

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw closer to the end of what is always a demanding term, I am able to reflect on another rewarding period for the Academy.

The term began with the Academy recording an impressive set of GCSE results, particularly given the circumstances in recent years, reaffirming its status as the most successful non-selective school in Southend and South East Essex.

On 20th October, the DfE published school and college performance data, the first since 2019, placing the Academy in the top quartile of schools nationally.

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

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

The term also began with the launch of our ambitious Personal Development and Enrichment (PDE) programme. The programme has afforded a tremendous opportunity to develop pupils' character, confidence, resilience, independence, health and wellbeing, leadership skills, preparation for life, and provide access to a wide and rich set of experiences. It is being reviewed regularly to allow the Academy to be both reflexive and responsive as events, needs or circumstances arise.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to your return in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Mr. N. Houchen

Principal

CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 18th November, pupils attended school in non-school uniform to support Children in Need. A total of £978.78 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed.

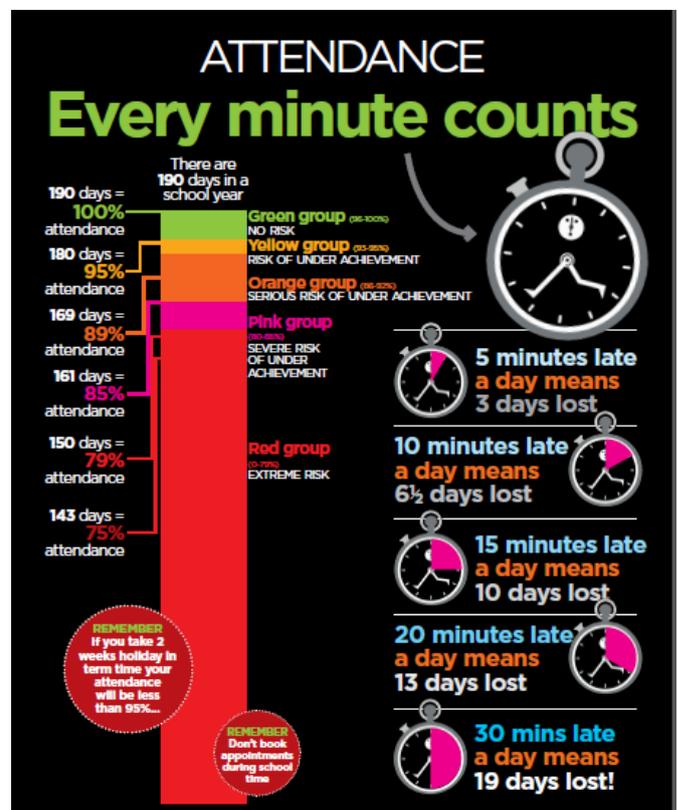
ATTENDANCE

Across the Autumn Term, overall attendance was 93.6 % vs. a (current) national average of 91.8% (+1.8 %).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.5
Bowland	94.9
Elveden	93.5
Kielder	93.2
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	94.2
Whinfall	92.9
Overall	93.6

During w/c 9th January, the Academy will e-mail individual pupil Attendance Reports covering the Autumn Term.

Click here for the [Attendance Policy](#)



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

During this half term, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) have co-ordinated discussion and feedback from the Student Voice. The StLT created a video which was shown during PDE to elicit debate and discussion from which elected Form Captains were invited to discuss their feedback.



The StLT will be meeting with Mr. N. Houchen in January to discuss the issues that were raised.

LANGUAGE SUCCESS

A huge congratulations to the following pupils who have received their 10-merit award in French - they have all been working brilliantly this half term and fully deserve the award: Daisy L. (7R), Darcy B. (8A), Angel L-K. (8A), Sofia M. (8A), Rosie W. (8A), Rhiannon B. (8B), Amy P. (8B), Harry D. (8E), Leanise T. (8K), Tia P. (8R), Charlie W. (10R)

BOROUGH CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS!



