

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Week commencing 15th May, marks the beginning of the GCSE examination period. I would like to personally thank the Year 11 pupils for their commitment and application in preparing for these examinations and wish them well during this period.

The Year 11 teaching timetable has been reorganised to optimise preparation and align with the examination schedule. Pupils are expected to attend school for the duration of the examination period.

Click here for [Year 11 Timetable](#)

Click here for [GCSE Summer Examinations Timetable](#)

With the start of the GCSE examinations, this time of year also sees a change in the Student Leadership Team (StLT). I would like to personally thank the 2022/23 StLT for their work throughout the year and look forward to meeting with them for a special Rewards Lunch in June. I would also like to formally welcome the 2023/24 StLT and thoroughly enjoyed meeting with them on Wednesday 26th April and issuing them with their Prefect ties and badges.



Mr. N. Houchen
Principal

OPEN EVENING

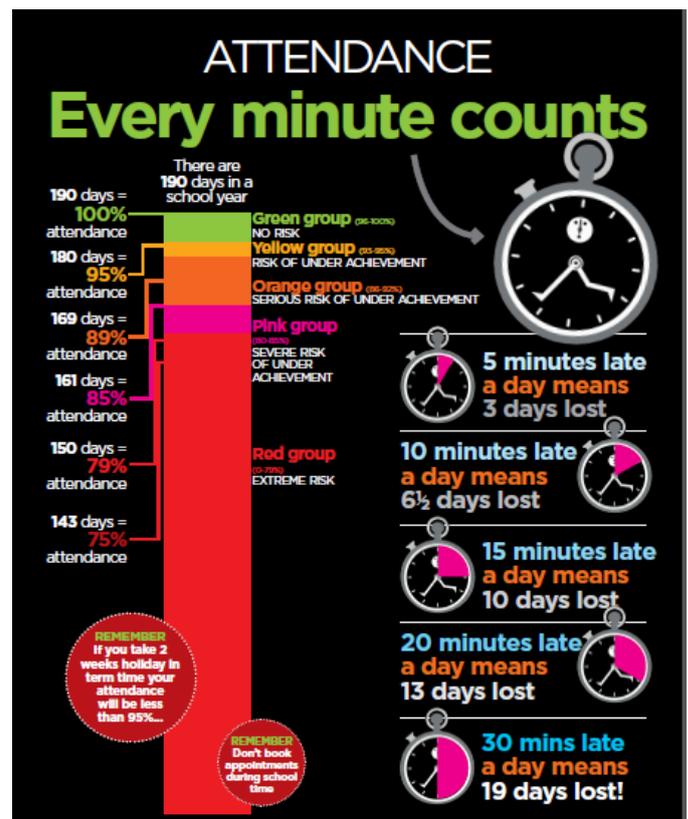


The Academy will be holding its annual Open Evening on **Monday 26th June** from **18.00 – 21.00 p.m.** for prospective Year 7 pupils.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is 93.3 % vs. a national average of 90.9% (+2.4%) and persistent absence is 17.0% vs. a national average of 27.0% (-10.0%).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.8
Bowland	93.5
Elveden	92.8
Kielder	93.1
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	93.8
Whinfell	93.1
Overall	93.3



Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Leadership Team (StLT) have played an active role in the recruitment for the new cohort of Prefects. The current members were involved in the selection process for the new StLT, from writing their own questions, interviewing and then feeding back their thoughts. Mr. N. Houchen met with the shortlisted pupils to announce the successful StLT.

Congratulations to the StLT 2023-2024:



LEAD PREFECTS

This year, we are pleased to introduce a new Student Leadership role, that of Lead Prefect. These are pupils who made the shortlist for the StLT and we look forward to developing their leadership role in supporting the new StLT.

Congratulations to the Lead Prefect Team 2023-2024:



ESU NATIONAL FINAL



The Academy's ESU Team, comprising of Adya S. (IIE), Maame A. (IIB), Amal U. (IIS) and Aila C.-R. (IIB) attended the ESU National Final on Sunday 30th April.

Adya presented her speech on the topic, 'Words only have the Power that we Give Them' and it was clear immediately that we were a serious contender on this day. In the next round, Amal and Maame were the Chairperson and Questioner - both were superb in their particular roles, ensuring everything went smoothly and that the Speaker was able to expand intelligently on their topic. In short, they did everything perfectly, in front of scrupulous judges, one of whom was Sir Winston Churchill's great grandson, Randolph Churchill!

