

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw closer to the end of the Autumn Term, I am able to reflect on what has been a highly unusual and challenging period.

My principal aim, following the reopening of schools in September, was to provide as 'normal' an experience as possible for both staff and pupils. Clearly, with the 'controls' currently in place, it is far from normal, however, I am immensely proud of how all members of the school community have adapted.

Up until the last week of term, the Academy had fortunately experienced limited 'disruption'. Although I accept that there is likely to be a break in continuity over the Spring Term, I hope this is minimised.

In terms of the future, I am confident that we will gradually move past the current controls and restrictions and move to a position resembling normality. I think I speak for all of us when I say that a return to the 'old normal' will be very welcome.

Although my interaction with the pupils has been more limited this term, I did have the pleasure of meeting the Jack Petchey winners and listening to the impressive reasons for their award.

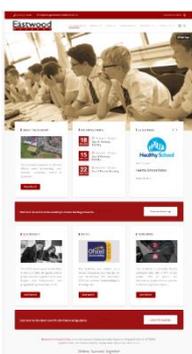
Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to your return in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Mr. N. Houchen, Principal



#### NEW WEBSITE



On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Academy launched its new website.

Click here for the [Website Letter](#)

Click [eastwoodacademy.co.uk](http://eastwoodacademy.co.uk)

The principal changes are mainly concerned with a more contemporary format and style, reorganised content and improved navigational features, particularly on smart phones and tablets.

#### ATTENDANCE

Up until the last week of term, overall attendance was 95.6% vs. a (normal) national average of 94.5% (+1.1%) and vs. a (current) national average of 83.0% (+12.6%).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	94.9
Bowland	96.9
Elveden	95.6
Kielder	94.5
Richmond	96.9
Sherwood	94.5
Whinfell	95.9
<b>Overall</b>	<b>95.6</b>

Well done to everyone for such an impressive effort during the Autumn Term!

#### OFSTED RESEARCH VISIT

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the Academy was subject to an Ofsted Research Visit. The purpose of the visit was to gather information to inform the Government, parents and the public about how schools are managing the return of pupils to full-time education. [Click here for the Ofsted Research Visit](#)



#### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



Across December, pupils, staff and families of the Academy embraced the opportunity to give to others this Christmas by donating food and drink items as

part of the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. Creating over 70 food boxes, members of our school community collected an overwhelming amount of food and drink ahead of a difficult time of year for those in need. The Academy's food boxes were donated to Southend Foodbank and One Love Soup Kitchen- two amazing organisations. We would like to thank all our staff, pupils and their families for their generous contributions to this worthy cause.



# Pupil Success

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



In November, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) held the first Student Voice event for the current academic year. The team presented to pupils in assembly, providing an inspirational talk about what they

have achieved during their school careers, what has helped 'shape' them and the importance of being role models.

The team also dedicated some time to focus on the wider issues for debate/discussion. Pupils were asked to consider areas the Academy could further help with the return to school following lockdown and how pupils were finding remote learning. Form Captains were asked to discuss these points with their form groups and were then invited to year group sessions to feedback their viewpoints. By way of a follow up, the StLT will meet with Mr. N. Houchen in January to identify action points based on the feedback.

## SOUTHEND YOUTH MAYOR

Deputy Head Girl, Madi F.-H. (IIR) was elected as Southend's Youth Mayor in September after previously holding the position of Deputy Youth Mayor. Since holding the position, Madi has organised and participated in a number of events, including: the Great British September Clean, a virtual event to celebrate Black Lives; Make Your Mark: Changing Tides and Making Waves: and attending the Armistice Day service with the Mayor of Southend.



Supporting Madi in her role as Youth Mayor, are Grace L. (IIA) and Chelsea M. (IIR) who are also elected officers of the Southend Youth Council. There are also other council members from the Academy who have recently joined - Esha R. (IOB) and Aila I.R. (9B).

Congratulations for your outstanding community work outside the Academy.

## HEAD BOY ROLE MODEL

The Academy received a phone call from a member of the public to thank Head Boy, Josh S. (IIB). Over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> December, an elderly person had fallen and injured themselves and had blood on their face. Josh helped get them into a house and waited 2 hours for the ambulance to arrive, causing him to miss his football training. The lady wanted to say what a kind and polite young man he is and that he is a credit to the Academy. Well done Josh!