On Wednesday 9th November, the annual Borough Cross Country Championships took place at Blenheim Park. After a long, hard season of training the pupils managed to make a little bit of history in becoming Borough champions! For the first time ever, both the Boys' and Girls' Teams managed to secure joint wins in the competition with the Girls' Team breaking a 40-year tradition of SHSG dominating the event. Camille C. (7R), Jessica W. (9W), Rocci W. (9B) and Beau M. (11A) also achieved a top 3 medal. An unbelievable achievement for the pupils and the Academy. Well done!



SOUTHEND YOUTH MAYOR



Congratulations to our Senior Prefect Aila C.-R. (11B) who has been elected as Southend Youth Mayor. Aila has been involved with Southend Youth Council for a number of years and has worked her way up the ranks. In terms of recent work, during November, Aila was involved in the Armistice events for Southend.

PETER PAN PANTOMINE



Charlie K. (7E) has secured a role in the Christmas pantomime of *Peter Pan* at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon. Working tirelessly around the clock, Charlie has demonstrated a fantastic level of hard work and commitment to perfect his character of Michael, the younger

brother of Wendy and John.

We are extremely proud of Charlie's achievements. Well done!



MARTIAL ARTS GRADING



Congratulations to Alex G. (7B) who successfully completed his Brown Sash grading on Friday 11th November in the martial art discipline of Wing Chun.

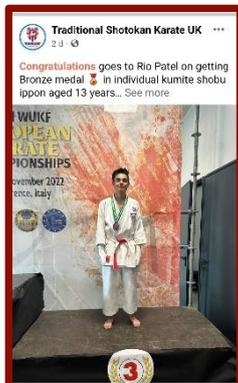
LANGUAGE AMBASSADOR



Congratulations to Gracie-Rose B. (8K) who has received this term's Language Ambassador Award. She is a key member of the Languages Club - often helping to run and organise events - and is very enthusiastic and committed to promoting a love of languages. Félicitations!

Pupil Success

WUKF EUROPEAN KARATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FLORENCE, ITALY



At the recent European Karate Championships in Florence, Rio P. (9W) achieved the status of 'European Triple Bronze Medallist Champion'. A fantastic achievement Rio, well done!

The event itself involved 21 countries, 48 regions, 120 clubs and 1,853 competitors. Traditional Shotokan Karate UK (TSKUK) came 14th out of the 48 regions.

SOUTHEND SCHOOLS NETBALL LEAGUE

The Year 7s have started the season well, scoring 32 goals and only conceding one in their first three matches. In terms of Player of the Match, this was awarded to Felicity W. (7B) against Cecil Jones Academy and St. Bernard's High School and Isabelle B. (7K) against Chase High School.

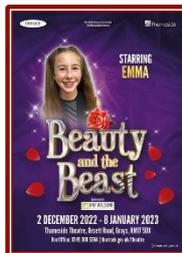
The Year 8s are also unbeaten, scoring an amazing 53 goals in three matches. The Player of the Match was awarded to Patience S. (8B) twice and to Freya W. (8R) once.

The Year 9s have had some tough encounters and injuries to contend with but came back fighting in their most recent game against WHSG winning 27 – 7. In terms of Player of the Match, Nancy M. (9K) achieved this award in the first game against Belfairs Academy, and Zarah F. (9B) in the last two matches.

The U16s started the season with an awesome game against Belfairs Academy. The shooters from both teams were 'on fire', scoring a goal every 90 seconds. It finished 26-26, with GA Olivia F. (11A) awarded Player of the Match. Their next two matches were not quite as competitive, with the team scoring 59 goals and only conceding nine. In terms of Player of the Match, GS Erin F. (10E) achieved this award against Chase High School and Megan V. (10E) against WHSG.

PANTOMIME SUCCESS

Emma D. (8W) successfully auditioned for the Grays pantomime of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Thameside Theatre. Congratulations and good luck for the remaining shows.



STUDENT AMBASSADOR



A huge congratulations to Gabrielle H. (10K) who has been appointed as a Student Ambassador for the Multi Schools Council (MSC). Gabrielle is the first young person in Southend to be appointed.