Spurred on by at least 50 supporters – staff, friends and family - we knew that we stood an excellent chance against some fierce competition, but alas, we did not win. To say our team were magnanimous in defeat is the understatement of the year, as they congratulated the winners (who also were in awe of our brilliant team!) We will miss our fabulous team as they leave the Academy this year to pursue what will undoubtedly be very rewarding careers and lives!

The remaining Prefects were then selected following a rigorous process looking at attendance, behaviour, commitment to learning and their wider involvement in the Academy. On Tuesday 16th May, the final team of Prefects were presented with their ties and badges in an assembly with Mr. N. Houchen.



FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Callum F. (II) who has officially been offered a football scholarship at Ipswich Town, Suffolk.



Pupil Success

KINGS CORONATION PARADE

On Monday 8th May, Layla M. (8W) was invited to attend the King's Coronation celebrations and was presented with a commemorative medal.

Layla joined the Sea Cadets last year and is learning a range of skills, including First Aid, Rowing, Drill.



The Sea Cadets has helped Layla and many others grow in confidence and gain new friendships and is looking forward to more boating weekends and trips away.

Congratulations to other pupils from the academy for their role in the Coronation Parade including Jack V. (9E) and William E. (9W).



PALACE THEATRE

Congratulations to Hannah M. (10W) Tony L. (10A) and Marshall H. (7W) who recently took part in *The Sound of Music* at the Palace Theatre with Southend Operatic and Dramatic Society. Tony and Marshall played the roll of Frederick Von Trapp and Hannah played Louisa Von Trapp. They got a great review on the opening night.

SOUTHEND THEATRE SCENE

Music, but swiftly gains confidence as the show moves along and her vocals are just wonderful in every single song she has, including *My Favourite Things*, *I Have Confidence* and *The Lonely Goatherd* to name but a few.

It's always a bit of risk casting children in an dram productions; they can sometimes be a tad too stage-schooly. However, the children playing the roles of Frederick (Marshall Hawkins), Louisa (Hannah Moss), Kurt (Blake Williams), Brigitta (Lily Jackson), Marta (Alicia Dalipi) and Greta (Ameth-Rose Dalipi) were all perfectly cast. Do-Re-Mi really proved what fabulous, little performers they are and So Long Farewell was a delight. They are all future stars in the making.

Deatha Hammond is also just perfect as Liesl, although I wasn't completely convinced that Charlie Evans-Rouse as Rolf was equally as well cast, despite putting in an excellent committed performance. That said, they both performed a fantastic rendition of *Sister Sings* on *Seventeen* which had a nicely played comedic



JACK PETCHY SPEAKOUT!

Frankie L. (10R) presented an amazing speech in the Jack Petchey Speakout! Competition at The Greensward Academy on 25th April. She was up against another 11 pupils in this regional final.



Frankie's speech was on the topic of powers, cleverly linking the topic to the analogy of a mobile phone and its charger, and how we all need a 'charger' in our lives to power us through to great achievements. Although Frankie didn't win, her speech was an incredible achievement in itself and was cheered on by her family and members of the English Department. Well done Frankie!

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On the 12th April, seven of the Academy's Year 10 and 11 pupils represented Southend United at the U16 Premier League Kicks Regional Football Tournament in Brighton. The team comprised of Bessie S. (11A), Maya L. (11A), Chloe G. (11S), Mia P. (10R), Kayleigh I. (10S), Holly T. (10W) and Jodie M. (10B). Other teams present at the tournament were Portsmouth, Reading, Bournemouth, Southampton, Oxford and Crawley.

After a competitive day's play, the girls finished in 2nd place. Despite winning all of their games, they narrowly missed out on progressing through to the National Football Tournament on goal difference. Demonstrating great confidence and skill throughout the tournament, the overall result was a well-deserved achievement. Well done girls!



Pupil Success

SOUTHEND SCHOOLS NETBALL LEAGUE

The Year 7s had a great first season developing as a team throughout the year and working hard for each other on court. Amy W. (7A) battled hard in every game in her position as Centre and Isabelle B. (7K) and Felicity W. (7B) scored some important goals against some tough defenders. Winning 7 out of their 8 matches, the Year 7s finished the season as **runners-up**.

