

Ellesmere news



Students launch mental health support scheme

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Captains of School
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Drama success for Mariella
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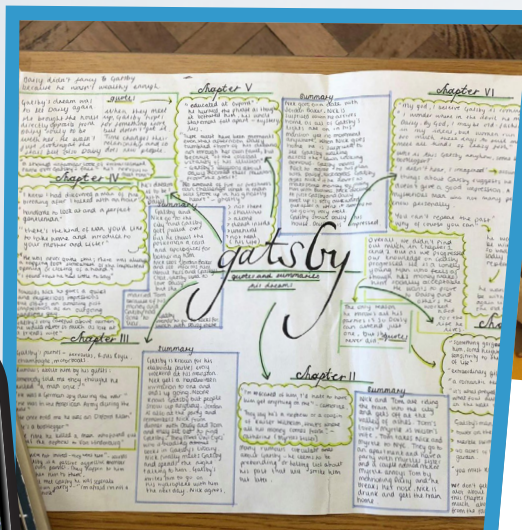
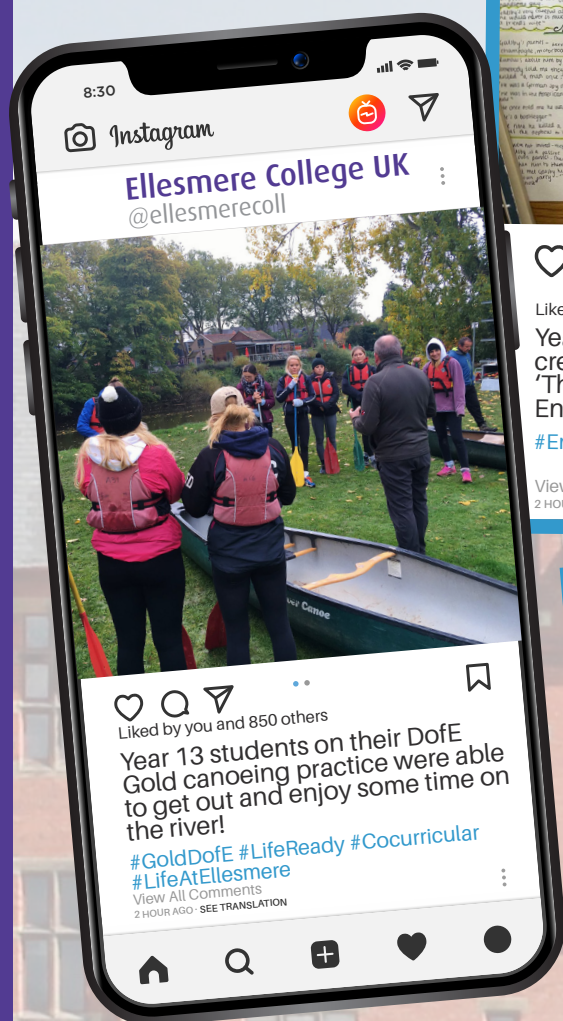


Facemask Project
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In the News...

What everyone has been talking about...



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Year 12 students have been working creatively to capture a big picture of 'The Great Gatsby' in their A Level English class

#EnglishAtEllesmere #HPL #ALevels #Creativity

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Liked by you and 526 others

Media Students took part in a live webinar organised by the British Film Institute (BFI) as part of the annual BFI London Film Festival

#MediaAtEllesmere #BritishFilmInstitute
#OpportunitiesAtEllesmere #BFI

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Open Water

Campionato Italiano Assoluto

18-24 Agosto 2020 - Piombino (LI) - Maremma Grosseto (GR)

BY DAY

DOCUMENTS

15 KM

Report

CLASSIFICATION

POS	RANK	NAT	SURNAME AND NAME	TIME
1178	ITA	PALTRINIERI G.	1:52:09	
2105	FRA	OLIVIER M.	1:52:23	
3187	ITA	ACERENZA D.	1:52:29	
4103	GBR	PARDOE H.	1:53:00	
5181	ITA	SANZULLO M.	1:53:03	
6143	ITA	VERANI D.	1:53:03	
7201	ITA	RUSSO E.	1:53:07	
8121	ESP	MURCIA A.	1:53:08	
9128	ITA	OCCHIPINTI A.	1:53:09	
10137	ITA	GUIDI M.	1:53:25	
11190	ITA	GHEITINI F.	1:53:42	
12127	ITA	FURLAN M.	1:53:42	
13228	FRA	WALLART J.	1:53:55	
14135	ITA	DALU F.	1:53:56	
15107	FRA	DUREUX S.	1:54:18	
16120	ESP	BELMONTE G.	1:54:19	
17117	BEL	VANHUYLS L.	1:54:22	

Liked by you and 285 others

Titans swimmer Hector Pardoe achieved 4th place in the Italian Open Water Championships - beating a number of Olympians!

#EllesmereTitans #SportAtEllesmere
#PathToSuccess #SwimmingScholarships

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Liked by you and 496 others

Congratulations to Year 11 Ronan Phillips who came 1st in the nationwide writing competition 'The Geoffrey Chaucer Trust'!

