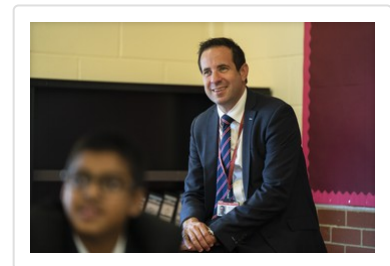


Headteacher's Newsletter

November 2018

I hope that you have all had a restful half term break. The first half of this term seems to have flown by and I have to say that I've been delighted with the start to the year our students have had, particularly our new Year 7 cohort with their additional numbers. The student body has settled back into school life well following the summer break. Last term I carried out 12 hours of tours for prospective Year 7's which meant I showed 80 parents and 40 young people around and I am pleased to report that there is a real sense of purpose throughout the school. It has been a particularly impressive start from the students considering the disruption that has occurred due to the expansion work; which I will discuss in a little more detail later in my Newsletter. As well as additional numbers in Year 7 this year we have had a large number of students join our Sixth Form who completed their Key Stage 4 studies at other schools. We are delighted to have so many new faces in the Sixth Form and they really have added a great deal to the school community.



There is some important information in this newsletter which I hope you find useful and I am really pleased to be able to once again celebrate some amazing successes by our students.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher

Important School Uniform Reminder


There are a few small issues that I would like to remind parents about with regard to students' uniform. Firstly, skirts must be purchased from the school's uniform providers and must be to the knee. A small number of our students have purchased skirts from other providers which do not meet our requirements and are not long enough. I have also been informed that some of our pupils are purchasing shorter school skirts on purpose or getting them taken up. I am taking the names of pupils whose skirts are not an appropriate length and will be writing home to parents. The small number of pupils who roll their skirts up are being logged and should

they continue to do so I will be meeting with their parents and they may be required to wear school trousers instead of the school skirt should the issue not be resolved.

With regards to coats, the school's rules are very clear. Students are permitted to wear a **plain dark grey, navy blue or black coat**. This does not include hooded jumpers. Coats are available for purchase at the school's uniform outfitters if required. Students wearing incorrect uniform will have these items confiscated, so please ensure you children are dressed in accordance with our uniform list which I have attached below for your information.



School Uniform list 2018.docx

 [Download](#)
68.4 KB

Exam Invigilators Required

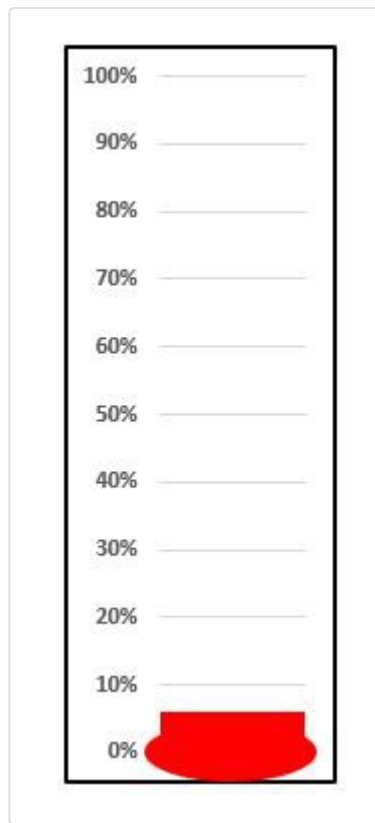
The school is seeking to appoint Exam Invigilators to join our team. Often parents or sometimes ex students are interested in this opportunity so I wanted to advertise the role within my Newsletter. The main period would be in the Summer from around the 13th May to the end of June, but we also have internal exams during November and December as well as February to March.

If you would like more details regarding these positions please visit our website or contact Ms Fitzgerald our Exams Officer at the school.

Interested in Teaching?

Teaching is an amazing job and we often get parents, their families or friends who are interested in a career change or ex students who are interested in getting into teaching. If you have a degree and are interested in joining this wonderful profession we can support you through the process and provide you with all the information you need. If you would like to find out more information please contact Mr Windsor on swindsor@westhatch.essex.sch.uk.

