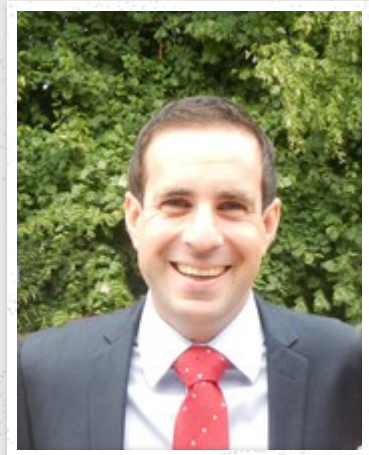


Headteachers Newsletter

November 2017

Welcome back

I am delighted to welcome you back to the school after the half term break. I had so many positive comments last half term from staff about how well the students settled back into school, how positive their behaviour and attitude to learning was and what a wonderful feel there was around the school. Over the course of the last 7 weeks I gave 12 school tours to groups of Yr6 parents who were considering sending their children to West Hatch and they were overwhelmingly positive about what they saw.



I just wanted to say thank you to all of our students for the fantastic start they have made to the new school year and to let parents know how proud you should be of your children.

Following on from student, parent and staff feedback last year, we are working hard to celebrate student achievement and recognise how well they are doing inside and outside of the classroom. As a result, this newsletter is going to be mostly focussed on our students and provides me with an opportunity to recognise their hard work and endeavours. I have been delighted to meet so many of our students over the last 7 weeks and to hear what they have been doing inside and outside of school. I would also like to thank parents who have contacted us to share their news; unfortunately we cannot publicise every achievement but I have done my best to share as much good news as possible. I will meet anyone who has not been named in this newsletter personally over the next few weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Before I mention the students I have a few brief messages I need to pass on to parents.

Mr D Leonard
Headteacher

An opportunity for parents, family or friends

West Hatch are looking to recruit casual Examination Invigilators for the forthcoming exam season. We have internal exams taking place during the weeks 27/11/17 – 07/12/17 and 19/02/18 – 23/02/18. Summer exams start in May 2018 and run through to the end of June 2018 (approx.). Rates of pay are £9.21 per hour for Standard Invigilators and £9.67 per hour for Senior Invigilators. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for the position or know of anyone who may be interested then please contact the main school office for an application form – admin@westhatch.essex.sch.uk alternatively a (non-teaching) application form can be downloaded from the school website.

Please note that all applications are subject to full DBS and reference checks.

The School Expansion

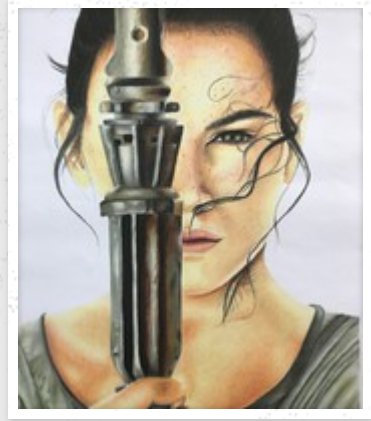
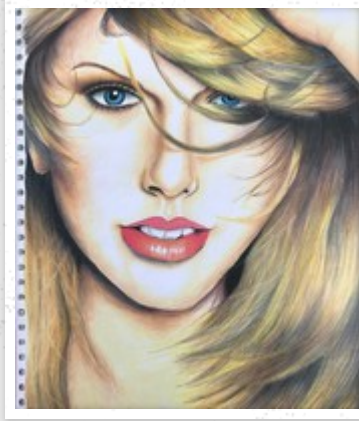
Secondary school preferences have now been made by parents of Year 6 pupils and we will soon find out who will be joining us in September 2018. Our open Evening was a huge success and I received tremendous feedback about our students from the prospective parents. I would like to thank all the students who supported us on the evening. Of particular note were: Jack Clarke-Ellen and Alexandra White (Yr7), Ethan Haywood (Yr8), Talia Panayi (Yr9), Joshua Martin (Yr10) and Reme Grazette (Yr11) who all spoke beautifully in front of the hundreds of parents and pupils we had in each talk.

In September 2018 we will be accepting 60 additional pupils into Year 7 and as a result we will be attempting to expand the schools facilities. We are still going through the planning phase for the development and I would hope to have more news after Christmas. The current plans suggest a March 2018 start to the building work with all internal work completed before September 2018 and the external buildings, including the sports complex, to be completed by April 2019.

