

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Since pupils returned to school from Monday 8th March, I have been immensely proud of how they have adjusted, particularly given the restrictions and impositions.

I have always tried to make things as normal as possible, and remain hopeful that as we progress through the Government's [Roadmap](#), September will be largely 'back to normal'.

Throughout the term, I have increasingly had the opportunity to meet with groups of pupils, including the Student Leadership Team; Brilliant Club; Jack Petchy Award winners; and groups of Year 10 pupils discussing proposals for their Citizenship projects. I have really enjoyed reconnecting with the pupils and discussing their thoughts, ideas and achievements and look forward to continuing to do so in the final half term.

Mr. N. Houchen



Principal

ATTENDANCE

Up to week commencing 24th May, overall attendance was 94.8% vs. a (normal) national average of 94.5% (+0.3%) and a (current) national average of 89.0% (+5.8%).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.6
Bowland	95.7
Elveden	94.7
Kielder	94.1
Richmond	96.3
Sherwood	93.7
Whinfell	95.2
Overall	94.8

Although the last couple of years have been disrupted, from September, the Academy will be promoting the importance of attendance, including the strategies that will be deployed to improve it.

VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Academy's annual Open Evening will be a virtual event.

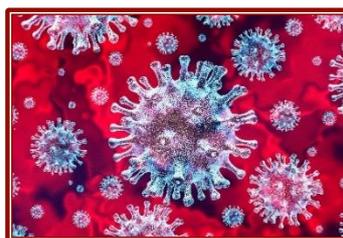
There are four elements to the event:

1. Principal's [Welcome Message](#)
2. Principal's presentation - [Open Evening 2021](#)
3. Student Leadership Team's [Virtual Tour and Interviews](#)
4. The Academy's [Admissions Arrangements 2022](#)

I hope you find this information useful but, if you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.



COVID-19 UPDATES



For the latest updates, click on the following:

- [Covid-19 FAQ](#)
- [Risk Assessment](#)
- [FAQ Crib Sheet](#)

Pupil Success

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



In November, the Student Leadership Team (StLT) held the first Student Voice

feedback session for the current academic year. The team presented to pupils in assemblies, providing them with more information about their role in the Academy and also the areas of focus for wider debate and discussion.

Pupils were asked to feedback how they had found their return in the Autumn Term and how the Academy could further support them. Form Captains were asked to discuss these points with their form groups and were then invited to year group sessions to feedback. The StLT met with Mr. Houchen in April to identify action points based on the feedback.

As well as preparing for their confirmatory examinations, following points raised from Form Captains, the StLT have met with Pabulum (external caterer). The team compiled questions from both pupils and secondary research to raise points with the catering team and discussed areas of improvement. An action plan was created to move forward on the points.

In terms of bringing the next group of Prefects through, the StLT produced a video to explain the process to Year 10. The StLT talked through the recruitment process and what the role entails. Year 10 pupils have submitted their application forms and the interview process will start for the new StLT in the final half term of the academic year.



As a final task, before embarking on their examinations, Mr. Houchen asked the StLT to spend a whole day filming the production of the Virtual Open Evening Tour and Interviews. The team did a fabulous job and the final cut was truly representative of the Academy.

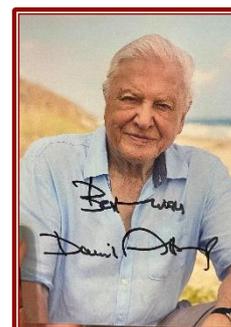
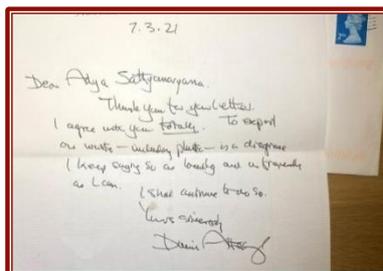
Click here for the [Virtual Tour and Interviews](#)

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH SUCCESS!

Pupils were recently given the opportunity to enter a Geography challenge, which ultimately led to sending a personal letter to Sir David Attenborough.

Successful letters were sent in February, and in March, the Academy received some excellent news concerning Year 9 Geography pupil Adya S. (9E). Sir David Attenborough had taken the time to write to her personally (yes, a handwritten letter) about her views and he agreed with her statements about the importance of reducing plastic.

Thank you again to all the pupils who took part in the challenge and to Sir David Attenborough for personally acknowledging Adya's contribution.