#EnglishAtEllesmere #GeoffreyChaucerTrust
#AcademicScholarships #HPL

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Liked by you and 946 others

Many congratulations to the Ellesmere College Equestrian Team for their recent 1st and 2nd place successes at the Beaver Hall Equestrian Centre

[#EquestrianAtEllesmere](#) [#NSEA](#)
[#SportAtEllesmere](#) [#ModernPentathlon](#)

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Liked by you and 539 others

Great to see teamwork, leadership, initiative and confidence building amongst the students as they begin their CCF journeys in Year 9

[#CCF](#) [#Teambuilding](#) [#LifeAtEllesmere](#)
[#Resilience](#)

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Instagram



Ellesmere College UK
[@ellesmerecoll](#)

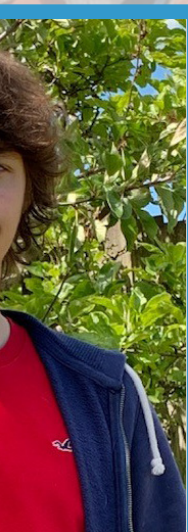


Liked by you and 602 others

We're delighted to be featured in The English Education as one of their 'Best British Boarding Schools' for International Students

[#GlobalSchool](#) [#BritishBoarding](#)
[#BritishEducation](#) [#GlobalOutlook](#)

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2 student
second in a
petition by
ist

[Chaucer](#)



Liked by you and 610 others

Lower School students got creative with their Autumn Competition entries!

[#LifeAtEllesmere](#) [#LowerSchool](#)
[#HPL](#) [#CreativeArts](#)

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Liked by you and 536 others

Our Music Scholars celebrated impressive ABRSM certificates and results!

[#MusicAtEllesmere](#) [#ABRSM](#)
[#MusicScholarships](#) [#LifeAtEllesmere](#)

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Year 13 Leavers – March 2020

Our Year 13 leavers congregated on the Terraces on their final day at College, before the government enforced Covid-19 lockdown.



Meet our new Captains of School



Daniel Cooper – Head Boy

I joined Ellesmere's Lower School in 2010 at the age of seven and I was Head Boy of Lower School in Year 8. I am honoured to be a Captain of the whole school this year.

I am currently studying A Levels in Business, Economics and Geography and would love to be involved in the business world, primarily in sales/management.

Ellesmere has given me so many opportunities that I simply cannot condense them. I am in the process of completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award after doing my Bronze and Silver throughout Middle School. I have been a keen footballer all my life and joined the Ellesmere Football Academy when it launched in 2017. Unfortunately, my progress was halted due to a knee injury which led to me having three operations last summer. Following a great rehabilitation programme and a lot of hours in the College's gym, I am back on the football field and my goal is to play for the Academy and Ellesmere's 1st XI Football team this year.

This is a very strange time for everyone involved at the school and I feel that no previous or future Captain of School will have the same experience as myself and Maddie. In my tenure as Head Boy my goal is to bring everyone closer together... while remaining two metres apart. I am aware that people can feel isolated in these unprecedented times but I feel it is my duty to bring everyone closer and try to prevent this from happening. Another personal aim would be to encourage younger students at the College to grasp all of the opportunities available to them and to be a positive role model for them - this is hugely important to me as I remember how much I have always looked up to the Captains of School during my time at the College.

Maddie Freer-Carmichael – Head Girl

Since joining Ellesmere in Lower School I have involved myself in the wide range of activities that the College has to offer, ranging from acting in school plays to joining the CCF in Year 9. My highlights, however, have to be competing with the school orchestra and choir in several competitions, even getting to perform at the Notre Dame and playing for the 1st Hockey team since Year 11. Playing hockey at Ellesmere gave me the opportunity to represent my county for the last five years, which has been a great experience.

I am studying Biology, Chemistry and History at A Level and am hoping to pursue Medicine at university next year.

During my tenure as Head Girl I intend to help and support our students through this very strange time, this is a year like no other and I would like to play my part in bringing everyone together in true Ellesmerian spirit.

Examination Results

The summer of 2020 was a stressful time for all students expecting examination results. All exams were cancelled nationwide due to the closure of schools with teaching staff using a set of criteria to set suggested grades for each student. The grades were then processed through an algorithm set by the government and grades set from this. Upon the release of the A Level results it was apparent that the system was unfair and illogical and didn't reflect the students' capabilities accurately.



The government decided fairly quickly that the grades would be replaced by those that teachers had suggested but during the time this took, some students had already lost their places at first choice universities. However, the reversal of grades was very much welcomed and students once again celebrated an excellent year of results.

The 2020 Ellesmere International Baccalaureate (IB) results saw 100% pass rate with 57% achieving 30 or more points. The pass level to gain the full diploma is 24 points, with an award over 30 points being equivalent of A*AA grades at A Level.

The BTEC group of six students, who opted to complete the Extended Diploma - equal to 3 A Levels – also achieved a 100% pass rate. Over 50% of grades achieved were at Distinction star or Distinction with one student attaining the highest mark possible, three Distinction Stars. The average

outcome for the BTEC Extended Diploma by Ellesmere students is equivalent to ABB at A level.

The A level results were equally impressive with 100% pass rate and routes secured to university by those who chose it. A number of students secured impressive A*/A in all subjects and destinations include Music at Cambridge (Homerton College), Medicine at Birmingham, Chemistry at Birmingham, Classics at Durham, Law at Cardiff, Mathematics at Imperial College London and Bath, Music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Physiotherapy at Liverpool, Philosophy at Newcastle, and Product Design Engineering at Nottingham University.

GCSE results saw a 94% pass rate with 46% of grades in the top 9-7 range (A*/A). There were some particularly impressive performances in the 9/8 (A*/A) band.

Cambridge University place is music to Amber's ears



Recent Year 13 Leaver, Amber Coxill, has won a place at Cambridge University to pursue her dream of a career in Music. Amber's dream of studying at Cambridge was briefly put on hold, however, after the recent A Level controversy saw her results marked down and her Cambridge place rejected - a situation which was resolved after an anxious seven day wait.

"I'm so happy to be going to Cambridge, it's been my dream for a long time. I visited the university on a trip when I was in Year 10 and ever since I've been desperate to go, I'm over the moon," she said. "There was a concern over my A Level results but I finally got the correct CAG grades and was accepted into Homerton College - it was a horrible time but I'm glad it all got sorted out."