I want to assure parents that the school can cope with the extra pupils for the first year without expanding the facilities and that the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team will not allow any development work to impact negatively on the education, safety or welfare of any of our students.

More news to follow when we have it.

A selection of free hand drawings by our Year 11 art student Emma Richards



Parking and driving

I would like to remind parents that the grass verges on the High Road are not for parking on and there are signs along the road stating this. We have received complaints from residents regarding this matter and it could have a serious impact on our ability to expand the school with regards to our planning application.

Could I please also ask that parents do not do three point turns on the main road and to also consider how they park and drive. The safety of our students is paramount. When you park or drive along the road please take some time to consider how you would feel if someone else parked or drove in that way near your child. Please consider dropping students off further away from the school and asking them to walk down the road to school.



Join our Sixth Form

We are exceptionally proud of our outstanding Sixth Form and on Wednesday **8th November 2018** we will be hosting our Sixth Form Open Evening. West Hatch has an excellent track record with regard to both academic achievement and personal/employability development for students. At the heart of our curriculum offer is the opportunity for students to choose from a wide range of subjects which both meet their academic needs and interests. We hope that you are able to join us on Wednesday and see for yourselves all the opportunities that the Sixth Form has to offer.

Interested in teaching?

In my last newsletter I spoke about opportunities for parents, ex students etc. to join the teaching profession. I wanted to let you know that you can now complete your teacher training on a part time (3 days per week) basis as well as full time.

If you are a graduate and are considering a career change to teaching please get in touch with swindsor@westhatch.Essex.sch.uk for more information,

Changes to our attendance policy

We have made some changes to our Attendance policy which come into effect as of Monday 30th October 2017.

Absence from school for routine dental appointments or opticians appointments will no longer be authorised. Moving forward we ask all parents to make these appointments during school holidays / weekends or outside of school hours. We will still authorise absence for Orthodontists / GP / and Hospital appointments but **only** when evidence of the appointment is produced.

The full attendance policy, reflecting these changes is available on our website.

Important Dates for your diary (all dates are published on the school website)

Important Events

Wednesday 8th November 2017 - 6th Form open Evening - school closes early at 13:25

Thursday 16th November 2017 - Year 7 Aspirations Day

Wednesday 22nd November 2017 - Parents Voice meeting (7pm)

Thursday 14th December 2017 - Christmas Concert

INSET Days (School Closed all Day)

Monday 13th November 2017

Friday 8th December 2017

Parents Evenings (Thursdays):

23rd November 2017 - Year 10 Parents Evening

30th November 2017 - Year 9 Parents Evening

Please note the following Parents Evenings are straight after the Christmas break :

18th January 2018 - Year 11 Parents Evening

31st January 2018 - Year 13 Parents Evening

School exams (PPE's)

Year 11/13 PPE's commence - 27th November 2017

Friday 15th December 2017 - PPE results day



Thank you

The school and the Music department would like to thank Michaela Williams who donated a beautiful Ed Seiler piano to the Music department. Our students absolutely love the additional piano, which has created more rehearsal space within the department during lessons and lunchtime.

Student work and achievements

As always we had some tremendous entries for the West Hatch Bake off held in October. The winners from each House were:

Austen - Charlotte Lillywhite (Yr 8), Mr Blain (Head of Austen),
 Brunel - Emma Basro (Yr 7), Mrs Saunders (Student Services),
 Fiennes - Sam Bridge (Yr 8), Mrs Narwal (Technology),
 Newton - Shea Hanley (Yr 7), Miss Lowry (Geography)
 Roddick - Beau Harris (Yr 8), Mrs Tester (Science)



Year 11 Dance show

On Tuesday 17th October our Year 11 Dance students impressed a full audience with their skills and talent during their assessed Dance Show. The event was held as part of their Btec Level 2 Award in Dance, showcasing their ability to choreograph, direct and perform in a show. West Hatch dancers performed in a range of dance styles including street, hip hop, Jazz, Acro, Irish and contemporary. Head of Dance, Mrs Minister, said: "The students were focused and professional through-out. Their hard work and commitment to the subject has led to this superb performance".

The students made over £700 from the event, with the money going towards the whole school dance show in March 2018 - with this year's theme being 'The Bright Lights of Broadway'.

First Give Project

The winning team from West Hatch were invited to City Hall for the First Give Awards Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear about some of the fantastic charities which were represented and to see the work which the other students had created. During the evening awards were presented for Charity of the year, School of the year and the newly created First Give alumni of the year.