BASINGSTOKE VIRTUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

In March, Oliver B. (9B) took part in the Basingstoke Virtual Music Festival and won his class for the Junior 12 – 14 years, singing *Cindy*. He was also awarded a Silver Award in the song from the show's class and the Junior Rose Bowl Award for the singer with the most potential. Well done Oliver on such a fantastic achievement! It is good to see that during the lockdown you were able to continue with your musical accomplishments and were able to represent the Academy in this 'virtual' way!



Pupil Success

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Year 10 Art pupils, Jessica L. (9E) and Abigail W. (9B), put their creative talents to excellent use during the Easter holidays. The girls dedicated their time and creativity to a new facility in Rochford that caters for young people and adults with learning disabilities. The 'den,' in the facility, needed some artwork to make the space more welcoming and engaging.



artwork to make the space more welcoming and engaging.

Jessica and Abigail demonstrated their artistic talents by adorning the toilet doors. Jess drew a Minnie Mouse (for females) and Abigail drew a Mickey Mouse (for males).

A huge thanks to the girls for giving

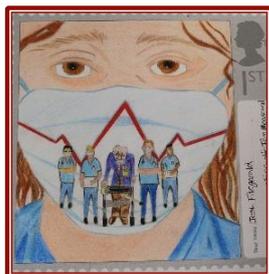
up their spare time and positively contributing to a local community project.

ART COMPETITION

Good luck to all of those who entered the Heroes Stamp Design competition. All designs have now been sent off to the competition organisers for judging.



So many wonderful designs created in respect of the pandemic heroes.



MUSICAL SUCCESS



Following a Grade 5 drum kit examination, where Stuart H. (9A) passed with distinction (achieving 100%), he was nominated for 'Trinity Talent' for his Artistic Achievement in Rock & Pop.

Each year, Trinity College London profile talented young people achieving Trinity's

Music, Drama and Arts Award qualifications in the UK. Teachers and pupils can nominate young artists aged 13-25 who have shown excellence in one of the following categories: Artistic Achievement; Creative Flair; Progress; and Leadership.

Stuart was nominated by Glenn Burton, his percussion teacher, who said: "Stuart is a gifted drummer, determined to deliver great performances when he plays. He performed as a guest kit player for the Essex Marching Corps at the Palace Theatre, Southend, in March and his performance was given a special mention as he performed with just two rehearsals prior to the show. Stuart's energy and enthusiasm for his music is a joy to see developing. He looks for the next challenge and his transition from playing for pleasure to taking exams began with a challenge from his Grandpa a few years ago, and he is loving the experience and skills he is being exposed to through it. What a privilege to be a part of his story."

The Trinity judges said: "It's fantastic that Stuart has increased his self-confidence through his music, seeking out the opportunities to perform and improve, which is clearly reflected in his 100% mark at Grade 5."

Well done Stuart on this incredible achievement!



Pupil Success

NEW ALBUM



Talented GCSE music pupil Charlie E. (10W) has completed his second album of compositions which was released across all digital music platforms on Wednesday 28th April.

The album is called 'Solitary' and he named it to reflect how people have been feeling

throughout the pandemic.

Many have felt lonely, isolated and unable to see loved ones. Each piece on the album is named to reflect the emotions of people worldwide, and to have a musical reminder of this period in our history. Another superb musical achievement Charlie, well done!

THE BRILLIANT CLUB 2020-21

The Eastwood Scholars Programme is an academic programme run jointly by



The Academy and The Brilliant Club, an organisation which aims to widen access to university.

In 2021, twelve Year 10 pupils took part in the Brilliant Club. The programme allowed them to challenge themselves by writing a 2,000-word dissertation, graded using A-Level criteria, as well as giving them a taste of university life.

The pupils' topic was 'Preventing Terror Attacks and Policing Strategy' which is obviously something none of them knew much about. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown, they also had to complete it without the motivation of university trips to Cambridge and Oxford, as well as in-person seminars with their tutor.

Despite the restrictions, the pupils' engagement with the programme was fantastic. The programme organisers said that it was rare for there to be 100% pupil seminar attendance, let alone for all pupils to submit an actual dissertation. All pupils passed with flying colours, and it's hopefully given them a valuable insight into Higher Education.

THE EASTWOOD ACADEMY 2021 QUIZ

To celebrate World Book Day on 4th March, the English Department created The Eastwood Academy 2021 Quiz. Years 7, 8 and 9, in their form groups, were invited to answer twenty mixed questions on books pupils may have read, punctuation they may know, harder words they could spell and grammar they could convey. The winning form was Miss Cooper's (7W) and they received a range of confections to enjoy.