Parental contributions towards a Snack Shack cover



As you know from my Newsletter in June, we are now saving parental contributions to the school to raise money for a new cover for the snack shack area. We are trying to raise £70,000 to cover the area behind the music block that will be converted into a second snack shack, once the expansion is completed. In my Newsletter I explained that if every family were able to contribute £50 we would immediately raise £60,000.

The thermometer above shows the level of contributions we have received this year to date towards our target. To date we have contributions of £4,181.33 which is just 6% of the total. This equates to £3.35 being donated per pupil in the school and is significantly lower than previous years.

I know money is tight for everyone but if you feel you can contribute it will have a direct and dramatic impact on your children. If you would like to contribute towards this venture please use your ParentPay account to do so or contact the finance office at the school for more information. Thank you to those of you who have contributed, your support really makes a difference.

Changes to Parents Voice

I will be trialling a new system for Parents Voice this year. Instead of the usual six meetings per academic year I will only be holding three, one in the first half of each term. However, in place of the other three meetings I will be inviting into school, groups of parents from the same year to meet with me and discuss their childrens education. Parents will be randomly selected and there is no pressure to attend a meeting; I just want to provide the opportunity for as many parents as possible to give feedback on the school and how effectively we are educating and supporting their children.

The meetings will take place between 9-10am to help give parents time for primary school drop offs and also get into work should they wish to after the meeting. So if you receive a letter asking for you to meet me for this reason, please don't be concerned, it's just an opportunity for you to have your say.

West Essex Rugby Champions



Congratulations to our Year 8 Rugby Squad who won the West Essex Rugby tournament before half term. They competed against the other schools in the District and didn't lose a game. Thank you to Mr Calver and Mr Stevenson for their work with the team.

Use of aerosols in school

As you will be aware asthma is a common long-term condition of the lungs which causes coughing, wheezing, chest tightness and breathlessness. The inside walls of an asthmatic's airways are swollen or inflamed. This swelling makes the airways extremely sensitive to irritations.

For some members of the school community their asthma is triggered by any aerosols. If an aerosol is used, even sprayed some distance away from the person with asthma, the gas propellant can still lead to breathing problems. In addition to this, the chemicals and strong smells in the mist produced by aerosols, when inhaled, can trigger asthma symptoms and a possible attack. These attacks can be very serious, or indeed, fatal.

For these reasons, as well as causing a potential fire safety risk, aerosols are not permitted at West Hatch. This has been the case for some time but I am writing to reaffirm this message and will also be doing so in Form time and PE lessons to students.

Please make sure you support the school in keeping our students safe by providing your children with roll on deodorant for use at school rather than aerosols. Thank you for your co-operation and support in this matter.

District Cross Country Championships



Before half term, over 40 students from Years 7-11 took part in the West Essex & District Cross Country Championships 2018-19. Students were challenged with the task of running over a distance of up to two and a half miles, through woodland and up steep hills as they raced to the finish line, under thankfully, clear blue skies.

The West Hatch team were very successful overall and many students achieved excellent placements, some securing themselves a place as part of the West Essex & Harlow District Cross Country Team who will compete in the County competition in January.

A special note to all the new Year 7s who ran for the first time. In particular Kathryn Gibson who placed inside the top 20 of 70 runners and Joshua Jackson, who secured his place in the District Team with a very impressive 6th place finish. In Year 8 Prince Sikiru placed 5th in a race which was dominated with Year 9s. Finally, in the senior girls competition, both Isabelle

Smith (Yr.10) and Olivia Roberts (Yr.11) ran very well and placed 4th and 7th respectively, which also secures their position in the District Squad.

Target Team success

Our Year 8 and 9 Target Team members have been practising their Boccia and Curling skills last term in the build up to an Essex school competition held at Debden Park High School on Friday 5th October.

Our students competed against Debden Park High School, King Harold and Waltham Abbey in a Boccia tournament. They had a wonderful morning playing against the other schools, and their practice sessions seemed to have paid off as one of our teams headed for victory with a win!

Max Scrivener, Teddy Reid and Tamika Rose will now be attending the County Championships which are to be held in January to represent West Hatch High School at Boccia. We wish them all the best of luck.



Local Bus Service

There is now a free bus service that may be of interest to a number of our students, particularly those living in the more remote areas of the Parish, e.g. Chigwell Row. The service is designed so that one of the Parish Councils buses will arrive outside the school in time for the start of the school day, and another leaving after the end of the school day.

