

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Following the Ofsted inspection in December, the Academy has received a further letter of formal commendation, on this occasion from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System, Lord Agnew, which was accompanied by an article in the Echo.

Click here for the letter of commendation from [DfE](#)

Click here for the article in the [Echo](#)



On 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Academy had the great privilege of hosting a two day event for the Norwich Opportunity Area Youth Board.

The event was personally endorsed by the MP for Norwich North, Chloe Smith, and Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds MP. The event involved approximately 30 pupils from schools in Norwich and focused primarily on the success of the Academy, in particular, the extent to which it has advanced social mobility.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the final building works were completed.

Since September, the Canteen, Main Hall and Humanities block have been extended at a cost of over £1,200,000.

The works are substantive upgrades to the existing facilities which the pupils will derive considerable benefit from now and in the future.

I wish you an enjoyable and restful Easter and look forward to your return in the Summer Term.

Mr. N. Houchen

Principal

## ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance is currently 96.3%. This is 0.3% above the Academy's target of 96.0% and 1.8% above the national average of 94.6%.

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	95.8
Bowland	97.3
Elvedon	96.6
Kielder	95.9
Richmond	96.8
Sherwood	97.2
Whinfell	95.9
Overall	96.3

## ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN 2018-19

% Attendance	Number of Pupils	% of the Number of Pupils on Roll
100%	243	24%
99%	149	15%
98%	142	14%
97%	106	11%
96%	108	11%
<96%	251	25%

## YEAR 11 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr. N. Houchen would like to extend his personal thanks to the current StLT who played a key role in the

Ofsted inspection and have been instrumental in bringing about improvements in facilities and experiences for the pupil body.

# Pupil Success

## YEAR 10 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

After receiving over 90 applications for the 49 Prefect positions, shortlisting criteria was used to help select the new cohort. Similar to a job interview, pupils were judged rigorously against the criteria to help identify the strongest candidates for the role.



Initially, 20 pupils who exhibited the requisite attributes and skills were shortlisted to be considered for the

new Student Leadership Team (Head Boy/Girl, Deputy Head Boy/Girl and Senior Prefects).

These pupils were assessed against feedback from their Head of House; behavioural record, attendance; and application form responses.



The pupils were then asked to attend an interview with the current StLT who, having gone through the process themselves, were in the best position to assess those candidates most suited to the role.

In true democratic style, all staff were invited to vote on the final team, again being asked to consider those pupils with the skills and attributes to undertake the role effectively.

With only 10 positions available, it was a difficult process, however, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, the final team was announced and they were presented with their badge and tie by Mr. N. Houchen.



The remaining 10 pupils who had been

shortlisted, were automatically awarded the status of Prefect, and they too, were presented with their ties. The final 29 Prefects were then selected, referring back to the criteria, staff feedback and application forms.

Congratulations to all those who were successful.

## PREFECT AWARD



The StLT nominated Chay N-B. (I1B) for the Monthly Prefect Award. Chay has provided support at numerous after school events throughout the year. To acknowledge this achievement, Mr. N. Houchen presented Chay with a certificate and gift voucher on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## EPTA UK PIANO COMPETITION

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Charlie E. (8W) travelled to London for the Regional Final of the EPTA UK Piano Competition and what an amazing experience it was.

There were 9 competitors and the standard was exceptional. Charlie was last to perform and he was very nervous. He played 4 pieces, mainly from memory, and entirely different styles to show his range and versatility.

In the overall standings, Charlie came joint 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2 other boys. The adjudicator was a highly distinguished performer and teacher - Helen Krizos - whose successes include teaching the winners of the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year and 2018 International Young Musicians Competition. She gave great feedback to all of the performers and was particularly impressed with the fact that Charlie had composed his own material.

Congratulations Charlie!

## BIRD BOX HEAVEN



During the Autumn Term, Geography Club took on the challenge to become architects and interior designers and create bird boxes ready in time for Spring.

All members produced bright and colourful houses to attract birds ready to make a nest.