The Year 8s had an amazing year, going the entire season unbeaten, scoring an incredible 137 goals and only conceding 34. They are a skilful team who pass the ball rapidly down the court from Goal Defence to Goal Shooter. Violet B. (8B) made fantastic interceptions throughout the season and Patience S. (8B) scored some brilliant goals. Winning all their matches, the Year 8s finished the season as **champions!**

The Year 9s didn't have the best start, but quickly turned their season around. This was by far the closest contested year group with three schools ending up on the same points. Zarah F. (9B) took control of many of the matches and scored some vital goals and Sophie Mc (9A) made tremendous interceptions against very talented attackers. Winning the majority of their matches, the Year 9s finished the season as **runners-up**.

The UI6s had an excellent season, winning many games by 20 or more goals. They were undefeated going into their last game of the season, having drawn one game and won all of the others. Unfortunately, they lost to a very skilful and well drilled Shoeburyness team and on goal difference (one goal!) finished the season in **3rd place**.

Those players achieving 'Player of the Match' the most over the season were awarded the accolade of 'Player of the Season' and include:

Year 7 Felicity W. (7B)

Year 8 Patience S. (8B)

Year 9 Zarah F. (9B)

UI6 Erin F. (10E)

Well done on another successful season.

NETBALL SQUADS

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)

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 9 SQUAD



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

UI6 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 (11S)

Pupil Success

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the U13 Girls' Football Team who are now through to the 5th round of the National Football Cup. Their journey has seen them compete against teams from around Essex and Norfolk - even travelling for up to 3 hours for one fixture!

The girls' most recent victory was on Wednesday 10th May against Taverham High School, Norfolk. For 60 minutes, both teams competed well for the ball and displayed a great level of skill. Goals from Chloe B. (x2) and Sofia S. (x1) sealed a 3-2 victory for Eastwood. The 5th round will be played on Thursday 25th May against Woodland Middle School, Bedford. We wish the girls the best of luck!



Back row- Daisy M.-C (8B), Isla F. (8E), Olivia T. (8E), Cameo H. (7E)

Front row- Eadie L. (7A), Heidi W. (7E), Alice B. (8A), Chloe B. (8R), Sofia S. (8A), Millie M. (8R), Camille C. (7R)

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD



The Sports Leaders have continued developing their skills and confidence this half term. They have planned exciting athletic sessions and successfully delivered them to Year 5 pupils from Eastwood Primary School.

They have given the Year 5s a variety of athletic experiences including long jump, throwing, sprinting and obstacle courses. The Year 5s have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, shown by their smiles and laughter during the sessions.



MATHEMATIC SUCCESS



A massive well done to all our winners in the Mathematics Department. At the end of term, pupils were selected for their outstanding work in mathematics and received a certificate as well as a personal calculator. The pupils were: Zaryab I. (7A), Caitlin M. (7A), Lewis M. (8R), Gracie-Rose B. (8K), Freya M. (9A), Noah E. (9K), Leo W. (10P), Samuel F. (11B), Ollie S. (11R), and Finley H. (10B).

In addition to this, across all classes, pupils were selected by teachers for their excellent progress or achievement. Those pupils received a certificate and 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!

FRENCH MERITS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded their 10-merit postcard in French. Please congratulate them on this fantastic achievement.

Charlie D. (7A), Zaryab I. (7A), Lara. S (7A), Poppy H. (7E), Ava M. (7E), Joshua P. (7S), Brooke M. (7W), Ruby R. (7W), Zahra C-R. (8B), Angelina B. (8K), Charlotte A. (8R), Emma D. (8W), Ryan W. (9K), Joshua M. (9R), Jack G. (9S), Sophie H. (9S), Jake T. (9S), Ella D. (9B)



A huge congratulations to Mateo M S. (7S) who has been awarded his 20-merit badge in French. Mateo has worked extremely hard to achieve this, and should be very proud of himself. Well done!

TSKUK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Rio P. (9W) for his fantastic achievements at The TSKUK National Championships. Triple gold medalist, Individual Kumite fighting Gold, Team Kumite fighting Gold, Team Kata Gold and finally Individual Kata Silver. We wish him luck for the upcoming World Championships in Dundee.