Over the summer Amber also celebrated winning third place in the National Flash Fiction Youth Competition organised by the University of Chester with her composition 'Thursday' - an emotive story about a couple's life journey after their chance meeting in a cafe.

Ellesmere College featured strongly in this year's competition with two students being Highly Commended - Leo Buckle, Year 12, for his composition 'Shopping' and Alixandra Heasmer-Jones, Year 11, for her story 'The Games'.

Amber's composition can be read by visiting: **National Flash Fiction Youth Competition**



High Performance Learning – The English department gets in touch with the future

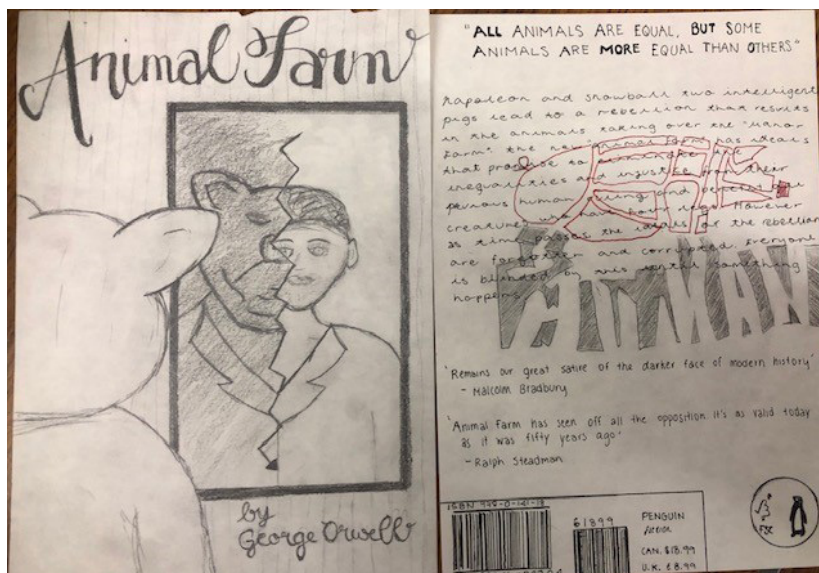
For the past eighteen months, Ellesmere College has followed an exciting, evidence-based approach to teaching called High Performance Learning (HPL), focusing on a more creative and holistic view of learning in order to develop advanced cognitive performance, and a set of behaviours and attitudes that will create a more rounded work- and life-ready student.

'Tomorrow's schools will need to help students think for themselves and join others, with empathy, in work and citizenship. They will need to help students develop a strong sense of right and wrong, and sensitivity to the claims that others make'. These are the words of Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills at the OECD. He suggests that schools must shift rapidly from the transmission of knowledge as an end in itself to the development of what have become known as '21st Century skills', something that HPL consciously encourages.

In the English Department, HPL means that familiar works of prose, drama and poetry are approached in innovative and imaginative ways. Adult visitors to the English classrooms will encounter an approach that is quite different to their own school days. As in the world beyond, how we learn is as important as what we learn.

To develop a student's creativity, it is not an uncommon sight to witness a Shakespearean comedy re-worked into a silent movie, a gritty novel about 1930's America re-imagined in play dough, or the heart-rending tale of a woman watching narwhal being hunted in the Arctic being depicted in a stop-motion animation. In fact, one of the key tenets of HPL, that students need the space to fail in order to learn from their mistakes, means that they are given a lot of freedom when it comes to how they respond to a literary piece. Since the advent of HPL, A-Level Literature and International Baccalaureate students have become familiar with blogs and digital notebooks as they choose how to record their learning in the medium that will best allow them to revise.

Another area where HPL has changed things, is the classroom space itself. All of our English rooms have been equipped with cutting-edge touchscreen plasma displays, which have been kindly funded by Enhance Ellesmere donations. In the strange times caused by the coronavirus, live performances are becoming uncomfortably distant memories, but watching 'The Duchess of Malfi' reach its shocking denouement on a wide screen is still a visceral experience and leads to profound debate about the nature of justice and revenge, thereby developing students' concern for society. Taking a Year 10 class on a



tour of the various settings they will encounter in the course is made possible by Google Earth and sees us visit California as we trace Lennie and George's footsteps in 'Of Mice and Men', before heading back across the Atlantic and north of the border for 'The Scottish Play', then to the Midlands for 'An Inspector Calls' and across to Ypres and Sarajevo for war poetry. We then head east as we look at literary nonfiction and stop off in Bhutan, Pakistan and Hong Kong before crossing the Pacific and reaching Greenland, then heading south to Somalia and Nigeria. A simple tour like this shows students how the texts they study span the globe.

From hi-tech to low-tech, play dough to plasma screens, English lessons cover the familiar literature from the past, but do so with an eye to preparing students for the future.

School Captains



Lower School Head Boy and Head Girl –
Bella Spencer-Blow and Christopher Astbury



Sixth Form Captains of Music –
Lucy Arrowsmith and Kizzy Lumley-Edwards



Middle School Captains of Music –
Grace Warren and Huw Lloyd



Lower School Captains of Music –
Kyara Heward and Freddie Heasmer-Jones



Lower School Captains of Drama –
Isabella Moore and Oscar Archer Rogers



Lower School Chapel Prefect –
Finlay Baggaley



Captain of Hockey –
Georgina Dawson



Vice-Captain of Hockey –
Alanah O'Brien



Captain of Rugby –
Ben Rowley



Vice-Captain of Rugby –
Joe Patmore



Jebb Scholarship recipient revealed

Congratulations to Josh Millington, who has joined the College from Lakelands Academy as the first Jebb Scholar, in recognition of 'his selfless support to the community'.



The Jebb Scholarship honours Ellesmere born Eglantyne Jebb, celebrating 100 years since she founded 'Save the Children' with her sister Dorothy.

