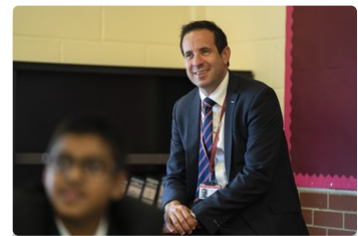


# Headteacher's Newsletter

January 2020

## A very happy New Year to you all

Welcome back to the second term of the 2019/20 academic year. In my assemblies over the next two weeks I will be talking about New Year's resolutions. As I'm sure you know from personal experience, 80% of resolutions fail in the first few weeks of January. This is often because people are trying to make big changes and create a 'new them'. What I will be discussing with students is that to be successful in keeping their resolutions, they need to think about their own personal strengths and build upon them to make them the best person they can be, not a new them. I hope that all our students start the new term and new year with a desire to be the best possible version of themselves moving forwards.



While researching for my assembly it also became apparent that success in achieving New Year's resolutions, or indeed any future aim, is determined by the person focussing on the steps needed to be successful rather than the end goal. This is particularly important for our Year 11 and 13 students, but for everyone in the school community as well. Our students need to focus on achievable actions such as working hard, concentrating in lessons, and completing work to the best of their ability rather than their future outcomes, such as to get into the Sixth Form or University. These actions will ensure they are successful in their future goals.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful and thank you as always to parents who have sent us in information regarding their child's successes, it really is a pleasure to read and share them.

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher

## Detentions

Within the next few days you will receive a letter from me outlining new processes for parental contact regarding detentions. The letter will explain the school's rationale and outline the changes we are making, but parents will no longer be able to call the school to complain about a detention and will need to put in writing why they do not believe a detention should be set.

We have had to make this change due to the inordinate amount of time my staff are having to spend justifying their decisions to detain a student.

Schools have the legal power to detain students during or after school without requiring parental support, and staff must be allowed to use their professional judgement when faced with behaviour that falls outside the School's Behaviour Policy.

As a parent myself, I am often astounded by the way my children leave out key bits of information or see things in a slightly different way to me when I challenge them about their behaviour at home, this is often the case at school as well.

Please read the letter that will be sent home which explains the processes parents may go through moving forwards if they are unsure why a detention has been set.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

## **Snow Days**

With the start of a new year I always get the inevitable dread regarding the potential change in the weather over the coming months. I do all I can to keep the school open but we do, on occasion, need to adapt the school day to ensure the school is safe for students, staff and parents. I have added below the school's alternate day. This will be put in place on any day we remain open but adverse weather has required us to make a change to timings.

**School starts** – 10.00am and students go straight to their P2 lesson.

**Lesson:** P2 – 10.00am – 11.00am

**Lesson:** P3 – 11.00am -12.00pm

**Lunch:** 12.00pm – 12.30pm (This will be a grab and go lunch)

**Lesson:** P4 – 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Lesson:** P5 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**School ends** – 2.30pm

I hope this information allows you to plan your day more effectively should the situation ever arise in the future.

## **Students Need To Get The Simple Things Right**

Despite my continuous reminders to students and parents about our uniform expectations I am constantly amazed at the number of students that return to school with false nails and eyelashes, the wrong coats, boots instead of shoes or inappropriate hair cuts among other issues we face.

Our policy is very clear and the link below is a copy of our uniform policy. Any pupil who attends school with any of the things listed above or anything that contravenes the school's uniform policy will be required to remove it. Should they refuse or be unable to do so they will remain in seclusion until the item is removed.

Please support the school by not allowing your children to put themselves in a position where they will need to be challenged regarding this. The fact some of these items cost a lot of money is not of the

schools concern, all students are required to follow the school's uniform expectations and Behaviour Policy.

[http://www.westhatch.net/\\_files/8EC419FDC42C570BEDCC234CCA368587.pdf](http://www.westhatch.net/_files/8EC419FDC42C570BEDCC234CCA368587.pdf)

## Contacting Staff Outside Of Working Hours

Just a reminder that we have requested that parents do not email staff directly after 7pm or before 7am on weekdays or at all during weekends or holidays. This has improved greatly so thank you for your support. If it suits you to email during the restricted times please do so using the [admin@westhatch.net](mailto:admin@westhatch.net) email which will be forwarded to the member of staff after 7am the next day.

