



Introduction

With 2024 coming to an end, and the holiday period already upon us, it is very much a time for reflection.

So much has happened in such a short space of time it would be impossible to list everything. I hope this newsletter provides you with a glimpse of the events that have taken place.

We should take the opportunity to look back over the past twelve months and consider what has been achieved in that time.

On Thursday 5th December 2024, Emerson Park Academy hosted our Annual Prize Giving evening. The event provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our pupils with all members of the school community.

The evening saw around 120 pupils receive the acclaim they fully deserve in front of 500 guests. The evening was a fitting tribute to a year of hard work and academic endeavour.

It was particularly pleasing to see our former Year 11 pupils return to receive their Awards for their endeavours over the past five years and we wish them all further success in whatever paths they may choose.

This has been a great start to the academic year for all involved with Emerson Park Academy and it is with great pride that I have led the school during this autumn term and I look forward to 2025.

I would like to thank all members of our school community for their tremendous support this term and hope you all have a very restful and enjoyable break.

Scott McGuinness
Headteacher

Prize Giving

This celebration of academic achievement took place on the 5th December. More than 500 pupils, parents, carers and staff packed into the school hall to reward the excellence and efforts of our hard-working pupils.

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

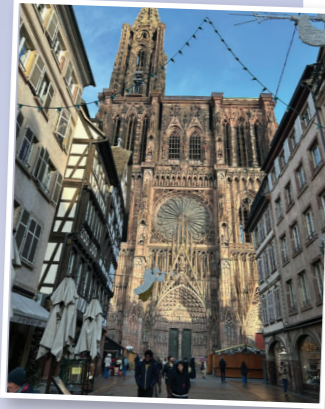
Between each section of the ceremony, a number of pupils displayed their musical talents and showed just how wide-ranging the abilities of Emerson Park Academy pupils are.

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



European Parliament Visit

Emerson Park Academy pupils who recently visited Strasbourg had the opportunity to be the representative school for the UK as a result of our participation in EPAS (European Parliament Ambassador School). This meant that pupils were able to visit European Parliament and sit in the hemicycle and debate as if they were an MEP. The aim of the trip was for pupils to get a greater idea of what the European Parliament does and how the UK continues to work with Europe, alongside developing pupil engagement in politics and understanding of the world around us. Further to this, it was a chance for pupils to see politics in action. When they were there, pupils had a chance to talk to Andrey Kovatchev (quaestor of the European Parliament, a video message from Roberta Metsola (President of the European Parliament), a discussion on poverty in Europe with Danaï Papadopoulou. Finally, they heard from Karolina Wozniak, the manager of the European Parliaments liaison office in Washington and what was happening in America and how it might affect us. The other important element of the trip was to see the Council of Europe and how Britain continues to contribute to this and the work that we do in supporting human rights.



All Things Law

In November we held a talk with Christopher Saul, Former Senior Partner at Slaughter & May who now has an advisory firm called Christopher Saul Associates. (<https://www.speakersforschools.org/speakers/christopher-saul/>). The talk was for our More Able pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 and those who have expressed an interest in Law and Business as a future career. We had approximately 60 pupils attend to hear Chris give guidance on how to prepare for the working world, steps they should be taking now if they want to become a lawyer and the importance of resilience when aiming high. It was an informative talk and we hope to hold more in the future.



Dry Ski Success

After three weeks of dry ski sessions at the Brentwood Ski and Snowboard centre during November, our North America bound group of pupils (Years 8 to 11) are now eagerly counting down the days until we fly to Canada to attack the real snow-covered slopes of Panorama during the February half-term in 2025.

Plans are already in place for the 2026 trip also to North America; information will be sent out to all parents/carers in the New Year.



Drama

**KS3
Year 7:**

We have had a very exciting and productive Autumn term with pupils participating in their first assessment; Pixar's *Inside Out* movie to engage their inner emotions.

Congratulations to Charlie U, Kayla B, Tate G, Simona S, Alex S, Jamie T, Seline S and Freya G for attending the Drama star award!

We are currently working towards our Pantomime - it's going to be great ... "Oh, yes it will!"



Year 9:

We have been focusing on school culture with 'Stereotypes and School Issues', completing a short devised performance, a monologue and currently writing a script.

Once they have completed their script in Drama, they will be taking their work into their Media lessons with Mr Driver where they will be filming their work in various locations around the school.



KS4

Our Year 11 pupils are busy working towards their Component 2: Performance from Text examination, where we invite an examiner into the school to watch their ability to embody a role/s of two monologues from a published script.

We had a very inspiring trip to the Queens Theatre this half term where students looking at taking Drama and/or Dance GCSE in 2025/26 watched Paper Birds *Feel Me*, a verbatim story of feeling empathy and what it means. We were lucky enough to have a workshop held by Jemma, the founder of Paper Birds, looking at devising movement.



LAMDA

Our peri LAMDA classes are running smoothly with all pupils already receiving their exam monologues. We will be looking to schedule an intimate performance to parents/carers at the end of the school year. More information will follow.

If your child/children are interested in learning more about LAMDA, please come and see Miss Harvey in the Drama Studio.

Production

We are underway with the start of production rehearsals looking at all key singing numbers. Personalised hoodies should be with us before we break up for Christmas, for pupils to wear during rehearsals, along with all scripts.

If anyone has any unwanted boxes or birthday wrapping paper/ bows that they are happy to donate please bring them in for our crew to start making props.



Form Time and Assemblies

During form time and assemblies this half term, we have been continuing with our PSHE topics and have covered the following areas: Being an ally to those groups that need support; Violence Against Women and Girls; domestic abuse, Movember and men's mental health; Remembrance, personal finance, resilience building and college transfer. As you can see, it is vitally important that our pupils are in school in time for form, so that they get the benefit of these assemblies and activities.

Attendance

We have recently launched an email for all attendance matters which you can reach us on at:

attendance@emersonparkacademy.org

Please use this email to inform us of any lateness, absence, medical appointments, etc. Please remember – poor attendance means children miss out on experiences and opportunities at school which, in turn, impacts negatively on their achievement, wellbeing and wider development. This is why it's so important that children are in the classroom as many days as possible.

Tasty Treats

Congratulations to Matthew W who is Star of the week with his creation of these creative Christmas biscuits in the latest Year 10 cooking experience. Well done to all the pupils that took part.



Science Competition

Our Year 8 pupils and More Able pupils recently took part in a science competition – they competed against Drapers, Royal Liberty and Redden Court to come up with a real-world solution to use batteries sustainably. Although they did not win, they gave an excellent account of themselves with an innovative solution to support the blind community and help reduce their electricity bills.