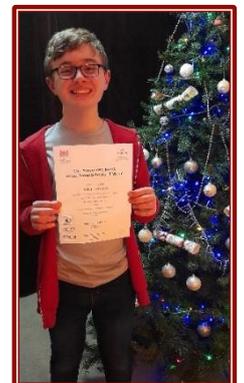
## MUSICAL SUCCESS



Charlie E. (10W) has continued to achieve great musical success this term. Charlie is an accomplished pianist and passed his Grade 7 piano exam with Distinction. Congratulations Charlie!

Charlie is also a keen composer and has performed his own compositions during many previous concerts. Charlie's compositions are now public! He has composed nine pieces of music and has arranged them into one album called 'A Winter'. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November Charlie's album was accepted by Ditto Music and released onto a variety of digital music platforms including: Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Music. An incredible achievement.

In addition, Charlie recently submitted 'Christina's Song' to BBC Essex Radio for their upload show. The producers wanted to not only play the song, but to interview Charlie as well! The programme went out on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Charlie was asked a few general questions before playing his composition, and then he had the opportunity to speak some more. He was relaxed and confident; a real pro! Congratulations Charlie for representing the Academy in such a brilliant manner and for all your musical achievements.



# Pupil Success

## YEAR 9 JACK PETCHY WINNERS



Cameron O-C. (9K) is achieving success in many subjects this year, but particularly in History. His contributions in class are outstanding and his essays are already of a level similar to that of Year 11s. His work is frequently used as examples for the class and his style of writing is very mature. He is always modest about this, reluctant to share his outstanding achievements with others. Cameron is very self-motivated, making sure he seeks support or resources if needed, therefore being able to continue the high standard of work in and outside of school. Cameron demonstrates a real maturity and tenacity to his studies.

Over recent years, Jessica L. (9E) has helped to raise thousands of pounds for the Carli Lansley Foundation; a charity which aims to raise money to provide ECG screening which can discover previously undiagnosed heart defects, which, in turn, can lead to Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome. Jessica's mother very sadly died from this syndrome when Jessica was in Year 7. Most recently, Jessica spoke at a charity event to mark what would have been her Mum's birthday. Jessica continues to volunteer and raise awareness for the Carli Lansley Foundation.

Sophie L. (9E) made a huge life-changing impact on a local family during Lockdown. Every day, Sophie rode her bike to her family friend, Grace's, house. Grace (and her twin brother) have severe physical disabilities and require full time care from their mum. Sophie supported this family by her presence and care for Grace during this difficult time. Sophie stood outside and chatted to Grace, read stories to her, made videos with her, did artwork to put in her windows and entertained her every single day. Sophie got her own family together and came and did a 'DIY SOS' on Grace's Garden, so Grace could have a sensory Garden to sit in as she was not allowed out. Sophie set up a Sunday night quiz, so Grace's family could join in with Sophie's own family and, when Grace's mum had her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Lockdown, Sophie organised her birthday present from Grace and, along with her own mum, organised the whole day! Sophie is one of the most selfless and inspiring young people we have at the Academy and she truly deserves this award.

## YEAR 10 JACK PETCHY WINNERS



Larissa L. (10B) is achieving huge success in Citizenship this year. She frequently achieves full marks for exam questions, always positively contributes in class and understands events in the news which she then draws on to incorporate into her answers; demonstrating Larissa's awareness and in-depth understanding of the world around her. Larissa demonstrates an incredibly mature style to her work and her efforts across all the subject disciplines deserves recognition. Many other teachers have commented on Larissa's effort and commitment to learning in other subjects and she is a real credit to the Academy.

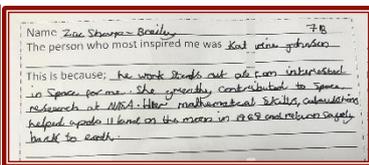
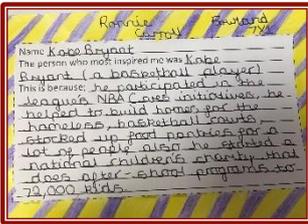
Lillie C. (10A) was nominated for her extraordinary campaign to raise money and awareness for Lily W, who very sadly died from a rare type of brain cancer – DIPG. Lillie has helped to raise over £600,000, pioneering an online 'One-Pound Warrior' donation system in order to raise money to help expand the capacity for research on this disease. Lillie hopes to reach the £1,000,000 mark to enable a science lab to be set up and funded for 2 years of research. Lillie has been on GMTV, BBC Breakfast and has also been interviewed by local and national press about her efforts. Lillie talks sensitively, maturely and insightfully about the experience she and Lily shared. Lillie is an inspirational young person who has demonstrated just what can be achieved when you inspire a community to come together.

