

# Ellesmere**news**

In the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK – for the fourth year running!

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Ellesmere College Newsletter  
Michaelmas 2021





# In the News...

What everyone has been talking about...



Liked by you and 610 others

Ethan in Year 5 brought in his Golf Clubs to give our Year 3 students some putting tips.

#GolfAtEllesmere #GolfAcademy #LowerSchool #ExcelAtEllesmere

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2 HOUR AGO · SEE TRANSLATION



Liked by you and 354 others

It was wonderful to see the whole school turn out for the bi-annual full school photograph on the Terraces!

#LifeAtEllesmere #FullSchoolPhotograph #LifeReady #GillmanSoames

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Liked by you and 285 others

The Ellesmere College Fencing Team were on point with their recent tournament - losing by just one point on count back.

#FencingAtEllesmere #ModernPentathlon #SportAtEllesmere #LifeReady

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Liked by you and 496 others

Well done to our NSCC chess players, Nayeli (Y9) and Ben (Y11) who played against 7 other schools. Out of their 7 games, Nayeli won 4 and Ben won 3.

#ChessAtEllesmere #Chess #CocurricularActivities #LifeReady

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Liked by you and 946 others

Castles, keeps and competitive creations! The Year 8 History 'Castle Competition' produced some outstanding models.

#HistoryAtEllesmere #HistoryIsFun #LifeAtEllesmere #HighPerformanceLearning

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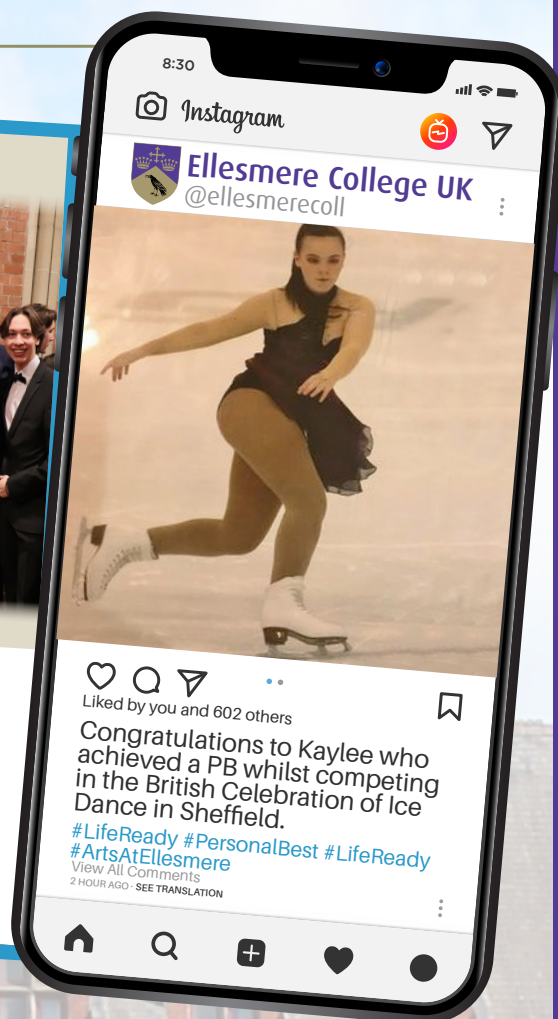


Liked by you and 539 others

Our Sixth Form students looked fabulous as they dressed up for the highly anticipated Sixth Form Christmas Dinner.

#SixthFormAtEllesmere #LifeReady #LifeAtEllesmere #SixthForm

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Liked by you and 602 others

Congratulations to Kaylee who achieved a PB whilst competing in the British Celebration of Ice Dance in Sheffield.

#LifeReady #PersonalBest #LifeReady #ArtsAtEllesmere

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Liked by you and 610 others

We are delighted to have retained our place in the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK - for the fourth year running!

#CricketAtEllesmere #CricketAcademy #SportAtEllesmere #LifeReady

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Liked by you and 536 others

Our Year 8 students had a fascinating visit to the extraordinary Castell Biwmares / Beaumaris Castle on Anglesey during expo week.