The MSC is concerned with giving children a voice, running awareness sessions in schools, and tackling issues that children highlight as important to them. Gabrielle attended her first MSC event on Saturday 3rd December.

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, including photos, should be emailed to the Academy, which will then be shared in the half-termly Newsletter.

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



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), Hannah E. (11K), Ciara B. (11S)



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



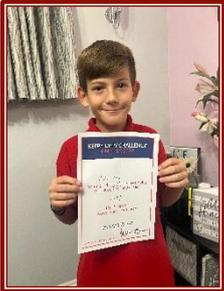
Year 8 Squad: Nell T. (8K), Violet B. (8B), Patience S. (8B), Ruby E. (8W), Isla F. (8E), Freya W. (8R) Alice B. (8A), Amy P. (8B), Emilia S. (8R)



Year 7 Squad: Isabelle B. (7K), Alba N. (7B), Erin M. (7B), Evie S. (7W), Nancy A. (7R), Polly D. (7A), Ruby R. (7W), Amy W. (7A), Felicity W. (7B)

Pupil Success

CHARITY 'KEEPY UPPY' CHALLENGE



Oliver K. (7K) took part in the Bobby Moore Bowel Cancer Research – 'Keepy Uppy' Challenge during November. He raised £185 and managed a total of 9,519 'keepy uppies' in a month.

Fantastic achievement, well done!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE TRAINING



In September, Year 10 pupils began their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award training. So far, they have spent a lot of time map reading, route planning and calculating distances to complete their route cards.

This week marked the start of trangia safety and resulted in our groups learning how to safely light the trangias and make a

hot drink. There were copious amounts of hot chocolate and some groups wowed us with their Christmas mugs, squirty cream and swirls of chocolate. Well done to all!



FOOD PREPARATION

Year 9 and 10 pupils in Food Preparation and Nutrition have been marking the festive period by making Yule logs and Viennese topped mince pies. Here is a picture of some of the Year 10's proudly showing off their creations: Harry R. (10W), Maryse F. (10K), Hettie S. (10R), Felicia D. (10K), Frankie F. (10A).



U12 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Congratulations to the U12 Girls' Football Team who began the new season with an impressive win over Orsett Heath Academy in the Essex Cup. This was their first fixture as a team in the newly formed U12 Girls' Essex Cup Competition. Displaying great levels of skill, teamwork and determination, the girls won the fixture 5-1. They now progress through to the 2nd round of the Cup where they will face a competitive King John School side. We wish the girls the best of luck in the next round!



Back row: Amaya K.

(7S), Charley C. (7K), Amy W. (7A), Grace E. (7R), Jess C. (7W), Alba N. (7B), Cameo H. (7E)

Front row: Olivia L. (7E), Eadie L. (7A), Camille C. (7R), Heidi W. (7E)

LITERACY AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to introduce our Literacy Ambassadors for the current academic year: Eva L-M. (7W), Connor P. (7B), Ned J. (8R), Harvey A. (8R), Ruby F. (9K), Triumph S. (9S), James S. (10A) and Tony L. (10S).



The pupils were nominated by their English teachers based on their writing ability, specifically how they express opinions, emotions and imagination in the most exquisite language. The Literacy Ambassadors also have to write an article, collated into an Eastwood Academy Literacy Booklet, for the Year 7 Literacy Evening in March.

We also ask that the Literacy Ambassadors attend the Academy's annual Open Evening for prospective Year 7 pupils to answer questions that parents or pupils may have about English lessons, teachers and the books that we read. Throughout the year, our Ambassadors are on hand to help out in class, modelling their excellent writing and helping those who may require support with literacy.

Pupil Success

NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY FINAL



On Friday 2nd December the Junior Boys' and Inter Boys' Cross Country Teams travelled to Leeds to attend the ESAA National Cross-Country Final at Leeds Grammar School.