Erin V. (10E) is always excelling academically and contributes significantly to the sporting achievements of the Academy. Erin has taken part in many events at the Academy and displays a phenomenal amount of effort in all her endeavours. Erin hasn't received a single infringement in her time at the Academy and continues each day to impress with her maturity, hard-work and achievements. A true role model.

# Events

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To mark Black History Month, the History department ran a competition for pupils to identify someone in the Black community who has inspired them. We had a range of very impressive entries covering individuals such as: Marcus Rashford, Harriet Tubman, Toni Morrison, Mary Seacole, Fern Hunt and Rosa Parks. Every pupil who participated contributed really thoughtful comments on the contributions these individuals made to the world and their impact on them personally. The two winning entries were from Ronnie C. (7B) who chose Kobe Bryant and Zac S.-B. (7B) who chose Katherine Bryant.



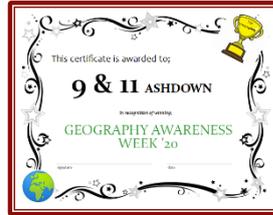
## LETTERS TO CARE HOMES

During the first term, Year 7 and 8 have been working on their Personal Development and Enrichment (PDE) with two new lessons a week. For the final week of these lessons, they took part in an initiative called 'Classrooms to Care Homes'. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that many things we usually do can't happen, including certain Christmas celebrations that often take place in and out of school. It has been very difficult for Care Home residents and workers who have been particularly isolated. In a bid to help to ease that loneliness, and spread a bit of Christmas cheer, our pupils took on the task of writing letters to residents of a local care home. Pupils were encouraged to share what they enjoy doing, what they are learning in school, talk about what they like at Christmas and even share poems, drawings, jokes or riddles. Well done to all our Year 7 and 8 pupils who took part showing their kindness and selflessness.



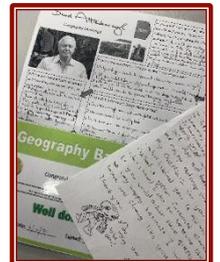
## GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November, tutor groups took on the challenge of becoming the greatest geographers at the Academy. Pupils from Year 7 to 11 worked as teams to battle their way through 5 rounds of varying geographical knowledge. It was a close call for the top three spaces, with only one point in it! Year 9 and Year 11 Ashdown were named the victors and won with 23 out of 25 marks. Thank you to all those involved.



## SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH CHALLENGE

Geography pupils at the Academy were given the opportunity to take part in the 'Sir David Attenborough Challenge', where pupils completed a research task about Sir David Attenborough and were also asked to write him a letter. The best combination of answers and letters will receive a geography badge and the pupils' letters will be sent to Sir David in the New Year. The entries were absolutely phenomenal and showed many heartfelt pieces of writing, which made it even harder to whittle it down to a few pupils. The lucky winners were: Amelia H. (7K), Milo B. (7S), Ammar K. (7E), Aila R. (9B) and Adya S. (9E). A big thank you from the Geography Department to pupils who participated. Fingers crossed that we may even get a reply!



## ECO CLUB - 'I ONLY LIKE PAPER'

To encourage and educate pupils across the Academy, pupils from Year 7 to 10 have created a wide range of posters with which to decorate our new recycling bins. The Eco Club has awarded three lucky winners with the top prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> – Kulsuma S. (8S), 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scarlett D. (7R) and Finley H. (7R) and 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rehan J. (7R).

Thank you to all the pupils who submitted entries. Their dedication to work in an everchanging environment is inspiring – Miss. E. Potts, Mr. K. Danson and Miss. L. James.



# Extra-Curricular

## ECO-COMMITTEE



This year, the Academy has introduced its first ever Eco Committee. Tasked to be the driving force behind the Academy's sustainability project, the team of Year 9 pupils will lead the school to attaining its Green Flag Award, an international accreditation of its Eco-School Status. We hope to achieve this by February 2021 and will keep you updated with this exciting new project.

