



Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of what has been an incredibly productive Spring Term and I have been more than impressed with the commitment and hard work of our pupils this year.

The spring is always a time to look forward with optimism and we have many things to focus on after the holiday period.

The Year 9 Options Evening gave us an opportunity to meet parents and carers and share ideas for subjects that we feel would be the right choices for this year group. The evening was incredibly well-attended and we look forward to seeing what decisions they all make.

Our Year 11 pupils are now in the final turn of their studies at Emerson Park Academy and we are confident of their chances in the GCSE examinations. Obviously, a great deal of hard work is still required but, with the right attitude and a lot of determination, this should be a summer to remember for all involved.

I hope all pupils and their families have enjoyed the start to 2023 and I hope you all have a restful Easter break.

Best wishes.

Scott McGuinness
Head Teacher

Trips

This term, pupils have enjoyed a range of trips and visits including a ski trip to Canada. After nearly 35 months of planning (due to the pandemic) and an epic outward journey which began at 7:30am on Parkstone Avenue, the group eventually arrived at the Banff Inn almost 24 hours later! Away from the slopes, evening entertainment included a trip to the local cinema to see Avatar, a short walk to High Rollers for some ten-pin bowling and the group also had a go at tubing.



Photography students visited the V&A Museum, which is one of the world's largest and most comprehensive art and design museums. It is a must-visit for any art and design enthusiast, makes a great family outing, plus it's an especially exciting trip for students. The museum houses a vast collection of objects spanning over 5,000 years of human creativity and has over two million objects that represent the cultures of Europe, Asia, North America and North Africa. From ancient Chinese ceramics to contemporary fashion, the V&A has something for everyone. Visiting the museum provided an opportunity for students to see up close the design styles of different cultures and periods and gain an understanding of their context and evolution.



Year 10 art students visited Colchester Zoo to see animals up close and personal, making it a unique and exciting experience. The trip provided a chance to observe the animals' behaviours, their habitats, and how they interact with each other. Students learnt about their diets, breeding patterns, and the conservation efforts that are in place to protect them. It was a wonderful way to combine education and entertainment in a fun-filled day.



A group of GCSE Drama students went to the Conway Centre on Anglesey in Wales for an intensive weekend to develop the skills needed for their examinations. The students had various sessions on devising and physicality, leading to performances on the Saturday evening. The pupils also learnt about Laban techniques and Stanislavski. It was a fantastic experience with superb drama practitioners.



Knife Crime

The Metropolitan Police led sessions with Years 9, 10 and 11 regarding the issue of knife crime and its consequences. They also explained in great detail what Joint Enterprise is. The sessions were very powerful, with the police sharing a variety of their experiences about the consequences of knife crime on a family.

Transport Workshops

The Metropolitan Police visited all pupils in Years 8 and 9 in their Cultural Studies lessons, to discuss behaviour on public transport. They will return in the summer term to meet with Year 7.

SMASH

Year 8 attended a session in the main hall with a theatre group about the issues surrounding alcohol, both on the individual and the family.

More Able

It's been a busy term for More Able including the launch of the Brilliant Club, with all participants of the Briliants visiting Cambridge University for the day where they had a tour of the campus and experienced a University style seminar and lecture. Year 9 Brilliant Club students have been participating in their tutorials this term. The focus on the project undertaken is 'Are Urban Spaces Racist?'

Eighteen students have been offered Mensa membership across KS3 and KS4 and Year 7 have been involved in after-school enrichment learning about law, games design, Greek and research methods.

iClass

As we head into Spring, iClass is embarking upon a new project for pupils to experience the fascinating lifecycle of silk moths. Our fifteen silkworms have hatched and pupils are managing the daily cleaning and regular feeding. Pupils are looking forward to watching the silkworms spin their cocoons from a single strand of silk up to half a mile long.

Congratulations to those pupils who have received the iClass Star of the Month award since November – you have all shown admirable commitment to your academic progress and personal development.



Art

An exciting and fun club runs every Monday after school for KS3 students. Students have the opportunity to explore other materials and mediums that they wouldn't necessarily have in class. This spring term students have had the opportunity to create linocut prints, learning new skills and creating wonderfully imaginative prints.

The creations include papier-mâché masks and vases and blowing watercolour paint with straws and marker pens to make mixed media images. Roughly twenty students turn up to this group each week. It's not only a way for them to let those creative juices flow, but also time when they can socialise and help with their mental wellbeing.



Chess Tournament

Well done to all students who took part in the recent chess tournament; the club is going from strength to strength. Congratulations to David and Fletcher, winners of KS3 and KS4 rounds, with the overall house cup presented to Redgrave. Chess Club takes place every Monday after school.



EPA Photography Club

The Art department runs a photography club for all students. KS3 students are particularly encouraged to join. The club is also open to staff members and runs every Wednesday after school. The club currently has about twenty-one members and is still growing! Joining the club can offer several advantages, including:

1. Community: Being part of a photography club provides a sense of community and belonging, where individuals can connect with like-minded people who share a passion for photography.
2. Learning opportunities: The club often offers hands-on tutorials on how to use a camera and software, plus other educational opportunities such as trips that can help members improve their skills and learn new techniques.
3. Feedback and critique: Members can receive constructive feedback and critique on their work, which can help them grow as photographers and refine their artistic vision.
4. Inspiration: Exposure to the work of other photographers can be a source of inspiration and motivation, encouraging members to experiment with new techniques and push their creative boundaries.
5. Access to equipment: Students are free to use the academy's DSLR cameras if they do not already own one. Each member also has free use of the Adobe Creative Suite and can use shared equipment, such as lighting and studio space, which can be expensive to purchase individually.

Research has shown that engaging in creative activities, such as photography, can have a positive impact on mental health. Studies have found that photography can improve self-esteem, increase feelings of control and reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. Overall, joining a photography club can be a great way to improve skills, gain inspiration and connect with others who share a passion; it can also improve mental health, mindfulness and well-being.



Basketball

Well done to the Year 7, Under 14 & Under 16 girls basketball teams for 2022-2023. All teams were placed 2nd in their Havering Basketball leagues. Well done to all the girls that took part in the games.



Coffee Morning

Why not join us for a coffee and a chat every Monday 10:30am –12:00 noon at the Costa Coffee Shop in Hornchurch, supported by Champions Support Network and Lifeline Projects? The chat can offer one-to-one advice; support is available privately on request. Enjoy free coffee, tea or hot chocolate with a slice of cake! Recent topics discussed were attendance, vaping, knife crime and motivation. For more information email stephencallender@lifelineprojects.co.uk or visit www.lifelineprojects.co.uk

Havering Sports Award

Our Year 10 footballers proudly took the senior school team of the year prize, sponsored by Brentwood M&E Services Limited at the recent Havering Sports Council annual borough awards, held at Upminster Golf Club. The evening took place in the presence of His Worshipful the Mayor of Havering, Councillor Trevor McKeever, who recounted his long and enjoyable time as an active local tennis player.