Prizes were awarded to the most creative design. Congratulations, in particular, to Anna. G (10W) and Calypso. B (8S).

Thank you to all who those took part.



## Pupil Success

### BOROUGH SWIMMING GALA



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 35 pupils participated in the Borough Swimming Gala and we witnessed some outstanding individual and team performances.

The Academy is the current Co-Ed Swimming Champion and added the Co-Ed Relay Shield, which hasn't been won since 2008. The latter is where a mixture of 3 boys and 3 girls swim one length against one another. The Academy's team of Lydia D. (10K), Brooke W. (10K), Caitlin V. (9E), James C. (9A), Jude H. (9R) and Matthew R. (9B) secured the title in the first race of the afternoon and this set the tone for the event.

All the pupils performed really well but there were a few who deserve extra recognition for their outstanding achievements, in particular, Jude H. (9R) who was simply incredible. If you ever get the opportunity to watch him swim, it is a true spectacle and you cannot fail to be amazed by his elegance and class in the pool. He won a gold medal in every race he entered, including the prestigious Champion Boy Race, which is 50m freestyle. He also won the 25m individual backstroke with ease, finishing 10m ahead of the next competitor.



Jude, as part of the Year 9 boys' squad, including James C. (9A), Arun F. (9K) and Matthew R. (9B), also took gold in the relay events.

Brooke defended her title as the Year 10 girls' backstroke champion, and, like Jude, competed in the Champion Girl Race. Brooke managed to secure a silver medal in this event, coming second to a national swimmer who beat her by only 0.01 of a second!

In terms of the overall standings, the boys' team finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> and the girls managed to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> place – the most successful gala (for the Academy) in recent history.

Well done to all the pupils for the hard work and achievements.

### MATHS FEAST COMPETITION



On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February a group of pupils from Year 10 took part in the Maths Feast Competition at King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford.

Molly B. (10B), Mia B. (10A) (who gave up some of her birthday evening to take part), Roshawn B. (10W) and Cassidy D. (10S) had all given up a large part of their free time over the last couple of months in order to practice for the competition.

The competition, as always, was very stiff, with two teams from KEGS, WHSG and WHSB as well as teams from a couple of grammar schools outside of Essex. There were 4 rounds in all, consisting of some 'outside-the-box' thinking for a few of them.

The competition is never the same two years running and the first round was again something they had not seen before. The first round was a 'Merry-Go-Round' so each pupil worked on some problems on their own for 5 minutes, then rotated their sheets clockwise for 4 minutes, then again for 3 minutes, and then one more time for 2 minutes. The team scored exceptionally well in this round (despite the boys not noticing there was a back page!)

The second round was comprehension, which looks to test something hopefully none of the schools had ever seen – this year it was about networks and shortest paths and vertices. The team were quite worried about this round, but ended up with a very respectable score.

The third round was group based and the team had to solve a series of questions and work out if the solution was higher or lower than the previous answer.

The final round was the 'relay race' in which pupils had to use the solution to the previous question in order to solve their own problem.

Despite finding some of the rounds extremely tough, the team finished a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> out of 16, including beating one of each of the WHSB and WHSG teams, and finishing only one point behind the WHSG A-Team.

Well done team – a super performance!

# Pupil Success

## NETBALL UPDATE



The U16 team played their best netball in 5 years at the annual Southend Borough Netball Tournament. They have tried hard throughout the year in training and in P.E lessons and this toil has been reflected on the court this season. Most improved player of the season

goes to Rachel F. (11S) representing the Academy for the first time this year. Player of the tournament was Holly L. (11E) for her tenacity and determination on court.

The Year 9 team have played well throughout the season but unfortunately were hit with an injury leading up to the tournament. The team had to deal with significant changes with Alana B. (9S)



moving from GA to GD and Ella B. (9K) playing GA for this first time. Despite these '11<sup>th</sup> hour' changes, the team surpassed expectations at the tournament, finishing in a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Player of the tournament was Ella B. (9K) for her great interceptions when playing in defence and 'keeping her cool' when having to shoot.



