

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The beginning of the Spring Term saw the publication of the School and College Performance Tables. The Academy recorded a Progress 8 of +0.46, placing it in the top quintile of schools nationally and 7th when ranked against 'similar schools' (schools in England whose KS4 pupils had similar achievement at the end of KS2).

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

[Click here for the Attendance Report Example](#)

Plans to continue to improve the facilities have been confirmed for the Summer Term. The second phase of the Science Department upgrade and refurbishment will begin in June and complete an investment of approximately £500,000, from which I hope the staff and pupils derive considerable benefit, both now and in the future.

Mr. N. Houchen

ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 96.1%. This is 0.1% above the Academy's self-imposed target of 96.0% and 1.6% above the national average of 94.5%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	95.0
Bowland	97.3
Elvedon	95.7
Kielder	96.0
Richmond	97.5
Sherwood	96.9
Whinfell	93.9
Overall	96.1

The Academy recently reviewed the content and frequency of information that is reported to parents. The first review focused on pupils' attendance and punctuality.

[Click here for the Attendance Report Example](#)

[Click here for the Attendance Report Letter](#)

CHARITY

On the last day of the Autumn Term, the Academy held several fundraising events for Lily W. (9W). The Christmas Jumper Day raised £1,000; Zach R. (9R) had his head shaved by Mr. S. Wheeler, raising £694.11; and wristbands were sold, raising £510. In total, a fantastic £2,206.11 was raised!

ECO INITIATIVE

With the current drive for stronger action on global warming, the Academy has recently launched a new and exciting recycling initiative, aimed at encouraging pupils to be more environmentally aware and promote sustainable development.



A keen number of pupils, aptly named the 'Green Team', have recently started collecting paper and cardboard waste around the school to reuse and recycle. This is part of a three-year project, with the aim to achieve the internationally recognised Eco-School Status – part of a world-wide programme engaging over 19 million children across 67 countries.

SCHOOL SPORT ACHIEVEMENT



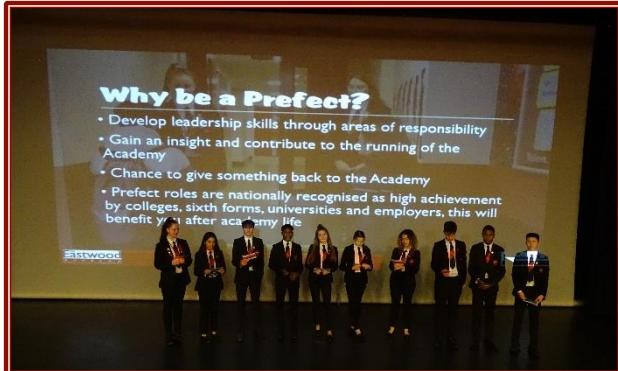
Congratulations to the P.E Department for achieving 9th spot in the top 100 sporting state schools in 2019 as reported in the School Sport magazine.

The Academy was the highest ranked state school in the borough, surpassing SHSG (15th), SHSB (25th), WHSB (53rd) and WHSG (outside the top 100).

[Click here for the 2019 Top Sporting State Schools](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



In January, the StLT led a Year 10 assembly and outlined the application and selection process associated with the appointment of Prefects. The process will begin in earnest next half term, and appointments made prior to the Easter closure period.

PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Nyah W. (11E) for the Monthly Prefect Award.

Nyah has provided continuous (invaluable) support to the Year 7 form, to which she is attached, and always completes her duties to a high standard.

To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Nyah with a certificate and gift voucher on Wednesday 12th February.

BANDSMAN OF THE YEAR

More musical success for Charlie E! At the Rayleigh Brass Christmas Concert on 22nd December, Charlie was presented with the Peter Hammerton Shield for the Training Band's 'Bandsman of the Year Award'. This is an award that was started as a legacy to the late Peter Hammerton who was a member of the Rayleigh Brass Main Band and has been

awarded since 2013.

Congratulations Charlie!



DIVING SUCCESS



In December, Brooke C. (9R) was nominated and shortlisted for 'Olympic Hopeful 2019' and 'Young Sports Personality of the Year 2019'.

Brooke 'swept

the board' and won both awards! The awards were deserved recognition for Brooke's hard work, determination and sheer sportsmanship, reflected in her 21 hours per week training commitment and competition performances.



In terms of elite level performances, Brooke recently competed in two competitions.

In November, Brooke competed in the Luton Challenge where, over 5 events, she took home 5 medals!

In December, Brooke competed in the Scottish National and Open Championship. These are GB tracked events where the GB Diving Team observes and assesses potential young athletes.

Brooke competed in the 14/15 age group category at just 13 years old. She achieved two 8th places against 18 divers and one final in 5th place against 13 of the best platform divers of her age and above - an amazing achievement at her age.

