



Introduction

As we reach the end of 2023, the holiday period gives us an opportunity to look back over the past twelve months and review what we have achieved.

The traditional setting of New Year's resolutions gives us all a chance to reflect upon our efforts and create a focus to ensure we work on the things that will help us all to succeed.

The events and achievements of the past term are too numerous to list them all, but it has been an incredibly busy time here at Emerson Park Academy.

The Awards Evening in November was a memorable affair and a reminder of the achievement and endeavour of our pupils, past and present. The success of our former Year 11 pupils should provide inspiration for our forthcoming GCSE pupils and, with hard work and endeavour, see another successful examination series next year.

Obviously, this will also be a busy year for all year groups, not just Year 11. A key focus for the New Year will be to continue celebrating good effort and achievement and our new 'Golden Ticket' system allows staff to reward pupils on a regular basis where credit is deserved. This new system has got off to a great start and we look forward to sharing success with our winners throughout the year.

It has been a pleasure to lead Emerson Park Academy throughout 2023 and I have high hopes for 2024.

I am hoping all of our pupils, staff and parents use the time to recharge your batteries and I wish all of our school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

Scott McGuinness
Headteacher
Emerson Park Academy



The event was a fantastic occasion and recognition of the endeavours of those pupils who collected their awards.

Between each section of the ceremony, a number of pupils displayed their musical talents and showed just how wide-ranging the abilities of Emerson Park Academy pupils are.

Well done again to the winners and you should all be enormously proud of your achievements.



Jack Petchey

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 which enable young people to achieve their potential and contribute to society. Pupils can win a Jack Petchey Award for many reasons. Winners receive £300 to spend in school on something that will benefit the pupils. This could be some extra equipment, a trip, money towards an extracurricular club, etc. They also receive a framed certificate and a Jack Petchey Medallion. Plus they are invited to attend the annual Awards evening at the Queen's Theatre.

This half term we had the honour of awarding three Jack Petchey Awards: Our September winner was Ray N, a Year 7 who was nominated for exceeding expectations in the way he has settled into secondary school. Our October winner was Sam W, a Year 11 who shows an incredible work ethic and is hardworking, self-motivated and consistent in his approach to his studies. Our November winner goes to another Year 11, Kaylen P, who has demonstrated our Academy value of Respect & Friendship by taking the time to help a new pupil settle in to EPA with patience and kindness.

They are choosing to spend their money to help Year 11's in the lead-up to their exams, to provide new equipment for iClass and to help develop The Cube which is our new photography studio. These things will benefit the school community and the department heads are very grateful.

Congratulations to our Jack Petchey winners!



Prize Giving

This celebration of academic achievement took place at the end of November.

More than 400 pupils, parents, carers and staff packed into the school hall to reward the excellence and efforts of our hard-working pupils.



Form Time and Assemblies

Form time is a vital part of the pupils' education at EPA as it forms part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. This half term we have had assemblies on: Reward System (Mrs Freeman), Remembrance (Mr Paterson), School Standards (Mr Giles and Dr Crawley), Men's Mental Health (Miss Edwards and the wellbeing team), Social Media (Dr Crawley) and PRIDE Awards (Heads of Year). Additionally, we have had Zoom assemblies on the following topics: Business and Finance (Miss Bolger), Men's Mental Health (Miss Edwards), Tax and National Insurance (Dr Crawley), Buying and Renting (Dr Crawley), Road Safety (KS3 - Dr Crawley), Careers (KS4 - Mrs Mitchell and a Christmas Reflection (Mr Milner-Pearce). Years 7, 8 and 9 also have a collective form reading book that they read each week.

Bearing in mind the subjects covered in form time, it is vitally important that your child is punctual to school.



Wellbeing Ambassador Training

Ambassador training for the Wellbeing committee recently took place. The aim of the training was for pupils to be able to identify what their role includes and to also plan for the rest of the academic year.

Halle M, a pupil in Year 11, shares her recent training experience – she says:

“On the 16th November, Wellbeing ambassadors aged from 11-16 took part in training from Mr Leech (Crusaiders first aid). We learnt about how to be a good Wellbeing ambassador and what we should do to make pupils wellbeing good and stable at Emerson Park. Myself and other Year 11 pupils came up with ideas to try and connect our community at Emerson no matter what age, gender or mental health status. We discussed ideas about how we can improve wellbeing at school and feel strongly that no one should ever have to feel different.