The West Hatch students also had the opportunity to complete an 'elevator pitch', in the hope of raising even more money for their chosen charity: Haven House.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and it was a nice way to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by the winning West Hatch team: Amrisa Aujla, Charlotte Kent & Charlotte Stevens.



World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day (10 October) is a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health - a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries.

At West Hatch we joined with the charity Young Minds' #HelloYellow campaign to raise awareness of how important our mental health and wellbeing is. Staff wore something yellow in support, there was a video to promote discussion in form time, and we had a stall in the foyer with information leaflets, many of which disappeared into students pockets throughout the day.

Ms Mills the School Counsellor was supported on the stall by Mrs Hall our Welfare Officer and also by some of our Peer Mentors in Year 12. The students were encouraged to write



messages of support on bunting for anyone who may be struggling with difficult feelings and then we strung them across the entrance hall.



This Is Me - Time Capsule

This year our new Year 7's were asked to bring a time capsule to school to tell their form a little about themselves. Freya Stephens won the House Competition this year but there were some fabulous examples from every House and the competition was very tight indeed.

Students in Year 9 visited the University of Essex to take part in the Dora Love Prize.

The Dora Love Prize is an annual prize for the best Holocaust awareness project by an individual student or a group of students. The Prize is named in honour of Dora Rabinowitz Love, a Jewish survivor of Stutthof concentration camp. The prize is awarded for the project which expresses best that which was most important to Dora Love: linking the history of the Holocaust with our present-day lives, speaking up against hatred and marginalisation wherever it occurs, never forgetting the ultimate consequence of seemingly small acts of discrimination and developing a sense of personal responsibility. Students found the day thoroughly informative and enjoyable and it provided them with an insight into university study, as well as providing them with a greater understanding of the impact the Holocaust had and how some of the issues and themes still exist today.



**Dora Love Prize
Students**



**Mrs Hall -
Macmillan cancer
support**

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Staff and students at West Hatch helped raise £211 for the Macmillan Cancer support, by taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning (Friday 29th September) and also through money raised from our Great West Hatch Bake Off (Monday 16th October). There was a large selection of cakes on sale, with some staff cooking up a cake and others buying one to donate. Each year West Hatch is involved with Macmillan's Coffee Morning

and this year was no exception; there were also cakes sold in the Canteen, as well as in the Staff Room.

Mrs Hall (photograph above), who helped to organise the event at West Hatch, said; "What better way to raise money for a worthy cause than through cake and coffee? Thank you to Mrs Bendall, for helping organise the event, and everyone who has been involved and donated a cake or paid for a slice. Your donations can make a real difference."

Computer Science Masterclass

Over 6 weeks in September and October 2017 the Royal Institution ran a Computer Science Masterclass at Queen Mary University London. We were successful in securing places for 4 of our year 9 students – Ella Ahad, Freya Beazley, Jake Pentland and Jackson Mo were successfully nominated by the Computer Science department on account of their enthusiasm and achievement. I would like to congratulate these students for being selected and for giving up their Saturdays to attend. I am very proud that out of all secondary schools in Greater London, Essex, Hertfordshire and Kent, four of the twenty four places went to West Hatch students.

West Hatch has talent!

Joshua Lord, a Year 8 pupil, has made it through the Live Finals for Factor EsseX. Based on the popular hit ITV talent contest 'The X Factor', Factor Essex has been running for eight years to provide an impressive platform to promote local talent. As with The X Factor, they hold an open audition day for local performers to come and impress their experienced panel of judges, before heading to a 'Bootcamp' style process to earn their place in the live shows – which are watched by an audience of over 250 people every week.

Joshua has now competed in the first week of finals and has been successfully put through to week 2. We look forward to seeing how he progresses in the competition.



West Hatch Target Team

Friday 20th October saw a group of West Hatch Target Team students visit King Harold School in Waltham Abbey for a Boccia competition.

Our students were competing against other schools in Essex. They were able to put their Boccia skills to the test. The Target Team has spent much of this term gearing up for this competition, working in small groups during lessons to help each other with their Boccia skills. They received feedback and suggestions from their peers really well and continue to strive and improve in every lesson.

Tamika Rose said "I am happy that I was able to bond with the team, we can see the team getting better from the lessons we have had. It is important to us and helps us to play well."