The number of Year 7 pupils participating in the Eco Project has been expanding since September. Every day, the team volunteer their time to collect the Academy's paper and cardboard waste, through wind or rain. Well done!



## MUSIC SUCCESS



Stuart H. (9A) is a talented musician who is studying GCSE Music. He is a superb drummer and has achieved a remarkable result for his Grade 5 Trinity College

London Drum Kit Examination. He was not only awarded a Distinction but scored a superb 100% in the examination! He literally could not have performed any better! Stuart had to perform three pieces of music which were marked by the examiner. He was also assessed on his 'Performance Delivery and Focus' and 'Musical Awareness'. Well done Stuart, this is a remarkable achievement, especially considering that due to Covid-19 regulations, the performances had to be recorded and submitted online. A special thanks to Mr. S. Harrison who spent several afternoons with Stuart ensuring that the recordings were completed in the way requested by the exam board. You can hear Stuart playing one of his exam pieces in the virtual Christmas Concert that you can read more about in this newsletter.

## BRITAINS GOT TALENT

Mya G. (11E) is dancing with Diversity Juniors on the BGT Christmas special being shown on Christmas Day at 20:00. Filming took place at the Hammersmith Apollo a couple of weekends ago and, prior to that, some intense rehearsals. An amazing adventure for Mya, particularly considering all the uncertainty this year.

## YEAR 7 ENGLISH

Year 7s are in a unique position this year in that, for them, the fight against Covid-19 is now synonymous with starting secondary school. Their understanding of academic life at the Academy walks hand-in-hand with fighting the virus; we thought it would be interesting to observe this 'new normal' school life from the perspective of a Year 7 pupil.

Honey-Rose Q. (7E)

We walk to school where the virus lurks and waits for its next victim. We must wear our masks to keep us safe, like armour shielding us. Everywhere is the virus' nemesis: The Hand Sanitiser. In everyone's pockets, in every classroom, in the whole school. It is our only weapon to help us defeat Covid-19. Squirt! We wash our hands with the sticky, horrendous smelling liquid. Squirt! Open the windows. Quick! Keep the ventilation going! Wait! Where is the virus now? Squirt!

Cassandra B. (7S)

With my mask as my shield, my sanitiser as my sword and my homework as my armour, I fight the battle against Covid-19. Teachers and pupils work together to help keep each other safe. Squirt! Another germ gone. All the windows are open, a few more germs departed. I know what the school was like before the pandemic, having had two brothers go through it. It is very different now. The war against Covid-19 has seen lockdown; isolation; shielding; and time spent away from family and friends – both old and new. The most frequent phrases spoken are "hand sanitiser" and "spray the desk". Is this going to be the new normal I wonder, and, if so, for how long?

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

It is with regret that we are unable to hold our annual Music Concert this year to celebrate the musical achievements of the pupils; however, we will be releasing a pre-recorded Christmas Concert! Pupils have been working hard to prepare items for the concert and, whilst our usual Academy Ensembles will not feature, you will be able to hear a range of talented musicians from across all years playing as part of our Virtual Christmas Concert. Please have a listen! The concert can be found on the Google Drive by following the links to [Remote Learning: Key Stage 3 Learning Resources; Music; Virtual Concerts](#). We hope you enjoy listening to the concert and we look forward to welcoming you to a live concert at the Academy soon! Mrs. S. Stanley - Head of Music.

# Art Showcase

## YEAR 7

Pop art onomatopoeic word art.



## YEAR 8

Year 8 have been inspired by Surrealist artist Rene Magritte-creating their own versions of a surreal bedroom.



## YEAR 9

Year 9 have successfully completed their first GCSE project which was themed around shoes.



## YEAR 10 AND 11

Continuing with their still life project, Year 10 and 11 have been working hard creating independent artworks in the style of their studied artists. A vast range of ideas, art mediums and approaches to the theme have been explored during this term.



## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

A huge thank you to all who took part in the Art Department Christmas card competition. A wide range of designs were created, showcasing imagination and graphic art skills. Mr. N. Houchen chose Freya M (7A) as the winner. He was impressed with the cosmic watercolour sky and line work used on the Christmas trees. Congratulations to Freya who will see her design on the Academy's 2021 Christmas card! This year's runners up were - Ava O. (7B) Maddie M. in (9K).