There was also a standalone question on descriptive writing for any pupil who wished to write a response and enter into the competition. The thrilling moment, however, was when nearly 80 pupils entered this section of the writing competition. The standard was very high, but the stakes were higher. On offer was a £25 Amazon voucher for the overall winner, £20 for second position and £10 for third position. Our winners were:

1 st place:	Maisie E. (9R)
2 nd place:	Mia B. (7R)
Joint 3 rd :	Jess S. (9E) and Evelyn S. (7R)

We just couldn't choose between them as they were both so good!



Events

CAREERS

Year 8 mentoring - 60 Minute Mentors



The Academy is working closely with Southend Borough Council to deliver the 60 Minute Mentors programme.

Twenty Year 8 pupils have been selected to participate in this programme. The programme will introduce 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.

Year 10 mentoring – Career Ready

The Academy is working in partnership with Career Ready to deliver a mentoring programme for fourteen Year 10 pupils. The programme involves local business people volunteering as mentors and looking at:

- Linking their academic studies to the world of work.
- Exploring and developing the skills that employers value.
- Thinking about future career opportunities.

Year 8 Computer Science - Robots workshop with Cambridge University

Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to look at the future of robotics. Topics included:

- Embodied intelligence and future of robotics.
- Robotic applications.
- Q&A with the researchers.
- Tutorials – embodied intelligence.



YEAR 8 CURRICULUM PATHWAYS



Year 8 pupils are about to make their decisions on their curriculum pathways (options). To assist, the Academy provided a series of assemblies and drop-down sessions. Part of the programme involved

identifying and analysing the nature of what is required to have a career and what a career means. Discussions were had regarding the different levels of qualifications; careers vs. jobs; local labour market information; and essential skills required for employment.

Year 8 then had the opportunity to reflect in a dropdown session on the 21st April. Pupils spent time identifying their skills and interests and how these related to the different subject options available.

Throughout week commencing 26th April, subject department Heads undertook pathway presentations. The pupils received information about each subject, course content, qualification structure, and related post-16 options and careers.



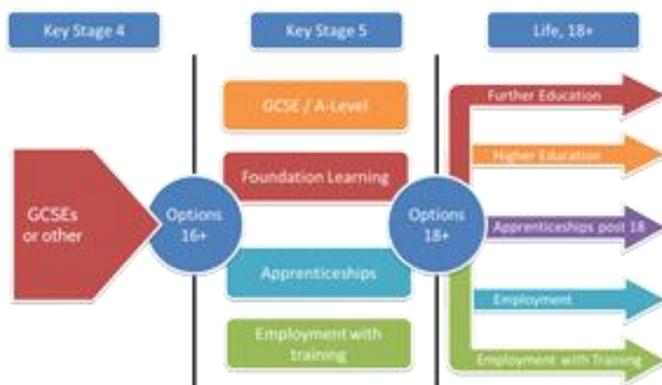
Click here for the [Curriculum Pathways Booklet 2021](#)

SOUTHEND VIRTUAL CAREERS FAIR

Week commencing 17th May, pupils experienced the very first Southend Virtual Careers Fair. Year 7 and 8 pupils spent time looking through the exciting range of opportunities Southend has to offer, whilst Year 9 and 10 investigated local industry.

Parents were also informed of this opportunity to allow for follow up work at home.

Click here for the [Southend Virtual Careers Event](#).



Events

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



Activities associated with Mental Health Awareness Week, week commencing 10th May, were undertaken with pupils during extended form time. The focus for this year's event was

'Nature'. Pupils were encouraged to 'reconnect with nature' after what has been a difficult year confined to our homes. Over the course of the week pupils learnt about the 'Five Steps to Wellbeing' - Connecting; Being Active; Taking Notice; Keep Learning; and Giving Back.

Pupils discussed issues that could potentially impact their own wellbeing, such as having a growth mindset, how to build connections and support each other, as well as the advantages and disadvantages associated with social media.



Alongside raising awareness in school, tasks were explored that the pupils could undertake at home. This involved choosing to spend time on a hobby or interest, learn a new skill, or simply go for a long walk. Pupils also accessed the Mental Health UK's website, and downloaded an image of a tulip with the intention of 'seeding a conversation' and opening a dialogue with family, friends and neighbours.

We hope that this was a positive week for the pupils and that they embrace the 5 Steps to Wellbeing.

