



Introduction

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Easter break. The change in weather at this time of year and the longer days give us all a sense of optimism.

The last day of the spring term is Friday, 1st April 2022 and school finishes at 1:30pm. The Easter holidays commence on Monday, 4th April 2022. Pupils are to return to school on Tuesday, 19th April 2022.

Our Year 11 pupils have returned to the exam halls in recent weeks for another round of mock exams and the summer GCSE series is just weeks away. With careful planning for their revision and a great deal of effort, our pupils should enjoy success in their endeavours. In recent years we have enjoyed results well above national averages and our A*-C (4 to 9) and A*-B (5 to 9) figures have almost doubled over the past five years. We are incredibly proud of our achievements and hope this summer will continue the trend.

I hope this newsletter gives you a snapshot of some of the recent activities and initiatives at Emerson Park Academy.

I wish you all a restful holiday period.

Scott McGuinness
Headteacher

Additional Bank holiday in lieu of Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration



As previously notified to you the Academy will be closed on Friday, 29th April 2022. Information is available on the academy's website.

Building work at EPA

We have been the subject of a major refurbishment programme over the past five years which has seen the installation of new windows, new boilers and heating systems, a new Reception area, an extension of our dining hall and a new Humanities block to list just a few elements.

The next phase in our programme has been to apply for the funding of a new Sports Hall. The rebuild of this facility will cost around £2.5m if successful. This would take the total spend on the school to £10m in recent years. Parents will be updated as soon as we have any news on this venture.

GCSE Examinations

GCSE examinations commence on 9th May 2022, full details with regard to the exam timetable can be found on the academy website.

British Sign Language group

The British Sign Language group have now had five weeks of lessons and the programme has been a great success. Lacie P, senior prefect, has been instrumental in the development of this course and we thank the trainers from Positive Signs for all their hard work with our students. We made the press two weeks ago – the Romford Recorder article sent a powerful message about the importance of teaching sign language and the hard work and dedication of Lacie.



Student Council

The student council have met several times since the beginning of term. After listening to the students' requirements for better communication, we have created a new student bulletin which is displayed in the foyer for all students. We aim to raise funds for another TV screen which will be situated in the new H block so information can be displayed around the whole school.

Year 11 Prom

Preparations for the school Prom celebrations continue – so far we have raised over a £1000 for the event which will be held at Orsett Hall on the 20th July 2022. Our thanks go to parents for their support with the raffles that are taking place.



Year 10 Enrichment programme

Our Year 10 pupils have just completed an enrichment program learning Virtual Reality Editing in Computer Science. They had to create a business solution for a Global travel agency to encourage virtual tourism as an option for communities and business during lockdowns.



The excursions included Skiing on the Alps, Coastal Britain and London Bridge.



Erasmus

We are currently still involved in an Erasmus+ Mobility project called BEST (Be Enthusiastic Search the Treasure). It is a history and geography based project whereby pupils learn from pupils in other countries about the culture and heritage of those places. In this project we are collaborating with pupils from Bulgaria, Latvia, Greece, Spain and Italy.

The visit to Greece took place in March 2022, when 4 pupils visited Katerini to find out about the history and geography of the region. We are hosting the 5 other countries in the Easter Holiday and will enjoy visiting a historic house, London and Southend.



Trips

After two years of postponements, cancellations and refunds we are looking forward to growing, over time, the number of school trips and visits we offer our pupils. At the moment the following trips are planned for the summer term and beyond.

- Mr Cannon will be leading several trips for our Year 10 students to Walton on the Naze and Stratford as part of their field work studies in GCSE Geography in June and July.

- Mrs Caffull will be taking two groups to Whitechapel, London in July to support their work in GCSE History.
- Our newest cohort of Duke of Edinburgh pupils are now working hard after school towards their expedition and assessment weekend in July.
- Mr Harris is hoping to take a group of our Basketballers to the O2 to see the national play-off finals.
- The annual Ski Trip has been successfully launched and will depart for Canada in early 2023.

Meet the Worker

We have begun a series of Form Time sessions called Meet the Worker, whereby pupils get the opportunity to hear about a variety of careers. So far we have met a physiotherapist and a psychologist.

In the near future we will have the opportunity to meet a nurse, a construction worker, a bank worker, a person that works in human resources, a primary school teacher, a police officer and a criminologist.

The sessions are from 8.55am – 9.10am and are either live or via Zoom. If you are able to help us with these sessions we would be very grateful to hear from you.

Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey Foundation was established in 1999 to support young people aged 11–25 through programmes in schools and youth organisations. The aim of the charity is to support projects to enable young people to achieve their potential and contribute to society.

Students can win a Jack Petchey Award for many reasons. Winners receive £250 to spend in school on something that will benefit the students. This could be some extra equipment, a trip or money towards an extra-curricular club.

I would like to congratulate those who have been awarded so far this academic year – Niran G, Conor B and Alana H.

Sports news

Ice Hockey

Emma N is currently living in Sweden after achieving her scholarship when she left EPA. She is having a wonderful time living in Sweden, living with team mates, training and studying hard at school.

She is one of 4 goal keepers selected to the senior squad for the upcoming world championships in Spain. Emma has her heart set on the next Olympic qualifiers and hopes to follow her dreams to make it to the Olympics one day.

Archery

Amelia C has been busy again with her archery at the European Indoor Championships in Slovenia, where she won a silver medal. She has also had recent successes at the World Archery where she qualified 3rd. Amelia has also won bronze for the Youth and Collegiate Trophy.