Events

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



On Thursday 20th April, the Academy invited Anna Firth MP to meet with some of our Year 10 pupils regarding their Active Citizenship projects. She spoke to the group about a range of different campaigns

including animal welfare, period poverty, mental health and also the levels of knife crime in the UK, which is an issue that the MP is particularly concerned about.

One part of the visit involved the police showing the pupils how knife poles were being used to stop and search people for weapons and discussing other ways that Southend can be made safer.

We look forward to Anna Firth MP returning to the Academy in the near future to be able to update the pupils on the progress that has been made regarding their campaigns.

CHARITY ABSEIL

Congratulations to Macey D. (10W), Tiger-Lily E. (10W), Holly P. (10W) and Ava C. (10W) who completed the 'Tackle the Tower Charity Abseil'. As part of their ongoing Active Citizenship project, this group of girls decided to raise money for the Intensive Care Unit at Southend Hospital. On Saturday 13th May, the girls abseiled down a 154ft building at Southend Hospital to raise money for the ward of their choice. They managed to raise over £1000 - a fantastic achievement and everyone in the Citizenship Department is very proud of them.



1,000 MILE CHARITY CYCLE RIDE!



Good luck to Finley B. (7A) who is taking part in a challenge with his dad to cycle 1,000 miles between May and September. They are raising funds for Little Havens and have already raised over £1,000 online, in cash donations and pledges from local businesses.

Finley has been training hard for the challenge which officially started on May 1st. He has already completed a number of shorter and longer rides and completed an event on 21st May in which Finley cycled 30 miles around Norwich! Congratulations on attempting this amazing feat and raising money for such a worthwhile cause. We look forward to hearing all about it in September when you finish!



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK COMPETITION

Congratulations to Liam B. (8S) and Sophie H. (9S) - the winners of the British Science Week competition.

Pupils had the opportunity to go on a treasure hunt around the Academy to learn about some of the incredible achievements of famous female scientists, including Tiera Guinn Fletcher who, at the age of 22, helped NASA build one of the most powerful rockets ever made. Well done to all of the pupils who entered.



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

We are looking for the next generation of fabulous story writers and to this end we have recently launched a Year 7 and Year 8 Creative Writing competition that is open to everyone. The stories can be set in the darkest, blackness of outer space, in the dappled sunlight of the Amazon jungle, in an isolated haunted mansion not very far from here, or wherever you imagine is the most thrilling setting. We have already received over 100 entries and have thoroughly enjoyed reading some incredible narratives. We have extended the closing date for entries to Friday 16th June and will announce the winners in the next Newsletter.

Extra-Curricular

MFL LANGUAGE CLUB

During the term, the Language Club contributed to the Academy podcast recording organised by Rosie W. (8A), Amaya W. (8B), and Ruby H (8A). Pupils were interviewed about their native or chosen country and then spoke a few sentences in the particular language e.g. Welsh, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Gujarati, Malayalam, Arabic and Japanese.



We also listened to a conversation in Bangla between Mr. M. Samir and Meer I. (9S) who then demonstrated how their language is written from right

to left.. With Mr. S. Wilson, we practised the Russian alphabet, numbers and traditional phrases. Finally, we attempted to speak some basic Korean greetings, with the help of Poppy B (7K) who is learning Korean and Gracie-Rose B (8K), Charlotte A (8E) and Angelina B. (8K) presented us with cultural highlights and some interesting facts about both N. and S. Korea.



Our thanks to Mr. M. Samir, Mr. S. Wilson and Mr. K. Danson who have given up their time to present to the Language Club. If you would like to get involved and share your knowledge of a language and culture, please speak to our language ambassadors, Elsie N. (8E) and Gracie-Rose B. (8K) or come along to MFLI on a Thursday lunchtime.



GUEST COLUMNIST

Mr. S. Howard is very proud of himself for achieving a guest columnist piece in *The Big Issue* magazine this week. He felt compelled to respond to a letter in a previous issue stating that teachers were 'overseeing bullies' in a 'toxic environment'. The Editor contacted Mr. S. Howard to ask if, instead of being in the letters page, the response could be printed as an opinion piece. Fame at last...