## On A More Positive Note....

### A Bit Of Christmas Spirit

On the final day of term our Year 9 Performing Arts group performed their Christmas Pantomime to our Year 7 students, sending them off to the Christmas break in style. You may have seen the picture below in the Epping Forest Guardian during the holidays. It was a wonderful way to end the term and a great production based on a lot of hard work from the students and Miss Kay. Well done to all of you.



We also held our annual Christmas Jumper Day last term and once again raised over £900 for charity. Thank you to everyone for your support.



## A Christmas Carol

We were delighted to be able to attend St Pauls Church at the end of last term for our annual Year 7 Christmas Carol Service. We are so grateful to Reverend Franklin and all at the Church for allowing us to hold such a wonderful event. Thank you particularly to Mrs Crathern and our amazing readers in Year 7, Tristan Speakman, Charlotte Sexton, Josh Saunders and Imogen Hollingshead and the School Choir who so ably led the congregation in celebration. I'd also like to thank Ms Lord, Mr Bell and Mr Vincent for their organisation of the event.

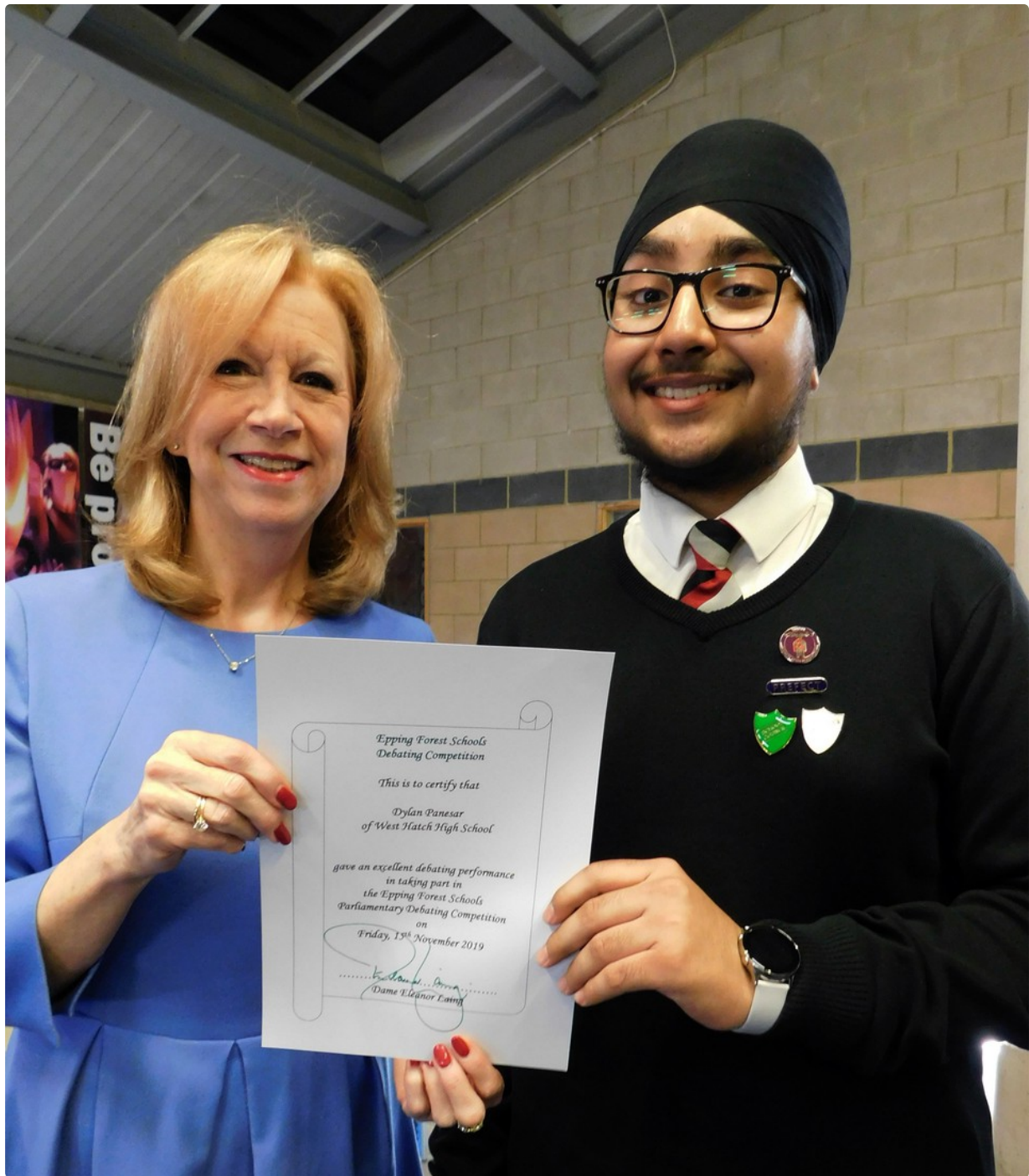




## Debating Success

I am very proud to share with you Dylan Panesar's success in November at the Epping Forest Parliamentary Debating Competition, run annually by our MP Eleanor Laing. Dylan in Yr.11 and Naomi Hollowell in Yr.13 competed together against all the other Schools in Epping Forest, debating for the following motion "The House believes that mass protests about climate change are unnecessary and counterproductive as the danger to the planet has already been recognised." They performed admirably and although they did not win the competition, Dylan was voted Best Speaker of the night. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and both Dylan and Naomi represented the school with aplomb. Thank you to Mrs Hull for all her work in preparing the students for the event.

We also wish Mrs Hull and the debating team luck in the next event which is the ESU Schools Public Speaking Competition, with the first round taking place at the end of the month at Frances Bardsley Academy.



## PPE Results

Our Year 13's and 11's recently took their PPE (mock) examinations and many of our students did exceptionally well. Well done to all our students for their hard work in preparing for these exams, they certainly took them very seriously and this provides a good starting point for preparations for their final exams which start in four months time. Below I have listed some of our top achievers in terms of either progress from their starting points or overall attainment.

### Year 13 Top Achievers

Surina Dhaliwal - A\*, A, A,  
Luke Drummond-Poynter - A\*, A, A,  