Brooke's coach, Shân Veasey, couldn't be prouder of her successes and is looking forward to her performances in future events.



Have you changed your contact details recently?
If so please make sure you come in and tell us or email enquiries@eastwood.southend.sch.uk

Pupil Success

'SAY BIODEGRADABLE!'



Pupils in Geography Club are endeavouring to build on the success of last year's Herb Project. This year's project involves creating biodegradable plant pots out of newspaper and selling the herbs and tomato plants to fundraise for two geographical charities - Rainforest Trust UK and Action in the Wild.

NETBALL



It has been great seeing so many pupils attending the netball clubs this year and witnessing their hard work translating into enhanced skills.

This year has seen the most pupils ever representing the Academy in netball matches in both league and friendly fixtures and all years have seen a fantastic start to the season.

Whilst the Year 7 team lost their first league fixture against WHSG, they have since gone from strength to strength and are currently on a four-game winning streak, scoring an amazing total of 64 goals and conceding only 11.

The Year 8 team are currently undefeated in the league and have demonstrated some brilliant attacking and defending tactics. They have scored a superb 89 goals so far and conceded only 24.

The Year 9 team have improved their competitive play immensely from last year and as a result already have four more victories in the league than this time last year. They have scored an excellent 68 goals and conceded 36.

At present there is no league for Year 10, but the team has played well in their friendly fixtures and have battled hard to get well deserved victories.

We're keeping our fingers crossed that the teams can take their current form into the Borough Netball Championship next half term.

The Year 7 and 8 tournaments are on Thursday 26th March and the Year 9 and U16 tournaments are on Thursday 19th March.



Well done to all the Year 9 Sports Leaders who have been working hard to develop their organisational, communication and leadership skills through sports-related activities.

The Sports Leaders were given the opportunity to plan and deliver basketball sessions to Year 5 pupils from Eastwood Primary School. Staff from the school were really impressed with the activities that had been planned and the confidence demonstrated by the Sports Leaders.



In addition to primary school pupils, the Sports Leaders have also been

applying their organisation and motivational skills when delivering fitness sessions to Year 7 pupils (whilst also ensuring the sessions were safe and fun).



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT



The Academy is currently reviewing its Personal Development and Enrichment curriculum for 2020/21. On Wednesday 12th February, the StLT met with Mr. N. Houchen to discuss a range of ideas and initiatives to enhance the curriculum across all year groups. This information will be fed into the staff curriculum planning INSET in March.

Pupil Success

ESU PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

On Thursday 23rd January, the Academy took part in the English-Speaking Union, with the first round taking place at the Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls. Six pupils were chosen to represent Eastwood - Jochebel N. (10E), Chelsea M. (10R), Madison F-H. (10R), Grace L. (10A), Uzo A. (10R) and Caitlin V. (10E).



They were split into their two teams and given 20 minutes to prepare for their individual roles. Madison spoke at length about the emotive subject of animal cruelty. She spoke eloquently and she was well-informed and easy to follow.

Grace followed as Chairperson, and Caitlin as Questioner, on the topic of schools being religious free zones. Grace manifested a casual but confident demeanour which contrasted well with some of the other pupils' approaches. Caitlin's questioning of the Speaker was pitched at exactly the right level; forceful, but not accusatory and planned but not rigid.

For the seventh debate, Uzo elected to speak about the merits of changing the National Anthem. Just like Madison, she captivated the audience throughout, and batted away questions confidently.

Finally came the subject of apprenticeships, with the duo of Chelsea as Chairperson, and Jochebel as Questioner. Chelsea's charisma and humour drew the audience in, allowing the debate to flow, while Jochebel's reasoned questioning allowed her skills to come to the fore, without overwhelming the Speaker.

After a lengthy wait, filled with nervous energy, the judges made the decision. Grace took home the individual award for Chairperson, whilst Uzo took home the award for Speaker.

For the team award, the Academy came 1st with Chelsea, Jochebel and Uzo's team winning, and thus progressing through to the Essex Final at Anglia Ruskin University in February.

It was a long night, but the pupils' attention did not wane. It was certainly a team effort, with all six pupils doing a brilliant job and spurring each other on.

VOLUNTEERING

As part of her DofE, Isabelle M. (10K) has been volunteering at the 'Just Ride Southend' charity each Saturday morning since September 2019. She has really enjoyed this opportunity and has decided to continue to volunteer once her DofE has been completed.



Isabelle was selected by Brian Barker, who is the Chairman at 'Just Ride Southend', and was asked to take part in a Life Support Skills session which was delivered by The British Heart Foundation. Isabelle jumped at the chance and completed the course on the afternoon of Saturday 18th January.