The event took place on Saturday 3rd December at a fantastic venue and with surprisingly good weather for the time of year! The Junior Boys' Team finished 10th out of the 28 competing schools with an amazing 16th place finish for Noah T. (8K). The Inter Boys' Team stood on the line with confidence and ran extremely well, finishing in a phenomenal 4th place, with a superb run from Harry W. (10B) finishing in 12th place. The boys were a credit to themselves and the Academy and an absolute pleasure to take away.

MATHEMATICS SUCCESS

Well done to our winners in the Mathematics Department. Across all classes, outstanding pupils were selected by teachers for their excellent progress or achievement. In addition to receiving a certificate, our winners were able to choose an item of equipment to take home. Over 80 rewards were given to pupils across the Academy. Congratulations to all!



MUSIC SUCCESS

In November, Stuart H. (11A) completed his Grade 7 drum exam. His chosen pieces were *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover* (Paul Simon), *Rope* (Foo Fighters) and *Toxicity* (System of a Down).



Stuart was very happy with the outcome, achieving a Distinction in this exam. A huge thanks to his Music Tutor and to the Music Department for all the support throughout his time learning the pieces. He is excited to be performing with the musicians taking part in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's competition. Cassie's winning design captured a warm, nostalgic mood as well as showcasing some fantastic painting skills. Arun's lovely pencil work and Rumaysa's cheerful mixed media piece are thoroughly deserving of a prize too. Well done to all entrants, we loved seeing your creativity.



Winner:
Cassie B. (9S)



Runner up:
Arun P. (8B)



Runner up:
Rumaysa O. (8W)

CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL

On Saturday 3rd December, Mia B. (9R) showcased her creative talents by having a stall at the Family Christmas Market in Hockley. Mia had hand painted a range of Christmas cards and postcards.



She was even busy painting more on the day to replenish her stock! Well done Mia for becoming a selling artist at a worthwhile event that helped raise money towards the 'One Pound Warriors'.

HEDGEHOG TRAN'QUILL'ITY



Winding down for the winter, members of Gardening Club wanted to build a hedgehog retreat before the harsh weather arrived. Using insulation techniques from the Science

Department (thanks Mr. C. Clark!), Esme S. (10K) (the brains behind the design), led her team to building this palace for all who want to venture inside. We have enjoyed seeing the Gardening Club grow in numbers and cannot wait to see what 2023 brings for us.

Events

POST-16 EVENTS



During the term, the Academy has had the privilege of hosting a range of presentations from local 6th form colleges. Year 11 pupils were able to hear about post-16 pathways, types of qualifications, the culture at each college and the extracurricular opportunities available. Presentations were delivered from SHSB, Fitzwimarc, Belfairs Academy and Chase High School.

ACHIEVE FLOURISH AND THRIVE (AFT)

AFT is a charity that has been working with communities and young people to provide a secure environment, increase opportunity and enhance wellbeing. The charity aims to build a sense of togetherness and teach life skills through sport, heritage and culture.



Working with a group of Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, AFT has worked on producing positive outcomes through group discussion, one-to-one conversations and sport. The pupils involved have completed an 8-week programme and it has now been extended to Year 9 pupils.

60 MINUTE MENTORS

Working to make
lives better
www.southend.gov.uk



The Academy is currently working in partnership with

Southend-on-Sea City Council to host a 60 Minute Mentor (60MM) programme with Year 8 pupils. (60MM) introduces pupils to an inspirational mentor from the local business community. The award-winning project has been running in schools across South Essex since 2017 with some excellent feedback from pupils, parents and mentors.

The mentor works with pupils to encourage them to think about their GCSE options in relation to the world of work and encourage them to consider their options post-16, whether that be college, sixth form, apprenticeships or traineeships.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

On the evening of Friday 2nd December, a capacity audience attended the Christmas Music Concert in the Academy Concert Hall. This was the first Christmas Concert in three years!

The audience were captivated by performances from the Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble, together with solo and ensemble items from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. Highlights included the beautiful vocal solo *Wherever You Will Go* by Ellie T. (11R), a haunting and soulful rendition of *Silent Night* sung by Nana M. (10K) accompanied by Gabrielle H. (10K) on the guitar and signed by Maryse F. (10K) and a toe-tapping arrangement of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* by the Percussion Ensemble.

