour of the BBC Radio Essex building, newsroom and studios in Chelmsford. The tour, led by one of the news editors, showed the pupils all about radio, how it is produced, how to ensure the technology works and everything that goes on behind the scenes. The tour started with the most important part, the Technical Support Team, where pupils learnt the different ways to ensure a radio show is recorded properly, including live productions. Next, we were taken to the heart of the station – the Newsroom. Here a team of journalists were busy in their morning meeting discussing the hot topics of the day...the heat wave, and how to broadcast this in a different way. The pupils were introduced to four members of the team and learnt about individual roles such as Producer and News Bulletin Reader.



The final part of our tour was in the studios. Firstly, the Newsroom, where pupils were shown how the News Reporter gets ready to broadcast their important bulletins. Then, on to the most exciting part of the tour, where we stood in one of two studios and watched as seasoned presenter Ben Fryer started his show. He even took the time to say 'hello' to us through the intercom system. In the studio we were shown all of the technology that the two producers were busy using to make sure the show ran smoothly. Throughout, the pupils asked various questions about how the radio show runs, how they choose their music, and the average salary and qualifications needed. Nathan P. (11A) asked the difficult question of how the BBC stayed non-partisan when covering political news and was given a very detailed and honest answer regarding the need to be impartial. Overall, a fantastic, very informative and exciting morning was had by all and a great opportunity for pupils interested in pursuing a career in radio broadcasting.



To hear about the pupils' experiences listen to the Eastwood Podcast.

## MUSIC MARK STATUS AWARDED TO THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY



MUSIC MARK SCHOOL  
2022 - 2023

The Music Department is thrilled to have once again been awarded Music Mark Status in recognition of a 'commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all children and young people'.

If your child has a passion for music, please encourage them to attend one of our many enrichment activities ranging from: Choir; Jazz Band; Percussion Ensemble; The Eastwood Podcast Team; and Music Theory classes.

There is genuinely something for everyone!

Speak to Mrs. Stanley or Mr. Harrison for more details.



## EASTWOOD PODCAST



In the first episode of the current academic year, the Eastwood Podcast Team, Eva L.-M, (7W) Poppy D, (8A) Ruby H, (8A) Rosie W (8A), Florrie R. (8A) and Ellie T. (11R), with support from several Year 7 pupils, have been focusing on the rollout of the new PDE programme, World Mental Health Day and the upcoming in-house production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*.

The team also spoke to several teachers about why they joined the teaching profession, what qualifications they needed to become a teacher, and what they most liked about their job.

Lastly, the team interviewed some of the members of the Student Leadership Team (StLT) about the role of a Prefect and what plans the Student Voice have for this academic year.

Click here for the [Eastwood Podcast](#)

# Extra-Curricular

## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> October, Year 10 Geography pupils undertook their human geography fieldwork, visiting the Olympic Park, Westfield and Hackney Wick.



The purpose of the fieldtrip was to analyse the continued regeneration in the area which began with the preparations for the 2012 London Olympics. Undeterred by the overcast weather and rain showers, the pupils embraced the opportunity to have a guided tour of the entire Olympic Park. At each site they conducted various pieces of fieldwork and took the time to interview members of the public to gather their views on the regeneration and its impact on the local population, economy and environment.



For some pupils, the highlight was seeing the West Ham Stadium (I am assuming they were staunch Hammers supporters).

The trip provided the pupils with the opportunity to visit areas of London that most tourists never visit and to see the sights that they have been studying in class.

Towards the end of the day, as we took shelter from the inclement weather, the pupils got to explore some other parts of Westfield, in particular, the Lego Shop, Krispy Kremes and Primark!



## YEAR 7 TRANSITION EVENING AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

It's always so lovely as teachers to be able to meet with and talk to Year 7 parents for the first time, and the Year 7 Transition Evening and Scholastic Book Fair gave us one such opportunity.

Many parents stopped to have a chat and introduce themselves. The pupils were brimming with enthusiasm about the books they wanted to read, which is contrary to the stereotype often associated with young teenagers, especially boys.



We discussed the best books to buy, a love for reading and reminded pupils of a quote from a famous philosopher, "Books help us become the best version of ourselves."

Overall, we all enjoyed a wonderful evening and look forward to meeting parents again at the Literacy Evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## PUMPKIN CHAMPIONS!

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, pupils from Year 7-10 were unleashed on an animal-themed scavenger hunt (in conjunction with WWF's 'earn your stripes') to try and win a pumpkin (grown from the school garden!). In total, 31 pupils completed the hunt with only nine pupils getting all the correct answers. Our winner, picked at random, was Brooke. M (7W), congratulations!



Form groups also competed to guess the weight of our largest pumpkin. Mr. S. Howard (11R) and Miss. J. Turner (10K) were closest with 7kg (actual weight was to 7.1kg). In order to settle the tie, the forms had to guess the Guinness Book of Records weight for the largest pumpkin. Pipping them to the post was Mr. S. Howard's form by a tiny 1kg!! (the actual weight was 1226kg). Mr. S. Howard raffled off his pumpkin to his form, with the lucky winner, Oliver. H (11R) having the honour to take it home.

Thank you to all for participating in this year's Gardening Club activities – Miss. E. Potts.

# Extra-Curricular

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2022

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Academy undertook a number of activities and events in support of World Mental Health Day. Our primary aim was to equip pupils with the 'tools' that could help them improve their wellbeing and boost their resilience.



The structure of the school day was altered to accommodate the activities.

Form time was dedicated to discussions around mental health, difficulties that our pupils may encounter, along with exploring coping and mindfulness techniques.

Pupils also had the opportunity to see our incredible staff band perform, allowing them to enjoy live music and have a dance with their friends.

Break and lunch time were extended to allow for a cake and bake sale to raise money for YoungMinds. In total, we raised an impressive £312.20 - a big thank you to everyone that donated to this cause.

As part of the cake and bake sale, we selected the 6 'best' bakers, which was an incredibly tough decision due to the sheer volume of cakes that we received. Well done to the six bakers that we selected, you are definitely deserving of a 'Paul Hollywood handshake'!



## EASTWOOD GARDEN LEVEL 5 RHS STATUS

The Gardening Club has been working really hard over the last year to gain the Level 5 Royal Horticultural Society School Gardening Award. We received the award in September and a plaque will shortly be displayed in the garden.



Over the past few weeks, pupils have been reaping the rewards of the produce planted at the start of the year - runner beans, potatoes, broccoli and pumpkins! Pupils are also eagerly awaiting the harvesting of our winter crops. A big thank you to Jess. T (10W), Esme. S (10K), Jack. D (10B), Ashton. T (10B), Ivan. W (10K), George. B (10E) and Cloe. S (10E).



## MENTAL WELLBEING



On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Year 7 pupils were invited to attend a drop-down session on Mental Wellbeing delivered by Mr. S. Harrison and Miss. 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 to help support and improve their mental wellbeing, such as a mindfulness breathing exercise where they were asked to close their eyes and focus only on their breathing. This exercise is designed to calm the mind and relax the body.



Pupils also produced 'positive message bunting' which was used to decorate the Main Hall for World Mental Health Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

# 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