Our aim is to improve Wellbeing at Emerson Park Academy and we're truly passionate about helping and supporting others. This training has really helped us to improve the way we think about Mental Health and the massive stigma. We thank you for supporting us and helping us gain new knowledge.”



Golden Tickets

This half term we launched our exciting new Golden Tickets.

Golden Tickets are awarded to any pupil inside or outside the classroom who have gone 'Above and Beyond' usual expectations. Pupils can be awarded a Golden Ticket for a broad range of reasons from an outstanding piece of work, improved behaviour, an act of kindness, acting responsibly, making a positive contribution to the school community, etc. Each week, all teaching and support staff receive one Golden Ticket which can be awarded at any point during the week. The pupil posts their ticket in the Golden Post Box and waits to see if they are the lucky winner of a £30 Amazon voucher at the end of the week. So far, over 300 tickets have been awarded for a variety of reasons and £120 in prizes have been claimed! Congratulations to all our Golden Ticket winners – we are very proud of all your achievements!

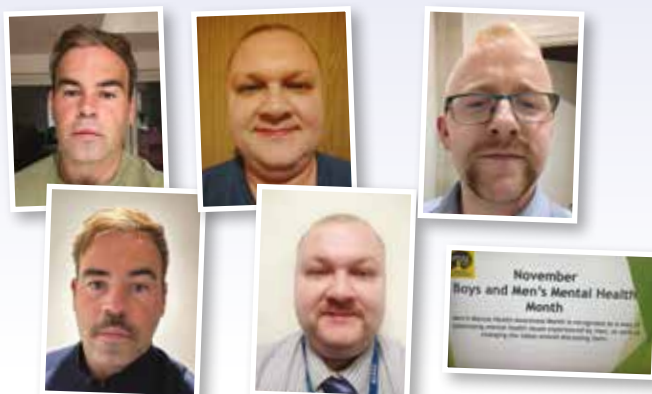


Men's Health

This month, the Wellbeing committee focused on Men's Health – in particular, Men's Mental Health.

At the beginning of November all pupils had a form activity based on the charity Movember. Pupils learnt how the charity came about, the importance of raising awareness of Testicular cancer, Prostate cancer and Mental Health and the idea of growing a mo to raise money. Leading on from this, the Wellbeing committee helped to raise money for Movember by holding a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale. We also had staff in the school doing their bit by growing a mo.

Men's Health assemblies were also held at the end of the month for all year groups; whereby Harry J, Clark F, Jibril B and Joel A presented about the implications of toxic masculinity. We were also fortunate that Mr Harris, Mr Vango and Mr Drinan volunteered to speak in these assemblies by sharing their own personal experiences.



Best Foot Forward

36 pupils and two staff successfully completed their 3 x two-hour beginner ski sessions at the Brentwood Ski Slopes during November in preparation for our 2024 EPA ski trip to Jasper, Canada in February. A huge thank you to all staff who helped out over the three weeks and well done to every student who attended the three sessions for their positive attitude throughout; this bodes well for Jasper and we're looking forward to seeing how much of the mountain slopes you can cover during our time away.



iClass

iClass is enjoying the festive season, making home-made decorations and gifts. It's lovely to see the personal touch each pupil brings to their decoration and our tree looks joyful, dripping in creativity.



Charity Boxing Scheme

Our safer schools officer works with a charity boxing scheme on a Friday evening at the My Place community centre in Harold Hill and is inviting all our young people along. The class runs from 18:30 – 20:00 and the charity are called boxup crime. It has been funded by Havering Council, so is completely free to pupils. For further details, visit www.boxupcrime.org

The Challenge Project

This term, 16 pupils have been taking part in the Challenge Project. The project echoes a similar format to the EPQ, but without the official qualification. Pupils have been conducting their own research around a topic of their choice and compiling a portfolio to submit at the end of the year. Pupils will also present their ideas to a panel of staff.

As this project aims to develop independent thought and critical thinking skills, it has been fantastic to see so many of our students put so much effort into their projects.

The Brilliant Club

14 of our Year 8 pupils have been selected to take part in the Scholar's Programme, a scheme run by the Brilliant Club. We look forward to updating you with their progression when the scheme starts in January.