#HistoryAtEllesmere #GeographyAtEllesmere #Expeditions #Anglesey

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# Captains of School



## Robyn Welti, Head Girl

Throughout my years at Ellesmere I have indulged in the many opportunities that are on offer. The sheer range of events, tours and activities has seen me eating far too much ice-cream on the beaches of Normandy and Spain, competing with the choir for broadcast on BBC, climbing (and crying) up the Cairngorms, and rolling in the mud on various CCF camps. Being involved in both the sporting and music side of Ellesmere has allowed me to see and form friendships between years, reinforcing the incredible sense of community of Ellesmere College. It has also meant I have been lucky enough to compete in national competitions with both Chamber Choir and the Senior XI hockey team.

I am studying Biology, Chemistry and Music at A-level, with hopes to pursue a career in Medicine at university. Having received an Army Officer Scholarship earlier this year, I'm looking forward to joining the military as a doctor after completing my degree.

As we are on the route back to normality this year, it has been an important goal of mine and Sam's to continue Maddie and Dan's legacy of bringing everyone together in true Ellesmerian spirit. It has been lovely to see the school coming back together in Chapel, assemblies and House events, and even more lovely to see people's faces without masks.

My personal aim is to be a good role model for younger students, and to encourage them to take as many opportunities as they have energy for. Pour effort into whatever makes you happy, and don't be afraid to put yourself forward for experiences, even if you're the only one.

The opportunities and experiences would be nothing without being able to share them with others, so to the students and staff past and present, thank you! It's been a pleasure working with the Prefect team alongside Sam, and to all the previous Captains of School, we are proud to follow in your footsteps.

## Sam Patmore, Head Boy

I joined Ellesmere in 2014, all the way back in Year 6. Throughout my time here I've attempted to get involved as much as possible in all the school has to offer. I've been part of the rugby team for as long as I can remember and I have had the privilege of being in the 1st XV for the past two years, something that has always been a dream of mine. I help to run the school's Medical Society together with Robyn and have participated in the CCF since Year 9. I am studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A level and am hoping to study Medicine at university next year.

As the school is finally returning to normal after two years, my main aim is to help those who may not have had the chance to benefit from the full Ellesmere experience. I believe that embracing all that the school has to offer is the best way to experience Ellesmere and would encourage everyone to get involved in as many opportunities as they can.



Sam Patmore, Head Boy & Robyn Welti, Head Girl





Arts Centre Prefect - Amy Storey-Gibbons



Lower School Captains of Chapel - George Graton and Gabriel McKay



Lower School Captains of Drama - Nina Fisher and Gabriel McKay



Lower School Head Girl, Lucy Chadwick and Head Boy, Nathaniel Clewlow



Senior Captain of Drama - Jacob Cooksley



Senior Captain of Music - Huw Lloyd



Senior Captain of Music - Lucy Conway





# HPL: Helping students become 'Life Ready'

Since 2019, the College has adopted an approach to teaching called High Performance Learning (HPL) and in July 2021, after a rigorous accreditation process, became a member of the Fellowship of World Class Schools.

This places Ellesmere at the heart of an international network of ambitious and innovative schools and ensures that teachers can liaise with colleagues around the globe through a network of online Teachmeets. Last summer, six of our students addressed the annual HPL conference at the University of Warwick and we have been invited to this year's conference as guest speakers once more.

HPL itself is a straightforward approach and is founded on the belief that all students can do better if they are given the chance to become more empathetic, hard-working and mentally agile. If opportunities to develop empathy, hard-work and agility - known as Values, Attributes and Attitudes - are offered in a systematic, coherent manner from Lower School to the Sixth Form, then all students will benefit as they become more resilient, better suited to thinking on their feet and better equipped to work in a team whether that be within or without the classroom; after all, hard work and agility are as important on the playing field as they are in the classroom. Alongside giving students the chance to have a more positive outlook, HPL also focusses on systematically developing skills that are central to academic success such as analysis, linking, meta-thinking and creativity. When these skills - labelled by academic researchers as Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics - are taught explicitly across the College, then students can begin to see patterns in their learning and apply skills learnt in one area when confronted by a challenge in another. Thus, the approach to teaching encouraged by HPL helps students become better equipped to deal with life's challenges.