Applicants for the scholarship were invited to demonstrate their support and commitment to the community through volunteering, community projects, or raising money for local charities. Josh is a Scout Young Leader, giving his

weekends and evenings to helping young people to do activities usually unavailable to them, such as sailing, caving and mountaineering. "I am thrilled to be awarded the Jebb Scholarship and think it will allow me so many amazing opportunities." Said Josh, "I hope to fully engage myself in every opportunity available to me and take away lots of incredible experiences, knowledge and friendships. I am looking forward to studying A Levels and becoming more involved in sport. I'm extremely interested in pursuing a career in the RAF, so the Combined Cadet Force at Ellesmere College really appealed to me."

Eglantyne Jebb's great-great nephew Richard Jebb, offered warm congratulations to Josh and said: "I am delighted to hear that Ellesmere College has set up a scholarship in Eglantyne's name."

"Her life's work was all about permitting children - regardless of their background, religion or nationality - to reach their full potential, and this scholarship embodies her ideals in a very tangible fashion. It is also very welcome that a school located less than a mile from her birthplace and with which she would have been personally familiar has been able to set this up in the centenary year of Save the Children's foundation."

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Expo week is often the highlight of the Michaelmas Term for all year groups at Ellesmere - and although most of this year's activities were curtailed somewhat, the Year 13 students on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold canoeing practice were able to get out and enjoy some time on the river!

Resilience, team work and some very wet socks saw the students through their three day training session on the river!



Mariella heads for the limelight



A Drama and Music Scholar is living her dream after being accepted by both the National Youth Theatre and the British Youth Musical Theatre companies.

Acceptance to the National Youth Theatre (NYT) opens the door for Year 12 student, Mariella Steele, to the possibility of performing in London's West End, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and on the company's continental tours. The British Youth Musical Theatre (BYMT) place will see Mariella appear in an innovative all-female production of Cabaret Macabre in Plymouth later this year - depending on the Covid-19 situation. Both theatre companies are difficult to get into as competition for places is tough and standards are extremely high.

"I have auditioned for the NYT for the last three years - so you might say it's third time lucky," said Mariella, "I did my first audition at 15, and this made me realise that there is a lot of competition and it's difficult to be offered a place. Some people have had several attempts to get in and many never make it at all.

"I'm really excited about it but disappointed that the three-week course due to take place in London won't be happening as planned because of the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be a week's Zoom course which I will be 'attending' and hopefully the physical course will go ahead later.

"The NYT put on productions in the West End, at Edinburgh Fringe and on continental tours, offering great opportunities - it's all very exciting.

"Being accepted by the BYMT is also a great honour and I'm hoping Cabaret Macabre will be able to go ahead as planned in Plymouth later in the year. It's a creative new show with an all-female cast and is being staged as part of Mayflower 400 - celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's historic voyage to the New World."

Rachel Schubert, Director of Drama, said: "This is fantastic news. I am delighted for Mariella and know there will be exciting times ahead in relation to both NYT and BYMT. Both are very difficult to get into and competition for places is very high, Mariella has done very well indeed - she should be very proud of herself."

Top award received for Arts provision

We are delighted to have been re-accredited with our second Artsmark Platinum Award for our continued commitment to providing high quality arts and cultural experiences for pupils in and around the community.

Arts Council England, praised Ellesmere for continually developing creative partnerships with many organisations and local schools. Providing assistance with performances and involving schools in a variety of music, drama, dance and art related activities.

With these organisations, College pupils have held a range of creative arts workshops, music concerts, storytelling sessions and have also raised money for a broad range of charities including the British Red Cross and Hope House charities.

Rachel Schubert, Director of Drama at Ellesmere College, said she was delighted with the award. "We're very excited about being awarded Arts Mark Platinum Status for the second time in succession. Having received Platinum Status initially in 2015 - and as the only independent school in the country to be awarded it - our re-submission has been an ongoing focus for all the Arts subjects since. We have consistently worked in partnership to provide young people from a number of different schools - as well as our own - these amazing opportunities to experience extended projects in Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Media outside our own school gates in the community.

Artsmark said Ellesmere College had successfully engaged staff and parents in artistic performances and concerts and that the number of pupils engaging with arts and cultural activities is ever increasing year on year impacting on student wellbeing, development and understanding of the world around them.

Our new Arts brochure can be accessed via the College website.





Tom Webb – Arts Centre Manager

Hello, my name is Tom Webb and I am the new Arts Centre Manager at Ellesmere.



I've been working in the theatre industry for a little over eight years, starting my 'theatrical journey' as the Personal Assistant to a disabled Stage Manager at Latitude Festival, working with the Almeida Theatre. The experience pushed me towards technical theatre, where I started my education at Lewisham Southwark College in London, studying Production Arts and Stage Management. I showed an immediate interest in stage and production management and threw myself into my course which included a vast variety; from making a Halloween scare event on a shoe string budget, to the end of term show, 'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot', which led to me achieving a Distinction.

I then attended Drama School at Rose Burford College, where I undertook my BA (Hons) in Stage Management. During my time at university I served on the Student Union as the Welfare and Disability Officer. In this role I created and ran alternative disabled friendly events, I also created the Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic (BAME) Students' Network.

Throughout my education I have worked at various theatres around the country including Jermyn Street Theatre, as part of the stage management team on Noel Coward's 'Tonight at 8:30' - reviewed by the Independent as "an extraordinary feat of team work". I worked at the renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival for eight weeks building and running venues, working with Guinness World Record holders and Russian dancers, and toured England with the Nissan Juke as a holographic technician.

My ambitions have changed over the years - when I was five I wanted to be Batman but it wasn't to be! When I left university I was drawn towards mental health and education, I decided to study a Masters Degree in Drama Therapy, using stage management as a form of therapy, I was keen to ensure that whatever I did was geared towards aiding mental health and ensuring future practitioners are as prepared mentally as they are academically.