House Assemblies

This half term saw the relaunch of our House system and our first House assemblies for several years. The pupils were excited to hear all about the new opportunities for Praise & Rewards available to those who demonstrate our PRIDE values which are Personal Excellence, Respect & Friendship, Inspiration, Determination & Courage and Equality. Pupils learnt about their House motto and song and how they can earn House points throughout the Year to ensure they are crowned House Champions 2024! So far Cavell have dominated the competition but Brunel, Hepworth and Redgrave are hot on their heels. Good luck to everyone and keep up the good work!



Drama

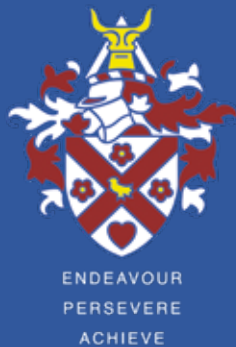
All Year 7 pupils are working towards their Pantomime inter-year competition. Pupils have been busy creating interesting plots, deciding characters and which song to include in their show. We are looking at how physical and vocal skills can be used to enhance characterisation and how creativity is important to make sure audiences do not get bored. They are all working their hardest – “Oh, yes they are!”

Year 9 pupils are working towards their scripted performance of DNA, a play about a group of teenagers who have done something very bad and create more trouble for themselves along the way. We are looking at how proxemics can tell the audience important factors like power, status and relationships. Pupils are tasked with learning their lines off by heart and creating moments of their own to create a full scene – good luck Year 9 for your assessments!



Cost of Living Support

Havering Education Services recognises that as the cost of living continues to rise across the country, residents are going to be feeling the pinch this winter. The Council's new cost of living online hub (www.havering.gov.uk/costofliving) brings together all of the support available to residents – from financial help with food and energy bills to free school holiday meals and mental health. The website contains links to the Havering Helps assistance scheme, details of warm spaces, council tax support, debt management services, energy grants, food banks and community hubs, as well as online benefits calculators so residents can be sure they're receiving all the support they are entitled to.



Art



Bobby L
Year 7



William M
Year 8



Maisie H
Year 9



Sylvia Y
Year 10



Zara A
Year 11

Business Studies



Rivka C
Year 10



Eidvidas Z
Year 11

Citizenship



Charlotte F
Year 10



Gabriela K
Year 11

Computer Science



Adam G
Year 10

Computer Science



Alfie D
Year 11



Nicolae S
Year 11



Sarp Y
Year 11

Cultural Studies



Sophie B
Year 7



Lenny S
Year 8

Cultural Studies



Divine A
Year 9

Design Technology (Construction)



Charlie G
Year 10



Elliot C
Year 11

Design Technology (Food)



Denis M
Year 7



Maisie P
Year 8

Design Technology (Food)



Anesu C
Year 9



Millie R
Year 10



Daniel B
Year 11

Design Technology



Olga A
Year 7



Eunice T
Year 8

Design Technology



Chit H
Year 9

Design Technology (Textiles)



Megan W
Year 10



Elanor H
Year 11

Design Technology (Timbers)