Being part of the Fellowship of World Class Schools requires self-reflection and the accreditation process served to highlight just how many opportunities were already in place to develop agility, hard-work and empathy. Duke of Edinburgh, CCF, English Speaking Board, Arts Award, the extensive sporting provision, Model United Nations to name but a few, give Ellesmerians so many ways of developing a positive approach. Few students emerge from expos without a tale or two of thinking on their feet and overcoming adversity!

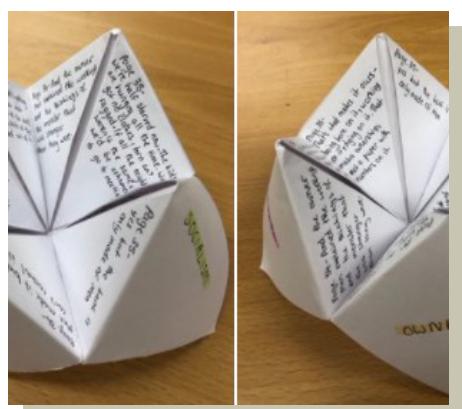


What HPL has done though, is place these opportunities in a framework to ensure that all students across the College have the chance to challenge and push themselves.

Over the past two and a half years, a lot has changed in our classrooms but the HPL approach to teaching meant that the resilience and hard work that remote learning demands were already central to departments' planning. With the return to in-person lessons, so the impact of HPL can be seen across the campus. Displays remind students of the HPL terminology, lessons are tailored to develop analysis and foster creativity and weekly HPL prize-draws, as pioneered by the Economics Department, are held to recognise specific examples of HPL success. Certificates are awarded in assemblies too and members of Common Room meet in HPL Cluster Groups that see teachers from many different departments coming together to share ideas and plan activities. In lessons, the creativity that HPL encourages manifests itself in all manner of ways with students often taking the chance to respond to seemingly dry academic content in wonderfully diverse ways.

All told, HPL is a simple, sensible and powerful approach that will equip our students for success so that when they leave Ellesmere for their bright futures they are 'life ready'.

**Daniel Bottom, Head of English**







# UK Maths Challenge

The UKMT Maths Challenges are a series of fun mathematical competitions that are set up by the UK Maths Trust. The organisation was founded in 1996 with the aim of advancing the education of young people in Mathematics.

There are three main solo challenges that College students participate in, these attract over 700,00 entrants each year;

- The Senior Maths Challenge is for students in Year 12 and takes place in November
- The Intermediate Maths Challenge is for students in Years 10 and 11 (and sometimes some Year 9) and takes place in February
- The Junior Maths Challenge is for students in Years 7 and 8 and takes place in April

Since the Pandemic began in 2020, the challenges have been held online but are carried out in the same way with students being allowed only some plain paper and a pen with no measuring implements permitted.

In November, 30 of our esteemed Year 12 students sat the paper with 15 students achieving Bronze Silver or Gold:

**GOLD:** Leoni Li  
Iris Grigoras

**SILVER:** Hastal Ort  
Oskar Sevcik  
Frank Wu

**BRONZE:** Guy Welti  
Davit Chankseian  
Bryony Lowe  
Aditi Chezian  
Anna Farrow  
Ethan Ho  
Alex Norris  
Lewis Reardon  
Percy Chan  
Amanda Bani

Leoni and Iris have also qualified to compete in the UKMT Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge which was held on 2nd December and are eagerly awaiting their results. Congratulations and well done to all students who took part.

**Gareth Phillips, Teacher of Maths**



Iris Grigoras



Leoni Li

## Year 9 Ethics Convention

As part of their core Religious Studies curriculum, pupils in Year 9 were given the opportunity to choose a topic of interest to explore from an ethical perspective.

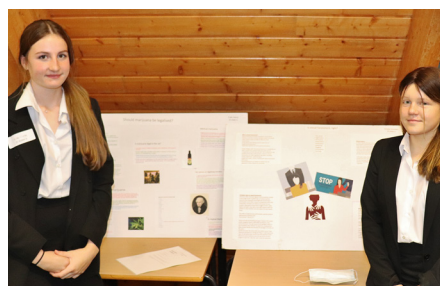
Issues ranged from the ethics of space exploration and colonisation to gender ethics in sport. The convention was a formally assessed event and the students were able to demonstrate their newly acquired philosophical and debating skills. Well done everyone.