DANCING SUCCESS



On 26th January, Madi M. (9A) participated in a regional dance competition. She recently passed her Latin exam and was dancing against a stiff field of competitors across a range of dancing styles.

Madi did exceptionally well, coming 1st in Latin and 2nd in Ballroom. A fantastic achievement Madi, well done!

JACK PETCHY AWARD



Congratulations to Lucia W. (9R) who has been awarded a Jack Petchey award in February. Lucia was nominated by the Guide Association for always being kind and helping the other guides.

Events

THE BRILLIANT CLUB

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools and Universities across the UK. Pupils take part in seminars, go on university visits and then write a 2,000-word dissertation. The Academy's participation last year resulted in all 12 pupils attaining a very high 2:1 (69%) or above, as well as obliterating the national average when it came to aptitude testing.



This year's cohort aimed to follow suit, by beginning their journey with a visit to Cambridge University. Once there, the 12 pupils were split into groups and took it in turns to tour the university, as well as have their first seminar with their PhD Tutor (Paige). This year's focus is police surveillance and anti-terrorism, which is depressingly current, but obviously also hugely relatable to the pupils – especially compared to last year's topic of Geopolitics and Religion during the 14th century.

While the reputation and grounds of Cambridge might be daunting, the pupils gave a good account of themselves throughout the day. During a Q&A session, Uzo A. (10R) and Ronnie B. (10A) confidently asked questions in front of other schools and, as usual, conduct was a given. Like last year, their PhD tutor remarked to me in private how happy she was with the pupils and was genuinely excited to work with them. Paige also made it clear that she would be happy to help with college applications and even with work experience for the pupils if possible. As evidence of this, after Jochebel N.(10E) and Uzo mentioned an interest in a career in medicine, Paige was able to introduce them to a colleague of hers.

There will be a series of in-school seminars over the coming weeks, all of which are crucial in enhancing the pupils' critical thinking and confidence, but also in enabling them to write their dissertation.

SEC MEDIA TASTER DAY

On Friday 17th January, twenty-three Year 10 and 9 pupils were invited to attend a media taster day at SEC. The pupils got to experience 4 media workshops in the following:



'Computer Game Design'. Pupils had to create characters and identify 5 things they should take on holiday. They were then told that the characters had crash landed on a zombie infested island and had to use the 5 items as weapons to escape the island. There were some very creative games concepts and characters!!!

'Animation'. Pupils created their own animated characters using some classic animation character design e.g. square shaped characters indicate 'strength'; circles indicate 'happy'; and triangles demonstrate 'evil'.



'Print Media and Journalism'. Pupils experienced how everyday household items are advertised in printed adverts, using creative journalism, slogans and strap lines, page composition, contrasting images and fonts. Working in random pairs, pupils selected one household product, from Pot Noodle, screen wash, toilet tools and mealworms for birds and created a print advert for their product.

'Film and TV Production'. Pupils were introduced to the news studio and, in small groups, asked to create a two-minute news story. Each group had to present the news story, control the camera, work in the control room and control lighting, sounds and camera shots. Using green screen technology, the presenters looked like they were in a professional newsroom presenting their news stories.



Overall, the pupils had a great time learning about different forms of media, learning new skills and inspiring them to consider different media post-16 courses and careers.

Extra-Curricular

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Week commencing 3rd February was Children's Mental Health Week. During Life Skills lessons, pupils engaged in workshops which encouraged them to understand the impact of social media and the effects of cyber-bullying on their mental health. In addition, pupils explored the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions and the importance of the virtues of kindness and empathy.



PAUL HANNAFORD – GUEST SPEAKER



On Friday 7th February, pupils across all year groups attended a drop-down session with Paul Hannaford.

Click here for <https://www.paulhannaford.com/>

Paul has seen, and experienced first-hand, many aspects of life that we have not seen. He now spends his time talking to children and adults about the dangers of knife crime, drugs, gangs and County Lines.

'County Lines' refers to a type of criminal exploitation in which gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs.

Click here for Home Office guidance on [County Lines](#)

Click here for [Recognising the Signs](#)

If you have a safeguarding concern, please use one or more of the contacts below:

E-mail DSL childprotection@eastwood.southend.sch.uk

E-mail the LA - seethesigns@southend.gov.uk

Make a referral - FCT@southend.gcsx.gov.uk



Follow [paulhannaford](#) on

Twitter

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



CAREERS EDUCATION, ADVICE, GUIDANCE

The
Eastwood
Academy

Believe, Succeed, Together

**Post 16
Convention**

2020

23rd March
18.00 - 20.30

Speak to a wide range of local providers about
your future.

Including, NCS, Greensward, St Bernard's, USP,
Southend High for Girls, Southend High for Boys,
SEC, Southend United, Swayne Park and more

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