

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On 24<sup>th</sup> August, the Academy, once again, recorded its best ever GCSE results, reaffirming its status as the most successful non-selective school in the borough of Southend and one of the highest performing schools in the country.

Headline figures include:

91% 9-4 in Mathematics

86% 9-4 in English

83% 9-4 in English and Mathematics

34% achieved the EBacc

Attainment 8 of 52.7

Progress 8 of 0.72

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

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, the DfE published provisional school performance data, specifically Progress 8, to aid the parents of Year 6 pupils in making admissions decisions for the normal transition point (Year 6 into Year 7).

For the 2016 cohort, the Academy recorded a Progress 8 of 0.58 which placed it in the top 5% of schools in the country. For the 2017 cohort, the Progress 8 increased to 0.72 which, at the very least, will maintain this lofty position nationally, although I anticipate that it may place the Academy in the top 3% of schools nationally – a truly tremendous feat.

Click here for the [DfE Performance Tables](#)

Click here for the [Progress 8 Scores of Local Schools](#)

The results are a testament to the relentless ambition and work of pupils, staff and parents who continue to make me exceptionally proud of the Academy's achievements and all those associated with it.

Mr. N. Houchen

Principal, The Eastwood Academy  
CEO, Eastwood Park Academy Trust (EPAT)

#### PUPIL SUCCESS

The highest individual GCSE performances were:

Marija Boicuka – 5 A\*, 4 A, and 1 B

Sam Cotgrove – 4 A\*, 4 A, and 1 B

Marzouq Azad – 3 A\*, and 7 A

Henry Bashford – 3 A\*, and 7 A

Jack Bloomer – 3 A\*, 6 A, and 1 C

#### SUBJECT COMMENDATIONS



Congratulations to all the pupils who received Celebrating Success Subject Commendations this half term. A selection of these pupils are included in the photo above.

#### ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 97.2%. This is 1.2% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 2.2% above the national average of 95.0%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	97.3
Bowland	97.1
Elvedon	96.9
Kielder	97.2
Richmond	97.7
Sherwood	97.7
Whinfell	97.7
Overall	97.2

Click here for the [Academic Year 2018-19 Letter](#)

# Pupil Success

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

During the first half-term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) have represented the Academy at key events, such as Parental Information Evenings and the Year 7 Transition Evening. The StLT also attended the recent Local Governing Body (LGB) meeting to feedback to Governors and discuss ideas and projects moving forward.

At the end of the half term, the new Form Captains were elected. These pupils play a vital role in the interconnectedness of the Student Voice. Their election will be followed up in November by Student Voice assemblies, delivered by the StLT.

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



As part of their Citizenship coursework, Prefects Josie H. (IIR) and Lia C. (IIA) wrote to the Council about issues relating to the disposal of chewing gum. They suggested using pink containers (made of recycled chewing gum) rather than conventional dustbins or, regrettably, the floor. The Council wrote to Josie

and Lia to explain that they have installed these on a number of lamp posts in Southend as part of a trial.



Congratulations to Senior Prefect Evie A. (IIK) who recently attended the Essex County Schools F.A. Girls' Representative Trial at Chelmsford. She was successful in gaining a place within their U16 squad for the 2017-2018 season and we wish her every success.

## PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Maia L. (IIR) for the Monthly Prefect Award. Maia is always ready to help out at any event, supports the StLT with any additional duties and executes these impeccably. To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Maia with a certificate and gift voucher on

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

## STUDENT VOICE

At the start of the academic year, pupils were invited to apply for the role of Form Captain. Pupils completed an application form, prepared speeches and were elected by their form.

Form Captains are responsible for representing the 'voice' of their form in any issue relating to the Academy. Congratulations to the pupils below and we look forward to hearing your views and ideas.



Year 7 Form Captains



Year 8 Form Captains



Year 9 Form Captains



Year 10 Form Captains



## Pupil Success

### ART MASK PROJECT



Throughout the Summer Term, 8F3 worked really hard to create an eclectic mix of 3D masks. Their starting point involved exploring 'The Day of The Dead'. Pupils designed a symbolic mask and included shapes and symbols to link back to the cultural festival. Their own creations were very exciting, showcasing their ability to produce a modroc mask as well as mixing and applying paint to transfer across their sketchbook designs.



Morgan F. (9E)



Maddi H. (9B)



Megan R. (9W)

### BRITISH FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL



Jessie C. (9A) was the lead child actor in the grad film from the British Film and Television School (BFTS) which is a short film about two female fighter pilots in Afghanistan and revisiting their childhood friendship. She learnt to handle and fly a hawk in the process and try out some pretty gross prosthetics!

### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

During the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September, the MFL department celebrated the European Day of Languages – an event which has been celebrated for over 15 years across Europe. The Council of Europe believes that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent. Pupils were invited to participate in a range of in class activities, ranging from general knowledge of European countries to learning idioms in French and Spanish. Pupils worked with a number of resources produced by the European Commission, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Tutor groups participated in an inter-tutor group general knowledge competition, which was won by 9E. Well done to all those who participated.