Click here for the [Mental Wellbeing Week Presentation](#)

Click here for the Academy's [Mental Health Policy](#)



Click here for [Mental Wellbeing Support Websites](#)

'PLANT A SEED, GROW A CONVERSATION'

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, KS3 Life Skills lessons that week were dedicated to this year's theme of 'Nature'. This meant the theme of the lessons was to 'plant a seed, grow a conversation', which is exactly what they did!



Over the course of the week, pupils learnt all about how nature links to mental health, and how beneficial getting involved in nature can be. To combine these ideas, some of the lessons focused on creating positive and helpful posters which could be displayed around the school to remind everyone that conversation and communication can really help our mental wellbeing.

Pupils also discussed how a sunflower is a symbol for happiness and growth. At the end of the lesson, each class planted a sunflower seed which will be growing first in their classrooms, and then outside around the school field, to remind them of their lesson and to see the sunflower's growth. At the end of term, there will be prizes for the class with the biggest and brightest sunflower.

Well done to all of KS3 for creating such positive posters and coming up with lots of ideas on how to promote good mental wellbeing; we hope to see lots of sunflowers in the coming weeks!

CITIZENSHIP CHARITY EVENT



As part of the Year 10 citizenship action project, 4-year 10 pupils Annabella D. (10B), Maya D. (10W), Brooke T. (10E) and Maisie T. (10A) have been raising awareness of the charity

DIPG (Diffuse Midline Gliomas). The pupils have created leaflets, posters and a PowerPoint to educate pupils on this rare form of brain tumour. In addition, the girls staged a sweet sale for Year 7 pupils to raise funds for this charity which is close to the heart of Eastwood Academy following the loss of Lily.

Extra-Curricular

WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A 'MINT'



The Geography Department held their annual fundraising event to donate money to two geographical charities. The two charities picked this year were - Colchester Zoo and Woodlands Trust (planting trees on behalf of Sir Captain Tom Moore). Since February, Miss Potts has been growing a range of cooking herbs and tomato plants in her indoor greenhouse to raise money for these two worthy causes. The staff of the Academy flocked to pick up their orders and, in doing so, we have successfully raised £300, to be equally split between the two charities. Miss Potts cannot thank everyone enough for their huge generosity and for making it the biggest fundraiser yet!



MAGMA MIA; HERE I FLOW AGAIN



During the Easter holiday, Year 8 Geography pupils made incredible life like models of volcanos to explode in class. The volcanos were made up of a range of different types of materials,

providing some interesting end products! A big thanks to the following pupils for their volcanos; Hannah M. (8W), Simira T. (8S), Lewis C. (8S), Safia W. (8R), Zachary R. (8R), Hope E. (8E), Emily-May L. (8K), Robyn H. (8B), Holly C. (8B), Aathmika A. (8W), Katie S. (8E), Oscar L. (8R), Laura M. (8R) and Tatiana-Vee B.-M. (8A).



A special thank you also to Samo S. (8B), who created a fantastic volcano model for his climate change debate.

EASTWOOD ACADEMY ECO TEAM

Thanks to our efficient and hardworking Eco Team, the Academy has been presented with its first Green Flag Award, an internationally recognised accreditation for excellence in sustainable education.

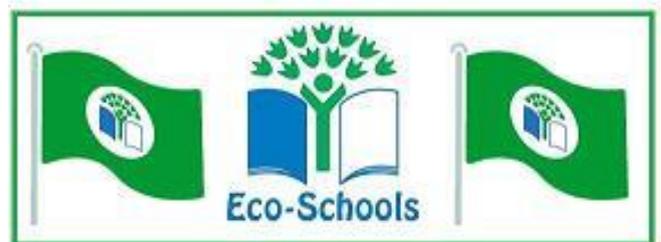


Since starting the initiative in 2020, our Year 7 eco volunteers have successfully launched and rolled out a paper and cardboard recycling collection scheme across the school.

Our Year 8's have started the Summer Term with a view to revive the Communal Garden. Twice a week, pupils are preparing land to cultivate a range of herbs, fruit and vegetables, monitoring their development as well as evaluating any setbacks and successes along the way. Part of this project will allow pupils to help protect local wildlife, and provide them with a diverse, outdoor learning space.

Our Eco Committee – comprised of Year 9 pupils – supervise and support the KS3 year groups where possible. However, their main focus is to promote and expand pupils' learning in environmental sustainability. For example, every half term the committee meets to review the progress of ongoing initiatives and confirm what areas of the Academy require more immediate attention.

Next on our action plan is the 'Turn It Off Campaign', aimed at reducing the carbonisation of the Academy by turning off unused electrical sources.



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates.

YEAR 7



YEAR 8



YEAR 9



YEAR 10