Following the concert, the audience enjoyed refreshments whilst liaising with parents, pupils and staff. The Music Concert is designed to showcase the musical talent within the Academy, together with providing an opportunity to reward the commitment that pupils have shown throughout the term by attending the extra-curricular music clubs that operate within the Music Department.

The next concert will be the Easter Music Concert held on the evening of Tuesday 21st March 2023.

PODCAST

This half term, the Podcast Team have completed a feature on PDE. They conducted several interviews looking at the different enrichment opportunities for pupils, such as the Christmas Concert and *The Little Shop of Horror* production.



The team also reported on exciting events that have been held over the last few months, such as the Children in Need non-school uniform day and watching England's first World Cup match as a school community. The group conducted several interviews with members of staff. Miss B. Cooper spoke about the 'reverse advent calendar' initiative and Mrs. L. Hodgson-Clark gave us a wealth of information about the PDE programme.

To listen to this half term's episode please [click here](#).

Events

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Leading up to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, what better way of learning about the context of the game than in Geography Awareness Week. During PDE, pupils had to guess flags, predict the score of England's first game and explore the logistics of the World Cup operation. Three football fanatical forms came out on top. Thanks to all who entered and congratulations to:



7A
(Zaryab I. and Charlotte B.)



8W
(Emma D. and Edward B.)



11R
(Ellie T.)

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Once again, for three days, Eastwood's theatre was transformed – this time into Mushnik's flower shop on Skid Row, where a very strange and interesting plant was plotting to take over the world. The performance was masterfully led by Tony L. (10A) as Seymour, Phoebe T. (11W) as Audrey, Oliver B. (11B) as Mushnik, and Max S. (11R) as The Dentist. The lead cast were then expertly supported by the sassy and sparkly Ronnettes played by Mia C. (11A), Frankie L. (10R), Evalyn P. (9A), Honey-Rose Q. (9E), Emma D. (8W) and Shanie J. (8R). A huge thank you to all the staff members and parents too who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in various



roles to ensure the show was a success. A special mention must go to all our Year 11 pupils this year who performed on the Eastwood stage for the last time – a massive thank you for making the shows as amazing as they have been. Audience members were absolutely blown away by the professional-level performance and

the Performing Arts Team could not be prouder of every single pupil involved. We hope everyone has a wonderful and restful Christmas break and remember – no matter what they offer you, DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION (ESU) SPEECH COMPETITION

On Monday 5th December, the Academy took part in the English-Speaking Union (ESU) Speech Competition. On this occasion, two teams entered – Team A - Adya S. (11E), Amal U.(11S), Maame A.-A.(11B) and Aila C. R. (11B), and Team B - George B. (10E), Kulsuma S. (10S) and Ashton T. (10R).

Both teams were absolutely superb. Team B did brilliantly, especially considering that they had no previous experience of the competition. In spite of this, they were professional and composed, delivering a great speech by George, round of questions by Kulsuma and Chairperson's introduction by Ashton. If we were allowed to submit more than one team from the school, I am convinced they would have gone on to the next round. Team B's speech was on, 'Should Politicians or Teachers Deliver the Education Curriculum?'

Team A, however, were back for revenge after last year, and it showed. Adya's speech was impeccable, delivered with just the right balance of humour as she considered, 'Are Human Rights a Figment of the Imagination?' Adya won Best Speaker for this. Amal chaired the event with ease, warmth and humour, earning her 'Best Chairperson'! Maame's questioning was superb, a delivery of probing enquiries that should have earned her 'Best Questioner'. Overall, Team A were declared 'Best Team', so I think the judges had to give something to the opposition!

Aila this year took the position of reserve, after chairing last year, and I would like to thank her for her unfaltering support to the teams in every meeting and practice – probably the hardest job with the least reward.