Jack T
Year 10



Bobby M
Year 11

Drama



Sade S
Year 7



Kimberly J
Year 9



Kayla B
Year 10

English



Louis H
Year 7



Veer G
Year 8

English



Harry B
Year 9



Rivka C
Year 10



Harry N
Year 11

Geography



Alejandro M
Year 7



Aaron T
Year 8

Geography



Bonnie Y
Year 9



Samara B
Year 10



Sian L
Year 11

Health & Social Care




Lozan T
Year 10




Millie P
Year 11


History




Anton M
Year 7




Abdul R
Year 8



Chloe W
Year 9




Aayan B
Year 10




Aimee L
Year 11


Information Technology




Dami A
Year 7




Lenny S
Year 8



Charlie A
Year 9



Lukas P
Year 10



Orest A
Year 7

Maths

Maths




Lexi P
Year 8



Bonnie M
Year 9



Ryte D
Year 10




Sophia B
Year 11



George B
Year 10


Media Studies

Media Studies




Finlay K
Year 11


Modern Foreign Languages




Jesse D
Year 7



Tianna D
Year 8




Archie G
Year 9




Lila G
Year 10

Modern Foreign Languages




Natan W
Year 11


Music




Dominic D
Year 7



Livvy M
Year 8



Aaron W
Year 9



Quinley W
Year 10

Music




Alfie D
Year 11

Photography



Andrew O
Year 10




Aki B
Year 11

Physical Education



Freddie F
Year 7



Matthew C
Year 8

Physical Education



Samuel K
Year 9



Eva G
Year 10



TJ X
Year 11

Sports Science




Brooke A
Year 10




James M
Year 11


Science




Tristan W
Year 7




Ayush V
Year 8



Aaron W
Year 9




Aidan B
Year 10




Heidi F
Year 11

Statistics




Aidan B
Year 10




Eidvidas Z
Year 11


Curriculum Support



Connie B
Year 8



Ellie S
Year 11





Dance Club

We have been busy choreographing our Christmas routine to the infamous *All I Want For Christmas Is You* where we have our very own Santa Claus and his trusty reindeers.

Dance Club is welcome to all Years 7 and 8 pupils and runs Tuesday lunch times – if your child/children are interested, please speak with Miss Harvey.

Annual Productions

We are so proud to announce that Emerson Park Academy is back with annual productions for the whole school to participate in. This year, we asked our pupils what musical they wanted to do – the votes came in and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* won. With three rehearsals down and a successful Movie Night fundraiser, we are well on our way to creating what will be a spectacular performance! We will be joining forces with our Media department to create some sneaky previews, so please keep your eyes peeled for that. If your child/children would like to be a part of our production, it is not too late – get them to speak to Miss Harvey or Mr Milner-Pearce for more information.

Music

We updated the Music Department during the Summer holidays. We have now installed Mac Mini computers, allowing our pupils to use the same software as the Music Industry does. We also partnered with Sontronics, an award-winning UK-based sound engineering company producing high-quality microphones. As a result, we have created a Live Room and Studio. Sontronics also supplied podcasting microphones for every Mac Mini, allowing us to create new schemes of work and clubs such as Podcasting and Music Production. We have also created a DJing and Vocal Room. Practice rooms are now available to book in advance using the signup sheets next to each room. Upcoming events include our Christmas Concert and a DJing competition in the New Year. We are also starting a Brass initiative for 15 pupils in January. The chosen pupils will be loaned a brass instrument and given free group lessons for six weeks.

Media Studies

On Wednesday 22nd November, several selected pupils from the Year 10 Media Studies classes were invited to participate in the Into Film festival and went to see a showing at Ilford Cineworld. The film, deliberately chosen as a change to what our pupils usually watch, was *Polite Society*, a British Asian martial arts comedy.

Sharing the cinema with some other Redbridge schools, Mrs Morris and Mr Cannon both agreed that Emerson Park Academy pupils really impressed with their behaviour, attitude and general optimism throughout the day. It was a total pleasure.



The Cube Studio

The Cube Studio is a brand-new creative space at Emerson Park Art department where both Art and Photography students can express their ideas through visual culture expression, and we hope that this resource will influence new ways of creative thinking and understanding.



The Cube Studio has been on the department's development plan for a while, and it's hoped that an in-house studio will bring joy through interdisciplinary collaboration, resource sharing, and inspiration. It will foster a dynamic environment where both art and photography students can develop their creativity visually and share ideas, equipment, and showcase versatile projects. This collaboration will enhance skill development, whilst creating an innovative, adaptable space that will enrich the overall artistic experience within the department for many years to come.



Sample work created by the students in the studio.

Breakfast on the House!

This half term we held another of our House competitions. Pupils were challenged to design and make a unique Christmas tree ornament to hang on our beautiful tree in the foyer. We had so many wonderful entries and the tree is looking superb! Congratulations goes to James B who's clay reindeer was fabulous. He has won 100 House points and breakfast for his Form Group who were all thrilled to benefit from his hard work and enthusiasm!



The Science faculty

The Science faculty annual 3D cell homework saw some excellent entrants this year. Students made a large variety of different types of cells from all sorts of materials, from handstitching felt to 3D printed designs. The winners were chosen by the head boy and girl; Clarke and Danielle. They decided that Jazlene B's cell was the best for its colour, craftsmanship and attention to detail. Well done Jazlene, who has received some chocolates as a prize.