Now that I have my feet on the ground at Ellesmere, one of my goals is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to get involved with technical theatre, understanding that there's much more to a performance than the people who appear on stage!



Getting Back Into the Swing of Things: ISGA Golf Academy Success

It took only a matter of days into the new Michaelmas Term before three members of the Ellesmere Golf Academy – under the watchful eye of new Golf Academy Coach Robert Ashbrook - were out performing all the other schools in the first inter school fixture - the Independent Schools Golf Association Cup at Sunningdale Heath in London on the 21st September.



It was a beautiful day on a very short course - 15 par 3s which was unusual. Claudia Hastings, Jonjo Ashbrook and Charlie Ashbrook played as a team and as individual scorers. It was a great day of golf with Charlie finishing up 3rd overall. A brilliant start and so pleasing to be able to enter the event.

Following that we had a comfortable win over Shrewsbury School in the first round of the ISGA Schools matchplay competition, which was played at Hill Valley Golf Club on Wednesday 30th September.

Most recently, the team - again consisting of Claudia Hastings, Charlie Ashbrook and Jonjo Ashbrook - were at The Berkshire Golf Club playing in the HMC Singles tournament. The field was very strong but Ellesmere College achieved their best result of the season so far, with a second place finish in the team event. It's great to see our Golf Academy players competing so strongly against these schools and congratulations to the players.

Harriet and Annie are jumping for joy after win at Bolesworth!

Harriet Otter, a Year 12 student, raced to her biggest win to date when she and her 14-year-old mare Annie jumped clear to win the Just For Schools 1.10m Individual Final held at Bolesworth Castle in Cheshire in the National Schools Championship.

Harriet is a member of the College's Equestrian team and other notable achievements include an appearance with Annie at Hickstead, the Mecca of showjumping, last year.

Harriet said: "It was amazing to win at Bolesworth - a great experience. I always go in the ring with the state of mind that we are going to win but there were so many good riders there from across the country, we were competing against 17 other horses and riders on the day.

"All the nerves and excitement built up. I jumped early in the class, I think I was third in the ring, and then had to wait and watch everyone else hoping we

had done enough. I was so happy with the way Annie performed.

"I'm really building up vital experience and would like showjumping to be my career. I have some amazing friends in the business, work with some brilliant trainers, and this is the biggest event we've won - so fingers crossed for the future. This win is a massive one for me.

"We won the event on the Tuesday and returned on Friday and Sunday to take part in other non-school national events. Annie competed on a bigger course and she jumped really well again. I also rode my new gelding, Galip, and we had a great week with some good placings."

Harriet has been riding since she was about four, progressing through pony classes to horses and acquired Annie from her brother about three years ago. She has two more horses and started riding more competitively when she was given Annie.





Aiming High! Two Ellesmere students trial for England Hockey



Millie Forster and Harry Lloyd-Brown, both in Year 12, have been selected to trial for England Hockey and attended the England National Age Group camps over half-term.

Both students joined Ellesmere for the High Performance Hockey Programme which has produced Commonwealth Games and England international hockey players.

Millie said: "It's a great feeling to be selected for the England trial and I will be giving it everything. It's a

wonderful opportunity in an excellent programme aimed at helping young players develop. I represented my county at under 14 level and was then chosen to move into the England Hockey Player Pathway programme at the regional Performance Centre. I played there for two years. At Club level, I started at Deeside Ramblers, in Tarporley, where I played in the ladies first team at 13 and then moved to Bowden Hockey club for the 2019/20 season. I played predominantly for the ladies second team, gaining promotion to the premier division. I also had one appearance for the first team while they were in the Investec National League. Going forward, I am aiming to go to a Division 1 university in America on a field hockey scholarship."

Goalkeeper Harry, who has played for his Chester Club's first and second teams, said: "I was selected for the trial after working hard at the Performance Centre throughout the year, at my school and in Club hockey. It was both Mr Taylor and my Club goalkeeper coach who put me forward for the trials and I am really delighted to have been selected. I've been working hard over the past two years at Manchester Performance Centre, at Club and school to be as good as I possibly can and it means a lot to me to be chosen for England trials. The next step for me is to be successful at the trials and further my progress through the England Player Pathway programme. I would like to thank the Ellesmere coaches, especially Mr Taylor, for continuing to push and motivate me to be the best goalkeeper."

A winning partnership - WAOs reaccreditation

We are extremely proud to announce our reaccreditation as an Athlete Friendly Education Centre (AFEC) by the World Academy of Sport (WAOs) in recognition of the way we help student-athletes balance sport and education. Ellesmere is renowned for having a world class sporting pedigree and is one of only a limited number of schools to be awarded the accreditation globally.

The announcement was made by the International Baccalaureate (IB) and means the College can not only offer the two year IB Diploma but also an extended three year diploma for those elite student athletes who want to follow an athletics pathway alongside their studies.

The WAOs is committed to helping athletes on their journey by working with those individuals in their education provision to understand the unique needs which must be balanced in such circumstances.

Dr. Tom Gareh, Head of Sixth Form, said the reaccreditation was excellent news for the College in its ongoing commitment to ensure athletes have the best possible help and support in furthering their sporting careers while advancing their educational needs. "We are very proud to be an 'athlete friendly' school and of our sporting record which continues to be among the very best - something which has once again been recognised through this reaccreditation from such an esteemed body."



College launches scheme to support students' mental health



A group of Sixth Form students have launched the Mental Health at Ellesmere Support System (MHES), a support scheme that focuses on raising awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing, ensuring that students know how and where they can access support.

The initiative is being led by Year 13 student, Elin Jones, along with a team of Sixth Form students and Alex Murphy, Director of Rugby. It is also supported by the team of on-site medical staff.