**Stephanie Rogers, RS Subject Lead**

**OVERALL WINNER:**  
Natt Kritchanarat

**EXCELLENCE /  
HIGHLY COMMENDED:**  
Bella Spencer-Blow  
Oscar Acher-Rogers  
Cameron Parry

**COMMENDED:**  
Hal Winney  
Adam Jacques  
Thomas Jacques  
Theo MacAndrew  
Hugh Cornwall  
Luca Gallagher  
Marco Wong  
Nayeli Ramos-Redondo  
Joe Holton





# Leadership and Management Qualification



**In 2018 we introduced the ILM Level 3 in Leadership and Management, an internationally recognised qualification for line managers, team leaders and supervisors which offers the perfect development opportunity for aspiring team leaders in whatever context they will be operating.**

An ILM level 3 in Leadership and Management is unit-based and, at Ellesmere, we have produced a bespoke scheme that suits our particular cohort, with the focus being on establishing effective teams, looking at leadership theory and using this in practice, and on leading and motivating a team effectively. Students produce ten short written assignments based on their understanding of leadership theory and their practical application of it.

A key part of the course is taking advice and guidance from more senior leaders and applying it to their own situations, as well as reflecting on their competencies and ways to further develop. Generally, we take students who are NCOs in the CCF, sports coaches and leaders and Scouts / Girl Guiding leaders, but are open to those youngsters working in any level of responsibility for leading others.

We have designed the course as part of the activities programme, with sessions delivered across two Thursday afternoons, split between sessions (CCF etc) where they are using the skills learned and then reflecting on them.

Support is available from Mr Garratt who delivers the taught element of the course and guides completion, though students do generally complete the process with impressive levels of independence.

Now in its fourth year, this innovative course has enabled over 50 students to gain a range of key management skills that can be put into practice, build leadership capabilities and bring out leadership potential, which may be of benefit in College roles such as stepping forward to be a Prefect or a sports team captain. It also strengthens employment applications, supports and enhances UCAS and other course applications, professional development and career progression, and increases self-confidence. The course results in official accreditation which is useful across a range of employment, career and educational settings.

We are proud of our commitment to provide a wealth of opportunities for students, both inside and outside the classroom. This provides another option for students to add to their accomplishments, as part of the extra suite of co-curricular offerings we have at the College.





# Building Lower School presentation skills



It was wonderful to see our younger students stepping up and presenting confidently to their younger peers about a hobby or activity they enjoy - inspiring them to have a go!

Ethan Harrison, Year 5, gave an excellent talk and demonstration about one of his favourite sports, golf, to the Year 3 class. He brought his clubs in and showed them how to putt, how to hold the clubs and talked about his recent tournaments!



## RAF Helicopter Flight



At the end of a great Michaelmas term, the Royal Air Force cadets enjoyed a fantastic experience. All RAF cadets were fortunate enough to take advantage of the opportunity of an air experience flight in a helicopter. This great and privileged opportunity was provided by helicopter pilot instructor Mr John Sweeney out of RAF Shawbury.

Over the previous couple of years, opportunities for RAF cadets having flying experience have been scarce and the cadets were excited to enjoy their 20-minute flights around the school and local area. The cadets were amazed to see the helicopter coming into land on Parry's field at the College and Mr Sweeney and his team did a great job in introducing the cadets to the aircraft and answering all their questions.

With the safety brief completed and in groups of three, they were whisked away in the aircraft and circled around the local area; some being lucky enough to see their homes.

On the final flight, Mr Sweeney flew the helicopter in front of the main College building for what can only be described as an iconic moment, stunning a number of students who were watching from the grounds and within the boarding houses of the school.

Although opportunities to gain flying experience are beginning to become available again, there are still limited places accessible at cadet training facilities and the opportunity provided by Mr Sweeney and RAF Shawbury has been very much appreciated. We hope that this will become an annual opportunity for the RAF CCF cadets and the cadets have offered a big thank you to Mr Sweeney for providing this opportunity. We are so happy that the students were able to end the term on such a high and we hope they continue to enjoy the enriching experiences myself and Pilot Officer Spencer have in store for them over the rest of the year.