Click here to the article: [The Big Issue](#)

DRAGONS' DEN

On Thursday 27th April, we held our Dragons' Den event. Five teams were tasked with creating an innovative idea that would help new pupils settle into life at school. They faced the difficult prospect of presenting to our very own Mr. P. Barrett, Mr. N. Dunn and one of our Governors, Mrs. K. Heath. Among the ideas presented was a mobile phone app and an 'all in one' device dubbed the 'Swiss Army Pen'. All the teams were fantastic in their preparation and presentation skills, even under the watchful eye of Mr. N. Dunn who pressed for information at every opportunity.

The winner was decided after careful deliberation. Our judges were impressed by this pupil's presentation skills, excellent preparation and charisma. George C. (7R) won the prize with his creation 'The Big Q Bible'. This was a pocket booklet created for the purpose of answering frequently asked questions. The judges were impressed with the prototype presented to them and, although slightly old fashioned, they found it very endearing. George was presented with a £50 Amazon voucher for his efforts.

A special thank you to Mr. S. Howard and Stuart H. (11A) for their assistance throughout the event.

PODCAST



The Podcast Team, Rosie W. (8), Ruby H. (8A), Amaya W. (8B), Lewis C. (10S) and Ellie T. (11R), have focused their attention on the various events pupils took part in over the half term.

They spoke with George C. (7R), the winner of Dragons' Den and his brilliant idea that was pitched to the judges. They also reported on the Brilliant Club's graduation ceremony at Colchester University and the incredible ESU Team representing the Academy at the National Final in Cambridge. Frankie L. (10R) also spoke to the team about her experience at the 'Jack Petchey Speak Out' competition and how she found the event. Lastly, the group reported on and spoke to a few pupils who interviewed Anna Firth MP as part of their Active Citizenship coursework.



Click here for [The Eastwood Academy Podcast](#)

Extra-Curricular

DOFE



During May, our intrepid Year 10 pupils undertook their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. A sea of brightly coloured T-shirt wearing pupils descended on the Rayleigh and Hockley area and began their 20km two-day hike. During the expeditions they practiced their navigating and map reading skills to reach specified checkpoints across the area. Checkpoints were supervised by a number of staff including Ms. A. Baker, Mr. L. Clare, Mr. L. Cooper, Mr. B. Foley, Mr. S. Howard, Mr. T. Howard, Mr. S. Mason, Mr W. Piercy, Ms. S. Rose and Ms. C. Wilkinson. Thrown in at the deep end, staff got stuck in and were directing pupils, checking on their wellbeing and constantly telling pupils to apply sun cream and fill up their water bottles. Mr S. Harrison and Mrs N. Lillywhite spent a lot of time in the minibus retrieving pupils - some as far afield as Greensward - and getting them back on track.



Once on camp, the pupils made light work of putting up the tents and cooking. We were treated to a variety of wonderful meals from carbonara to pancakes. On both weekends as night fell Mr. L. Cooper got the bonfire started and there were a lot of marshmallows consumed. Several staff and some pupils had brought their guitars with them and we were serenaded throughout the evening.



For both weekends the second day of walking was much better as pupils started to pay closer attention to their route cards and tracings - most were back on site at 3.30pm.



The pupils were a real credit to the Academy once again and are all looking forward to their final expeditions in June. The expeditions take a vast amount of work to prepare for and pupils spend the year developing the necessary skills.



Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported us.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE



The Geography Department recently took the Year 9 Geography pupils on a field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze as part of their Physical Geography

coursework.

Walton, at the actual Naze and tower, is a stunning spot and an SSSI with two distinct areas – one protected by hard engineering schemes and one by soft.

Our pupils were set with the tasks of comparing the effectiveness of the strategies by looking at longshore drift, beach profiles, depth of sand and pebble roundness. They completed environmental quality surveys and many were brave enough to interview residents and visitors to gather their valuable views. The weather was lovely and the pupils were wonderfully behaved despite the heat.



Many of the pupils took the opportunity to visit the local museum that has a fantastic display of megalodon teeth and mammoth tusks, but no one was lucky enough to find any sharks' teeth for themselves. Despite the lofty height, quite a few pupils climbed the steps to the top of the Naze tower and staff were greeted with screams of "Sir" and "Miss" to get our attention.

Thank you to Mrs N. Lillywhite, Mr B. Foley, Mr T. Howard, Mrs M. Philp, Ms. E. Potts and Ms. S. Rose.



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