Teddy Reid "It was nice to be able to represent the school in this competition and has been fun learning the skills we need. We came third in the competition."

Louise Farmiloe added "We were able to see people that we had met at other competitions from other schools such as Roding and Debden Park."

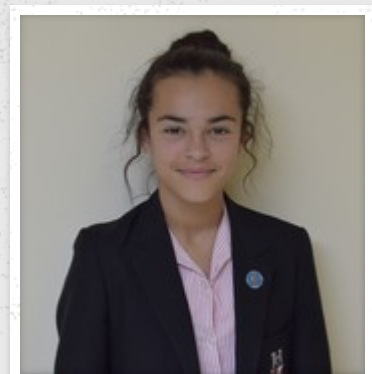
Robbie Beloko was able to help staff at the event "I was able to help referee some matches which was a great experience for me."

The team is now practicing various other sports such as Kurling, Uni-Hoc and Basketball so they are well prepared for our next event.



Regional hockey selection

We are delighted to celebrate that Kiera Dawes has been selected for the East of England Performance Centre for Hockey. A great achievement and we look forward to following her progress in the future.





Arts Award for Skye Morley

Skye Morley, Year 7, completed an Art Award certificate during the summer holidays and was presented with it by the Chairman of Epping Forest at the Waltham Abbey Museum on 16th September 2017.

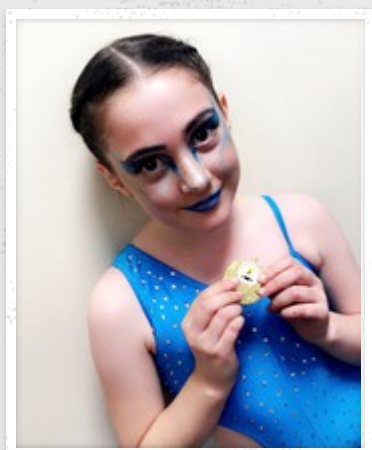
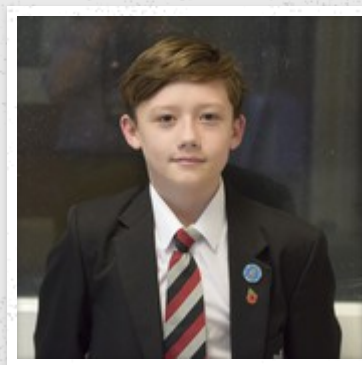
The Arts Award is something that children can continue on with during their entire schooling and once they finish they achieve a recognised qualification certificate.

Max Lewis - EIHA England Selection and Development Camp for U13'S

Max Lewis Yr 8 has been playing Ice Hockey since the age of 7 and was invited to the EIHA England Selection and Development Camp for U13'S in August for the first stage camp, he took part in the second stage camp during the October half term.

The camp consists of u13's, u14's and u15's Players who have been selected using the same prospect player scouting and identification system that is used by Team GB.

The England selectors compile a list of prospect players who are then invited to the England Selection and Development Camp. Their primary aim is to create a group of players that would compete and be contenders for places on the GB U16 team. A fantastic achievement already, well done Max.



Year 7 Dance medellist

Kelsey Mentesh who is in year 7 has recently competed in a number of dance competitions. Kelsey came 1st in her Acro solo and 3rd in her lyrical solo. She therefore won a gold and bronze medal for her dance school - the Danceshak.

Some quick snippets...

Well done to the following pupils:

Alex Fraser (Year 10) has been awarded a Jack Petchey award for outstanding achievement in Cricket from South Woodford Cricket Club.

Wylde Tulip (Year 9) who has been selected for the Saracens Essex DPP Rugby programme.

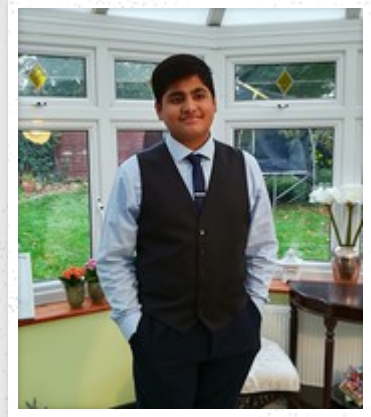
Kharran Zaman (Year 10) for an outstanding reference we received from work experience he organised and completed himself with Property Link in Ilford. Kharran is working hard to develop his CV for future University applications.



Alex Fraser



Wylde Tulip



Kharran Zaman



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