**Flt Off J Haycock, RAF Commanding Officer**





# Christmas Carol Services

Sadly, we were unable to invite parents and the local community into College for the highly anticipated annual Carol Services due to the continuing presence of Covid in the local area. As students still took part in the services we decided to film them so that we could share them with our community. Please see links below:

## Senior School Carol Service



## Lower School Carol Service



# Aesop Theatre Company Workshop



During the October Expo week, 40 of our Arts Award students from Years 9 through to 13 were fortunate enough to take part in Aesop's touring theatre workshop.

Using many of their techniques, such as showing emotions in a crowd, name and action and the A & B game, Aesop took students out of their comfort zones with many of them saying how much fun they had and that the workshop has helped to increase their confidence on stage.



Aesop aims to educate young audiences through the powers of entertainment and imagination whilst, at the same time, encouraging students to question and think for themselves. Our student thoroughly enjoyed and look forward to using their newly learned skills on stage!





# Senior School House Plays – Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes

The Senior School House Plays are always hotly contested and never fail to impress!

This year students were briefed with tackling the wonderful world of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes.

## Meynell - Little Red Riding Hood



## Talbot - Cinderella



## Wakeman-Lambart - Snow White



## Woodard - Goldilocks





## Golf Academy in top 5 ISGA ranking



A team of our young esteemed golfers have put on a great performance to reach the area final of a national ISGA matchplay competition.

The team, part of the school's successful Golfing Academy, will now play in the final in January and, if successful there, will move on to take on some of the country's top young golfers in the national finals in April.

Ellesmere College is ranked fifth as a team nationally and have two players who recently finished in the top five in the ISGA Team Championships - Charlie Ashbrook, 17, ranked 5th individual gross, and Marcus Wildblood, 16, who is fourth individual nett.

The team, Charlie, Jonjo and Marcus, recently beat Birkenhead and Kirkham to reach the area final of the Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) Matchplay Tournament, a knockout competition which is split into 20 UK areas. Three students make up each team under a scratch matchplay format.

The ISGA was formed in 2006 and runs a series of events each year involving independent schools across the UK.

## Tennis Academy players leading the way

Tennis is stronger than ever at Ellesmere College thanks to a pool of growing talent, a blossoming reputation and state-of-the-art facilities. We have an increasing number of high level players and are putting on more tournaments than ever before.

The Tennis Academy showcases players on a national level, many of whom are aiming for World Ranking and becoming professional players after they finish their studies. In recent competitions nine students were crowned winners in their categories, as well as the Year 7 to 8 Boys and Girls teams' reaching the Regional Final of the National Schools' Competition, just one step away from the National Final:

- Sofie Glinos became the under 12 singles champion in Herefordshire
- Tom Parr is the under 14 singles champion in Shropshire, as well as being named Shropshire improver of the year.
- Jemimah Choi was crowned the under 16 and ladies singles champion and under 18 and ladies double champion in Wales.
- Emily Males and Skye Thomas became the under 11 singles champions in Shropshire and Cheshire respectively.
- Guy Welti became the under 16 doubles champion in Shropshire
- Alfie Edwards became the under 11 champion and under 12 champion for singles and doubles in Shropshire.
- Aditi Chezhian was named the under 18 and ladies doubles champion in Wales.



- Owen Critchell and Jemimah Choi became the under 18 mixed doubles champions in Wales.
- Jacob Popplewell won the Cheshire U16 Doubles.

Stephen Welti, Director of Tennis, said, "This year we have seen an increase in the number of people playing at a much higher level. Rather than one or two outstanding players, we have got a whole squad of them. It is better than we have ever had and it is fantastic to watch. As a developing sport in the school we have just climbed a big step and many students are showing incredible dedication, improvement and talent in their tennis."





# Ellesmere Equestrians

Congratulations to the Ellesmere College Equestrian Team who qualified earlier in the year to compete at the NSEA championships at Keysoe Equestrian Centre, a competitive event with thousands of qualified riders from across the UK.



In the 80cm Showjumping Tilly, Jake, Immy and Bella came 13th out of 46 teams with beautiful double clears from Tilly & Bella!

In the 90cm Showjumping Jake, Oliver, Immy and Bella came 9th out of 40 teams with Jake and Bella leading the team score with lovely clear rounds.