Elin and her peers felt that as well as supporting students with their overall mental health and wellbeing, the scheme would provide a safety net system to prevent potentially bad situations from escalating. The College has invested in the training of over 30 pupils and staff, demonstrating how seriously we take the emotional wellbeing of our pupils.

"The scheme is up and running and we are raising awareness about general mental health and wellbeing for our students," Mr Murphy said. "Training students places them in the ideal position to recognise the problems and issues faced by their contemporaries and provides them with the necessary skills to offer guidance in helping them seek support."

"People often find it difficult to identify and discuss things which are worrying them, but it's good to talk, and that is one of the most important messages we are communicating. There are many risks associated with mental health and young people can put themselves under an enormous amount of pressure with exams and day to day school life, not to mention the added stresses that the Covid-19 pandemic has contributed."

"We are in the process of creating a multi-layered support structure with lots of options for students who are unsure of where to turn to when dealing with difficult thoughts and emotions. Having a student support team provides an approachable source of guidance for students that acts as a stepping stone between pupils and staff."

Gulwali Passarlay: My life as an Afghan Refugee

Gulwali Passarlay, the internationally renowned author of 'The Lightless Sky' - his memoirs detailing his hazardous journey from Afghanistan to the UK - once again opened the hearts and minds of Year 8 Geography students and deepened their understanding of the plight and resilience of young refugees with an inspiring talk during his visit to the College this week.

Gulwali, an Afghan political refugee, came to the UK in 2007 after undertaking an incredible journey where he travelled a total of 7,150 miles through 10 different countries in order to reach safety and escape a war-torn Afghanistan.

Through telling his story to schools and through his book, Gulwali hopes his experiences will explain why refugees choose to leave their countries and families behind, battle feelings of loneliness, fear and guilt, and will allow people to see them not only as asylum seekers, but individual human beings with incredible stories.

The talk was truly eye-opening for students, and some fantastic questions were asked by the students. He concluded his talk by explaining how he hopes to end the negative stigma associated with refugees and asylum seekers, and hopes to use his passion towards social change in order to inspire young people into having a more engaged participation in politics and policy-making.





DT team helps key workers in the Coronavirus fight

In April, during the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, a national shortage of PPE was predominant, with a vast number of medical workers and care homes unable to purchase or acquire basic Personal Protective Equipment.



In light of this, a small group of volunteers working out of the Design and Technology Department set about building visors. After sourcing scarce materials, a number of staff including Andy Lycett, Matthew Horton and Ian Williams set about making the first batch of

125 visors by hand. These were donated to Severn Hospice in Shrewsbury and were gratefully received.

Following this a JustGiving charity page was formed to fund the manufacture of 1000 visors. The target sum of £550 was set and, through the generosity of staff and friends of the College, within hours the money was raised.

With plans to produce more visors for those in need, social media was used to inform institutions in the local area that visors were available. In less than 12 hours the post had been shared 10,000 times and an overwhelming amount of responses followed. With the help of Phil Childs from the school IT department an order system was quickly created. A link was then distributed, and requests arrived in from all over the UK.

As more donations flooded our JustGiving page, we were able to purchase more material to produce a further 3000 face

shields. In the next week a monumental effort was placed by a small group of staff, working in shifts to run the laser cutter around the clock to cut out parts for the visors. This needed to be done before the teaching term began again and key worker children would return to the school alongside running an online curriculum.

With further generous donations, the voluntary group were able to purchase more 3D printers to supplement the Design and Technology Departments existing machinery to continue manufacturing visors through the school term. Alongside this has been help from a number of Old Ellesmerians and particularly OE Robert Oaks owner of DKL rubber who aided in manufacturing components through term time.

To date 16,000 Visors have been distributed all over the UK and more recently, abroad to help countries that are still suffering from manufacturing shortages.

This monumental effort is testament to the compassionate ethos and collective community spirit that Ellesmere College has installed in all Ellesmerians, past and present.

A huge thank you goes to those members of staff who helped to prepare the components and assemble the visors - of which there are too many to name. Also, a large thank you must be given to the efforts of Pete Evans and Jamie-Lee Warburton for their dedication to delivering visors to places in need. And of course, a huge thank you goes to everybody who donated.

Pro Patria Dimicans – to strive for one's country.

Jonathan Haycock – Teacher of Design Technology



The College would like to thank Mr Haycock for all of his time and effort in organising the manufacturing of visors. Jonathan was instrumental in sourcing the designs, material and people required to enable the College to help during the pandemic. He continues to help supplying visors to those organisations in need, in addition to his teaching duties.



The Ellesmerian Club – Chairman's update

Greetings to all Old Ellesmerians wherever you are.

What strange times we all now live in! I was reminded of this somewhat forcibly yesterday when I laid a wreath on behalf of the Club and its members at the War Memorial outside Chapel. The timing may seem strange but there is unfortunately no Remembrance Service this year with England entering its second lockdown on the 5th November.



I write this to introduce myself as the new Chairman following on from Peter Leake's productive stint in this role and his retirement to take on a similar challenge elsewhere.

For all those who don't know who I am - I joined the Ellesmere Community at the age of 13 in 1968, one of the 60 odd pupils starting their journey through College in Ian Beer's final year as Headmaster when everything was reopening after the fire – a new chapel, new dining room and new dayrooms for some of the Houses including my own, Woodard. I have served on the OE Executive for over 35 years in a variety of roles including Treasurer for about 17 years!

The Club has changed massively over this time as both society and the desires of the membership have changed, but it remains one of the strongest ex-pupil societies in the country. We must continue to evolve in this ever-changing world, and I see my role as helping to facilitate this over the next few years before passing the baton to a younger member.