There is an app that will allow the location of the buses to be tracked in real time.

For full details of the routes, timetables and how to obtain a free bus pass to access the service, please visit the following website at www.chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk/bus, or see the attachment below.

We are also doing our very best to get TFL to provide more buses to the school at the start and end of the school day. Can I please ask parents to remind the students to tap their Oyster cards every time they travel as this is the only way to prove additional services are needed.



Bus leaflet.pdf

Download
3.6 MB

Expansion Update

As you are aware, the building project currently underway and being managed by Essex County Council, to enable the school to expand to accommodate an additional 60 pupils per year from the current Year 7, has hit some delays. We are working closely with Essex to resolve any issues and speed up completion of the work, and the safety and well being of our students as well as our ability to successfully educate them is absolutely paramount for us.

Although the work has caused some inconvenience so far, in terms of rooms available, dining room space and routes around the school site, there has been no educational impact and no accidents have occurred as a result of the building project.

We have so far received three new technology rooms and a resources area which have been immediately occupied, and the programme to hand back the additional science labs, dining room and music rooms is being expedited. Essex County Council are fully aware of our frustration towards the delays and the impact they are having on the school and they are working hard to overcome any issues they have faced.

As a result of the delays to the dining room the County Council have provided us with additional funding for an outside cover over the picnic area. We have put in place a temporary structure over half term and will have a permanent canopy after Christmas.

As soon as I have any firm dates for completion I will pass this information on to parents, but I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support. We will have a fantastic facility once all of the work is completed; unfortunately we are just having to wait slightly longer for this than first promised.

PE offering a little bit extra

Thank you to Mr D'Silva and the PE team for the extra activities and experiences they have been offering the students this academic year. Below you can see pictures of the 29 Year 11 PE students who visited Lea Valley Athletics Centre for a day of fitness testing. The students

were put through their paces by taking part in various activities which tested their speed, flexibility, agility and the dreaded Cooper Run test for endurance.

The second picture is of the 25 West Hatch students who welcomed the England Football Team back to Wembley in September following their successful summer campaign in the FIFA World Cup 2018. Students watched on as England competed in their first competitive game of the newly formed UEFA Nations League vs Spain.

So far there are 19 trips planned for this year and I'd like to thank all the staff who give so much of their own time to allow students to have such wonderful experiences.



Important Dates for your Diary

Early Close and CPD dates

Wednesday 7th November - early finish - students dismissed at 1.25pm

Friday 7th December - Inset Day, school closed to students

Tuesday 18th December - early finish for Christmas - students dismissed at 1.25pm

Parent Events

Wednesday 7th November - Sixth Form Open Evening - 6.30pm

Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th November - Yr.7 Aspirations Day (individual appointments)

Wednesday 22nd November - Yr.10 Parents Evening from 4pm

Wednesday 29th November - Yr.9 Parents Evening from 4pm

Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th December - Elf the Musical - evening event

Thursday 17th January - Yr.11 Parents Evening from 4pm

Tuesday 22nd January - Parent Voice meeting at 7pm

Thursday 31st January - Yr.13 Parents Evening from 4pm

Student Events

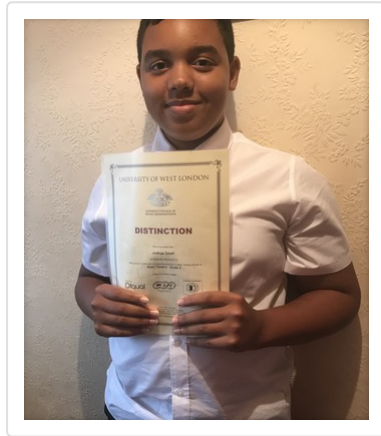
Monday 10th December - Yr.7 Carol Service at St Pauls during the school day.

Our Students' Achievements

It always gives me such great pleasure to share our students' achievements inside and outside of school. Thank you to everyone who has contacted me to let me know what they

have been up to. We are all incredibly proud of them all.

Musical Maestros



Joshua Small
(Yr.10)

Josh took his Grade 4 musical theatre singing exam performing three songs from Hamilton, 42nd Street and There's No Business Like Show Business and passed with Distinction achieving a score of 91%.