### ARTS AWARD



The Arts Award pupils had a busy afternoon on 4<sup>th</sup> October as they tried their hand at teaching! A total of 50 pupils filled both Art 2 and Art 3 in a quest to make a ceramic poppy.

Pupils planned and prepared a session to teach to a Year 7 or 8 group which enabled them to complete a section of their Arts Award course by developing and passing on a skill. The pupils did a brilliant job, successfully turning lumps of clay into beautiful, delicate forms. Keep your eyes peeled for the poppies as they will be included in the Southend School Festival of Remembrance exhibition which will run from 9-12<sup>th</sup> November.



## Events

### EUROPA CENTRE TRIP



On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July, pupils studying French and Spanish enjoyed a day out at The Europa Centre in Hornchurch (part of Havering College).

The visit began with an 'Arrival Lounge' session during which the native speaking staff prepared pupils for the visit.



The main part included popular activities such as role-plays in shops and 'missing person' scenarios. Pupils were also able to buy authentic food in the café, whilst writing postcards in the target language.

The visit ended with a plenary 'Departure Lounge' session in which pupils were able to reflect on their experience and find out the quiz solutions.

Since the module 'Speaking' counts for 25% of the final GCSE exam grade, the opportunity to practise spontaneous speaking was essential.

Pupils practised a variety of vocabulary including buying food and clothes, asking for information at the Tourist Office, and describing a town and its inhabitants.



### ATTENDANCE TRIP CHESSINGTON



Pupils with excellent attendance enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Chessington World of Adventures. Over 100 pupils and 12 staff braved the thrills and excitement of the many rides available. Some highly proficient Year 8 girls managed to win one of the many exceptionally difficult fair games, an amazing 10 times! As we departed after a long day, the overwhelming response was "we can't wait until next year".



### PIZZA AND ICE CREAM LUNCH



During July, the Academy rewarded all those pupils with 100% attendance with a Domino's Pizza and ice cream. Just over 100 pupils in Year 7-10 managed to achieve 100%, which was an Academy record.

### ATTENDANCE REWARDS

Attendance %	Description	
96%+	This is not a cause for concern and is in line with the Academy's expectations.	
92 – 95.9%	This is a cause for concern and is below what the Academy expects.	
Under 92%	This is a major cause for concern and is significantly below what the Academy expects. All attendance under 92%, without medical evidence, will be classed as 'unauthorised' and will be reported to the Local Authority. This may lead to a Penalty Notice (fine) or prosecution.	

Attendance %	Number of Days Absent	Approximate Number of Weeks absent
100	0	0
96	7	1.5
95	9	2
90	19	4
85	29	6
80	38	8
70	57	12

The Academy will again be promoting excellent attendance throughout the year by entering pupils who achieve attendance levels of 96%+ for a range of prize draws, with rewards ranging from Pizza Express vouchers, Adventure Island wristbands and Kindle Fires. These competitions will run each term to further motivate and encourage pupils to achieve 96%+.



## Events

### SHAKESPEARE TRIP

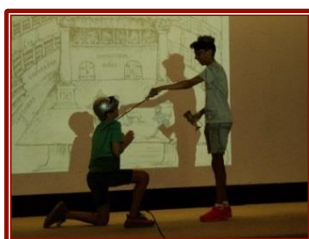


On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, pupils visited Stratford-upon-Avon for the Shakespeare trip. Arriving on Sunday, we had lunch near the river, visited Shakespeare's birthplace, had a look around the newly-opened 'New Place' and,

after an hour in a nearby park, retired to our rooms.

On Monday, the Shakespeare Trust took us through a potted history of Shakespeare and Elizabethan culture and then the pupils rehearsed a key speech from *Antony and Cleopatra* – our pupils were absolutely brilliant as they devised imaginative ways of presenting the speech to an audience on a 'thrust' stage.

Monday evening found us at the Swan Theatre, watching a fantastic production of *Antony and Cleopatra*. We returned on Tuesday morning for a debrief on the play – the pupils had plenty to say about it, with intelligent questions and comments – we were again treated to the make-up and wigs demonstration, where the secrets of torn-out eyeballs, bloody wounds, arm stumps, were revealed. Several of our group were transformed into pirates and princesses! Rebecca E. (11A) was stabbed by eight kids, blood dripping down her toga, as she re-enacted the betrayal and murder of Caesar. She did recover though.



### TEACH WHAT YOU LOVE DAY

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, pupils experienced a variety of lessons beyond the curriculum. Teachers were given the opportunity to 'Teach what you Love'. Lessons ranged from murder mystery to courts of law and parliamentary debate.

In English, pupils had a lesson on etiquette entitled, 'Stabbing your Food



with a Chopstick is the Height of Bad Manners'. Pupils were taught how to use an array of cutlery for the correct type of food – a vital life skill!



### SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, the Academy held its annual Sports Day. The winning House of each year group was announced and Mr. N. Houchen presented each Sports Captain with a shield.