It is sad that we have not been able to hold any of our normal functions in 2020 and it currently appears impossible to even guess when we can restart them, but rest assured we will and hopefully there will be increased attendance when they do - absence makes the heart grow fonder! We will keep you updated via the newsletters.

The Club has been busy, however, over the summer break with a number of projects sponsored by us being completed. These include completion of the cloisters stained glass windows project, a new, additional altar in the Lady Chapel, a further tablet erected at the War Memorial and a new display cabinet outside dining room. I know the College is very grateful for our support in projects like these and several members of staff caught up with me during the various installations to thank the Club.

I mentioned that as a Club we need to evolve and as part of this we need to know what the membership would like from us in the future and what they do not like about the present. Over the next few months, we will be sending out short surveys to try to gauge the enthusiasm for the Club and its activities both current and future. I will publish further details of these shortly.

We have a very committed Executive Committee whose support and activities ensure the Club flourishes. I am keen to expand this so if anyone would like to be involved please get in touch!

If anybody wishes to contact me about any aspect of the Club please feel free to contact me by email: r.j.thurgood@btinternet.com or write to me care of 'The External Relations Office' at the College.

Stay safe.

Kind Regards
Richard Thurgood



Four generations of Ellesmerians

It was recently brought to our attention that one of our esteemed Sixth Form students, Alice Parton, is indeed a fourth generation Ellesmerian.

Alice's Great Grandfather, Geoffrey, was introduced to the College over 100 years ago. In 1919, Alfred Parton enrolled his son Geoffrey at Ellesmere by recommendation from a friend who had two sons at the College. Geoffrey joined as a student in the January of 1919 and attended until the summer of 1920. Geoffrey was a member of 'Conqueror' House – now known as Talbot. During his short stint at Ellesmere he represented his dorm and the 1st XV Team in Rugby and took an active interest in many sports including U15 High Jump (at 4'4"), Cricket, Football and Steeplechase. He was awarded Full Colours for his contribution to Rugby and left College to pursue a career in agriculture.



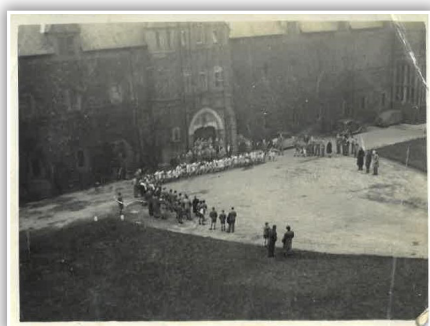
Geoffrey went on to have two sons, David and Alan, who both attended the College from the age of 10 to 16.

Alan joined Ellesmere in 1942 and was an active member of the Athletics Club. During the Lent Term of 1946 he was awarded Junior House Colours. Alan left Ellesmere in 1948, following his father's footsteps to work in farming.

David came to Ellesmere in 1946 and was a popular member of the Talbot House. Like his father before him, David was a keen sportsman, representing the College in many sports with Rugby being a firm favourite. In his final year at College, David played a Soldier in the Senior School play, 'Julius Caesar'.

David continued his close bond with the College after leaving; he was a respected member of The Ellesmerian Club for many years and was the Club's President in 2004. He was also a member of the Old Ellesmerian Masonic Lodge and in 1978 he was installed as the Lodges Worshipful Master.

David introduced his son Paul to the College in 1980. Paul made an impression straight away and was awarded the Shell Classical Studies Prize in his first year. In true family tradition, Paul was also a talented Rugby player and represented the U16, 4th, 3rd and 1st XV teams. He played 1st XI Cricket for three years and was a member of the College's Stamp and Chess Clubs.



This brings us to the fourth generation Ellesmerian of the Parton family. Alice joined the College in Year 10 in 2017 and has completely thrown herself into College life. She was awarded Junior House Colours in 2018 and is a gifted sportswoman. Alice has represented both the College and her County in Hockey, she was

on the winning team of the U16 National Hockey Cup and regularly played for the 1st XI team throughout Year 12. As Captain of the U17 Shropshire Hockey team, Alice's team won the U17 Midlands Cup for the first time ever. Alice also plays 1st team Netball and is regularly winning prizes at prestigious Horse Riding competitions, most recently coming 3rd at the Weston Park Horse Trials. In addition to her sporting successes, Alice took part in the Senior School Production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' and is a talented artist.



If you have an interesting story connected to the College we'd love to hear from you: olivia.beckett@ellesmere.com

The intellectual life of the College stretches way beyond the confines of the classroom and we believe that students can learn a great deal from those who have gone before them. So this term we have continued with The Edge lecture series online!

Our first speaker of the year was Matt Addison (Derry '93), a truly inspirational talk about Matt's career in the pharmaceutical supply chain. Matt attended Ellesmere as a day boy from 1989 to 1993 studying for his GCSEs and A Levels. He went on to Exeter College, Oxford where he studied Engineering Science (MA). He joined Proctor and Gamble in 1997 where he worked in beauty manufacturing and supply chain for 13 ½ years before moving over to their commercial market. In 2014 Matt joined Saint-Gobain as their Supply Chain Director; he worked with them for four years before moving to Walgreen Boots Alliance as their UK Operations Director. Matt talks about the effectiveness of goal setting and taking opportunities. A very insightful and motivational talk.



Designed as just one element of Ellesmere's Leadership and Entrepreneurship programme, The Edge lectures are designed to give our students a helping hand when entering the world of university and work. By connecting to the 5,000+ Old Ellesmerians worldwide, the younger generation can gain from their expertise and experience, creating mentoring and work experience opportunities in many professional fields.

Offered to all Sixth Form and Year 11 students, the programme has proven to be very successful since it started in 2012. Students have had the opportunity to see and speak to OEs and parents of many professions including doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers, military, entrepreneurs and many more.