The Year 8s have had a very mixed season. They started the league slowly and suffered some defeats but, we made some significant changes in positions, which saw a reversal of fortunes.

They played some great games, most notably their 21 – 1 win

over Southchurch and finished the season mid-table in the league.

At the annual tournament they were drawn in the toughest group; however, they played the best netball of the season, with Brooke T. (8E) moving quickly to get free, Libby M. (8K) and Lorey E. (8K) scoring well and the defence battling hard. They were undefeated in all their games apart from SHSG A and WHSG A, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their group. Libby M. (8K) won Player of the Tournament for her consistency in performance across all the games.

Brooke T. (8E) won the Most Improved Player of the Year with her great attitude to play any position on court during the season without question, battling hard (despite the contact!) and her brilliant ability to get in front of her opponent.

The Year 7s have been exceptional from the start of the season. They have remained undefeated in the league and have been crowned the Southend Schools League Champions.



The tournament saw them have their first real competitive game. They progressed through to the semi-finals and competed against SHSG A. Unfortunately, they lost, but there were lots of positives and the team are determined to come back stronger. Player of the League was Olivia F. (7A) for her fantastic shooting. Player of the Tournament was Hannah E. (7K) for her demonstration of calmness and skill throughout.

## FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

During March, the Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils completed their practical examinations. They had to make three dishes in three hours demonstrating as many different culinary skills as possible. A selection of their (very tasty) dishes are shown below.



Beth D. (11R)



Carmen R. (11B)



Jack R. (11S)



Ben S. (11A)



Megan S. (11B)



Dylan W. (11B)

# Events

## YEAR 7 LITERACY EVENING



The Year 7 Literacy Evening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, was the best attended so far. Almost 100 parents and pupils packed the Main Hall to learn how to promote and assist with their child's literacy

development.

Mrs A. Steed explored the best way to improve pupils' literacy abilities, whilst Mr. M Pearl spoke about the literacy/football programme he teaches, that encourages boys to read with interest and write with purpose.

Parents were invited to write their own short stories and the judges were impressed by the high levels of literacy from the entries submitted. The best six story writers won an Easter Egg and their children won a newly published young adult novel. Parents were given time to share their literacy strategies with each other and, when the evening had wound down, they left laden with good advice, prizes and a wealth of new information to share with their families.

## E-SAFETY DROPDOWN



Week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Key Stage 4 pupils attended an E-safety drop-down session with former police officer Mr. G. Collard.

The focus of this particular session was the rapidly evolving nature of technology and proliferation of 'new apps'. Pupils were given advice on how to take appropriate safeguards to stay safe and the associated reporting procedures.

Click here for [E-safety for Pupils](#)

Click here for [E-safety for Parents](#)

## HOME SAFETY DROPDOWN



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Year 8 pupils participated in a drop-down session on Safety in the Home. This was in response to feedback from Student Voice discussions last term where pupils asked for advice and guidance.

An officer from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service discussed with pupils how fires can start, showing videos and photos of real examples of when fires have occurred. Pupils were shown how a range of everyday items or activities can start fires, including faulty mobile phone chargers, cooking in the kitchen, hair straighteners and sockets. Pupils were guided how to use a socket overload calculator to assess the risk of a fire hazard.

Click here for a [socket overload calculator](#)

Click here for [www.electricalsafetyfirst.or.guk](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.or.guk)

Pupils also discussed the importance of smoke alarms, how to deal with fires and the need to plan an escape route in the event of a fire.



Pupils were also given advice on security e.g. locks, how to prevent burglaries, UV marking etc.

**Home Safety**  
Fire and Security

**Most common causes of fire in the home**

- Cooking left unattended.
- Electrical alarms overloading and left on or near flammable items.
- Matches not used safely.
- Candles not placed in holders and/or placed near flammable items.
- Smoking materials not used safely.
- Overloaded electrical sockets or extension leads.

**Smoke Alarms**

- Have at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home.
- Test them monthly.