In the 90cm 'Jumping with Style' class Bella jumped another very stylish clear round and in the 1m 'Jumping with Style' class Oliver (who also qualified as an individual by winning his qualifier) came 3rd individually following a superb round on his horse, Paddington! Well done!

All the competitors thoroughly enjoyed competing in the championships and showed excellent team spirit and sportsmanship throughout!

# Ellesmere named in Top 100 UK Cricket Guide for fifth year running

Ellesmere College has once again batted a full century by retaining its place in the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK - for the fifth year running.

We have been selected from a record number of entries to feature in the prestigious 2022 Cricketer Schools Guide as a result of providing the best cricketing opportunities available nationally.

This is a proud record for us, which dates back to 2018, firmly establishing the College among the cricketing elite and underlines our highly successful Cricket Academy as a centre of excellence for students keen to develop their talents in cricket alongside their academic journey.

The guide, compiled by the world's number one cricket magazine, The Cricketer, lists the top 100 Senior and top 50 Prep and Junior schools in the UK which are selected against an extensive set of criteria including facilities, coaching and fixture programmes.





# Lower School Rudolph Run

In the last week of term, our Lower School students donned their trainers to raise much needed funds for Nightingale House Hospice.

Raising over £1,200, the inaugural 'Rudolph Run 2021' saw festive jumpers galore as our younger students tried to complete as many circuits of the Rudolph Run route as possible, ably led by 'Santa'. This was followed by some well-earned and much enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies!

Well done to everyone who took part and helped organise the event.



## Headmaster's Council (HMC) Student Scholarship Scheme

We were delighted to welcome Iris Grigoras and Davit Chankseliani to our Sixth Form in September after they were awarded scholarship places to attend Ellesmere through the HMC Student Scholarship scheme.

Students are selected for scholarships through entry procedures organised in their own countries by nationally accredited agencies and interviews conducted in English in national capitals by members of the HMC Projects. Selection is based on results in the entry tests, a strong academic record and good references from the students' own schools, proficiency in written and spoken English and performance at interview. An important criterion is the evident readiness of the student to adapt to different country and to contribute through his or her own interests and enthusiasm to the life of the British school.





Ever since Middle School I have admired the UK educational system because of its rigour and high teaching standards, so, when a friend of mine from high school told me about the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to do my Sixth Form years here, I immediately jumped at the opportunity.

Though many boarding schools seemed appealing to me at the time, what really made Ellesmere College stand out for me was the fact that, not only does it offer the IB programme, which is internationally renowned, but also because it focuses on so much more than just academics. As someone who loves being involved in as many activities as possible that can benefit my interests and also help me find new passions, I knew that this would be the place that would truly allow me to flourish. Though at first, it felt like a drastic transition to go from studying fifteen subjects to just six, I have come to greatly appreciate that I can now focus more on each individual subject I study.

I am really enjoying my studies here, not only thanks to the amazing faculty who manage to make every lesson both informative and interactive, but also thanks to the many amazing people I have had the chance to become friends with. It is truly an amazing opportunity to be at an international school and be surrounded by so many people from different backgrounds who have a variety of interests. I have become part of Ellesmere's Drama Club, which has represented a great opportunity to rediscover my passion for acting and also develop an interest in technical theatre, specifically lighting design. Moreover, as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, I have picked up a new sport, netball, and also managed to continue volunteering for a student-run magazine.

Following my Sixth Form years at Ellesmere, I hope to continue studying in the UK and pursue a Law degree, with hopefully a year abroad in France, so that I continue to gain more insights into global culture.



Iris Grigoros



Davit Chankseliani

The desire to challenge myself and to explore new opportunities were the main reasons why I decided to apply for the Headmaster's Council Scholar Programme. It turned out to be the best decision I have ever made, as I got selected as one of the scholars and I was given a chance to start a completely new chapter of my life.

I chose Ellesmere College as a place where I would spend the most important part of my educational process because of the IB diploma course, school's architecture, and informative videos of teachers talking about their subjects on the school website. Funnily, I think some kind of fate played part in the whole situation as well. I first came in touch with Ellesmere College while attending an educational fair with my mother, in my home city, Tbilisi, in 2011, before I even knew about the HMC programme. I remember liking the school very much back then, so coming across it years later was a nice coincidence, which turned out life-changing at the same time.