Skye Morley
(Yr.8)

Skye recently took her Grade 2 singing exam. Having only started singing lessons at school in Year 7, this was her first ever exam and she was over the moon to receive a Distinction!

Fancy a trip to the theatre?



Aaron Gelkoff (Yr.8)

Aaron will be in the West End once again this month and is performing in Caroline or Change at the Playhouse Theatre in London from November 20th.

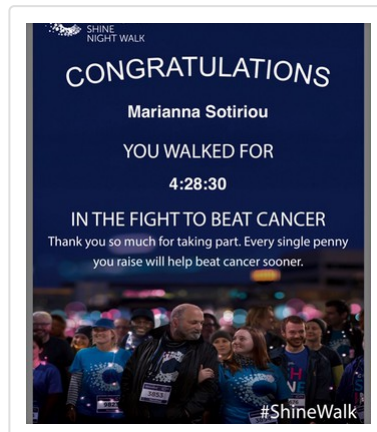
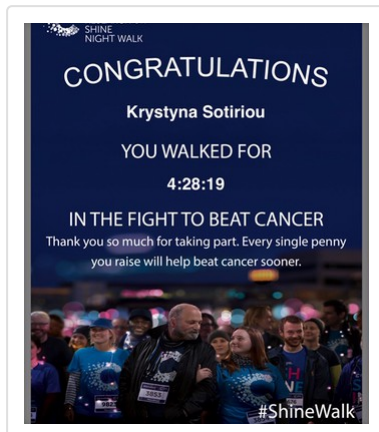


Eva-Marie (Yr.9) and Jonah Kennedy (Yr.7)

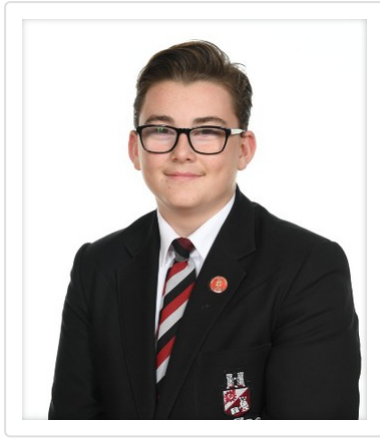
Eva-Marie and Jonah were in the RARE production of the musical Bugsy Malone performed at Harlow Playhouse at the end of October. They were in Fat Sam's Gang performing several numbers with speaking roles.

Amazing achievements for charity

Congratulations to Krystyna (Yr.10) and Marianna Sotiriou (Yr. 9) who raised £1,260.00 during the Shine Night Walk for Cancer Research. They did this in memory of their Grandmother. Well done both of you, a great achievement in terms of the distance walked and the money raised.



Sporting Superstars



**George Moss
(Yr.10)**

Well done to George who has been selected for the Essex Rugby Squad having been through a rigorous selection process.



**Christopher
Ashwell (Yr.12)**

Chris and Thomas both represented England in the IKU European Karate Championships in Moscow during half term. They won two Gold medals in the team event and in the individual event Chris achieved a Silver medal and Thomas a Bronze. Well done.



**Thomas Mulhall
(Yr.12)**



Natalie Richards (Yr.8)

On the 16th September Natalie took part in a Level 5 gymnastics competition (12+ age group). After a pretty faultless routine, apart from a small wobble on the beam, she came second overall with only a gap of 0.1 marks between her and the overall winner. This has earned her a place in the regional finals at Pipers Vale, Ipswich.



Alex Fraser (Yr.11)

Alex has officially qualified as a trainee referee registered with the Essex FA and is now in the final stages of his five games before his exam. Mr Hoy has helped him by taking Alex to various West Hatch football games so he can referee the matches. Alex takes his final exam in November. We wish him the best of luck.



Georgina Fraser (Yr.9)

Well done to Georgina who danced in London at Her Majesty's Theatre, joining Mardi Gras with Nicolas School of Dance at the end of October.

And Finally

This is an important time for our Year 11 and 13's particularly with their PPE's fast approaching. I'd like to wish the students the very best of luck in these exams and assure them that their hard work and preparation will pay off in the end.

Thank you for taking the time to read my Newsletter and for your continued support for the school.