**Escape Plan**

- Plan the quickest and safest route out from the building.
- Keep that route clear of obstructions.
- Have an alternative route just in case.
- Keep keys near to all locked doors and windows.
- Check internal doors before going to bed.
- Practice your fire routine.

**Bedtime Routine**

- Switch off all electrical items at the socket, that do not have to be left on.
- Extinguish all flames.
- Close all doors.
- Ensure keys are available for locked doors and windows.

**In the event of a fire**

- Check each door using the back of your hand before opening it.
- Close the door behind you. Keep below the smoke.
- Leave immediately with all members of the family.
- Do not investigate or stop to collect anything.
- Call 999 once safely outside.

**Get your FREE smoke alarm**

Contact us to arrange a free home safety visit:  
0300 363 0088  
[www.essex-fire.gov.uk/book](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/book)

**Home Security**

**Doors and Windows**

- Secure doors, windows and frames
- Lock garages and sheds
- Lock doors and windows when leaving or going to bed

**Keys**

- Do not hide spare keys outside
- Do not leave keys in doors where they can be reached from outside
- Do not leave car keys lying around

**Holidays**

- Ask friends to remove post, switch on lights, open and close curtains
- Do not post on Social Media

**Before opening the front door**

- Use spy hole/security chain
- Check ID
- Do not say that you are on your own
- If you feel uncomfortable, don't answer the door

**Vehicles**

- Always lock your vehicles
- Keep valuables out of sight (eg. Sat Navs and leads)
- Do not leave engines running when unattended



Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

## Events

### NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Academy welcomed 14 different professionals to showcase their careers and their industries to Year 10 pupils.

Mrs. J. Barber, Member of the Trust, and Director of Programmes at Career Ready, organised a range of employers to reflect the region's local labour markets, including: South Essex College; Southend Airport; Accenture; Intu; Santander; Palmers Solicitors; Advatech; Jefferies Law, Jupiter Asset Management; Ted Baker; Ryan Air; Healthcare Europe Ltd; Troup, Bywaters; Sarah Smith Photography; and DST Systems

In small groups, pupils had the opportunity to partake in 15 minute sessions, listening and questioning each employer about their career and industry.



### SKI TRIP

During the February half term, the Academy once again ventured to the snowy hills of Tonale, Italy. Upon arrival, the sun was shining and the snow levels were perfect; it was clear to see that it was going to be an amazing week for skiing.



Throughout the week, all pupils made impressive progress in their respective groups. After each day of skiing, pupils participated in many après-ski activities such as bum-boarding, night skiing, a disco and they also had the chance to try some local and authentic cuisine from a nearby restaurant.

Given the success of the 2019 ski trip, plans for the 2020 ski trip are already underway and all places have been filled.

### POST 16 CONVENTION



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, The Academy held their annual Post 16 / Careers Convention.

The Convention

was represented by 15 different exhibitors that included; ASK Apprenticeship; WHSG; National Citizen Service; USP (SEEVIC); QA Apprenticeships; Fashion Retail Academy; The Swayne Park School; and King Edmund School.

Over 130 pupils and parents attended the event to start planning their next steps. The wide range of providers, guidance and support organisations were able to talk, support and help plan pupil progression beyond the Academy. Pupils and parents also had the opportunity to attend a presentation about apprenticeships.

Click here for a [Post 16 Options and Careers](#)

Click here for the [Provider Access Policy](#)

### EASTER MUSIC CONCERT

On the evening of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, a capacity audience attended the Easter Music Concert in the Academy Concert Hall.

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. Following the concert the audience enjoyed refreshments whilst liaising with parents, pupils and staff.

The concerts throughout the year are designed to showcase the array of musical talent within the school, together with providing an opportunity to reward the commitment that pupils have shown throughout the term by attending the array of extra-curricular music clubs that operate within the Music Department. If pupils would like to find out more about the music activities provided, please see Mrs. S. Stanley or Mr. S. Harrison for more information.