If you would be interested in offering a talk on your career or business, please contact Olivia Beckett: olivia.beckett@ellesmere.com / 01691 626541.

Support Ellesmere's Covid-19 Bursary Campaign with smile.amazon.co.uk



As we head towards Christmas, and with many of us making our Christmas purchases online this year, we wanted to let you know that by using Amazon Smile, Amazon will contribute 0.5% of all eligible purchases to the College's Bursary Fund. Amazon provide an easy way for their customers to donate to worthy causes while they are shopping at no extra cost to themselves or their chosen organisation. Your shopping experience will be identical to shopping at Amazon.co.uk with the added benefit that you will be helping students to continue their education at Ellesmere.

To start donating through AmazonSmile please check out the useful tips below:

- The Internet address is smile.amazon.co.uk
- If you already have an Amazon account, when you click on smile.amazon.co.uk, you will be asked to sign in. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up. (It doesn't cost anything to set up an Amazon account.)
- Once signed into smile.amazon.co.uk, you will be prompted to pick a charity - Please select Ellesmere College Limited from the provided list. Once you do this, 0.5% of your purchase price on many items will be donated to the College's Bursary Fund.
- You must remember to go to smile.amazon.co.uk each time you shop for all of this to work. So, consider bookmarking the site. Donations will not be applied to purchases made on the Amazon.co.uk main site or mobile app.

Scott Phillips (Talbot 2019) takes on 'The Italian Job'

A former Ellesmere College student has landed the prestigious role of Choir Director at St Mark's 'English' Church – in Italy!



Scott Phillips, 20, from St David's, Pembrokeshire, left Ellesmere as a student last year before returning on an internship. His role as Choir Director in Florence will last a year after which he will take his place at York University.

"I was a chorister at St David's Cathedral for a number of years so the British choral tradition is in my blood. I also visited Italy on a choir tour with Ellesmere. I saw the position advertised on Church Times, applied, had a phone interview in March, then got offered the job and started on September 1st - I really love it out here. The position at St Mark's is the most important role I've had to date, I head up the department, have two organists and the choir. It's a great deal of responsibility but thoroughly enjoyable, and means I have needed to defer my place at York University until next year.

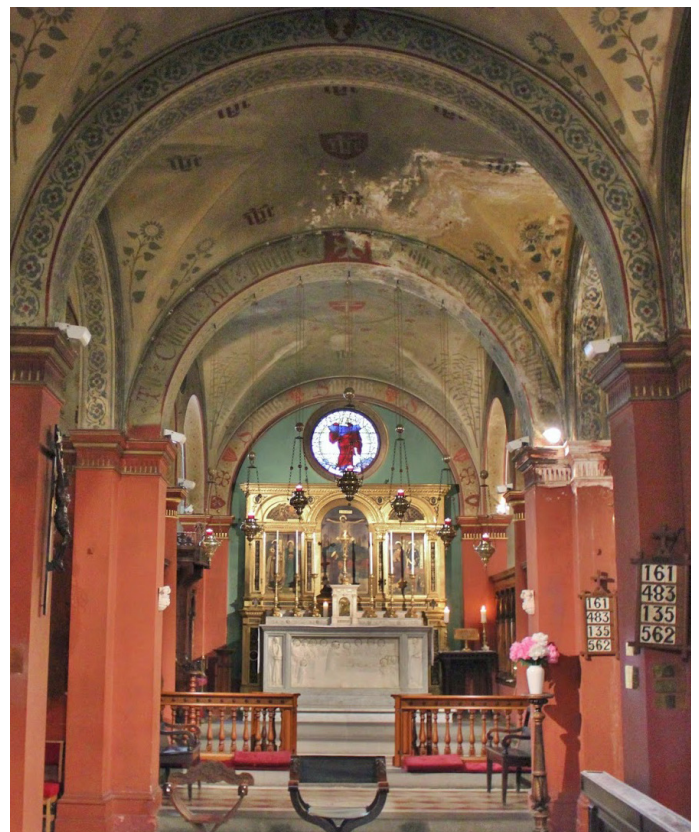
I left Ellesmere in July 2019 as a student but then went back as an intern and spent most of the last year working there - it was quite a strange thing to leave as a student and then go back as a member of staff. I was also the Organ Scholar at Shrewsbury Abbey from October last year through to this July. I like to think that I take every opportunity thrown at me to get as much experience under my belt as I can.

The church plays a leading role in offering opportunities and often has intern positions for post graduate students, with a close connection with Cambridge University. St Mark's wants to give students the opportunity to push themselves but also to have the experience of being able to run a department - not something many people get the chance to do. The church usually draws its singers from university campuses in the

area, especially the American colleges, but Covid has brought about unprecedented challenges. It has meant we are having to rebuild the choir again because so many of the choristers had to leave the country earlier in the year, particularly the Americans and a lot of British. We have had to start recruiting and I'm keen to look more locally so if something like Covid were to happen again the church choir wouldn't be so decimated. September 6th was the first service the church has had for six months and meant completely starting things from scratch and building it back up again. The choir started with zero, now we have six and will be built up to about 20 as a standard number but the choir here can have anything up to 40 singers.

Day to day, I spend quite a bit of time in the office planning events, we are looking at doing outreach to the local schools, including the International School. My goal is to try and draw more locals into the church, it's obviously a very Catholic tradition out here and we are unique in that we are a C of E church in the middle of Florence.

My hopes for the future are in many ways to carry on doing what I'm doing now, directing music, whether in churches or possibly theatre. I love the choral tradition that church music brings and my placement year at St Mark's can only help me achieve my goals."





Ellesmere

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Ellesmere College

Open for Individual Tours in January 2021:

Sixth Form: January 18th - 22nd

Middle School: January 11th - 15th

Lower School: January 25th - 29th

Entrance Exams Yrs 6-9: February 6th 2021

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