#### Year 7 Winners

Richmond



#### Year 8 Winners

Ashdown



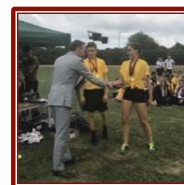
#### Year 9 Winners

Sherwood



#### Year 10 Winners

Kielder



#### Overall House Winners

Kielder



### YEAR 7 TRANSITION AND BOOK FAIR

The Year 7 Transition Evening was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October with more pupils and parents than ever spending their time browsing and choosing books, often buying more than one and often buying for siblings as well. Many parents chatted with staff about their child's reading choices and all were grateful for their vouchers, voicing their thanks on more than one occasion. As always, there was a wide range of books to buy and it's always interesting to match the book to the pupil, to see who they would like to become and see the book they choose to become part of that process.



## Events

### MFL TRIP BOULOGNE



Pupils spent a fabulous day in France on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils practised their French and explored aspects of French culture.

Following an early start to catch the Eurotunnel, we arrived in Boulogne-sur-

mer to explore the old town. Pupils completed a town trail quiz and used their French to purchase berets, crêpes (pancakes) and pizza. A walk around the ramparts provided beautiful views of the castle and cathedral. Pupils then explored the new part of town (Subway was particularly popular!).



At the Auchan Hypermarket, gaufres (waffles) were a favourite snack, whilst the staff opted for fromage (cheese).

Our final stop of the day at the P&J Chocolatiers (Calais) was the highlight; pupils learnt about the history of chocolate making and decorated their own chocolate bars.

### CHARITY EVENT

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Zac J. (9R) took part in the impressive feat of shaving his head for Cancer Research. He has raised over £370 for the cause and was supported by a large number of his peers for the event. Despite teething issues with the shaving equipment, Zac is now sporting his badge of honour proudly and should be commended for taking on the challenge so close to the summer holidays.



### YEAR 7 ROAD SAFETY

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Year 7 pupils participated in Essex County Council's Road Safety Workshop. Actors from the Riot Act gave pupils guidance to help them make informed choices and decisions regarding road safety.



### EASTWOOD ACADEMY SCHOLARS



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. The programme is delivered by university lecturers and aims to challenge the participants and give them a taste of learning at a whole new level.

Twelve pupils from Year 9 were chosen based on their potential to become outstanding thinkers of the future. The pupils attended a launch trip on 6<sup>th</sup> June to St. John's College, University of Cambridge, one of the partner universities involved in the programme.

University researchers, called 'PhD Tutors', visited the Academy and taught university-style tutorials to groups of six pupils in June and July, with the pupils completing weekly homework and a final 2,000 word assignment.

We are delighted that all the pupils passed the course, and a number of them attended a graduation event at Kings College London on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

A breakdown of the pupils' grades is as follows:

Grade	Number of Pupils
1 <sup>st</sup>	1
2:1	7
2:2	4

Some of the researchers currently act as lecturers to students at university level, so it is a unique opportunity for our pupils to experience university-style teaching.

University may not be for everyone, but the Eastwood Scholars Programme aims to give children an experience of university learning to help them make an informed decision when they reach the age of 18.

Participants: Muadh A. (10S), Zain A. (10B), Harrison B. (10S), Chloe C. (10K), Isabella G. (10W), Sadia K. (10S), Ella L. (10R), Nathan P. (10K), Carmen R. (10B), Daisy S. (10A), Elenya T. (10A) and Millie W. (10K)



# Extra-Curricular

## PREFECTS TEAM BUILDING TRIP

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, Prefects visited Belchamps Scout Activity Centre where they had the opportunity to develop skills essential to the role of Prefect. Each activity lasted an hour and pupils strengthened their communication, leadership, organisation and team building skills. It was evident that the pupils really enjoyed the day and accomplished a great deal. *"This was honestly the best day that we have had. The obstacles we had to complete have really helped us to work and communicate together as a team"* Tequila W. (11K), Evie A. (11K) and Rosie T. (11E)

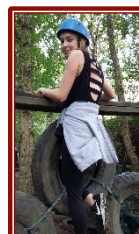
**Team Building:** Challenges included Towers of Hanoi, memorising a safe route on a grid, crossing lava as a team, moving a block with elastic and the 'human knot'.



**Crate Stacking:** Teams were attached to high ropes supported by other team members. Pupils had to stand on crates whilst other team members stacked them. Pupils then worked together to keep tension on the ropes, stack the crates or keep their balance to prevent the crates from falling over – all within a fixed time.



**Assault Course:** A number of challenging obstacles such as planks, over and under tyres, climbing a ramp, through netting and tyre steps. After completing this individually, pupils then completed the course whilst holding hands that they could not break. They also completed the course in pairs carrying a tyre.



**Jacob's ladder:** Climbing a giant ladder with the spaces in between the rungs getting bigger at each stage. High ropes were used to keep tension and help pupils up the next rung. Pupils on the ladder worked together using a blue strap or knees to help pupils onto the next rung – all within a fixed time.