# Careers

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### HIGHER EDUCATION FAMILY AWARENESS DAY

Saturday 11 May 2019  
11.30am-3.00pm  
University of Suffolk  
Waterfront Building  
Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ



Do you have a child in year 7, 8 or 9?

Interested in finding out more about higher education?

Join us at our Ipswich campus for our Family Awareness Day. This is a fantastic opportunity for students in year 7, 8 or 9 and parents to learn more about university and meet with current students

The programme will include:

- Sessions to find out more about studying for a degree
- A campus tour
- Fun activities for students
- Buffet lunch

To book a place please visit [www.uos.ac.uk/fad](http://www.uos.ac.uk/fad) by Friday 3 May 2019

For more information, contact [schools@uos.ac.uk](mailto:schools@uos.ac.uk) or call 01473 338600

## CARE INDUSTRY

**careers and opportunities in the CARE SECTOR**

The care sector is a big industry in Essex - 28% of all apprenticeships started in Essex were in the health, public services and care sector. So why is it so popular? Probably because the care sector is one of the most rewarding areas to work in, allowing you to make a real difference to the people who need it most and develop true friendships along the way!

**1.3K** different care businesses across Essex

**2m** new workers needed in health and care in UK by 2022

**137K** people will need care support in Essex by 2030

**What do these four have in common?**

Like everyone, they need someone to be there for them. Across a wide range of personal circumstances, from mental health and physical disability to child support and elderly care, there are thousands of people who need your support. This section will show you what the care sector in Essex has to offer and give you all the latest information too.

**WHAT'S OUT THERE FOR ME?**

There are hundreds of opportunities available in this sector. We will only show you seven for now, but take a look at some of the different roles available in care and search online for **HSOC** if you're looking for something else within this sector!

- Social Worker £26k - £33k+**  
Social Workers work with people and families to support them through difficult times and make sure that they are safe. They offer information and advice to families to help them through financial, mental health, physical health or legal issues.
- Youth Worker £20k - £30k+**  
Your childhood can affect what you do in life and everyone deserves the opportunity to do their best. Youth Workers give support and encouragement to children and teens in their personal and academic life, as well as give them an opportunity to talk to someone about what makes them happy or unhappy.
- Activities Coordinator £15k - £26k+**  
Activity Coordinators are responsible for developing an activity plan for care home residents which will stimulate new interests and skills and meet their individual needs. Put the fun in people's lives with the events you organise and deliver.
- Equality and Diversity Officer £18k - £25k+**  
Everybody's equal but, unfortunately, not everybody's treated that way. Equality and Diversity Officers support those who have been discriminated against - in any way: age, race, gender, religion. These officers deal with the issues and take action to prevent them happening in the future within schools or companies.
- Care Assistant £12k - £18k+**  
Simple tasks like getting food or making a bed can make a lot of difference to the people that can't do them for themselves. Care Assistants help make someone's day to day living a little easier by making sure they are happy and safe, what could be more rewarding than that?
- Community Development Worker £15k - £26k+**  
Community Development Workers look to improve the communities people live in. Finding out the issues people face in their community, bringing them together, providing them with valuable activities and making their home a better place.
- Psychotherapist £27k - £34k+**  
A Psychotherapist has a good understanding of how the mind works so that they can treat emotional problems and mental health conditions. They are trained to listen and help a person to find out what is causing the problem, and how to resolve it too.

# Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates in the House assemblies.

## ASHDOWN



## BOWLAND



## ELVEDON



## KIELDER



## RICHMOND



## SHERWOOD



## WHINFELL



## SUCCESS FOR THE YEAR 11S ON DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to the Year 11s who, for the last 18 months, have been diligently working to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The Award encompasses many areas including: preparing for expeditions; planning routes; camping over two weekends; and completing up to 6 months of volunteering, physical activity and a skill. In addition to acknowledging the success of the pupils, Mr. N. Houchen would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their tireless dedication and commitment (often in their own time) which undoubtedly continues to make this enrichment activity so successful.

