



Introduction

The Christmas period gives us all a time for reflection and to make the plans that will ensure 2026 is another good year.

It has been an incredibly busy year at Emerson Park Academy and we have achieved so many things already. The highlight of my working year was the news of our fantastic GCSE results in August 2025. The Year 11 pupils achieved a fantastic set of results and so many of them have now gone on to advance their knowledge in colleges, sixth forms and workplace apprenticeships.

The Awards Evening this month was also a memorable occasion with around 600 people packing into the hall to celebrate the outstanding successes of the past twelve months.

The evening provided a timely reminder of the achievement and endeavour of our pupils, past and present.

A key focus in 2026 will be to continue the celebration of achievement and I look forward to meeting more of our incredibly supportive parents at one of the awards events next year.

The planning stage for our new sports complex is complete and we look forward to this outstanding facility progressing through the construction phase in 2026.

I hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse of the other exciting events and initiatives around the school at this time of year.

Christmas is an opportunity to spend time with our loved ones and a time to enjoy. I am hoping all of our pupils, staff and parents use the time to recharge our batteries and I am looking forward to a successful 2026.

Merry Christmas

Scott McGuinness
Head Teacher

Prize Giving

Our annual celebration of academic achievement took place on 11th December, with more than 500 pupils, parents, carers, and staff filling the school hall to celebrate the excellence and efforts of our hard-working pupils.

It was a fantastic occasion that recognised the dedication of all pupils who collected awards. Between each section of the ceremony, pupils showcased their musical talents, demonstrating the wide-ranging abilities found at Emerson Park Academy.

A huge well done to all our winners – you should be incredibly proud of your achievements.



Christmas Concert

Pupils from Years 7–11 took part in our festive Christmas Concert, showcasing singing, musical performances, and acting. It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity for parents and carers to see the results of their children's hard work over the term.



Bebras Challenge

The Bebras Challenge is an international competition promoting computational thinking and computer science among students aged 6–19, with millions taking part worldwide each year.

The Bebras Gold Award is presented to students who score within the top 10% nationally, highlighting exceptional skill in computational thinking and problem solving.

This year, 21 of our students earned a Gold Award – an outstanding achievement!

Statistics for the 2025 UK challenge can be found on the Bebras website.

Gold Award Winners

Group	First Name	Last Name	Score
Juniors (10–12)	Bhaavya	V	141
Juniors (10–12)	Alexa	S	127
Seniors (14–16)	Joseph	M	127
Juniors (10–12)	Paulina	G	126
Seniors (14–16)	Lucas	L	126
Intermediates (12–14)	Lucy	C	122
Juniors (10–12)	Zion	M	121
Intermediates (12–14)	Mohammed	A	121
Juniors (10–12)	Ria	S	115
Intermediates (12–14)	Henry	W	114
Intermediates (12–14)	Maisie	P	114
Intermediates (12–14)	William	B	113
Intermediates (12–14)	David	Z	112
Intermediates (12–14)	Evie	D	111
Intermediates (12–14)	Lucretia	M	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Denis	M	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Jack	H	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Albert	G	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Logan	M	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Sophie	V	110
Intermediates (12–14)	Callum	W	108
Intermediates (12–14)	Aronas	P	108
Intermediates (12–14)	Jake	B	108



Careers

Sharps Skips visited Emerson Park Academy to deliver an inspiring presentation on the company's journey from its early beginnings to the successful business it is today.

The talk was delivered by Terry Sharp and his son George Sharp, a proud former pupil. They shared the challenges they faced in building the company, the perseverance required for long-term success, and how George's time at the academy helped shape his entrepreneurial path.

Pupils gained valuable insight into real-world business growth and the importance of ambition, resilience, and hard work.



World Cultures

On Friday 24th October, we held our third annual World Cultures Assembly. Pupils from Years 7–11 took part in a global fashion show or showcased a talent across two reward assemblies.

This event provided an opportunity for pupils to share their heritage and celebrate the diverse cultures that make up our school community.



Mind of the Student

On Friday 14th November, pupils in Years 7–10 took part in a workshop delivered by Mind of the Student, a charity supporting young people's mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.

The interactive workshops provided pupils with practical strategies for managing stress, building confidence, and maintaining a positive mindset in and out of school.

We also held Men's Mental Health assemblies, led by pupils. Previously focused on *Toxic Masculinity and Suffering in Silence*, this year's theme was *The Unseen Armour* – highlighting the pressures faced by both males and females. We hope these messages stay with our pupils throughout the year, not just in November.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit the Havering Emotional Support Team's Eventbrite page for information on upcoming workshops and support events available to all families with children in Havering schools.



Phone-Free School

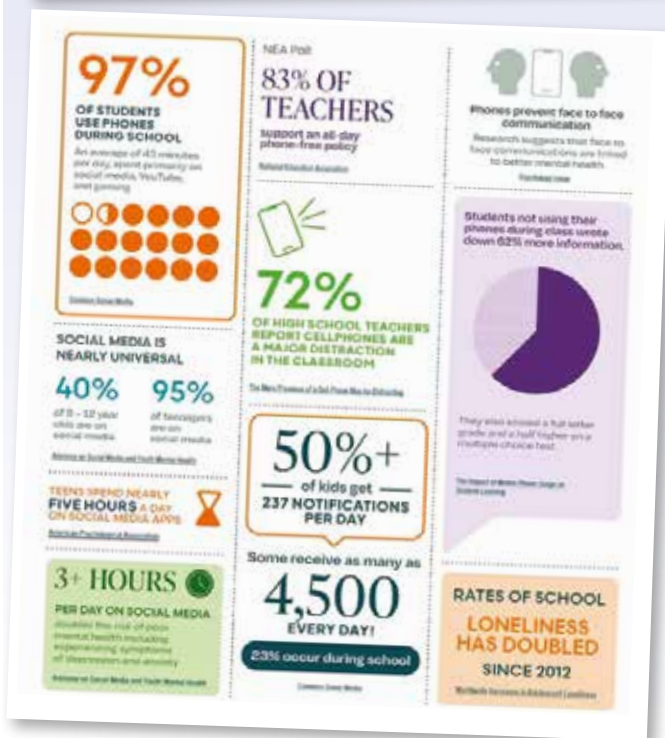
From early next year, Emerson Park Academy will become a phone-free school. Pupils will use lockable phone pouches during the school day while on site.

This move aligns with growing national guidance encouraging reduced phone use in schools.

Why Schools Are Going Phone-Free:

- **Improved Focus & Learning:** Reducing distractions enables deeper concentration and better outcomes.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing:** Protects students from social media pressures and online risks.
- **Social Development:** Encourages face-to-face interaction and reduces screen time.
- **Safety & E-Safety:** Helps schools manage online risks and reduce cyberbullying.

More information will be shared next year.



Sports Success

Girls' Football

Our U14 girls progressed to the next round of the Essex Cup with a 3-0 victory over Riverside.

Goals came from Olivia W, Flo C, and Lyla M, with Libby J earning Match Award for a solid defensive performance.



Basketball

Our Year 8 basketball team achieved a fantastic 55-18 win against Sanders. The boys showed excellent teamwork, with both fives contributing throughout the quarters – including impressive three-pointers from Jordan and Jordan.

Well done to the whole team!