Studying at Ellesmere College, and in the UK in general, has been a great experience so far. The IB diploma course has turned out to be rather enjoyable and refreshing. I also got to know myself better, as I was given many opportunities to explore different areas of interest, such as the Arts Award, several writing competitions, Drama Club, UK Maths Challenge, etc. In my opinion, the best part of studying in the UK is the diversity - meeting new people, who all come from different places, and sharing experiences with them. It helps you to become an open-minded person with a global mindset, all while making new friends.

I believe diversity is what unites us, so after Ellesmere College, I would like to study International Relations and Languages. I would like to explore the world, but I also plan to return to my country, Georgia, and utilize my knowledge there. I look forward to my remaining time at Ellesmere College and everything that comes after it.





# OE Rugby 2019 v 2020



On Saturday 4th of September, approximately 40 Old Ellesmerians returned to College to take part in the first annual OE v OE rugby match; a game that replaces the previously traditional fixture of the OEs v the 1st XV, which has not taken place since 2018 due to a change in RFU regulations.

This was the first match to be played on the 1st XV pitch in over two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the boys could not have looked prouder:

A friendly, but highly contested, match was played. Many of the players hadn't picked up a ball since they left school but this didn't show in the skill and speed throughout.

The 2019 team came out victorious with a score of 29-12

## 2019

### TRYS

Jed Corbett x 3  
Sam Nieto  
Harry Hayes

### CONVERSIONS

Will Smith x 2

(Kit kindly designed and provided by Akuma sport)

## 2020

### TRYS

Toby Freer-Carmichel  
Trafford Dixon

### CONVERSIONS

Jac Jones





# OE v 1st XI Hockey



As the boys played Rugby, across the road our current 1st XI girls were playing Hockey against the previous year's team.

Another friendly yet highly contested match was played with the teams drawing 3-3. Well done to all who took part.



## OE Events

Following a quiet couple of years, in terms of events, it was great to finally head back to the Antelope in London and meet up with a great crowd of Old Ellesmerians. Our special guest, Mr John Cowley, attracted OEs of all ages, which was so lovely to see.

If you would like to come along to one of our upcoming events, then please contact Olivia Beckett by email: [olivia.beckett@ellesmere.com](mailto:olivia.beckett@ellesmere.com)



Thursday 19th May,  
6.30pm  
City Drinks  
The Antelope, Belgravia,  
London

Designed for the whole Ellesmere Community, whether OEs or parents, past or present. This is an informal drinks event that attracts a good mix of attendees. Held each term at The Antelope with light refreshments provided.

Saturday 4th June, 11.00am  
Old Ellesmerian Lunch  
Ellesmere College

OEs, their guests, and members of the College community, past and present, are invited to a short Chapel service at 11.00am, followed by lunch at 12.00pm in the College's Dining Hall.

The annual Art Exhibition will also be taking place on this date along with the Hope House Car Rally. It promises to be a great afternoon.





# Lizzie Martin - Meynell 2019



After leaving Ellesmere College Sixth Form in 2019, I was invited to work for Jenny Sterlin, Actress and Creative Director of DoubleDeckerProductions, in New York City. Living in America for the first time and mixing with a current artistic circle was an unforgettable experience. The purpose for my trip abroad was to help Turlough McConell's production of 'Eugene O'Neill: An Irish American Boyhood' come to fruition for the Origin 1st Irish Theatre Festival, held across the many islands of the state. The opportunities offered to me during my time in the States are ones I shall not forget quickly, and I hope to build upon relationships forged there after my degree at university.

In early 2020, there had been publicity for a new, contemporary drama to be performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe that summer. The play was to portray the ordeal of a young woman, attempting to write a play with her estranged childhood friend. Her strait-laced, pragmatic creative approach clashed with that of her friend Sean's 'holistic', psychedelic nature to the point of drastic action and conflict. This production was created for more mature audiences. Not only would this production take place in the world's largest art festival – the springboard for careers like that of Alan Rickman, Rowan Atkinson, and more recently Ella Hickson, but this show would take place in-person for a live audience. The thought of such an opportunity after lockdown's creative drought was enough to encourage me to pursue it, regardless of the festival's daunting prominence. After a month-long process of auditions and call-backs, executive producer Lewis Forman called to inform me that I had been selected for the main role of 'Lemon', one in a cast of 5.