Enrichment

PGL TRIP



The Year 10 PGL trip took place the first weekend back after the October half term. 80 pupils and seven staff headed to Marchant's Hill on the morning of Friday 4th November for a weekend full of adventure, mud, and ambition. Across 45 acres of grounds, groups were sent to complete a range of activities including archery and wall climbing – the first two set up for our arrival.

Johnnie S. (10B) started the competition, scaling the whole climbing wall in exactly 25 seconds. Unable to ignore a challenge, Leo W. (10K) quickly made his ascent in 20 seconds, taking the lead, with Mr. K. Danson close at Leo's heels, only to be deterred by a slippery foothold.



Two of the stand-out events over the weekend were Jacob's Ladder and the evening campfire on the second night – Bonfire Night.

The former activity required teams of threes to encourage each other to climb to the highest rung in the ladder, while another three kept the supporting ropes taut, ready to assist any pupil who wanted to get back to terra firma. It was a pleasure watching pupils and their peers cheering, reassuring and boosting others' confidence in tackling such great heights with only limbs and a short rope of which to make use. Tatiana-Vee B.-McC. (10A) demonstrated strong leadership skills with her team, while Jamie V. (10B) received a standing ovation from all who were present, witnessing his triumph in getting to the top rung, despite his initial belief that he would not pass the second step in the ladder.



In archery, a number of pupils embodied the characters from *The Hunger Games* as they practised their aims on the target boards, before taking their skills over to tag archery. Here, pupils were able to practise firing at their teachers before a final 'battle royale' decided the ultimate warriors.

Winding down after a free firework spectacle in the neighbouring field, we settled around a campfire in the middle of the dark woods. Pupils exchanged their successes of the day while tucking into freshly scorched marshmallows. Nana-Adjowa M. (10K) surprised us all with an impromptu performance with a beautiful rendition of Lauren Daigle's *Your Wings*. Needless to say, the captivated silence burst into applause at such an unexpected treat.

Enrichment

LITERACY CLUBS



The English Department are thrilled to announce the exciting news of two new clubs. Miss. L. Malliff and Mrs. H. Marchant welcome Year 7 readers to the **Year 7 Friendship Book Club**

on **Tuesday lunchtimes in En2**; especially, although not exclusively, for those who love to read and would like to make new friends. Bring your favourite book along - all Year 7's welcome!

Mr. L. Cooper has begun a **Creative Writing Club** for would-be novelists, screenwriters and short story enthusiasts, on **Tuesday lunchtimes in Pa5**, for Years 7, 8 and 9. If you love writing stories and creating exciting new narratives, or if you would like to improve your creative writing skills, come along and enjoy the buzz. Bring a friend or make some new ones.



WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU EARTHQUAKES.....

Build an earthquake resistant building out of spaghetti and marshmallows! Miss. E. Potts's Year 10 Geography class tackled the task of creating sturdy buildings to withstand earthquakes. Many pupils succeeded in producing innovative architectural designs, whereas others thought that it was a marshmallow tasting competition or a game of 'spaghetti hair Jenga' - Ruben P. (10B). Congratulations to Leo N. (10R), Ollie R. (10R), Holly T. (10W) and Isla K. (10S).



LANGUAGES CLUB

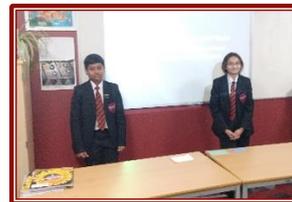


This half term, Language Club pupils shared their knowledge of languages and taught us some key words and phrases:

- Hindi and Gujarati - Tia P. (8R) & Vedanth A. (8S).
- Japanese - Grace-Rose B. (8K).
- Italian - Sarah S. (8B).
- Sign Language - Maryse F. (10K).
- Russian - Mr. Wilson.

We ended the term with pupils sharing their Christmas festivities in other countries and tasting a few traditional delicacies. Next term's theme will look at celebrating festivals in different countries and we will continue to share knowledge of languages, returning to Arabic, German, Russian and learning some Welsh.

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



Gujarati Hindi language club



Italian language club



Japanese language club



Russian language club



Sign language club



Language club group

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