Ellie Boddington - A\*, A, C,

Jessica Martindale - A,A,B

Naeem Ahmed - A,A,B

Ella Brown - A, B, B

Jasleen Kaur - A, A, C

Stephan Sureshkumar - A\*, B, C

Daniel Adekanle- A, B, C

Kiera Dennis-Nelson - A, B, C

## **Year 11 Top Achievers**

### **Students making the most progress:**

Mustafa Sahin +3.61 grades on average above his expected levels

Ivayla Andonova +2.47 grades on average above her expected levels

Shijing Yang +1.8 grades on average above her expected levels

Brenda Asea +1.71 grades on average above her expected levels

Dora Szabo +1.66 grades on average above her expected levels

Jake Pentland +1.41 grades on average above her expected levels

### **Students with the highest grades:**

Josephine Middleton- 3 grade 9's, 3 grade 8's, 1 grade 7, 2 grade 6's

Charlotte Stevens- 2 grade 9's, 5 grade 8's, 1 grade 7, 2 grade 6's

Charlotte Kent- 4 grade 9's, 2 grade 8's, 2 grade 7's, 1 grade 6

Dora Szabo - 2 grade 9's, 3 grade 8's, 3 grade 7's, 1 grade 5

Evie Aviram - 2 grade 9's, 2 grade 8's, 4 grade 7's, 2 grade 6's

Mustafa Sahin - 3 grade 8's, 4 grade 7's, 2 grade 6's, 1 grade 5

Congratulations to these students and the many others who performed so well. Remember this is a starting block not the finish line and students need to make sure they build upon what they have done so far and not rest on their laurels.

## **Jack Petchey Winner**

Brenda Asea in Year 11 (pictured in the middle below) was recently awarded the Jack Petchey Award for her contribution to school. When a student receives this Award a small amount of funding is released which they can spend on anything they like for their school. Brenda decided to give something back to the younger netball players and used her money to buy netball dresses for the Year 8 Team. A very thoughtful gesture Brenda that I know is very much appreciated.



## **The Building Project**

I'm delighted to inform you that our expansion project is well underway once more with a new contractor, Barnes. The new English block has been made a priority to ensure we have sufficient rooms to teach the students at the start of September. The Sports Centre is due to be completed before Christmas 2020. We will also be putting in place an additional outside eating area next to the new Sports Centre.

I know its been a painful journey but the students and staff have coped admirably with the disruption and I am sure the amazing new facilities we receive in the new school year will be worth the wait.

## **Super Star Students**

Before the Christmas break I sent postcards home to every pupil who had received over 20 House Points this year and had also behaved exceptionally well throughout the term. This was sent to over 300 students which shows how hard a considerable number of our students work each day.