Rehearsals in a time of a pandemic meant an entirely different process than previously experienced: sessions of spontaneous, synergetic physicality, in 2020, were replaced with more structured, director-led days of distanced run-throughs. Still the play was created, the characters formed from the pages of the script, fleshed out from countless hours of internal searching and company-led exercises. It could well be a mystery for those not involved, as to how those rehearsals mutated into the final, fully developed show, yet everyone included in the production team will be aware of the time put in by the producers, stage managers, tech assistants, costume manager and more, that made it possible.

The result was not what we had anticipated. We knew we had a 50-minute play that included an rendition of 'that' dance from Pulp Fiction, a hypothetical, half-written script with sections out of a gangster movie, and the increasingly complicated, plutonic relationship between a young man and woman; but we did not know that each night we would play to a full house, receive 5 star reviews, and for myself to be shortlisted for an award (Best Individual Performance) on my debut is something I will never forget.

My performance of the role of Lemon lead me to be scouted for a principle role in Bedlam Theatre's 'Rose of Eyam', adapted and directed by Benji Sumrie. Show dates are 18th, 19th, 20th February at St. Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.



# Claudia Hastings – Woodard 2021



We are delighted for Claudia Hasting who has recently signed a formal 'National Letter of Intent' (NLI) to attend Limestone University in South Carolina on a 4-year golf scholarship with the 'Saints':

It was quite daunting at first looking at Universities in America and I had calls with several University coaches to hear more about their golf programme and the facilities on offer and I worked with a specialist golf scholarship consultant who has experience in the American college sports system and a network of contacts to help find me the right fit. They guided me through the registration with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The college system in the US is very structured with access to world class resources, elite facilities and respected coaches. This makes it an enormously beneficial pathway for aspiring athletes and elite amateur golfers from all over the world to compete for golf scholarships.

I enjoyed an extensive junior golf career, achieving top 3 finishes in over 12 Junior Opens and claimed victory at 3 including the best gross score at Wallasey Golf Club in 2020. I won the Lancashire Girls Millennium trophy 2 years running and I was the winner of the 'Champion of champions' Junior Invitational at Lytham Green Drive Golf Club in 2019. In 2020 I qualified at Telford Golf Club to play in the Champions Week Final of the Junior European Open held at Alcaidesa golf club in Spain - which took place in November 2021 due to Covid-19. It was an amazing experience making the cut and finishing in 9th place. The tournament was televised on Sky Sports Golf and I got to meet Nick Dougherty at the presentation dinner.

I now play for the Lancashire County women's 'A' team and I am part of the ladies' scratch team at my home club, Royal Birkdale, helping them win the Lancashire interclub scratch trophy in 2020 at Royal Lytham Golf Club. In 2021 I won the Royal Birkdale Ladies Centenary Salver with the best gross of 1 over par. I finished 4th at the Faldo series in Wales, playing 3 rounds at Ruddlan Golf Club.... finished in the top 10 at the Comboy Scratch Trophy at Delamere Golf Club and finished T25 at the Irish Ladies Strokeplay Championships in Baltray with scores of 77 75 79.

I feel very privileged to have attended Ellesmere. The school's extensive sports facilities are exceptional and the performance programme at the Golf Academy gave me the opportunity to practice regularly and develop my game whilst undertaking my academic studies. Even during lockdown, I was able to practice every day and make use of the 9-hole golf course and the indoor swing room if bad weather. The gym was also a bonus as I built up my fitness with a strength and conditioning programme designed and supervised by one of the fitness coaches. As a team we played competitively in the ISGA at a number of different courses around the country competing against other schools. I had huge support from my teachers, who were always very helpful especially, if coursework deadlines clashed with any golf commitments.

I am so excited to have this opportunity to spend the next 4 years in the States which will provide me with the greatest opportunity to take my game to the next level. I will be coached by the Women's Head Coach Trey Taylor, in-between studying for a degree in Sports Management.

I'm sure I will miss the UK and my coaching sessions with PGA Professional Tim Hastings (Dad), who's played an important role in my development.

This summer I will be competing in England, Scotland, Ireland & Wales at the Women's Amateur Championships before heading off to America in August.

The dream..... to play on the LPGA tour.





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