Below is a list of the students with the most House Points, an outstanding achievement by these students in one term. Well done to all of you, you are a credit to the school.

Reuben Comerford - 72

Aneve Atwal - 71

Mohammad-Abbas Ahadi - 69

Isabella Waterman - 67

Dante Harrison Cabrita Da Palma - 65

Natalia Michalec - 62

Stevie Hillyer - 62



Olivia Sayer - 61  
Luke McDonald - 61  
Milly Higgins - 61  
Annabelle Taylor - 60  
Freddie Mardon - 60

## **Important Dates For Your Diary**

### **January**

Thursday 16th January - Yr.11 Parents Evening (4-7pm)  
Tuesday 28th January - Parent Voice meeting at 7pm  
Thursday 30th January - Yr.13 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

### **February**

Thursday 13th February - Love Lounge Event (timings to be confirmed)  
Half Term - Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

### **March**

Thursday 5th March - Yr.9 Parents Evening (4-7pm)  
Thursday 12th March - Yr.8 Parents Evening (4-7pm)  
Thursday 19th March - Yr.8/9 Options Evening (timings to be confirmed)  
Tuesday 24th March - Yr.11 Transition Day  
Thursday 26th March - Yr.12 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

### **April**

Wednesday 1st April and Thursday 2nd April - Dance Show (timings to be confirmed)  
Friday 3rd April break up for Easter at 1.25pm.

## **Supporting Charity At Christmas**

Thank you to our Catering Manager, Mrs Smith and friends who donated four huge bags of coats, scarfs, hats and gloves to the Street Angels before Christmas. This is a great charity who support the homeless and a very worthy cause.

## **Our Students Are Also Making A Difference.**

Year 7 and 8 students have been working on creating and organising Christmas hampers to send to families in need over the Christmas period during their Pixl Edge lessons. This has been led by Mr Calver who said "that the response has actually been a little overwhelming and the students have really come together for an excellent cause."  
I would just like to thank Mr Calver, Mr Orton, Miss Fraser and Mrs Sharma for their work with the students and our Sixth Formers who also supported this worthy cause.



## Textbook Donations

Just a reminder that we have a box in our main reception where you can donate any textbooks that your child has finished with and these can then be re-used by other students who may not be able to purchase them.

## Our Students' Other Achievements



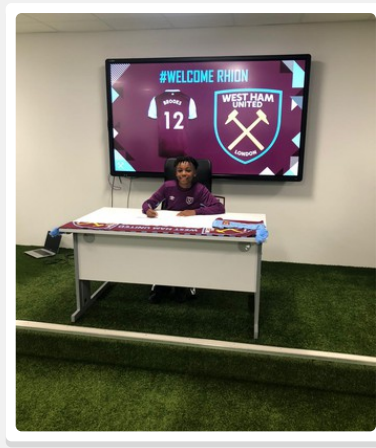
## **Nathan Geist (Year 7)**

Congratulations to Nathan who has recently passed his Level 3 Drum Exam.



## **Emma (Year 9)**

Well done to Emma who showed maturity and acted as an incredible role model delivering a Computer Science lesson to a Year 7 class before the Christmas break. Emma is one of the students regularly sent down to see me when I ask for star pupils, she really is a credit to the school.



## **Rhion Brooks-Francis (Year 7)**

A huge congratulations to Rhion who has recently signed for West Ham United FC U12's. What a great achievement Rhion.

## **Hatice Zaman (Year 9)**

Hatice really is a model student having been appointed several responsibility posts in school. Those being Form Rep, Anti Bullying Ambassador, Senior School Council Member, and Subject Leader for English, Spanish and Food & Textiles. She is also a very talented sportswomen and District Champion for 100 meters. In her Anti-Bullying role Hatice is also planning to invite HRH Prince William and Duchess Kate to the school as they are Anti Bullying Ambassadors. The best of luck Hatice, what an amazing achievement that would be.



## **Tegan Abela (Year 11)**

Tegan has been attending boxing classes at Essex Fight Academy for just over a year. Not only has this improved her fitness but it has also kept her focussed and given her some confidence. Tegan strives to improve every week and as a result has won two awards, the first in July for most improved over the last 6 months and the second being voted as best female boxer of 2019 by her peers. Well done Tegan.

**And finally**

Thank you once again for your continued support for the school. I hope you have found this newsletter informative and interesting.

I look forward to speaking with many of you over the next few months at Parent and Information Evenings.

Once again a happy New Year to you all.

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher