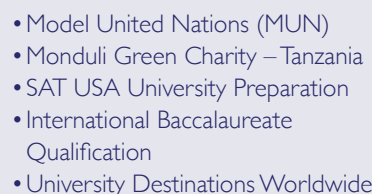






Academic | Sport | The Arts | Leadership | Global

We are Ellesmere:We are Life:Ready.



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Captains of School

Head Boy: Sam Patmore

Head Girl: Robyn Welti

College Prefects

Alex Bain
 Oliver Barrett
 Ethan Beaver
 Will Brookshaw
 Will Bryson
 Ioan Craven-Jones
 Natasha Dalziel
 Millie Forster
 Mey Funke
 Amie Gillingham
 Beaut Kittirattanaviwat
 Katharina Luschert
 Ellen Maltby
 Anouska Newton
 Harriet Otter
 Louis Penrice
 James Prescott
 Abe Pritchard
 Will Selby
 Lucy Stevens
 Amy Storey-Gibbons
 Ben Zakers

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The Headmaster's Speech

Speech Day 2022

It is a great pleasure – for the first time in three years – to be here in Big School to introduce Prize Giving and to mark the end of a successful academic year at the College.

It is wonderful that we are able to gather together in this way; I think we should probably be grateful that Covid has only had such dramatic impact for two years: previous pandemics have lasted much longer; and it is a tribute to the rapid and ongoing development in medical science that we find ourselves in this position.

The last major gathering I was in was at half term in Paris with my son at the Champions' League Final. Although any time spent with my son is a pleasure it was a disappointing outcome; at least in this gathering I don't need to worry about being tear-gassed or mugged (or at least I hope I don't – it would certainly make for a memorable Prize Giving, I suppose).

The Covid period has not been easy for anyone, but the College has weathered the storm well. We had a relatively small drop in numbers – certainly relatively small compared to some schools – of around 15 at the start of the last academic year. The start of this academic year saw pupil numbers rise by over 70 in number; and that has increased further as the year has progressed.

I think it is fair to say that we had a 'good Covid', if that is not a rather distasteful term. As with most of life there is an element of luck, but much of our luck has been down to good judgement and good planning on the part of my colleagues.

I want to mention particularly Mrs Pritt-Roberts, who led the academic delivery effort and saw us offering a full curriculum immediately at the start of the summer term following the lockdown, which was much earlier than most other independent schools.

During the various periods when we were not in lockdown, the College suffered significantly fewer disruptions than other schools, and that was down to Dr Chatterjee's excellent management of our Covid safety procedures.

Of course, I am singling out two people but I need to be clear that I am grateful to everyone at Ellesmere who worked incredibly hard during this Covid period to support the children and keep the show on the road: they have done so very successfully indeed.



Mr Brendan Wignall, Headmaster

It is a positive measure of parental satisfaction that during the lockdown periods a quarter of parents chose not to accept the discount on fees that we offered, and I know from correspondence that that figure would have been even higher were it not for the need for the discount that many parents had as they faced their own economic challenges as a result of the pandemic.

We have learned a number of lessons during these times. One of them relates to this event and this speech in particular. Over the last two years I have delivered shortened speeches to video. Pre-covid the 'traditional' speech ran substantially over an hour, as it covered the successes of the school. It would have lasted for much longer than that were it not for the fact that a good few years ago I decided to stop mentioning the names of pupils. I am not complaining, because the speech celebrated many considerable achievements, but the achievements of the collective pupil body were so great that the speech was becoming unmanageable.

While it was great to deliver on the news of successes, it was pretty cruel for many in the audience given that you are – and it probably felt like it for many of the speeches – a captive audience. Detailed successes of the school are recorded in the Ellesmerian Magazine. That is a very substantial publication, because there is a lot of success to record, but my speech will no longer attempt to duplicate the job of the Ellesmerian.

To be fair to me, I have been on the receiving end of long speeches, so I have always felt sympathy with my audience even as I was delivering a long speech that I felt was my duty. Many years ago, before I became Headmaster, at a different school, I remember the time when speech giving at that school was not just the format that you will experience here, but also a guest speaker: Guest speakers can be interesting, of course ...

On this occasion the guest speaker was the local MP.

He hit upon the idea of reading excerpts from his old school reports to show that even those who had done badly at school, as he had done, could go on to become successes in life.

Initially this seemed like an interesting idea but after 40 minutes we had finished highlights from his prep school reports and were moving on to those from his time in his senior school. Everyone's patience was beginning to wear a little thin. Fortunately the speaker did not hear the loud whisper from one member of staff: 'He has been going for 40 minutes and we are only on his 14th year; he is 68 for goodness sake: we will be here forever'.

You will be relieved to know that I am not going to substitute Ellesmere's achievements with extracts from my school reports. Not all of them would cast me in a good light. I cannot say that I particularly enjoyed my own schooling: I attended a narrowly focused very academic grammar school and I found it all rather boring and limiting.

Getting through difficult times, whether it be my schooling, listening to a very long speech, or – more seriously – surviving the physical and economic effects of Covid, is greatly helped if one has the right mindset. I have no doubt at all that a disposition towards optimism helps enormously in that respect. I would also recommend (very, very strongly) the ancient philosophy of stoicism. If you only know a little bit about stoicism it might seem strange to couple it with optimism, since the most famous phrase associated with stoicism is 'memento mori,' which translates as 'remember you are mortal', or 'remember you will die' – which certainly does not sound terribly optimistic. Understood properly, however it is very optimistic.

I think a lot about these things and the metaphor often used for optimism is that some people are glass half empty people, and some are glass half full people. I think the correct aspiration is to be the person who takes the view that 'I have a glass: that's a great start'.

The 'remember you are mortal' message is an injunction to enjoy your life and to make the best of it now and every day – which is certainly a message that I think supports an optimistic and positive approach to life.

Throughout all these challenging times it remains an absolutely fantastic world if you have the right attitude and you are well prepared. Ellesmere certainly sets out at a practical level to ensure that its leavers are well prepared, by giving them appropriate challenges academically and in so many co-curricular areas.

I hope that pupils develop a sense of optimism while they are here, but also a sense of humility. One of my regular messages in Headmaster's Assembly – not in response to any problems – is the reminder that the most important thing we can do with each other is to be kind, and to show mutual respect.

I think Ellesmerians are very good at this, although they are human and they are young, so they are far from perfect and therefore they do not always get it right – but that is fine. One of the things that I hope Ellesmerians begin to learn – and, as it happens, I was speaking about this in assembly yesterday – is that they are not the centre of the universe. They are not the most important thing in the world (except, perhaps, and I hope, to their parents).

I use the phrase 'begin to learn' because I know many people in their 40s and 50s who still do not grasp this. The more we can do to help our children recognise that they should look outwards rather than inwards and focus their concern on others, the more I am confident that we will be producing happy and productive members of society.

The famous author Dale Carnegie once wrote:

You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

And you cannot truly be interested in other people if your main focus is yourself.

As I have noted I am not going to attempt a summary of the year. Of course, once I move away from a summary of the year any selection can appear invidious: 'why did he choose to mention that, but not my area/achievement?' I am afraid I will just have to take the risk.

It would certainly be bizarre were I not to mention the fact that three very recent Ellesmerians took part in the Tokyo Olympics with one, Freya Anderson, achieving a gold medal. I am uncertain of the precise number, but I believe that seven Ellesmerians took up or were offered sports scholarships – effectively free places – at American universities last year. There were the usual national selections in a wide variety of sports.





It has been fantastic to see the choir back in action, given that choral singing suffered so much during the Covid period.

Staying with voices, the English Speaking Board results – a really important skill in itself for preparation for future life – were as excellent as ever.

This term saw a tremendously positive CCF Biennial Inspection led by Colonel Richard Jones OE, who seemed greatly to enjoy his day, and I enjoyed my conversations with him about how Ellesmere has changed for the better – and I will return to that theme later.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme has now come back fully, with just under 50 Gold Award candidates beginning their journey this year, and 15 recent leavers attended Buckingham Palace in May to receive their Gold Awards.

One part of my speech that must not change is an acknowledgement of people who have given great service to the College over a range of years, but who are now leaving us. Mrs Valentina Frulloni joined the College on a one-year contract in the Mathematics Department. That contract has come to an end and I am pleased that she has secured a full-time job at the Darland School. During her time at Ellesmere, Mrs Frulloni has settled in well with the Maths Department and become a popular and well-integrated member of Common Room. She will not be too far away and I hope that she will keep in touch with us in the future.



Mrs Sarah Shakibi has been with us for six years, joining us from an independent school in London. As Head of Computer Science she handled the transition from Information Technology to Computer Science (two quite different subjects in reality) very successfully indeed, and had a particularly strong track record in developing gifted Computer Science pupils. She also contributed to life in girls' boarding.

Mrs Tina Cox has been with us for almost 14 years and in that time has developed the College netball provision to a very high standard. Her commitment and enthusiasm for the sport and its players has never been in doubt and the College's loss will certainly be King's School's gain. However, her replacement has every opportunity to build on the excellent foundations that she has developed. Tina has also been an active participant in various school tours, including to such exotic places as the Isle of Man. Through her links with Wrexham Netball she provided talent pathways for College students and ensured that there were national playing opportunities. On a personal level I will miss our conversations about football, even though she is a Tottenham Hotspur supporter.



Mrs Margaret Hutchings joined us in 2007, some 15 years ago. In her time at the College she has taught English at GCSE, at A Level, and as part of the International Baccalaureate, and led and developed the Media Department. She has also been Arts Award coordinator, taken three productions on tour to our partner drama school in the United States, Tabor Academy, edited the Ellesmerian Magazine for a number of years, and been responsible for the production of the Ellesmere News newsletter. Her warmth and support for her pupils, tutees, and colleagues will be greatly missed and she leaves us with our very best wishes in her retirement. She will be staying in Ellesmere so we should be able to keep in touch.

Mr Ian Roberts joined the PE Department as a very young teacher in 2006. We are actually saying goodbye to him a term late as he moved at Easter to be Head of Sport at a school in North Wales so that he could be closer to his family. In a recent farewell speech for him it was suggested that he had to leave because he had 'completed' the Ellesmere experience. I think what is meant by that is that in his time with us he has been a teacher, a rugby coach, a football coach, master in charge of football (and his last season saw him complete his third unbeaten season of seven managing the first XI), and a cricket coach. He has also been a Housemaster of a competitive house and of a pastoral house, St Cuthbert's. He has also tutored across all three sections of the school and been a significant contributor to the social life of the common room through football, cricket, and tennis. I can see why it might be suggested that he had to leave because there were no further mountains to climb! I know he misses Ellesmere and Ellesmere certainly misses him, but it is great that we have stayed in touch.

Dr Kim Collins joined the Biology Department in 2005. She joined us as a triathlete of international standard and in her time here has done a number of Iron Man competitions and is now swimming at the top end of her age group (I hope she will not mind me describing it as such) and will be swimming in the Europeans this summer. She has been Head of Meynell house, led the CCF RAF section, and managed a number of joint expeditions with the navy section; she also ran the Medical Society. She initiated the amazing Biology Cake Bake Off where students produced impressive cakes modelled on such things as the eye, the heart, and the kidneys – it was hard to judge which was best, and while they tasted delicious they looked pretty gruesome to eat. Kim will undoubtedly be a loss to teaching and certainly has earned her break after such great commitment over such a long period.

Mrs Vanessa Hart also joined us in 2005 and in her time has fulfilled a number of roles. She has been a stalwart of the Learning Support Department and through her work there has made significant contributions to the academic development of many individuals who have passed through the College. She has taught Key Stage 2 for some time and finishes now as a Year 6 tutor. Vanessa has a rich hinterland and enjoys music and singing and is retiring and looking forward to having more time for her interests. In a recent letter of farewell she described the everyday "nitty gritty" issues of teaching as being things of "overriding joy", which is a lovely phrase and one that sums up Vanessa's fantastic attitude to life and to her students. As she too lives in Ellesmere I am sure that we will stay in touch.



Mr Ian Williams joined us from Clifton College in 2003 and was – in many ways – the first person to hold the full brief of 'Director of Sport'. In his time he has overseen a huge expansion of our sporting provision and the development of our academy system. He has always been a great proponent of a 'sport for all abilities' philosophy and has been outstanding in his contribution to the strategic thinking at the College, particularly in respect of ensuring that all pupils are properly catered for in his area. He has done a stalwart job as an Assistant Housemaster in St Patrick's House. He has been an enthusiastic organiser of overseas trips, with a particular interest in marine life, and I understand that he has said that if he had not gone into teaching he would have liked to have been a surfer. He is really going for it now, so to speak, on the overseas trips front as he departs us for the great adventure of becoming Director of Sport at Harrow School Hong Kong.

And, finally, moving into what might be thought almost to be pre-history, Mr Harry Orr joined us in 1999 and has been with us for almost 24 years. Initially appointed as a Head of Religious Studies, he introduced Sociology in the school, which in later years was his primary academic interest. He has been an all-round willing contributor to many areas of College life. He has been an excellent Sixth Form tutor for many years and a major contributor to the social side of Common Room life: he is the organiser of the staff social tennis and last night was managing the staff-pupil annual tennis competition. He has been a major participant in golf (and also done good service in that area with the pupils), and will be remembered by many – often with some pain – for his contribution to staff football. I understand he has a particularly hard tackling approach to the game.

A proud moment for him is when his daughter Becky achieved the very rare feat of 45 points – the top mark, so one of the top 100 in the world – in the IB. He reminded me recently that when asked how that achievement could be improved upon I suggested a breeding programme involving him. Obviously it is still too early to assess the success of that particular initiative.



I hope that you will join me in the traditional way in thanking all of these colleagues for what they have done for the College and for many students at the College through the years and to wish them every best in their futures.

I talked about optimism earlier in my speech. Much of optimism is about perspective. I have no doubt that the correct perspective on life is that the world is a better place. For all the problems that it faces I am confident that it will continue to be a better place. Every age and every decade has been afflicted by miserabilism but we do not need to join with that miserabilism, however fashionable it might be.

Sometimes people will be moaning that education is not what it once was.

No, it is not: certainly so far as I am concerned schooling is better. Ellesmere is a better school than it was, and it will be a better school next year, and it will be a better school the year after that. Pupils are treated with kindness and respect and consideration. That does not always appear to have been the case in the past.

If I look at the punishment books from the 1930s (we keep good records, it would appear) it becomes quite obvious that the College was at one time a very stark and rigid place in terms of its implementation of rules and the way it treated its pupils.

- The records show Sloman was caned for having his hands in his pockets on the Terraces and for general slackness.
- That Hickson was caned for unnecessary singing.
- Fazakerley and Carlisle were caned for 'talking unnecessarily to the servants'.
- Turner was caned for riding a bicycle on a Sunday.
- More gently, perhaps, Pavilard and Blewitt-Jenkins were formally warned for having a conversation with girls.
- On the other hand, Harrison was caned ten times for buying an air pistol from a porter and using it in a form room to the detriment of several inkpots.

And it goes on. I suppose I could feel sorry for the Headmaster of the day having to deliver all these canings – it must have been tiring. However, I believe many were actually delivered by prefects. I have been appointing prefects this week and caning pupils has not been something I have found it necessary to discuss.

It may have been a simpler time in the 1930s but it was a more rigid, inflexible, and therefore less human time: today is better.

Talk about progress brings forth a sense of the passage of time.

If Mr Orr verges on the prehistoric I'm not sure where that leaves me. It still surprises me that – assuming I survive the summer holidays, and given the state of exhaustion by the end of term that does not feel certain – I will become the College's longest serving Headmaster in September. I have no idea where the time has gone.

I do know, however, that it has gone very pleasurably and I hope it continues to pass in that way for many years to come. I am one of the luckiest people around: I love my job, but the reason that I love my job is that Ellesmere is a community of shared values. We all support each other and in that I mean the parents, the pupils, the staff and the governors. I am immensely fortunate to have that support and – the more I talk to other Heads, the more I realise it is unique. I do not take it for granted. Thank you to everyone who is involved in the College community and who provides support for each other in a way that I think is really very special.

It is the end of a very successful year at the College. For some it is the end of their time in the College, but they will remain Ellesmerians and I hope that they will stay in touch. For the majority I really look forward to seeing them refreshed and raring to go and facing new challenges and creating new opportunities for themselves in September.

Above all, however, speaking personally, thank you for your support.

BJW





The 2021-2022 Prefect Team

Prize Winners for 2022

Special Prizes

SUBJECT	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Art	Ellie Winn	Mini Uras-Garvin	Marco Wong	Izzy Cripps
Biology	see science line	see science line	Natt Kritchanarat	Izzy Cripps
Business Studies	N/A	N/A	Christopher Astbury	Amelia Robinson
Chemistry	see science line	see science line	Natt Kritchanarat	Shinil Balakrishnan
Computer Science	Kiri Kilgannon	Eoghan Clements	Henry Copelin	Joshua Norris
Design & Technology	Ellie Winn	Florence Sweeney	Christopher Astbury	Felix Hickish
Drama	N/A	N/A	Oscar Acher-Rogers	Charlotte Goss
English	Ellie Winn	Sophie Glinos	Ewan Skillicorn	Madeleine Skarratt
EAL	N/A	N/A	Martina Aspa	Marisa Brasch
French	see MFL line	see MFL line	Dani Arganza Gonzalez	Harry Hepburn
Geography	Ellie Winn	Nathaniel Clewlow	Ewan Skillicorn	Madeleine Skarratt
German	N/A	N/A	N/A	Marisa Brasch
History	Megan Pritchard	Hugo Moore	Natt Kritchanarat	Evan Garratt
Latin	Ellie Winn	Seren Garratt	Kristian Davidson-Jackson	Shinil Balakrishnan
Mathematics	Harry Wyke	Lucy Chadwick	Natt Kritchanarat	Shinil Balakrishnan
Media Studies	N/A	N/A	Natt Kritchanarat/Marco Wong	Olivia Derbyshire
MFL (French)	Ellie Winn	Cesca Pattinson	N/A	N/A
MFL (Spanish)	Isobel Philbin	Emilia O'Mahoney	N/A	N/A
Music	Kiri Kilgannon	Tabby Kimber	Kyara Heward	Olivia Derbyshire
PE (Academic)	N/A	N/A	Faith Harris/Ewan Skillicorn	Shinil Balakrishnan
Physics	see science line	see science line	Alex Loe	Joshua Norris
Religious Studies	Joseph Whale/Ellie Winn	Lucy Chadwick	Bella Spencer-Blow	Catherine Sanderson
Spanish	see MFL line	see MFL line	Bella Spencer-Blow	Shinil Balakrishnan
Science	Ellie Winn	Monty Cripps	N/A	N/A

Prize Winners for 2022

Special Prizes

SUBJECT	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Art	Wendy Tam	Tessa O'Brien	N/A
Biology	N/A	Davit Chankseliani	Ben Zakers
Business Studies	James Li-Campbell	Laurence Jones	Ella Maltby
Chemistry	Oliver Covill	Anna Farrow	Ben Zakers
Computer Science	Mohammad Eskandari	N/A	Bruno Kington-Brady
Design & Technology	India Freer-Carmichael	Sander Gregorius Eppers	Harrison Lloyd-Brown
Economics	N/A	Anna Farrow	Ethan Beaver
English	Charles Hemingway-Deaney	Lucy Neil	Anouska Newton
EAL	Benjamin Vazifeh Behnam	Sander Gregorius Eppers	Rasul Khazigaleev
French	Ivana Ogunlaja	Iris Grigoras	Beautt Kittirattanaviwat
Geography	Cameron Davies	Archie Neaves	Mya Watt
German	Ben Scarlat	Amelie Minarik/ Andrii Azarchenko	Benni Kuenlen
History	Alexander Phillips	Huw Lloyd/ Archie Neaves	Oliver Barrett
International Baccalaureate	N/A	awarded at end of two year course	Michal Andryskowski
ToK	N/A	awarded at end of two year course	Michal Andryskowski
Latin	India Freer-Carmichael	Molly Fry	Aeneas Dennison
Mathematics	Poppy Mainwaring	Iris Grigoras	Isaac Dodds
Further Maths	N/A	Anna Farrow	Ethan Beaver
Media Studies	Ewan Tulloch	Zoe Mabaquiao Lennox	Katie Gillingham
Music	N/A - Not awarded this year	Huw Lloyd	Robyn Welti
PE	Ewan Tulloch	Toby Walker	Ella Maltby
Performing Arts (Drama)	Jonty Lewers	Joseph Baillon	Jacob Cooksley
Physics	Oscar Dodds	Alexander Norris	Michal Andryskowski
Politics	N/A	Carmen Kilgannon	Kit Lewers
Religious Studies	Oscar Dodds/Reuben Gallagher	Carmen Kilgannon	Alex Bain
Sociology	N/A	Gavin Yang	Katie Gillingham
Spanish	N/A	Molly Fry	Kit Lewers
Psychology	N/A	Lili Harvey Hemming/Emily Farr	Katie Gillingham

Prize Winners for 2022

Special Prizes

James Merrick Cup for Academic Achievement	James Li-Campbell
The Evans Cup for ICT (donated by Mr Nicolson in 2006, grandfather of OE's Rachel and Daniel Evans)	James Copelin
Excellence in Media Production	George Joynson
GCSE Media Production	Wendy Tam
The Richardson Cup for Services to Drama (donated by Richardson family 2013)	Kit Lewers
Drama	Amy Storey Gibbons
Marilyn Amako Cup: Soloist	Amy Storey Gibbons
The Hollway Technology Award	Christopher Davis
Marsh Cup for Musician of the Year	Christopher Davis
Services to the Choir	Anouska Newton
Instrumental Music	Molly Fry
Garnett Prize for Creative Music	Lewis Reardon
Baulcott Organ Prize	Robyn Welti
Mark Willis Science Prize	Robyn Welti
Lovel Prize for English Literature	Lucy Stevens
Jebson Shield for History	Carmen Kilgannon
Keith Smith Historical Essay	Naomi McGuire
The Orr Prize for Outstanding Sociological Perception	Zoe Mabaquiao Lennox
The Ollier Prize for MFL (donated by Maureen Ollier retired teacher 2009)	Davit Chankseliani
The Woodard Midland Division Talbot Prize for Mathematics	Michal Andryskowski
Colin Russell Prize for Endeavour in Biology	James Kelly
Physics Endeavour Prize	Abraham Pritchard
The Sandra Lloyd Cup for Chemistry (in memory of Lab Technician 2011)	Connie Trollope
Sportswoman of the Year	Connie Trollope
Sportsman of the Year	Oliver Barrett
Excellence in a single Sport: Sportsperson of the Year	Harvey Cuckson
BTEC Diploma Sport: Academic Commitment	Charlie and Jonjo Ashbrook
Contribution to the International Life of the College	Beaut Kittiratanaviwat
The Old Ellesmerian President's Cup (OE spirit contribution to School)	Ben Zakers
The Woodard Board Prize (Chapel project - Christian Ethos)	Amy Evans / Harriet Otter
The Endeavour and Achievement Award	Robyn Welti
Headmaster's Prize: Head Girl	Robyn Welti
Headmaster's Prize: Head Boy	Sam Patmore

The Common Room

President's Report



The year was a challenging one for the members of the Common Room, as they returned to more normal ways of working after the prolonged restrictions of Covid, and logging onto Teams was no longer the first task on arrival.

As there had been no departures at the end of the previous academic year, the only new members of staff to join us in September 2021 were Neil Armstrong, who teaches Media Studies, and Clare Pearce, who teaches the younger children in Lower School. At the end of the year, however, we had sadly to say goodbye to a number of members of staff:

Margaret Hutchings, our Head of Media Studies; Harry Orr, our teacher of Sociology; and Vanessa Hart, Learning Support, all retired.

The year end also saw the departure of Dr Kim Collins, the Head of Biology; Valentina Frulloni, Maths department, Dr Sarah Shakibi, the Head of Computer Science, Tina Cox, Head of netball coach; and Tom Webb, the Arts Centre manager. Ian Roberts, teacher of PE and former Head of Meynell and of St Cuthbert's, left for a post in a school in north Wales, while Ian Williams, our long-standing Director of Sport, also moved on, but in this instance, much further afield, to a school in Hong Kong.

There is only one birth to report this year: Elliot and Jennifer Richards are the proud new parents of their second child, Sadie. We wish the Richards family all the very best, and we send our best wishes to our departing colleagues, as they take on new challenges and opportunities, both in their new places of work and in their well-deserved retirements.

Dr Ian Tompkins
Common Room President



Neil Armstrong

Neil joined the College in September 2021, being new to Shropshire having moved from Surrey, where he was teaching BTEC Creative Media.

Prior to teaching Neil, spent over 30 years working in Media, starting his career with BBCTV as a Film Assistant and working his way up to Director and Series Producer as he moved between broadcasters and production companies. He also produced and directed corporate films, a few commercials, and music videos. His academic background is a combined BA Honours Degree in Visual Studies and Modern History in the distant mists of time at Oxford Polytechnic, and a PGCE from Greenwich University in 2019.

Neil is passionate about filmmaking, theatre, travel, fast cars, motorbikes and Arsenal FC. He has embraced life at Ellesmere with enthusiasm and, admirably, maintains his optimistic approach to all that he does, including urging pupils on as they tackled a High Ropes course in Snowdonia, his first encounter of the Ellesmere expedition week.



Clare Pearce – Teacher of Key Stage 2

Clare joined Ellesmere College as Teacher of Key Stage 2 in October 2021. Clare attended Ysgol Dinas Brân, Llangollen, where she loved all academic subjects, music and sport. Clare played the flute in both school and county band and was a member of the school choir. Having a love of sport, swimming became her specialism and she competed in regional and national competitions. Clare's love of swimming continues and she is currently a member of Shrewsbury Masters Swimming Club, competing in Regional, National and International events. Clare qualified to represent Great Britain at the European Masters Swimming Championships in 2020, which was sadly cancelled due to Covid.

Clare studied BSc (hons) Sport & Exercise Science at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, followed by Postgraduate Certificate in Exercise & Nutrition Science at Chester University, and then PGCE Secondary PE at Bangor University. Clare's first teaching role was at Ysgol Castell Alun, teaching Welsh and PE for 6 years. Following a transition to Primary teaching, Clare worked in a number of local primary schools before joining Shrewsbury High Prep, as Key Stage 2 Teacher, Teacher of KS1 & 2 PE and Games, and Head of Drama. During this time, Clare had the opportunity to help deliver the prep school sporting programme and was the school swim coach. Clare also directed and choreographed a number of successful drama productions and played in the school orchestra.

Clare is excited to be part of Lower School at Ellesmere College and enjoys being able to mix classroom teaching with sports teaching, coaching and umpiring. Outside of school, Clare enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and travelling.

The Common Room

Departures



Harry Orr - Head of Sociology and Religious Studies

Harry Orr joined the school in 1999. His main role within the school was as the Head of Sociology and Religious Studies. He delivered the A level in Sociology to the Sixth Form, always with commitment, good grace, and patience, and he taught Religious Studies across a range of year groups. When we started the IB Diploma, Harry helped to develop the new course in the Theory of Knowledge, which he taught for a number of years. He was also central to the development of the Extended Project Qualification in the Sixth Form, to where the qualification is now completed by most A level pupils. Harry is a keen participant in sport: he did much to promote and support the development of the pupil golfers, and has done much to encourage the communal life of the Common Room through tennis and Friday night football (supplementing his lifelong devotion to Crystal Palace). The annual pupil-staff tennis tournament, the Reffell Open, which he has organised, is a highlight of the end of the academic year. Harry has been a wonderfully supportive and generous colleague to those around him. His insight and his questioning, inquiring spirit will be much missed. Harry's son and daughter were also Sixth Formers at Ellesmere, and it was a joy to colleagues to share their successes with Harry. He remains in close contact with the school, and we look forward to seeing him here for many more years.



Vanessa Hart

After nearly eighteen years of loyal service, Vanessa Hart leaves us for a well-deserved retirement. Vanessa loved being at the College, and especially enjoyed working with the younger pupils in Lower School. She played a pivotal role in the support of these pupils, who relaxed easily in her company. Some pupils were fortunate enough to have been taught by Vanessa for several years: she thoroughly understood their needs and helped them to progress in their journey towards independence.

As a tutor, Vanessa was caring and attentive. She took time to get to know her tutees and was a reassuring presence for their parents. As well as leading in Learning Support, Vanessa was also a teacher of KS2 History, RS and English, at various points during her time here. Additionally, Vanessa sang with the College's Choral Society from the early days; a passion she enjoyed for many years. Vanessa's kindness and empathy will be missed above all, but we are sure that she will find time in her retirement to pursue her enjoyment of singing and gardening, as well as spending time with her grandchildren. We wish her the very best.



Tina Cox

Tina started at the College in 2008 as a Girls' Games Coach. From the offset, along with her love for sport, she showed a great interest in developing pupils' interest and skill level in all of the core sports that Ellesmere offer to pupils. Tina has a great love for Netball and devoted a lot of time to the development of Girls' Netball at the College. She coached many of the girls during her time with us and brought her experience of coaching within the Welsh Development System plus playing at club level in Wrexham. She offered many extra opportunities for the girls to experience Netball further; one in which she organised a Senior Netball Tour to Northern Ireland in 2013 and took girls on a few occasions to International Matches. She was fully respected by pupils, staff and staff from other Shropshire Schools for dedication and her Netball Coaching ability. Tina leaves us to take on a new role as Director of Netball at King's School Chester.



Sarah Shakibi

Sarah joined us in 2016 and immediately set about putting Ellesmere on the Computing at School (CAS) network map. Being part of CAS was a useful resource to help the College develop our Computer Science curriculum. Sarah demonstrated a passion for her subject and enthused pupils to pursue it at GCSE, A level and onto university. She was determined to move pupils away from merely using apps to understanding them and provided opportunities to be creative.

During her time at Ellesmere Sarah was in St. Patrick's as tutor to the 'pre-6th' international pupils who followed the one year programme in year 11 before continuing onto Sixth Form, she was an active contributor to the Lower School John Muir programme and, as a talented mathematician, she could be counted on to provide additional support to our aspiring A level Further Maths and Computer Science students in preparation for their Oxbridge applications.



Kim Collins

Kim joined Ellesmere in September 2005 to teach biology.

Clearly, given Kim's background in activities and games from her previous school and her personally being an international triathlete, she was never going to settle for just being a teacher. She quickly immersed herself in all things Ellesmere and became involved in many different areas. She was part of the RAF section of the CCF as soon as she joined, eventually taking over as the RAF section commander. Her enthusiasm for adventure was contagious and she involved many pupils and staff in these areas. Kim introduced windsurfing to the College, took part in the gruelling Snowdon run, helped staff the Winter mountaineering trip to Scotland, as well as promoting triathlon. When something appealed, Kim gave it her all. One day she decided that completing an Ironman was a good idea, so that is what she did, and did not settle just for one, but completed many over a number of years. In her time here she worked as an assistant housemistress in one of the boarding Houses, as well as being a tutor in all different areas of the school.

She was a competitive Housemistress of Meynell, which allowed her to express her competitive nature as well as to encourage pupils to go that bit further. Whilst she was at Ellesmere she met and married Chris, with whom she shared many of her sporting activities.

Kim was not just involved in activities but having already gained her PhD in biology before coming to Ellesmere she was a real academic with genuine enthusiasm for her subject. As such, she became head of the Biology department and remained in post until she left at the end of 2022. She was involved in running many of the Biology themed competitions, from the Biology Olympiad at the national level, to making Biology themed cakes, at the College level.

Over the last few years Kim moved away from triathlon as a whole and concentrated more on swimming which is originally where she started as a youngster. As with everything that Kim did she gave it her all and was rewarded by taking part at the top level in Masters Championships throughout the UK and the world. It is this area that she continues to perform well in and decided to leave Ellesmere to concentrate on her swimming and other new areas. After 17 years at Ellesmere she will be missed by both colleagues and students, in and out of the classroom. We wish her well in her future and hope that she will find a time to pop in and see us sometime.

Carolyn Newbold

31/01/1943 to 27/02/2022



Carolyn Newbold was a great friend to the College and a good friend to me personally. As a young Headmaster arriving at a school in a time of flux and transition I could not have asked for a wiser and more supportive Head of Lower School. Carolyn's time at Lower School was coming to an end at that stage, but it had been a hugely distinguished time.

She had been appointed to Head of Lower School when it was simply two classrooms consisting of 23 boys. By the time she relinquished the post, numbers had grown to 151 and we had constructed the Lower School building that still stands today and that is very much a testament to her foundational development of that part of the College. I know that one of the highlights for her was the official opening of the Lower School when we were graced by a visit from the Princess Royal.

From what Carolyn told me, however, things could have been quite different. She was appointed to her post at the College following a telephone conversation with the then Headmaster in which he told her that he needed to offer her the job because (and I quote here) 'we are desperate'. Rarely can an appointment made in alleged desperation have turned out so well.

Beyond Carolyn's work in Lower School she was a highly effective mathematics teacher who had a particular talent for encouraging and developing the skills of those less able mathematicians who often find the subject hard. Many Ellesmerians have reason to be extremely grateful to her for their maths skills alone, without regard for the considerable pastoral care that she showed to so many of them.

Following the conclusion of her time at Lower School, Carolyn was appointed to the post of Senior Mistress and finished her time in employment at the College as Deputy Head.

Her retirement from teaching did not mark her disconnection from the College, however and the year after her retirement she was appointed to the Governing Body, on which she served with great distinction for 14 years. In her time on the Governing Body she took a particular role in pastoral and staffing matters. She was also Director of Ellesmere College Enterprises and the Founding Chairman of Ellesmere College International, a project that is now coming to fruition.

A measure of the regard in which Carolyn was held by the many Ellesmerians with whom she came into contact can be taken by the flood of messages on social media and into the College through other means on the news of her passing.

Throughout her time at Ellesmere, Carolyn was fantastically well supported by her husband, Bill, who survives her. She will be greatly missed.





Chapel Notes

This year's Chapel report will be a term by term overview of sermon themes. It will be more concise than most years because, after COVID, the usual round of chapel activities is being built back gradually. Many familiar landmarks in the school's yearly liturgical journey were absent and though there was joy in being able to gather together more regularly, the lack of House Chapel services and House Carol Services, the Remembrance Requiem, and other waypoints, meant that there was less confidence at our gatherings and a newly (re-)forming familiarity with our forms of worship.

We began the year by reflecting on 'being human,' in a series called Human Blueprint. Much as we look to the schematics of a machine to see how it is supposed to function, and for what purpose it was constructed, we looked to the insights of biblical authors to explore the nature of humanity. We discovered that humans are: made to feel safe, made to be heard, made to be generous, made to be sustained by hope, made to listen, and made to be grateful.

After half term we moved on to look at spirituality. Over the last ten years or so there has been a steady increase in interest around spirituality and concurrent 'commodification' of the same. In all areas of life at the College we aim to prepare students to be discerning. Much as we teach them to be on their guard when consuming media we also need to help them to be critical in their approach to spirituality. Therefore, this half term we looked at what you might call 'the basics' of a healthy spirituality: staying awake, owning up to personal failures, staying humble, responding to opportunities, building courage, and being prepared to learn from an elder. My contention was that without these un-glamorous factors any 'spirituality' is probably self-involved, self-serving, and groundless.

Sadly we were unable to fill the chapel to bursting, as we usually do for carol services, due to rising COVID numbers in Shropshire during December. We opted, instead, for two internal services, both recorded and shared so that others could join us in "heart and mind" and "go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass." The Chapel and Chamber Choirs provided music for the first candlelit service, attended by members of staff and the Sixth Form. The Lower School Service took place during the day.

Having listened to stories about the Angel Gabriel and the heavenly host over Christmas we returned to school asking: Is a Christian supposed to be like an angel? I was trying to get at the common idea that people who call themselves Christians are often just trying to be 'goody two-shoes'. Hence, we looked at ways of describing the Christian life which countermand common misunderstandings. For instance, we looked at 'Life as Worship' not point scoring, we looked at being committed to transformation rather than just self-recrimination, and the freeing idea that life is not an attempt to forge our own identity, purpose, or self-worth but rather the response to a call, summons, or commission.

The collapse of familiar patterns during the pandemic meant that we also needed to turn our attention to the meaning and purpose of the services and rituals that we share in chapel. Consequently, the next half-term's worth of services was given over to an examination of the various parts of the Eucharist, what they are, what they mean, and how they encode wisdom for our daily lives. Our school was founded by a priest who was convinced that the Eucharist should be at the heart of every educational community that he established. We saw how the Eucharist is 'bread for the journey' and that spoke to us of God's care for us and the importance of self-care. We saw how the Eucharist is a way to share Jesus' life and that led us to examine the ways that we share life with others, and reflect on being intentional about how we do that.

We also looked at the importance of confession and self-examination, giving and receiving, love, devotion, and worship.

After the Easter Holiday we moved onto a topic that is often left unexamined but which teenagers especially need to think carefully about: What is love? Of course, their years in the senior school will be filled with many feelings but which of them are love and which lust? And how should they behave in a relationship? They might feel loving but what should they do about that? We discovered the following marks of love: it adapts, it takes time, it respects boundaries, love is not earned, it takes joy in the beloved's successes and helps them to flourish.

We finished the academic year by learning – both in the lower and the senior schools – about the Holy Spirit, sometimes called 'the forgotten God'. Various aspects of her ministry to us were explored and near the end of the term we had a joy-filled whole school Eucharist. Elements of liturgical style from the Lower School and the Senior School came together to enhance each other and complete our consideration of the Holy Spirit: who is breath of life, fire of God, midwife of creation, and spirit of truth.

As ever I am very grateful for the assistance of the Sacristan and Chapel Prefect; this year they were Amy Evans and Harriet Otter. Although they had fewer opportunities to serve at grand occasions, they went about their business with dignity and good humour. I hope we will see them serving at OE occasions in the future.

PG





Competitive Houses

MEYNELL

Housemaster: Mr D. Bottom

House Tutors: Miss A.C. Darrant, Mrs L.L Edwards, Mrs J.K. Evans, Mrs Z.J. Fisher, Mr M.T. Horton, Mrs S. Phillips, Mr I.L. Roberts, Dr H.S. Shakibi, Dr I.G. Tompkins, Mr I.L. Williams

Captains of House: Lucy Stevens and Alex Bain

Meynell Leadership Team: Amy Evans, Connie Trollope, Doug Carden, William Bryson, Oliver Barrett, Mey Funke, Elizabeth Bowers, James Barker, Findlay Reddington

This past year has been slightly less peculiar than the preceding ones. Lockdowns and bubbles became more of a memory than a reality and the College began the slow return to normality. As the year moved on, House meetings started to take place in the real world rather than the strangely disembodied space offered by virtual assemblies. Many competitions returned to the calendar and the cut and thrust of sporting, academic, and artistic competition came back to life.



Throughout this period, our Captains of House, Alex Bain and Lucy Stevens, demonstrated outstanding leadership as they organised, cajoled and inspired House members to play their part on the sporting field and to participate in academic competitions. They were ably supported by the Meynell Leadership Team, who kept spirits up and who – like Lucy and Alex – set high standards. One cloud on the horizon was the cancellation of House Singing. Of course, there was a silver lining: we retained the cup we won back in 2020 so are, factually at least, on one of the longest winning streaks in the competition's history!



The Michaelmas term began with It's a Knockout for the Sixth Form. Though not meant to be a competitive event, competitive it became with tug-of-war; three-legged football, and water-balloon races getting the new year off with a bang. Also, we saw the very welcome return of House Plays in a packed Arts Centre. The cast and production team threw themselves into rehearsing Roald Dahl's 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Amy Evans and Doug Carden were strikingly powerful and amusing narrators of a twisted tale that saw Alex Bain don a stunning Shrek costume. Iris Grigoros led the off-stage production with precision and flair.

Michaelmas also saw the reappearance of the Mini-Saga competition after a two-year hiatus. House Captain, Alex, finished 2nd in the Seniors with a tale about mistaking Santa for a burglar and Carmen Kilgannon, Year 12, came 3rd with a tense piece about waiting for a food delivery. In the Juniors, Eddie Pytches, Year 10, came 1st with an amusing take on cheating in the classroom. As always, we had an impressive number of

serious entries. Other cerebral competitions saw Meynell doing well. Both the Junior and Senior Debating teams put up a good show and stood their ground. In the Senior Photography Competition, James Barker came second with his sporting portrait and, in the Juniors, George Hinks was the overall winner.

On the playing field, Meynell's fortunes were mixed, with many matches going down to the wire and ending with us snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. That said, our boys stormed to victory in Senior Rugby at the start of the year and they became Senior Basketball champions in the summer too. They also won Senior Indoor Cricket with 9 balls to spare. The Sixth Form girls competed fiercely on the netball court, narrowly missing out on the chance to regain their former crown. In Senior Girls' Indoor Cricket, we won our semifinal on the last ball of the match and posted a competitive innings in the final that was, sadly, a little too low to ensure victory. Cross-country saw Eleanor Broughton, Year 11, and Anna Farrow, Year 12, race impressively to win the Inter and Senior Girls' races. In the younger years, the boys won Junior Football and, in all sports, the younger Meynellians competed with good humour and hard work. As ever, we won Senior Golf in the summer, though things were closer than normal with Ollie Barrett, Y13, winning things on the final hole.

One other highlight of the year was the reappearance of the Meynell House Dinner. As in the past, parents attended in their droves to enjoy a formal meal in Dining Hall, listen to Alex and Lucy review the year thus far with eloquence and humour, and enjoy a large social gathering after the isolating experience of the pandemic. It was good to hear the shared laughter and see the communal spirit again, and it was a fitting send off for Lucy and Alex. Both will be missed and, in their footsteps, follow two more outstanding leaders, Charlie Sweeney and Carmen Kilgannon, who will lead Meynell to more successes in the new academic year that will, fingers crossed, be in a world that has returned to normal.

DB







Lai, S. Gray, I. Aspa, M. Gardner-McTaggart, B. Nicholas, A. Manchanda, P. Noonan, M. Acevedo, S. Carden, V. Galliers, T. Moore, I. Povey Abbott, E. Hunter, L. Conway, L.J. Hidayat, O. Davidson-Jackson, K. Trollope, C. Bowers, E.A. Yazifteh Behnam, B. Sanderson, C. Barker, J.J.A.O. Aspa, R. Harris, R. Evans, A.R. Tsui, I. Grigorias, I. Murdoch, K. Harris, F. Popplewell, A. Mainwaring, P. Broughton, E. Loe, A. Fisher, N. Warrington, B. Laccours, M. Sharaf, L. Gilmore, F. Davies, J. Lubowa, K. Adlard, C.D. Carden, D.A. Pytches, E. Sharpe, A. Taylor, B. Oke, L.B. Givri, M. Ng, B. Sugawara, A. Morgan, T. Sanderson, L. Loud, O. Oliver, E. Moore, O.R.W. Mallin, J.G.E. Phillips, A. Easthope-Mowatt, O. Kilpatrick, S. Apperley-Roberts, R. Kilgannon, C.G. Henderson, M.G.F. Murdoch, D. Reddington, F. Ji, R. Hinks, G. Oliver, B.M. Anolyskowski, M. Hall, I. Popplewell, J. Farrow, A. Irwin, J. Wong, A. Bowers, J.R. Blakesley, M. Funke, M.P. Bain, J.A.S. Critchell, O.J. Joynton, G.E.R. Jia, J. Hutchinson, J. Sinclair, R. Dr I.G. Tompkins Ashbrook, C. Azarchenko, A. Schuette, T. Warrington, S.T. Cunningham, D. Bryson, W. Barrett, O. Onyebuchi, K. Hage, J. Sweeney, C.W.J. Joynton, J.H.D. Ashbrook, J. Mr N.R. Armstrong Mrs S.A. Hutchon Dr V.A. Frulloni Mr M.T. Horton Mr I.L. Williams Stevens, L.A. Mr D. Bottom Bain, A.C. Mr I.L. Roberts Mrs S.A. Phillips Mrs Z.J. Fisher Mrs J.K. Evans Mrs L.L. Edwards





Competitive Houses

TALBOT

Housemistress: Mrs. A.S. Done

House Tutors: Mr S. J. Prescott, Mrs C. A. Empson, Mrs N.J. Welti, Mrs C. Westwood, Mr D.J. Morgan, Ms L. Killen, Mr G. Owen, Mrs C. S. Dilks

Captains of House: N.I.F. Dalziel and W. B. Selby

The new academic year and new term started with great positivity and optimism as a regular events calendar returned to the competitive house structure and the competitions began in earnest. The House welcomed in its new House Captains Natasha Dalziel and Will Selby, who would prove to be a force for good and helped define the success of the House across the school year.

The House meetings, having previously been an online adventure, returned to a more suitable format in person and much was celebrated with the House being back together again and the allegiance and loyalty to the House returning, after such a disruptive period.

The House was busy on day one with the Sixth Form It's a Knockout event, a great way to bring the Year 12 and Year 13 pupils together as the new academic year started and put them straight into competition with tug-of-war, 3-legged football and water-balloon races. The energy and efforts of all who took part that day should be commended and it really proved a valuable activity in building friendships, establishing relationships and creating a clear affinity to representing Talbot House.

The major event of the Michaelmas Term saw the return of the House play's – with this year's theme being Roald Dahl's interpretation of Cinderella. The event proved spectacular, with a great team effort both on and off the stage, culminating in a brilliant performance from the whole cast and crew. A special mention to our Yr. 13 pupils, who made sure the play was one they would always cherish being a part of.

Other key events reappeared in the calendar; with the Mini-sage competitions – a 50-word story that must captivate the reader and leave them wanting more, saw a good take up and a high number of entries by

the House. The Senior Photography Competition took place and this year was themed across three areas; Black and White Sports; Spring and Art in My Life. Again, it was great to see such a wide range of entries and great skilled work being submitted by junior and senior members of the House. Likewise, we saw the Junior and Senior debating teams go head to head with the other Houses and demonstrated much in terms of skills and debating excellence.

The House Hockey event at the end of the Michaelmas term is always one the House looks forward to and given the talent pool within the House, it is understandable. A brilliant display by the juniors saw the Talbot Juniors pick up the trophy and take the crown, whilst the seniors gave it all but were just beaten into second place by Wakeman-Lambart.

The end of the Michaelmas Term saw the annual House Rugby matches hotly contested at both Inters and Senior level. Having won 2 of the 3 games a defeat meant a second-place finish for the Inters, whilst a very competitive Senior competition, saw Talbot win one, draw one and lose one, to finish a respectable 3rd overall.

The Girls Indoor Hockey event is always a time for challenge and expectation. With the strong team of players at Talbot's disposal, they went about looking to secure the cup and the victory they so wanted. The Juniors having played well throughout the tournament clinched a well-earned victory over Meynell to claim the Inters title. Sadly, the Senior's event was cancelled, but we felt we had the team to make it a Talbot victory across the board.

The House Cross Country event in the Lent term is always a highlight for whole team participation and a chance for some of the individual members of the House to step forward and contribute to the overall success in this competition. On a bitterly cold day, the weather was not going to put off a spirited and determined House who wore their House colours with pride and braved the elements to support and compete for the House. It got off to a great start with the Junior event being claimed by Talbot and particular mention should go to Bella Spencer Blow who was the individual winner in the Junior Girls competition. We did not fair as well in the Inters or the Seniors and as a result finished a respectable 3rd overall in the competition.

The House singing event did not take place this year, much to the disappointment of all the pupils and staff, but we took this energy into the rest of the competitive events across the summer term.

House Basketball was a popular choice of scheduled competition and the House had a willing group of players ready to take on the best of the rest from each of the four Houses. The event in the sports hall was well supported and the noise and atmosphere really added to the enjoyment and tension of the competition. Despite a spirited effort in all sections of the competition, Talbot House could just not put all the pieces together when it was needed to take the various crowns, with the Senior girls proving the best performance in the House with a very impressive 2nd place finish.

The House quiz quickly came around and a crack team was assembled to try and win one of the most hotly contested events in the school calendar. A closely fought semi-final saw us victorious against a very good Woodard team. Not for the first time in this year we found ourselves pitted against Wakeman-Lambart in the final, the team did amazingly well, but after a very close competition, the team were sadly pipped into second place for the event.

The House Netball is becoming a key area of strength, with the House fortunate to have such a wide range of quality players at both Senior and Junior level. The juniors played a great game throughout and despite it being really close, the skills of our goal attackers and goal keeper paid dividends and the victory for the Juniors was won on goal difference. The Seniors almost made it a clean sweep, but with some excellent individual performances from the girls across the other Houses, the final whistle saw the Senior girls take a well earned 2nd place in a fiercely contested event.

The end of the Lent term saw the House Football Festival, again played in a competitive spirit with all team wanting the victory. With a win rate of 1 victory to 2 defeats, there was nothing the team could do to change the result and with one House winning all three games, they took the victory with the Senior boys in second place. The Junior event was tough and with some clear differences in quality across the squads, the Juniors finished 4th. The most positive aspect here was the determination of the players to keep going and to give everything for the House regardless of how the results went.

The Senior House Volleyball is a very social occasion and one that is played in great spirits across all teams. With a full house in the sportshall, the Talbot team took the pitch and gelled immediately. The format of the event is a round robin with each team playing 9 games across the format. A win rate of 7 and only 2 losses saw Talbot take the crown and with it the Senior competition.

Senior House golf saw a team made up of Charlie Boys, Marcus Wildblood, Shinil Balakrishnan and Laurence Jones. The team were too much for the rest and the skill and ability demonstrated across the afternoon, led to a first-place finish for the Senior House golf team with Charlie posting a score of 32, 2 over par for the day, which was an outstanding personal performance to sit alongside that of the overall team.

It was a delight to have the return of the House Dinner, to celebrate the year together and to remind ourselves of the successes and achievements of our time this year. The speeches by Natasha and Will, were as expected, excellent and they really helped to summarise another successful year for all of the pupils involved in Talbot House. It was great to welcome back the many parents of the pupils in the house and to be able to enjoy a celebration evening, which was appreciated by all.

Natasha and Will have played a key part in the success of Talbot House this year and they have demonstrated great leadership, organisation, planning and the ability to get others to commit to the House and all of its competitions. They have certainly left their mark and we look forward to seeing Georgia Munro and Charlie Wood take up the mantle and move the House forward in 2023.

Finally, we must say our thanks to all of those leaving the House this summer, especially those in Year 11 or Year 13. Their continued support, efforts and hard work across all areas of school life at Ellesmere has enabled Talbot House to have another exceptional year of success and a year I hope you will all treasure. I hope that for all the leavers, Talbot House will always be a fond memory of your time at Ellesmere and memories of the events won and lost will long live in the memory.

As with the Motto of Talbot House "Prest d'accomplir! Be 'ready to accomplish!'"







Kritchannarat, N. Fry, M. Johnson, P.L. Evans, K.L. Moore, N.T.R. Greenwood, S. Gough-Tilley, T. Derbyshire, O.M.P. Gallagher, L.M. Locela, G. Winney, H.W. Kimber, E.M. Heward, K.F. Parry, C.O. Rowlands, F.B.E. Lewis, F. Wildwood, M.W. Ng, E. Khazigaleev, R. Bishop, E. Howell, E.A. Huntbach, E.M. Harvey Hemming, L.A.N. Farr, E.E. Martin, M.J. Westwood, C.A. Jones, C.E. Smith, E.M. Asbury, C.L. Skarratt, M.O. Prescott, G. McGuire, N.L. Munro, G.E. Stephenson, F.M. Ashton, A. Walton, M. Volar, A. Evans, J. Spencer-Blow, A.D. Cornwell, H.R. Tanaka, F. Smith, J.M. Cuckson, C. Fernández Nicolis, G.V. Owen, G.O. Olle Curiel, S. Neil, L.G. Cid Duch, C. Goode, S.P.S. Pyke, H.T. Karnik-Lovatt, S. Hobbs, J.B. Lee, J. Pinholt, C. Bao, K. Goode, T.J.S. Mnatsakanov, A. Ashton, H. Caldwell, J.H. Bicho, Z.M. Ho, E. Dyson, J.J.D. Digwood, H.J. Brian, A. Ognov, Y.D. Irfan, M. Muller, C. Chong, N. Jones, L.J. Lloyd-Brown, H. Hemingway-Deaney, R. Melitzer, J. Gallagher, R. Asbury, E.W. Prescott, J.J. Covill, O. Hanson, P.J. Scarlett, B. Rees-Young, C.W. Weli, G.D.A. Wood, C. Hepburn, H.J. Dickinson, A.T. Brumpton, F.J. Ratheram, A. Owen, W.G. Cuckson, H. Beaver, E. Penrice, L.E.J. Hemingway-Deaney, C.H. Powell, D.W.G. Bertoli, A. Keay, W.A.S. Boys, C.T. Scheepbouwer, Y.B. Kittirattanaviwat, B. Mr S.J.Prescott Mrs C.A.Empson Mrs N.J.Weli Mrs C.Westwood Selby, W.B. Mrs A.S.Done Dalziel, N.I.F. Mr D.J.Morgan Ms L.Killen Mr G.Owen Mrs C.S.Dilks Weli, R.



Competitive Houses

WAKEMAN-LAMBART

Housemaster: Mr. D.W. Crawford

House Tutors: Mr. M. P. Clewlow, Dr. M. T. Gareh, Mr. J. H. Cowley, Mrs. M. E. Hutchings, Mrs. H. L. Davenport, Mr. P. E. Swainson, Mrs. K. Curzon, Mrs. J. A. Kirk, Mrs. C. A. McClelland, Dr. J. L. Marsh, Mr. G. W. Phillips.

Captains of House: Amy Storey-Gibbons and Ioan Craven-Jones

September 2021 saw much of the College's workings return to normal, not least the idea of being able to get as many House events going again as possible, and newly-appointed House Captains Ioan and Amy were keen to get us off to a positive start.

The Junior girls were first up, just clinching third place in the indoor hockey with a last-minute goal against Woodard to avoid the wooden spoon. We then set ourselves to writing and performing the House Play for the year: based on a Snow White story retold by Roald Dahl, director Amy Storey-Gibbons created a good script and recruited both experienced performers and new Wakeman-Lambart initiates to make up a large and varied cast. Particular credit should go to Sophia Nolan who was a confident Snow White, and to Oscar Acher Rogers who took on the role of the Magic Mirror with acerbic wit. It was a pleasing result for Amy, who took the award for Best Director – and deservedly so.

Sadly, the House Carol Service was not possible this year, but the big sporting events of the final week of term were still good to go: House Rugby, followed by the House Hockey. On a bitterly cold afternoon, Junior and Senior teams took on their rivals: the Junior rugby boys showed some excellent spirit but were squeezed into third, but the Seniors showed that while they might not have been the fancied team, they were the most cohesive and organised team by far, taking the title with three wins out of three. Captain Ioan Craven-Jones marshalled his troops well, and excellent contributions were made by everyone, not least Will Williamson and first XV Captain Sam Zakers, who capped off an emphatic win against Meynell by sprinting to within two metres of the touchline, making an elaborate Chris Ashton-style dive, then actually catching the ball while in mid-air and scoring!

Attention then turned to the hockey: as the sun set and the temperature dropped to low single figures, our Juniors fought out a tough sequence of games to nab third place on goal difference, while the Seniors dominated their competition under the leadership of Millie Forster, finishing comfortably on top to take the title for the fourth year in a row.

Into the New Year, and the House Cross Country was the first major event: Thomas Jacques and James Li-Campbell won their respective age group races, and overall, we finished a pleasing second. The Merit Cup for the greatest participation was ours, though: a superb achievement given that we were numerically the smallest of the Houses, and testament to the Wakeman-Lambart spirit and ethos. Mixed fortunes prevailed in the House Basketball, with our best performance coming courtesy of the Junior Girls, who conceded no points as they claimed the title.

House Debating brought out the more cerebral side of the House, and our Senior team, led by Bruno Kington-Brady, produced good arguments on 'This House believes that soft power is a fallacy' before going down to a controversial decision on points over the motion 'This House would ban boxing'. The House Quiz team performed very well, defeating Talbot emphatically in the final and showing a familiarity with William Gladstone, Polymer Chemistry, and Dante's Inferno in the process.



Spring turned into summer, and while there was no House cricket to speak of, the senior members of the House banded together for a valedictory volleyball tournament, often more for the camaraderie than the competition, and while the result was only mid-table, it was a good way for our departing pupils to sign off. The House Golf focused on bringing through some of our younger players, and it was a well done to Will Aston-Stott and Elieot Williamson, both from Year 9, who helped the Wakeman-Lambart team to a good second-placed result.

As the year closed, it emerged that it was not to be our lot to claim the Academic Cup: this did not detract from all the excellent stuff that members of the Wakeman Army managed to achieve. My thanks to loan and to Amy for their hard work and time invested, and good luck to Farrell Given and Valerie Fabery de Jonge for next year.

As always, let us LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!

DWC







Goodwin, A. Furlong Hart, D. Norris, J. Prince, T. Maughan, A.M. Holton, J. Davies-Riley, R. Perez Torres, A. Li, L. Nolan, S. Edwards, S.J.C. Li, C. Edwards, S.M. Wynne, E.
 Adams, E. Tam, W. Manford, A.R. Mangham, M. Williams, T. Dandy, A.J. Williamson, E. Acher Rogers, O. Hughes, J. Gillingham, K. Au-Yeung, J. Aston-Stott, W.
 Gittins, D. Avery, D. Karlakki, A. Daykin-Joyce, S. Pahissa Diaz, J. Schneevogl, D. Li-Campbell, J. Davies, F. Herron, O. Redshaw, J. Luna Romany, M. Webster, M. Gregory, E.
 Shah, K. Walker, T. Brookshaw, Z. Jacques, T. Crossen, O. Rossow, L. Freer-Carmichael, I. Tasaddak, W. Jacques, A. Hearn, H. Febrey, A. Palet Tarre, M. Given, F.
 Joulie, V. Curzon, E. Kunz, S. Kingston-Brady, B. Hussey, J. Lowe, B. Futter, A. Fabery de Jonge, V. Norris, A.W. Lewers, K.D.J. Chankseliani, D. Orme, J. Craven-Jones, D. Jackson, H.
 Williamson, W.M.R. Gregorius Eppers, S. Thethy, R. Sankov, A. Scott, D. Gillingham, A. Brookshaw, W.A. Forster, M. Reygondeau, T. Rosser-Barnett, A.J.M. Lee, E. Lloyd, H.J. Hoepfner, L.
 Wu, F. Fischer, M. Reardon, L. Cooksley, J. Sevcik, O. Millington, J. Zakers, B.F. Pamore, S.R. Davis, C. Studer, M. Lewers, J. Ort, H. Kelly, J.R. Evans, M.
 Luscher, K. Mr G.W. Phillips Mrs K. Curzon Mr J.H. Cowley Dr M.T. Gareh Storey Gibbons, A. Mr D.W. Crawford Craven-Jones, I.S. Mr M.P. Clewlow Mr M. Needham Mrs H.L. Davenport Mrs J.A. Kirk Mr P.E. Swainson



Competitive Houses

WOODARD

Housemaster: Dr R.J. Hansford

House Tutors: Mr J. J. Baggaley, Mr A. P. Coupe, Mr C. Davies, Mr C. Garratt, Mr J. N. Haycock, Mr A. J. Murphy, Mr J. W. Nicholson, Mr A. D. Quentin, Mrs M. Reynolds, Mr E. J. Richards, Mrs R. L. Schubert, Mrs J. M. Underhill, Mr J. S. Underhill.

Captains of House: A. Newton & A.N. Pritchard

The start of the year saw the promotion of some of last year's Lower Sixth to prominent positions within the House. Anouska Newton became the Captain for the Girls and Abraham Pritchard the Captain for the Boys. Anouska and Abraham both followed in the footsteps of their elder sisters who had been previous successful House captains for Woodard, so there was obviously no pressure on them. Both were supported by the Vice Captains: Harriet Otter and Ella Maltby for the girls, and Alfie Heasmer-Jones and Alfie Linnington for the boys. This formidable team not only made the year run smoothly but also made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

After a two-year hiatus, we saw the return of the House plays. This year's theme was Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. Woodard was given Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Anouska took on the role of the director and script writer and did a formidable job. Abraham, like many House captains before him, took on the main female lead as Goldilocks. The red high heels that have been a feature in many Woodard House plays fitted him perfectly. I think this was one of the contributing factors to him winning the Best Male Ellie Award. Jack Tomlinson and Josh Mac Andrew also won an Ellie for the Best Double Act and the back-stage crew gained one for the Best Use of Props.

Academic competitions got underway in the Michaelmas term, with the first being the Mini Saga. This involved students writing a 50-word essay that in itself would tell a story that left the reader wanting more. Harvey Leonard gained 2nd place in the Junior competition, which was a fantastic achievement. However, we had a good number of entries which showed the



determination of the Woodard pupils and we ended the Michaelmas term in the lead in the Academic cup.

At the end of the Michaelmas term the usual festival of rugby for the boys and hockey for the girls returned, although the boys did not play full contact rugby. This proved difficult for the senior squad, most of whom played for the first XV, and they struggled with the new rules. Despite a sterling effort, they came last in the Senior boys' competition. They were obviously completely devastated but vowed to come back next year with a fighting spirit. The Junior boys, however, did better, coming in 1st overall against the other Competitive Houses. This was a brilliant achievement, and the Junior team is a real hope for future competitions. The girls also put up their usual grit and determination in the House hockey against some difficult opponents. Although we didn't win either the Junior or Senior competitions, the girls did well.

Although you don't often associate the Michaelmas term with cricket, the Junior boys played – well, they played indoors cricket, at least. The match saw the Woodard Junior boys all out for 22, and in reply Wakeman-Lambart won by 6 wickets and they went through to the final.

Then onto the Lent term, which unlike last year returned to almost the full complement of competitions and activities. Competitive House sport continued. We had House basketball for both girls and boys, Juniors and Seniors. These matches took place throughout the Lent term, kicking off with the Junior boys, who came in 2nd after losing to Meynell 8 -2. The Senior boys came in 3rd against Meynell and Wakeman-Lambart, and the Junior girls 4th. The senior girls, however, had a bit more success, winning their competition by beating Talbot in the final by 6 hoops.

However, the main event was the House cross country, which saw the whole House compete in the annual run around the school. It is one of my favourite sporting events of the year and it kicked off with Alfie Linnington doing a great warm up with the whole House before the event started. This was needed as the wind was bitter. However, this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Woodard pupils who wore their purple tribal war paint with pride. The enthusiasm and warm up seemed to work as Woodard won the Athletics Standard Cup for the best overall House. We also won the Inter and Senior cross-country cups and came runners up in the Junior competition. Louis Lermite gave a notable performance, having seemingly

appeared at the finish line in what seemed like minutes after he started. This saw him become the winner of the Senior competition.

House football and netball rounded up the sporting events of the Lent term. In the football the Junior boys came 2nd, and the Seniors 1st, winning the football trophy. The girls, who were captained by Ella Maltby, also did brilliantly after winning the Senior House Netball and taking home the netball trophy.

Academic competitions also continued in the Lent term. We did almost have the return of House Singing, but it was sadly cancelled due to rising Covid numbers. However, the House Debating did return. The Junior team – which comprised of Felix Hickish, Evan Garrett, and Harry Underhill – got through to the final, where they were narrowly beaten by Talbot and came in 2nd. This was our best result yet. The Senior team that was captained by Aditi Chezian put up a great fight, but were narrowly beaten by Talbot, who went onto the final.

As Debating only allowed for teams of 3, not all Woodard House members could take part, therefore, it was with great delight that the House Photography competition returned. As usual, the Woodard pupils did the House proud with the number of entries. There were three categories this year for both Juniors and Seniors. These were Black and White Sports, Art in My Life, and Spring. Tessa O'Brien yet again won the Senior competition, as she has done ever since joining Woodard, with her black and white horse-riding photo. Zoe Mabaquiao Lennox was also shortlisted for her entry in the spring category.

The start of the Summer term saw the annual House Dinner; which had been delayed from the Lent term. I was delighted to see the support of so many guests. Many parents turned up to the event, the most of any of the Competitive Houses. Many of the parents were ex-Woodardians and Ella Maltby's father even turned up in his official House captain jacket that he received during his time at Ellesmere. It was a successful evening due to the support of not only our guests but the pupils and House staff, as well as the stars of the evening Anouska and Abraham, both delivering great speeches. During their speeches they reminded everyone of the best moments from the year. It was also nice to see a number of pupils receiving their colours, and this included a number of Year 12s – Iona Taylor, Tabitha Leonard, Jennifer Hooper, Reuben Roberts and Will Wilkinson – which is an impressive feat for all as the Sixth Form are required to enter many more competitions than Middle School pupils and saw all four having entered every sporting and many academic competitions throughout the year. A huge thanks must be given to all who attended and I hope to see you next year.



The House Quiz also took place in the Summer term. Our team comprised of two Sixth Formers, Isaac Dodds (Year 13) and Aditi Chezian (Year 12), and two Middle School pupils, Evan Garret (Year 10) and Theo MacAndrew (Year 9). As in previous years, we took on Talbot in the semi-final and we were bombarded with questions from the ultimate quizmaster, Mr Crawford. After nearly forty minutes of intense questioning, including a nerve racking in the spotlight round, Talbot finally won and went through to the final against Wakeman-Lambart, but it was impressive to see how well the Woodard pupils answered the questions.



Just like last year, it was amazing how the pupils knew answers to questions that many adults in the audience would have struggled with.

In terms of House Sport, we had a mixed age and gender volleyball competition in which Woodard came 2nd overall by winning 5 out of the 9 matches played. Talbot won the event having lost only 2 of their 9 matches overall. The final sporting event of the summer term was the Senior House Golf competition. The conditions for the competition were a lot more favourable than the wintery conditions that last year's competitors were subjected to. This year we had an all-male team comprising of Ben Wright, Jack Tomlinson and the mighty Linnington brothers, Alfie and Sam. We had stiff competition as the other teams had many more Golf Academy players, with Ben being our only Golf Academy player. The gentlemen played well, but the competition was just too good this year and Woodard came in 3rd place.

The final highlight of the House year was the surprise win of the Academic Cup for the second year running. Having led the competition at the start of the year, we had slipped down to fourth and last place during the Lent and Summer terms. But Woodard pupils, who are never ones to shy away from a challenge, rallied in the final weeks of the Summer term when other House took their foot off the pedal and managed to convert their 4th place back into 1st. This meant that for the second year running Woodard won the Academic Cup, which was truly amazing and well-deserved.

I continue to be immensely proud of the pupils in Woodard this year; as my motto has been for pupils to take the opportunity to have a go at things that they have never done before. I have continued to see Woodard pupils taking on new things, with rugby players continuing to enter writing competitions and the scholars playing rugby and netball. I hope we can build on this sense of a family and the resilience to take on anything over the coming years. Finally, many thanks to the Year 13s and 11s that are leaving us at the end of this year; the support and effort that you have put into House activities this year have made it another truly enjoyable and memorable year. I hope that you come back and visit and support the House whenever you have a free moment.

As we move on to a new year, let's hope we can build on this year's success and keep showing the other House what we are made of. May our blood continue to run proudly purple. Woodard, you are simply the best.

RJH





Davies, T. Goss, C. Edwards, E. Brinck-Jensen, R. Bani, A.S. Muya, S. Walle, L. Pencavel, C. Appleby, F.E.H. Greaves Pym, M. McNamara, S. Baron Delgado, A. Appleby, A.J.L.
 Davies, A. Eskandari, M. Hickish, F. Criggs, I. Minarik, A. Noss, C. Watt, M.F. Lepone, F. Brittmann, E. Lamb, H. MacAndrews, T.S. O'Brien, T. Mabaquiao Lennox, Z. Hearn Jones, A.
 Lee, K. Higgins, O. Williams, J. Ogunlaja, I. Philbin, O. Beetham, I. Liley, H. Leonard, F. Noss, P. Wilson, M. Louch, H. Underhill, H. Bury, T. Coe, A.G.
 Henry, C. Lermite, L. Calzada, E. Leonard, T.L. Roberts, R. Henz, H. Connors-Robic, S. Yang, G. Moore, H. Zou, S. Wright, B.D. Bland, M.K. Robinson, A. Todman, J.W.
 Kuenlen, B. Draco, O. Appleby, H. Haji, T. Hooper, J.A. Bailon, J. Henderson, L. MacAndrew, J. Sun, T. Neaves, A. Raw, J. Hearn Jones, F. Chan, P. Birungi, J.
 Taylor, I. Linington, A.W. Catt, E. Wilson, G.T. Green, C.J. Swinnerton, P.E. Davies, C. Copelin, J. Appleby, S. Baggaley, F.J. Tulloch, E.M. Morris, B. Tomlinson, J.
 Mr J.J. Baggaley Wilkinson, W. Linington, S.G. Evans, L.F. Dodds, O. Dodds, I. Malby, E.L. Otter, H.F. Aimurayev, T. Harper, W. Swinnerton, T. Harvey, H.A. Boggemann, T. Mr A.P. Coupe
 Mr A.D. Quentin Mrs M.D. Reynolds Mr J.N. Haycock Mr E.J. Richards Mr J.S. Underhill Newton, A.Z.L. Dr R.J. Hansford Pritchard, A.N. Mr C.R. Davies Mr A.J. Murphy Mrs J.M. Underhill Mrs R.L. Schubert Mr J.W. W. Nicholson

Woodard 2021

House 2022

Lower School

“Education is the most powerful tool we can use to develop our world.”

N. Mandela

It was a fitting end to the academic year that we could welcome families once again into College, to Lower School Last Assemblies and Strawberry and Fizz parties on the terrace. We have sadly missed these events due to the pandemic restrictions and it was good to start establishing some routines, indicating some semblance of normality is returning again.

The Key Stage 3 Assembly took place on the top floor of Lower School. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the weather was extremely kind. Miss Ellis and a group of Year Eight 8 pupils started proceedings by singing a medley of songs. We have superb opportunities for pupils to develop their musical talents at the College. At the end of each academic year it is correct and an opportune time to sincerely thank the music staff for their dedication and support of Lower School musicians and vocalists. Once again there have been outstanding performances in concerts and festivals, and the Lower School choir is comprised of children from across all age groups.

Mr. Dilks, the Assistant Head Academic, kindly stepped forward to help present prizes in the Key Stage 3 Assembly. We wish Mr. Dilks well, as from next term he is undertaking a new Housemaster role at the College. We thank Mr Dilks for his work over the past eight years; he is a respected colleague. Mrs. Hibbott will be undertaking the role from September.

The final Assemblies are indeed a special day to take a moment to formally celebrate all that has been achieved through a busy academic year. Life in Lower School passes at a terrific pace and the pupils squeeze a great deal into their academic week. Many achievements can be tangible. However, it is also important to reflect on the less visible skills that gradually develop over the passing of time and by learning through experiences and mistakes. All of these personal achievements for the pupils contribute to their successful educational journey. In Lower School we try to nurture well-balanced and kind people who are flexible thinkers, articulate and effective and ready to tackle an ever-changing world outside of the College.

We also believe that children should step outside of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. We guide them to take every opportunity that arises.

This Year's Head Boy and Girl were Nathaniel Clewlow and Lucy Chadwick. They shared their personal thoughts of how the year had gone from their perspectives. They have been exceptional ambassadors for the College and I will watch their progress through the College years, with fondness.



My name is Lucy, and it has been a huge privilege to be Head Girl this year. As we come to the end of our time in Lower School, I want to say a massive thank you to all the teachers who have supported us during our time here. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs Morgan for making me feel so welcome when I first joined and being someone I always felt I could go to if I needed advice. Mr Dilks for being a great form tutor and someone who has played a really supportive role in more recent times. Last but not least, Mrs Owen for being such an amazing Head of Lower School, for being helpful and kind whenever I needed it, teaching me Science, and revealing the secret to making sherbet during Open Day.

In addition, I would like to thank the people behind the scenes, including the kitchen staff, grounds men and all the people who work so hard to make the school what it is. If you are wondering what I mean by this, Lower School gives you opportunities and experiences that show you qualities you didn't even know you had.

My memory of Ellesmere starts back in Year 4 watching 'Maths Mansion' with Nina, Tanny and Izzy whilst eating cookies and milk – I mean, no wonder I enjoyed Maths so much! Moving into Year 5 with Mrs. Philips, we learnt about self-sufficiency by trying to grow vegetables – some even managed to grow upside down and that is not an exaggeration. Year 6 started well with Mr. Hutchings teaching us resilience when it comes to withstanding sarcasm. This was fortunate

because we needed this skill when COVID hit, the school closed down and we moved onto Teams where my most frequently said phrase became - 'Mr. Hutchings – You're on mute.' In Year 7 we wore track suits and face masks, and Mr. Wignall must have got a really good deal on hand-san because it was everywhere. And now to Year 8...

- I've taken my responsibilities as Head Girl seriously. This includes:
- Trying to come to school early despite Mr. Coupe's time keeping.
 - Helping out with Chapel – even though I never got to wave the incense around.
 - Doing readings and making speeches.
 - Helping choose the themes for prefect dinners – I'm still getting over our defeat in Croquet where the teachers didn't hold back even though I have been kind about them today.
 - Finally, and most importantly, making fun of Tanny, the Head Boy.

My advice to the Year 7s would be to take on any opportunity that is given to you and don't, under any circumstance, let the teachers win at croquet!

Lucy Chadwick. Head Girl of Lower School 2021-2022



Hi everyone. My name is Tanny. I did it! 6 years here. Now I am done. It feels weird knowing that I will never really come into this building for a proper lesson again. I remember my very first time coming here, on my taster day. My 'Buddy' for the day was Chris Astbury. I remember walking into the classroom and just feeling instantly welcomed. Mr. Thomas, who was the Year 3 teacher, welcomed me in, introduced me to everyone and I was quite surprised at how well everyone got on with each other, even though there were people two years younger than them in the same room. Everybody just... gelled together. Anybody could start a conversation with anybody. It was friendly. I remember going away and thinking that it must have just been an act, put on to impress me. Honestly, there was not any need to as soon as I found out we did not have to eat in the same place as we did RE. When I joined, everything was just like my taster day. Everything was so open. No barriers, no cliques, just people. Even the teachers did not feel like Big Scary People. Except Mr. Dilks. All of it was so refreshing to be in. Seeing as my class was only 4 people, it was pretty important to all get along, because if not, you'd be stuck with them for the next week in a more-or-less empty room.

Moving forward a few years, more people joined, I switched teachers and I began finding passions in learning that pushed me to want to achieve more, and allowed me to find people with similar interests that were also fun to have around. I also picked up many different hobbies. Through these, I bonded even more with others, and felt like I was in a team with people I enjoyed being around. I loved that sense of comradery, almost a second family to me really.

Obviously, nothing would have been accomplished if it weren't for the amazing and never-ceasing work of all the teachers, cleaners, cooks, and grounds men that are always working on making our school the best it could ever be. Their work is seriously incredible. I feel honoured to have been able to represent Lower School as Head Boy, but this year wouldn't have run so smoothly without the amazing prefect team. Honestly, thank you everybody for the amazing 6 years.

Nathaniel Clewlow. Head Boy of Lower School 2021-2022

The College main Speech Day began with the Headmasters' address to the academic prize winners and their families. It was good to return to the atmospheric Big School Hall to celebrate academic success. It was lovely to see previous members of Lower School, now grown, collect their prizes. The Headmaster also celebrated the academic excellence of our top subject performing pupils from Year Seven and Eight.

Yr 7	
Kiri Kilgannon	Computer Science, Music
Megan Pritchard	History
Harry Wyke	Mathematics
Joseph Whale	Religious Studies
Isobel Philbin	Spanish
Ellie Winn	Art, DT, English, Latin, French, Geography, Science, and RS
Yr 8	
Mini Uras-Garvin	Art
Eoghan Clements	Computer Science
Florence Sweeney	DT
Sophie Glinos	English
Nathaniel Clewlow	Geography
Hugo Moore	History
Seren Garratt	Latin
Lucy Chadwick	Maths and RS
Cesca Algar-Pattinson	French
Emilia O'Mahoney	Spanish
Tabby Kimber	Music
Monty Cripps	Science

The Year 8 pupils have performed exceptionally well in the English Speaking Board Examinations. The examiners were very complimentary about the standard this year.

There were many Pass and Merit awards.

Distinction Awards were presented to:-		
Harriet Jones	Florence Sweeny	Cesca Algar-Pattinson
Eoghan Clements	Lucy Chadwick	Nathaniel Clewlow

Ms. Rogers spearheads our enrichment programme, setting weekly challenges to inspire and stretch. A Lower School wide 'Poetry Competition' saw an outstanding number of entries.



Runners up were: Kiri Kilgannon and Archie Fearnall
 Winners were: Kynan Wheatley Jones and Mini Uras-Garvin,
 with Mini winning the overall trophy for
 Phillips House!

Excellent academic standards are recognized throughout the year with Commendations. These Commendations are awarded by teachers in recognition of outstanding academic work. The pupils who have achieved the highest number of Commendations for their work this year are:

Yr: 8 George Gration Yr: 7 Izzy Philbin

We celebrate effort as well as attainment and it is with pleasure that we can name those children who achieved the highest average effort grades over the entire year in Key Stage 3.

Year 7 Harry Wyke Year 8 Seren Garrett

Pupils have worked hard on Keyboard Skills and have taken their first examinations.

The Expressive Arts continue to expand in school. We continue to retain Arts Mark Platinum status. This is a nationally recognized benchmark, demonstrating the breadth of opportunities for pupils in the creative arts at the College. Music and drama often combine to produce excellent opportunities for all the pupils.

Last term the Year 7 and Year 8 pupils demonstrated their talent in the stage production of 'High School Musical' which was a huge success. Earlier this year, the LAMDA-London School of Music and Dramatic Arts examinations went very well, with a high number of candidates gaining a distinction grade and the remaining pupils gaining a merit.

We have had a superb year where musicians and the choir have performed to a wonderful standard. Many of our pupils play music or sing and receive music tuition. This year, over 70 Lower School pupils took part in the 'Lent and Summer Music concerts. The termly Music Teas have continued to provide pupils with even more opportunities to perform in front of an audience. The end of year 'Cre8' event was a showcase for everyone's hard work and improvement through the year.

Bronze and Silver Awards		
Nathan Draco	Lexi Algar Pattinson	Sienna Hanratty
Harry Wyke	Imogen Edwards	Louie Avery
Max Christie	Alfie Edwards	Joe Whale
Oliver Dyson	Grayson Newbold	

Gold Awards		
Douglas Logan	Isla Harris	Ellie Winn
Payton Marski	Esmee Noss	Ralph Cornwell
Skye Thomas	Joseph Dymond	Jesse Whale
Kynan Wheatley Jones	Daniel Baggaley	

Platinum Awards		
Aaron Heward	India Hibbott	Kiri Kilgannon
Hannah Orme	Imogen Spencer Blow	Meg Pritchard
Bella New	Dylan Tanner	Oscar Hickish
Oscar Hewitt	Alex Hu	Izzy Philbin
Joseph Joyce		



The retiring Music Captains, Gabriel McKay and Nina Fisher have done a sterling job this year:

There are exceptional examples of artwork around the Lower School building reflecting the hard work that goes on all year round. The following awards were made in recognition of pupils who have offered an exceptional contribution to Art:

Yr 7:		
Joseph Whale	Douglas Logan	Kynan Wheatley Jones
Bella New		
Yr 8:		
Tabby Kimber	Tilly Leonard	Nathaniel Clewlow
Hattie Jones	Florence Sweeney	

Obviously, the Chapel is at the Heart of our Christian School.

Father Philip would like to acknowledge the Chapel Prefects' valued service this year, who really did a wonderful job. George Gratton and Gabriel McKay were awarded with their Chapel Service Awards.

We have had another successful year of sport in Lower School. Many pupils take part in extra sports outside of the normal school day too.

From a competitive standpoint Chess has grown considerably in school. This is partly due, I'm sure, to very competitive staff players in Lower School. Mr. Atherton and Mr. Dilks do not like to be beaten!

Eoghan Clements was Ellesmere House Champion for Brownlow in the Inter House event, beating Alex Hu from Heywood in the final.



Both boys have a medal and Eoghan was awarded a shield. The Lower School swimmers have performed exceptionally well. The Ellesmere Swimming Club have featured highly both at school and National level. Shooting is enjoyed by many pupils in Lower School. On Speech Day a number of competition cups were awarded too.

Pupils have also enjoyed competing in the major sports of rugby, football, cricket, tennis, netball, and hockey. The overview of individual and team sport successes can be found in the sport sections of the Ellesmerian. However, the over-riding message for all who compete under the badge of Ellesmere is that we play with good spirit and in a fair and sporting way. We play hard and to the best of our ability and respect our opposition.

Sports Day was a lovely affair this year. KS2 and 3 had separate events. For KS3 Victor Ludorum for the meet was Adam Crompton and Victrix Ludorum was Cesca Algar Pattinson. The Victor Ludorum for KS2 was



Daniel Thelwell and the Victrix Ludorum was Poppy Sutton. A number of special awards were presented at the end of the KS3 Last Assembly. Henry Dawson was awarded the Scarisbrick Shield this year. This award is given to a dedicated pupil working in the field of Geography. The CNA cup for Leadership was presented to Tilly Leonard.

I also had the pleasure to explain a new special award. The Clewlow family have been long-time supporters of artistic performance at the College. Mr. Clewlow donated this cup in remembrance of his late mother Janet Clewlow, who loved to visit the College and listen to her grandchildren play music here. The award recognizes the overall contribution made in music by a member of our Lower School Community. Mrs Pat Wood, former Music Mistress at the College, presented the award to Florence Sweeney. Florence also superbly played a piece called 'Moon Beams' for us.

KS2

Key Stage 2 celebrated the year in a Final Assembly held in the Arts Centre. Once again, it was lovely to welcome parents to join us. The Key Stage 2 section of Lower School is indeed very studious. A number of Year 6 pupils were awarded Excellence Awards for Academic subjects.

ENGLISH	Amelie Holzgartner
MATHEMATICS	Annie Hutchon
SCIENCE	Esther Gratton
HISTORY	Peter Brown
GEOGRAPHY	Morgan Garratt
R.S.	Nat Johnson
FRENCH	Amelie Holzgartner
MUSIC	Nat Johnson
ART	Eva Ford
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	Peter Brown





KS2 pupils were also nominated by their subject teachers for Progress Prizes across the KS2 age ranges.

Year 3	English Reading	Zach Bedwell and Hattie Fearnall
	English Writing	Ren Wahlberg
	Mathematics	Freddie Spencer-Blow
	Science	Harry Winn
	History	Amber Leonard
	Geography	James Donaghy
Year 4	English Reading	Ariella Thelwell and Josh Philbin
	English Writing	Tom Ford
	Mathematics	Tomas Balakrishnan
	Science	Oscar Beattie
	History	Seb Johnson
	Geography	Lucas Morgan
Year 5	English Reading	Amelia Albertini and Rory Gallagher
	English Writing	Sylvie Cornwell
	Mathematics	Eve Scales
	Science	William Donaghy
	History	Wolf Wahlberg
	Geography	Christopher Dilks
Year 6	English Reading	George Wardle and Daniel Thelwell
	English Writing	Maya Holzgartner and Pippa Blackwood
	Mathematics	Tabitha Gallagher and Poppy Sutton
	Science	Anna Underhill and Maddie Salmoiraghi
	History	Jake Hughes and Harry Harrison
	Geography	Lois Ebben and Elysia Done

KS2 pupils also play across the whole range of team sports. There are regular training sessions and competitive matches both in-house and out of College. It is through these competitions that the spirit of fair play and enjoyment is established with KS2 children.

The Lower School Choir is an excellent example of teamwork in Lower School. It draws on pupils of all ages but KS2 children especially feature. The KS2 Choir came second in the Music Theatre category at the Oswestry Festival with a medley of songs from 'Oliver'. The Lower School band took first position in the 15 and under category. Special mention must go to Kit Fisher, who came 1st in the 9 and under Drumkit category and Eva Ford who was awarded 1st place in the 12 and under Vocal Musical Theatre category.

The following KS2 pupils were awarded Most Improved in Art awards.

Year 3	Xander Blackwood
Year 4	Isabelle Rafferty
Year 5	Eddie Harris
Year 6	Heidi Carden

The Victor Ludorum 2022 for KS2 is Daniel Thelwell.
And the Victrix Ludorum 2022 for KS2 is Poppy Sutton.

We really do focus on kindness and inclusion in Lower School. Pupils nominate peers who have been kind to them. They are given accolades and their name goes on the Kindness Wall. The name of the person who was officially the 'kindest' last year in KS3 is Mini Uras Garvin and for KS2 was Sam Shone.

The House Cup is fiercely contested from academia, arts, to music, drama, and sport. House points are awarded. The Champion House this year is Brownlow.

We said, thank you and bon voyage to Mrs Hart and Dr Collins at the end of term. Both are sterling Lower School tutors and have been teachers at Ellesmere for many years. We had our private farewells but I would like to publicly say thank you and our very best wishes go with Mrs Hart and Dr Collins as they move on to new chapters in their life. We look forward to a new chapter next year; in preparation for this I was pleased to award the title of new Head Girl and Head Boy to Isobel Philbin and Daniel Baggaley.

It's the end of another busy year at Ellesmere. It has been a memorable one for many reasons. We are really looking forward to another good one next year!

SO





Captains of School

Captains of School

Captains of School

Sahota, S. Winn, H.A.M. Spencer-Blow, F. Philbin, J. Sharaf, T.M. Ford, T. Morgan, L.W. Donaghy, W.R.J. Richards, T.W.H. Bedwell, Z. Coull, H.C. Leonard, A.R. Donaghy, J.R.N. Gallagher, E.B. Salmotrighi, L.F. Blackwood, X.R. Wahlberg, A.J. Sahota, S. Cornwell, S.V. Holzgartner, M. Holzgartner, A. Blackwood, P. Davies, C.J. Salmotrighi, M.E. Kimber, T.R. Peach, T. Edwards, A.J. Christie, M. Edwards, O.G. Brown, P.L. Every, C. Wahlberg, W.J. Whale, J.G. Johnson, S.P.L. Whale, J.W. Raybould, G. Heward, A.I. Sahota, O. Scales, E. Noss, E.A. Kimber, J.F. Every, E. Coull, S.G. Furlong Hart, A.D. Gallagher, T. Carden, H.E. Cripps, M.J. Moore, H.J. Dिल्s, A. Walker, O.B. Thomas, S.B. Glinos, S.A. Dawson, H.M. Dिल्s, C.G. Sharaf, E.W. Thelwell, A. Edwards, I.M.E. Harris, E.G. Hughes, J.C. Underhill, A. Kilgannon, K.H. Cosgrove, H.M. Hewitt, O.H. Draco, N.J. Skillicorn, J.F. New, B. Spencer-Blow, I. Winn, E.G.M. Males, E. Gratton, E. Kahindi, V.K. Dymond, J. Mellor, K. Ford, E. Albertini, A. Orme, H. Hibbott, I.C. Leonard, A.W. Earl, O. Jones, J. Baillon, K. Fearnell, A.W. Males, T. Williams, O. Alcock, K.J. Heasmer Jones, B.H. Crompton, A. Joyce, J. Hu, A.A. Marski, P.L. Beattie, M. Hickish, O.M. Tanner, D.Z. Stevens, J.A. Logan, D.C. Avery, L.G. Walker, H.B. Thelwell, D. Harrison, H.A.J. Gratton, G. Clements, E. Johnson, F.L. Ward, W. Dyson, O. Wheatley Jones, K.H. Uras-Garvin, M. Harris, I.F. Hamratty, S. Johnson, N.D. Hutchon, A.P.I. Leonard, T. Pritchard, M. Johnson, O.W.O. Henneberry, L. Baggaley, D. Suiz Orta, A. Jones, L.M. Fisher, N. O'Mahony, E. Lansdale, H. Edwards, H.M.A. Sweeney, F.E.M. Bates, H. Nicholson, E. Castle, M.J. Philbin, I. McKay, G.J. Graham, H. Webster, L. Shone, S. Moran, W. Fisher, K. Mrs J.Hibbot Mrs C.Pearce Mrs E.Phillips Mrs S.E.Morgan Clewlow, N.P.J. Mrs S.Owen Chadwick, L. Mr J.E.Dिल्s Ms S.A.Rogers Rev. P.J.Gratton Mr M.Atherton Mr M.Spencer

Middle School

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”

Malcolm X

The year started off at its usual fast pace with everyone settling into the day-to-day routines of life in Middle School, which still included working within Covid restrictions. The hope of the new academic year was that we would have some normality and a return to the full programme of activities and academia that we had been used to.

The first half term is always a busy one with the build-up to our expeditions, which gives our students the opportunity to use their experience and knowledge of the skills learnt in new environments. This included off-site activities for CCF, D of E, Arts Award, and Tennis and Swimming camps, which offer a wide range of activities and experiences. These are always a fantastic way to finish the first half term with students hopefully feeling they have achieved and gained new skills and have shown a good level of resilience in some of the activities they have taken part in.



Assemblies are the one time of the day where the whole of Middle School can meet together for a variety of purposes. Last year, assemblies were once again led by members of Middle School on a variety of topics selected by them. These will often be issues that the student body hold an avid interest in and a passion to share with the rest of the school. Particular highlights include an assembly that dealt with the issues of mental health, how to succeed in life, environmental issues, and the pros and cons of school uniform.

Presenting to your peers is never an easy thing to do but it helps build skills that are essential for life in the Sixth Form and beyond school, and I know that our pupils gain much from this experience; I am always grateful that they are so willing to volunteer. Assemblies are also a great opportunity to celebrate the academic hard work achieved by students. It is always a great way to share success with the rest of the student group and recognise those who are pushing their academic endeavour; we present certificates as a sign of this success, which are presented by myself and Mrs Curzon, Assistant Head of Middle.

PSHE is an important aspect of what tutors deliver and discuss with their tutees. We all complete the online safety course to help refresh the knowledge and understanding of the online safety. Online safety has never been as important as it is now, which makes our annual online safety course increasingly important. This always kicks off our PSHE programme at the start of the year. Issues around mental health are also covered, along with environmental issues and study skills



Christmas Lunch has always been a highlight of the Michaelmas term but this time was naturally scaled back. It was still a great way to celebrate the end of the term with the traditional get together of staff and students enjoying the meal together

Drama and the arts are a big part of life in Middle School, and it has been a shame that over the last few years we have not been able to celebrate the talent of our pupils to the full. Therefore, it was with great joy that we were able to put on "High School Musical", which brought the cast and crew from across various year groups last summer, much to the delights of the appreciative audience.

After Easter, for Year 11 pupils the focus always turns towards revision. With the return to public exams for the first time in two years, the pupils were obviously a little nervous of this relatively new experience. However, with the support of their subject teachers and tutors they performed excellently and should be proud of their achievements.

It has been a somewhat strange year which was ever evolving with the constant changes of regulations, though as the year progressed things became more normal in the sense of what we expect of life at Ellesmere. As we look towards next year, we have increasing confidence that life will be full and thriving at College.

SP/KC



Sixth Form

“Let not the opportunity pass, for it may not return”

Kuai Tong, Western Han Dynasty

September 2021 hailed a near normal return to life at Ellesmere in the Sixth Form. We were still having virtual assemblies but all were looking forward to the gradual resumption of sport and culture and the opportunity to be more visible to the rest of the College community. Our prefects resumed some of their daily responsibilities and our new members were able to quickly settle into the routine of life at Ellesmere. With an even sharper focus on safeguarding and mental health issues it was good to see the continuation of MHESS, with 13 Lower Sixth pupils completing the Mental Health Awareness course in October.



Other notable events were the excellent assembly organised by the History Department on Holocaust Memorial Day, the resumption of the Remembrance Day service on Terraces, and the return of Christmas dinner and Carol Services. Parents' meetings were still online and other events were limited, but a cautious approach allowed the first term to pass without any major disruption.



The Wine Appreciation Society were able to meet again in the Lent Term and this proved so popular it was restricted to just 22 Upper Sixth pupils, which Miss Zoe Evans (OE 2004) was delighted to deliver again after the enforced break.



Activities were now fully up and running with the exception of House Singing, which remained a casualty of Covid in February. Assemblies were moved to Big School as our Sixth Form was too large to comfortably fit into the Art Centre and tutor groups became mixed for PSHE sessions on Thursdays to reflect the need to share experiences and views in preparation for life after Ellesmere.

There was also a marked increase in the number of academic societies that the Sixth Form wanted to run. This was very encouraging and was something made possible by the sharing of the Wednesday afternoon games slot which had been introduced because of Covid – one good thing to come out of it!



The Summer Term always seems short and exams seem to start even earlier each year so the Upper Sixth IB students were fully occupied right from the start and the term felt dominated by the external examinations, which were a first for all concerned. I was very impressed with the way everyone took this in their stride and settled into a good routine without any major issues given the lack of experience of this process, having not done GCSE examinations.

After an enforced break of two years, the Sixth Form Ball returned and it proved to be just the thing to draw an end to the last two turbulent years.

The end of the year also brought the long-awaited trip to South Africa. For me, Mrs Welti, and the 12 remaining pupils who expected to be travelling to South Africa in July 2020, the highlight of the year was finally just around the corner and the trip certainly did not disappoint. During our visit to Dinokeng, we developed a better understanding of conservation, the conflict between animals and humans, animal behaviour, animal management and ecology. We lived in tents with no fences around the camp, yards away from a river which came from a lake that was home to hippos. The hippos and the frogs were very noisy at night – apart from the night when they were drowned out by the calling across the camp of a male and female lion to each other!

We learned how to track multiple species of animals, identify animal behaviour, run eDNA samples for biodiversity monitoring, and understand the art of 'think global, yet act local'. We also had the opportunity to interpret the importance of Sustainable Development Goals and other issues in some very interesting workshops in the first week.

We tracked and saw black and white rhino (and had to quickly walk away when a black rhino with its baby came up behind us – well spotted, Ben Zakers!). We saw elephants (our jeep was chased by a matriarch and her family), lions (a big male walked past the jeep and stared at Ben before it went on to kill and eat 10 minutes later), cheetahs, hippos etc. The only thing we didn't see was a leopard, but we found its tracks during our track and sign course in the second week. We also had a close encounter with a puff adder waiting under a bush for its prey.

Our pupils were brilliant and they almost all gained a level in the CyberTracker Track and Sign course covered in the second week. I managed a Level 2, which I am delighted with. We had to learn over 70 different tracks and signs. Lily Harvey Hemming managed a Level 3, which is really rare for a student having just one week of training!

Our last two days were a very contrasting stay in the township of Soweto, where we were able to learn about its history first-hand and to explore the area on bicycles – a very emotional experience for all. The trip was arranged in partnership with Flooglebinder, the first UK specialist travel firm to become a Certified B Corporation and a company committed to raising awareness on climate action and biodiversity monitoring.

These photos give a flavour of this life changing experience.

MTG



Ellesmere College





Bowers, E.A. Smith, E.M. Jones, C. Westwood, C.A. Volar Coman, A. Gillingham, K. Lewis, F. Watt, M.F. Herron, O. Lepone, F. Trollope, C. Barker, J.J.A.O. Wildblood, M.W. Bittmann, E.F. Oke, L.B.
 Harvey Hemming, L.A.N. Farr, E. Martin, M.J. Evans, A.R. Morgan, T.J. Munro, G.G. Grigons, I. Apperley-Roberts, R. Walker, T. Ho, E. Henz, H.W. Ji, R. Bao, K. Chan, P. Mnatsakanov, A. Sanderson, L.
 Neil, L.G. Leonard, T.L. Kilgannon, C.G. Ng, E. McGuire, N.L. Wright, B.D. Futter, A. Goode, T.J.S. Palet Tarte, M.G. Gregorius Eppers, S. Muller, C. Levers, K.D.J. Kingdon-Brady, B. Norris, A.W. Chong, N. Jia, J.
 Mangham, M. Schneevogel, D. Roberts, R.L. Carden, C.D. Yang, G. Reddington, F. Rosser-Barnett, A.J.M. Lloyd-Brown, H. Hemmingsway-Deaney, R. Rees-Young, C.W. Henderson, M.G.F. Lermite, L.V. Caldwell, J.J.H. Briant, A. Murdoch, D. Hooper, J.A. Hussey, J.H.
 Hensmer Jones, A. Febrey, A. Todman, J.W. Ashton, H. Andyskowski, M. Tomlinson, J. Jones, I.J. Moore, O.R.W. Boggemann, T. Taylor, I. Bailion, J.W. Bicho, Z.M. Henderson Davis, L. Digwood, H.J. Wilkinson, W.J.S. Mallin, J. Wood, C.
 Bland, M.K. Chankseilani, D. Lowe, B. Fabry de Jonge, V.L.M. Given, F. Welty, G.D.A. Critchell, O.J. Balytskyi, P. Almurayev, Y.B. Blakesley, M. Fischer, M. Farrow, A. Azarchenko, A. Reygondeau, T. Ashbury, E.W. Harper, W.C. Sankov, A.
 Williamson, W.M.R. Khazigaleev, R. Neves, A.C. Lloyd, H.J. Ashbrook, C. Morris, B.P. Ashbrook, J. Malby, E.L. Otter, H. Stevens, L.A. Craven-Jones, L.S. Dodds, I. Hall, I. Bertoli, A.N. Kelly, J.R. Birungi, J.A. Thelby, R.
 MacAndrew, J. Joynton, G.E.R. Wu, F. Joynton, J.H.D. Lunnington, A.W. Bowers, J.R. Appleby, S. Sweeney, C.W.J. Barrett, O. Pritchard, A.N. Prescott, J.J. Studer, M. Poplewell, J. Wilson, G.T. Copelin, J. Kuenlen, B.T. Ott, H.
 Reardon, L.B.G. Powell, D.W.G. Davis, C. Sovcik, O.O. Swinerton, P.E. Warrington, S.T. Cuckson, H. Zakers, B.F. Selby, W.B. Beaver, E. Penrice, L.E.J. Cunningham, I.E. Owen, W.G. Rathram, A. Cooksley, J. Green, C.J.
 Mughan, A.M. Manchanda, P. Lamb, H.J. Mbaquiao Lennox, Z. O'Brien, T.R. Minarik, A.A. Newson, A. Gillingham, A. Dalziel, N.I.F. Funks, M.P. Conway, L.J. Manford, A.R. Hunter, L.C. Fry, M.B. Acevedo Tejeda, S.I. Li, L. Bani, A.S.
 Storey Gibbons, A. Forster, M. Khitratanaviwat, B. Mr J.J. Baggaley Mrs J.M. Underhill Mr J.S. Underhill Pamore, S.R. Dr M.T. Gareth Welty, R. Mr D.D.J. Morgan Mrs Z.J. Fisher Bryson, W. Brookslaw, W.A. Bann, A.C. Luscherl, K.

Sixth
 Form
 2021
 2022



University Destinations

University Applicant Results (Places Offered) 2021

Name	University	Course
Aimurzayev, Timur	University of East London	Sport Business Management
Andryskowski, Michal	Imperial College London	Computing (Software Engineering)
Bain, Alex	University of Liverpool	Philosophy
Bao, Kirin	Kingston University	Economics including Foundation Year
Barrett, Oliver	Cardiff University	History
Barrett, Sean	Cardiff University	Medicine
Beaver, Ethan	University of Manchester	Mathematics and Physics
Bertoli, Andrew	Swansea University	Sport and Exercise Science
Bland, Matthew	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Business and Management (Marketing)
Bowers, Elizabeth	Harper Adams University	Rural Enterprise and Land Management (with Placement)
Brookshaw, William	Cardiff University	Business Management
Bryson, William	Cardiff University	Environmental Geography
Carden, Doug	Gap Year	
Cooksley, Jacob	Gap Year	
Copelin, James	Aston University, Birmingham	Computer Science with Business (ITMB)
Craven-Jones, Ioan	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
Cuckson, Harvey	University of Bath	Sport (Sports Performance)
Dalziel, Natasha	University of Gloucestershire	Strength, Conditioning and Rehabilitation
Davis, Christopher	Royal Agricultural University	Agriculture
Dennison, Aeneas	Homerton College, University of Cambridge	Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic
Dodds, Isaac	University of Bath	Mathematics and Physics
Edwards, Georgia	University of Bath	Politics and International Relations
Evans, Amy	University of Salford	Journalism: Multimedia
Forster, Millie	St Anselm College, New Hampshire, USA	Criminal Justice (Field Hockey Scholarship)
Funke, Mey	Gap Year	
Gillingham, Amie	Sheffield Hallam University	Criminology
Gillingham, Katie	University of York	Business of the Creative Industries
Hall, Isaac	Sheffield Hallam University	Fashion Design with Foundation year
Heasmer Jones, Alfie	University of Reading	Modern Languages (French/German/Italian/Spanish)
Hemingway-Deaney, Rachael	Oxford Brookes University (deferred)	English Literature
Henderson Davis, Louis	Leeds Beckett University	Business Management with Marketing
Herron, Olivia	Southern Illinois University, USA	Veterinary Medicine-Pre
Jefferies, Amy	University of Liverpool	Bioveterinary Science
Joynson, George	Falmouth University	Film
Kelly, James	Birmingham City University	Speech and Language Therapy
Khazigaleev, Rasul	Iroise Aero Formation, France	Airline Pilot Training
Kington-Brady, Bruno	Aberystwyth University	Computer Science (integrated Year in Industry)
Kittirattanaviwat, Beaut	Lancaster University	Business Management
Kuenlen, Benni	Germany (University unknown)	Business Management

Lewers, Kit	University of Exeter	Modern Languages
Lewis, Fleur	Nottingham Trent University	Product Design
Lloyd-Brown, Harry	Bristol, University of the West of England	Business Management and Leadership
Luschert, Katharina	University of Konstanz, Germany	Biology with Business
MacKay, Findlay	Heriot-Watt University	BDAF Programme - Accounting, Economics & Bus Management
Maltby, Ella	Nottingham Trent University	Business Management (Accelerated)
Manchanda, Preeshaa	University of Reading	Psychology with Professional Placement
Mangham, Millie	University of Leeds	Business Studies with Foundation Year
Millington, Joshua	Harper Adams University	Veterinary Bioscience (with Placement)
Minshaw, Joshua	University of Liverpool	Business Management
Morris, Ben	Apprenticeship	
Newton, Anouska	Gap Year	
Oke, Lola	University of Sheffield	Economics
Otter, Harriet	Liverpool John Moores University	Professional Policing
Patmore, Sam	University of Nottingham	Biochemistry and Genetics
Penrice, Louis	University of Exeter	Politics and International Relations (year abroad)
Powell, Dominic	University of Hull	Law with Business Management
Prescott, James	Liverpool John Moores University	Sport Business
Pritchard, Abraham	University of Manchester	Mathematics
Ratheram, Alexander	Cardiff University	Chemistry
Rathbone, Lawrence	Newcastle University	Sociology
Reddington, Findlay	University of East Anglia	Chemistry
Rees-Young, Charles	Gap Year	
Rosser-Barnett, Alex	Birmingham City University	Business Management with Foundation Year
Sanderson, Laura	Liverpool John Moores University	English Literature
Selby, William	Army Gap Year	
Smith, Eleanor	University of Plymouth	Ocean Science and Marine Conservation
Smith, George	University of Stirling	Economics
Stevens, Lucy	University of Hull	Law
Storey Gibbons, Amy	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Studer, Marc	Swiss Army	
Todman, Jack	Army	
Trollope, Connie	Nottingham Trent University	Politics
Ward, Sophie	Newcastle University	Music
Warrington, Sam	Nottingham Trent University	Marketing
Watt, Mya	Cardiff University	Human Geography
Welti, Robyn	Queen's University Belfast	Medicine
Westwood, Caroline	University of York	Business and Management with a Year in Industry
Wilson, George	Gap Year	
Zakers, Ben	The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)

The Combined Cadet Force Overall Review



The academic year 21-22 continued to be another challenging one for cadet forces. Although there was a move towards increasing normalisation, the restrictions as to mixing, movement, and types of activity meant that a return to a full training programme was very difficult. We also faced the problem of access to training facilities as the regular and reserve forces attempted to fill their backlog in training. Later, events in Ukraine would make access to training areas impossible. Summer Camp was a casualty of events elsewhere but Bisley survived, despite the heat and drought and even fires on the ranges! Thanks, however, to the resilience, imagination, and hard work of my colleagues, we did manage to put together a programme which saw many positive achievements by our cadets.

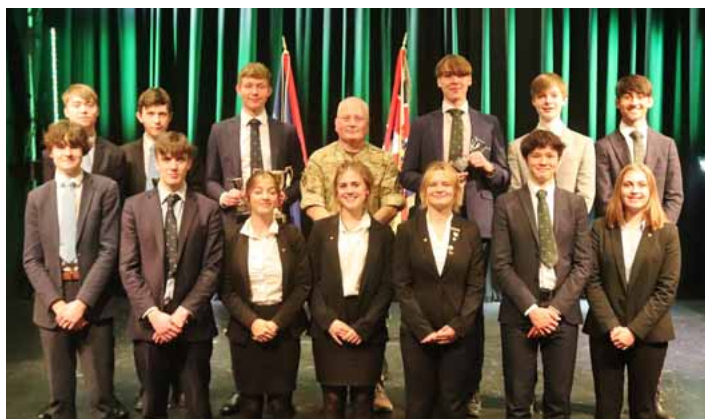


The Year 9 cadets successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Expedition training at Quinta in October and, later on in the Summer term, the Expedition itself. Many of our senior cadets also took part in the Gold Award and were also able to complete their expedition phase. Although there was no service for Remembrance Sunday itself, senior cadets from the three services paraded the Colours at the War Memorial in a simple but moving Act of Remembrance on November 11th at the eleventh hour. As you will read elsewhere, Easter Camp was reprieved. We continued our determined push across the Contingent to ensure that every student successfully completes the FAA Level 2 Award in Student First Aid. This is one very positive initiative to come out of the pandemic as we sought alternative activities for our cadets. Several of



our senior cadets made use of the fantastic opportunities that CCAT courses offer; attending kayaking, mountain-biking, and climbing courses. The fact that these can also meet the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Residential section is even more reason to take advantage of them.

We were pleased to welcome back Col Richard Jones OE who conducted our Biennial Review in May. He had a great day and really enjoyed meeting the cadets. The opportunity brought back many memories for Richard – hopefully mainly happy ones – and I thank him for taking the time to come and see us.



The summer term meant that we had to say farewell to our senior NCOs and leavers. They were presented with their commemorative medallions and their Colours. The Blake Hartley Trophy for Best Cadet was rightly shared across the three services and was awarded to Cdt Flt Sgt Kit Lewers (RAF), A3* Cdt Christopher Davis (Navy), and Cdt Sgt Will Selby (Army). Our thanks and very best wishes go to all of our departing senior cadets. I am sure they would agree that their experiences as cadets has helped to make them the outstanding young people they have become.

Finally, my thanks to all of my colleagues who continue to put so much into ensuring that the cadet experience is such a positive one for Ellesmerians.

Lt Col M P Clewlow, Contingent Commander



The Combined Cadet Force NAVY Section

The Navy Section of the CCF is part of the diverse enrichment activities offered by the College and allows students to glimpse what life in the Royal Navy has to offer. The Navy Section provides a great environment where students can develop powers of leadership by means of training, thereby becoming more self-reliant, resourceful, and confident.

In the early part of the year, the pandemic continued to interfere with cadet training. Despite this, cadets focused on learning about navigation, the Navy's history, and its traditions. They prepared short lessons and taught them to the rest of the Section, thereby building their confidence and resilience. Naval uniform returned in place of sports kit and cadets practiced drill and learned to work as one team. Throughout this



period, the Section's good humour made training enjoyable and this was a notable feature of the whole year: everyone smiling.

For the October 'expo' (expedition), the Section joined up with RAF cadets to develop their resilience further by partaking in various outdoor training activities. Still the smiles were evident, though there were a few shrieks of terror on the high ropes at PGL. Whilst there, it rained – a lot – and the assault course became a swamp. Covered in mud, cadets developed their leadership skills and thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into the many activities on offer. The next day saw us heading to Llangollen for white-water rafting. It was cold and, inevitably, wet. The smiles and





screams were ever-present as cadets hurtled through the rapids. Cadet Conway showed exemplary leadership when her raft got into trouble, earning high praise from the instructors.

As winter turned to spring, so the Section continued to practise drill, learn about careers in the Navy, and develop their theoretical knowledge of sailing. With the start of summer, so we returned to the waves at Whitemere. Shropshire Sailing Club were incredibly helpful in facilitating this after the pandemic-induced hiatus. Cadets began to apply theory to the Section's fleet of racing dinghies. This culminated in the summer expo as we headed to Southport for a few days of sailing with Navy instructors. The weather was, on occasion, slightly less than summery. The silver lining was that cadets had the chance to learn how to paddle rafts and drive rescue boats when the wind was too strong. When it wasn't, the practice and hard work put in over the

preceding months was evident as cadets raced around the lake and, sometimes deliberately, put their capsize procedures to the test. And everyone smiled.

DB



The Combined Cadet Force RAF Section



The Royal Air Force section of the Combined Cadet Force have been keeping very busy, with all cadets taking part in a wide range of activities. During Michaelmas we started off with cadets working towards their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, getting ready for their expeditions which are physically demanding, but ultimately very rewarding and memorable experiences.

We had our new cadets learning the First Class syllabus, which involved learning about the RAF, the CCF, Airmanship 1, the History of Flight, Basic Radio Communications, Essential First Aid and, of course, basic drill! There was definitely quite a lot to keep them busy and they all excelled in each category.

Our Michaelmas Expo was spent at school and was full of exciting activities. All cadets were taken to the PGL centre at Boreatton Park for the day, where they did lots of fun outdoor activities ranging from Jacob's Ladder to Critical Thinking challenges and canoeing. This was followed by a day of designing and testing aircraft and clay pigeon shooting. Finally, we had a day with the Royal Navy and went white water rafting.

For the second half of Michaelmas, cadets began to hone their shooting skills as they all trained for the Trained Shot badges on the small bore A1 rifles. We are lucky as a section to have some very gifted shooters who all excelled in each and every category. The term was then finished off in style, as a Juno Helicopter from RAF Shawbury came over to take all our cadets up for a flight around the



area. This was an amazing experience for our cadets, who all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Lent term began our next phase of classification training, with all cadets now learning the Leading cadet material. This involved Airmanship 2, Principles of Flight, and Basic Navigation. The term also involved a tactical paintballing session run by instructors from the RAF, who taught the cadets how to move and be ready to shoot in potentially enemy territory.

Another big focus this term was on flying! All cadets underwent their Part-Task Trainer (PTT) for flying, which is the first part of qualifying for the Blue Wings badge. This was supported by the RAF instructors providing sessions to our cadets on flying using VR headsets, which they all thoroughly enjoyed!

The Summer term meant that we lost a few of our cadets due to study leave, but we still had plenty of activities planned! The cadets requested to get trained as Cyber Specialists, with cadets working towards their Bronze



badge in the topic. This involved learning about how modern technology can be utilised to both protect and attack defence systems online, which is a very important area of many industries today.

With the warmer weather, cadets were taken to a survival course where they were taught the basics on how to survive when thrown into the wilderness. We can now officially say that our cadets are ready for whatever natural disasters come our way! We also began Leadership Training, which involves cadets planning and implementing their own Command Tasks, as well as learning about using the SMEAC approach to ensure that tasks are carried out as accurately and as efficiently as possible.



Our Summer Expo involved some camping – this time around in Snowdonia – so all cadets practised the art of 'putting tents up and down' in preparation. They also had to cook outdoors using stoves and mess tins, where a lot of cadets showed their prowess in making chicken and rice look delightful! Then came the expo itself. The camping was lots of fun, aside from the weather, which hardly gave us a moment away from all the rain! Nonetheless, we all persevered and got our tents up and all meals cooked effortlessly.

Our expo also involved going to Bounce Below, which is a huge underground cave full of trampolines and nets for the cadets to jump around in. Being indoors was received very well, but they all had fun doing something a little different. The last day, though, involved what all cadets mentioned as their favourite activity. We organised a whole afternoon at Outpost Airsoft for the cadets to try and shoot each other (safely, of course), to relieve all that stress and tension from exams! As you can probably imagine, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all cadets, who had to play certain games like Capture the Flag and Elimination in a variety of different areas.



Yes, it was a very busy year for the RAF section, but it was also a very enjoyable and memorable one. Everything we do in the RAF is what our cadets wish to do, as we want to provide a place for them to develop being confident and – most of all – pride in one's self. Our next year will not be exactly the same, of course, but we will have just as much fun planned for our cadets so they can continue to have new and exciting experiences.

Flt Lt J Haycock and Fg Off Spencer

The Combined Cadet Force Army Section

The Army Section's training year from 2021 – 22 would pose some difficult challenges. The training programme would continue to be impacted by Covid restrictions, the conflict in Ukraine and significantly reduced access to the Training Estate. Thanks to the resourcefulness of my colleagues, however, the cadets still enjoyed a varied programme of events and expeditions.



The aforementioned problem with accessing training areas meant that our Year 9s focused on the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. This included training in First Aid, navigation, camp craft and many of the other essentials which are also common to the Cadet Syllabus. They were able to complete a modified expedition in June and also enjoyed a day learning bushcraft. The Year 10s' October expedition included a day of challenge and team-building at PGL, a day



learning to "run the guns" with Sgts Dunn and Noaks. In June, they travelled to Cumbria to take part in their Survival Course. B Company also worked hard to successfully pass their Shooting and Safety Test and were rewarded with the opportunity to blank fire the rifle on the College Golf Course. My thanks to Major Quentin for organising this. Many of our Sixth Form NCOs completed their various expeditions as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

The above is a snapshot of the range of experiences that cadets enjoyed despite the various obstacles. My thanks once again to my fellow officers for making it possible.

Lt Col Martin Clewlow



The Combined Cadet Force Easter Camp 2022



We returned to Dundonnell in North West Scotland for the first time in three years for our Easter Camp 2022. It was, however, "touch and go". Restrictions on accommodation and social distancing looked to have put paid to our chances of going, but on the morning of "D Day" restrictions were magically lifted and we were given the green light. The party consisted of the usual officers and instructors and, of course, the one and only Dave Escott, our chef. We took with us 12 Lower Sixth Form cadets on what turned out to be another fantastic week of winter mountaineering.

The group had the usual day of winter training on the local peaks on Day 1. The next day saw an ascent of the iconic Stac Pollaidh by all the climbing groups. This is a unique location, but unfortunately the weather and sea level cloud cover meant that the stunning views from the summit and ridge were available only on souvenir postcards. That evening Dave served up the usual spectacular meal for our Dinner Night with Cdt Sgt Drew Murdoch proposing the Loyal Toast (as the youngest cadet), just as he had done three years previously!

The next morning it was then time to go off on the three-day overnight expedition. The instructors decided to chase the snowy conditions and the group headed south to the Cairngorms. This proved to be an inspired decision and a stunning three days was enjoyed by all.

The excitement of being back and able to host another of Ellesmere's Easter Camp, more than half a century since the first one, was palpable and the cadets responded superbly. They were exceptional both on and off the mountain and a genuine pleasure to be with. After some discussion "The Axe" awarded to The Best Cadet on Camp was jointly presented to Zoe Mabaquiao Lennox and Sam Appleby. My thanks to all those who made this event possible.

Lt Col Martin Clewlow



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Thankfully the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in College has returned to normality this year. Students have embraced the opportunity to get outdoors once again to test their skills and fitness with friends after long periods of disruption. We have seen a huge uptake in the awards this academic year, with approximately 60 students enrolling on Bronze, over a dozen taking on Silver, and an impressive 50 Gold Award participants from our growing Sixth Form. We are proud to say that Ellesmere College boasts the highest take up of the Duke of Edinburgh of any across Shropshire.

With all Award levels out on training, practice, and qualifier expeditions across October, April, and June – either walking or canoeing – the benefits of these expeditions are immense. Some include teaching students key map reading skills, campsite etiquette, developing resilience, and team building, whilst their volunteering sections highlight the importance of giving something back to others through volunteering. Students at the College have completed a record number of 3692 hours of volunteering, something they can be very proud of.

We have also taken the opportunity to enhance our DofE provision by ensuring all of our participants across all award levels complete a formal external first aid course; these prove to be a challenging 4-hour session with lots of practical elements and a written exam. Suffice to say all students so far have worked hard and passed their courses and feel more confident to deal with emergency situations when out on expedition.

Once again, the variety of skills students take on never stops expanding. This year we have seen a vast range, from crocheting to welding and even some taking on the challenge of learning British Sign Language following inspiration from last year's Strictly Come Dancing winner.

JMU



Bronze Award

We combined the expeditions this Summer with a visit to the Pro-Active Outdoor Activity Centre just outside Llangollen, which gave pupils the opportunity to try their hands at white water rafting. The rafting was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, with many taking the



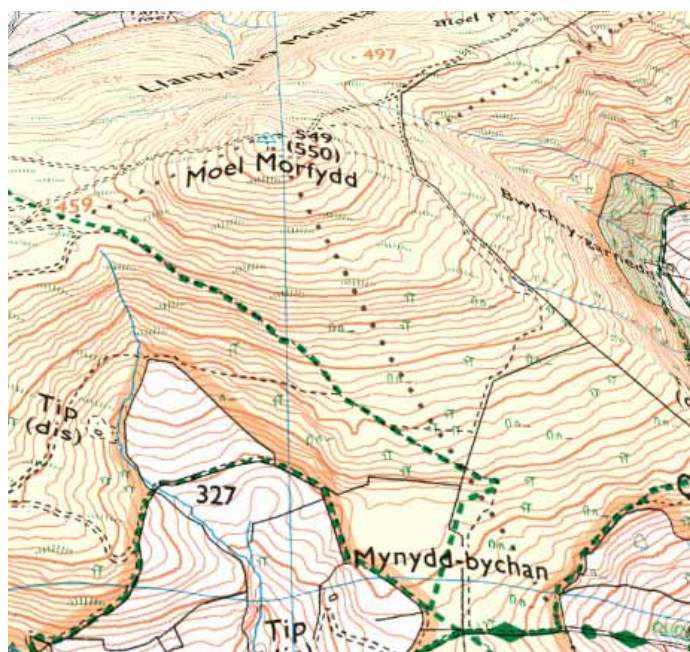
opportunity to take a dip in the River Dee, after starting the activity with an exhilarating drop over the Horseshoe Falls.

This was the pupils' assessed expedition, which entailed two days of complete self-sufficiency. Pupils needed to walk and navigate unaccompanied and then provide their own meals and shelter over two days and one night. The first day was spent completing a 15km walk through the hills from Trefechan to Llangollen.

Pupils were very tired after the physical demands of the walk so, after making themselves a hot supper, it was an early night all round. The campcraft skills and behaviour demonstrated by pupils was outstanding and, after a speedy breakfast, the various walking groups packed up their tents and set off for their second day of walking. The weather remained good on the second day and the route required some challenging navigation. The groups did incredibly well and their navigation skills were dramatically improved from their training expedition in October. However, a slight navigational error by one group did lead to them having to climb to 550m over Moel Morfydd! After a very successful day of walking the group returned to College ready for a rest before the white water rafting on the final day of expeditions. This proved to be a fantastic reward for the hard work pupils had put in over the previous two days. Hauling the boats down a steep bank to that start point of the Horseshoe Falls warmed everybody up. We navigated a series of rapids and pupils enjoyed swimming and jumping off the rafts on the calmer sections of the river.

We then returned to College and the walking groups spent time drying out their tents and completing presentations on the aim of their walk. Aims ranged from examining the impact of man on the environment to studying the local wildlife. The assessor was extremely impressed with the presentations and all pupils successfully passed their Bronze assessed expedition.

JKE



Silver Award

The Michaelmas term started off with the usual training for the practice expedition that runs the week before the October half term. The term started out with team building and leadership tasks to allow walking groups to be selected. The groups then got stuck into producing route cards and putting their routes on maps. To ensure they were as ready as possible we also took time to polish the pupils' navigation skills, tent assembly, camp cooking and bag packing, so they could walk in the right direction, stay dry, and eat something; all essential when trying to complete an expedition in the Welsh wilderness.

The morning of the practice expedition was sunny, which is always a relief to staff and pupils alike. Once kit checks and packing were done,



we all bundled off in the minibuses to Capel Curig and then back to Betws-y-Coed, which would be our base for the next 2 days. However, by the time we reached the starting point in Capel Curig the sunshine we had set off to had turned into a maelstrom of heavy rain and wind. We had three groups: one practice group of Year 10s and two assessed groups of Year 11 who had missed out doing their practice the previous autumn due to covid, completing it in the summer. The first group to set off were the practice group, followed by the two assessed groups. The first day saw the pupils walking from Capel Curig to Swallow Falls where they would be camping for the night. Within the first hour the practice group had got very lost with the weather compounding things. The assessed groups fared better and navigated themselves back to camp successfully, with the practice group coming in last. By the time the final group appeared in camp it had gone dark, so the pupils had to put their tents up by the light of head torches, but they still managed to make some impressive dinners including curry and chocolate pudding.

On the second day pupils took a circular route walk from and back to Swallow Falls. The walk took them past two lakes, through woodland, and gave the pupils some amazing views of Snowdonia. Sadly, the practice group didn't redeem themselves on their second day of walking either, having walked back and forth towards Swallow Falls several times and then getting completely lost several times after. Luckily all the assessed pupils set off in the right direction and got back to camp with light in the sky.

The final and third day saw the practice group go back to school having completed their practice attempt and the two assessed groups stay out to finish the final part of their assessment. On this final day the pupils walked back from Swallow Falls to Betws-y-Coed over the hills behind. The day stayed dry, and the assessed pupils

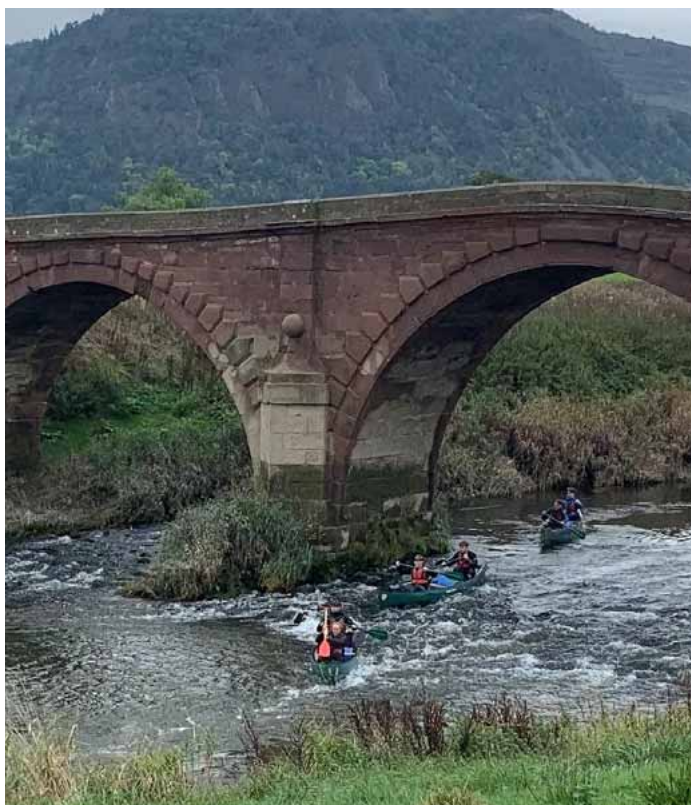
successfully completed the walking part of the expedition. They completed their expedition section back at school by completing a presentation on their aims about resilience and teamwork.

After the October half term the pupils moved on to completing their skills sections of their awards. This year pupils either learnt to plan and look after an allotment or learn a range of craft skills, such as embroidery, needlework and pompom making. The pupils completed their volunteering sections outside of the sessions, helping housemothers, neighbours, and extended family.

This year we were able to run the summer expedition and, after extra navigation practice and more expo training, we set off. This year the Year 10s walked from Barmouth to Dolgellau and then up towards Bala. This group had quite a bit of pressure on them as they needed to pass this practice expedition to be able to move on to their assessed one and complete their awards. Unlike the practice, the group set off in the sunshine along the estuary from Barmouth up towards Dolgellau. The sun was short-lived and, as can be the case in Snowdonia, it started to torrentially rain. However, the pupils did well and continued to navigate brilliantly despite this. They made it into the campsite in Dolgellau in good time and set up for the night by cooking a substantial camp stove dinner.

The second day saw them walk up through the Snowdonian countryside through woods and valleys towards Bala. The weather had returned to summer, which lightened everyone's mood. The pupils successfully navigated their way for a second day and celebrated back at the campsite with birthday cake for Felix.

RJH



Gold Award

This year saw a further twenty-four Lower Sixth sign up for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award here at Ellesmere.

Towards the end of September, work began on preparing for the upcoming October Expeditions where the Year 12 group would undertake the necessary three-day intensive canoe training to equip themselves with the skills needed to manage the canoes, stay safe on the water, and rescue each other. We looked at basic canoe craft and kit requirements in College and were again supported by our in-House Nursing Team with First Aid Sessions focusing on CPR and other crucial skills.

October Expeditions saw the group complete an intensive three-day schedule of canoe training – including the dreaded capsizе drills –

and finish on Thursday with a longer, independent river journey down to Atcham. This allowed the group to learn new skills, build their teamwork, and understand the importance of waterproofs.

For most Ellesmerians, the time needed to devote to their respective physical, volunteering, and skill activities is merely a continuation of what they do already, and – with Covid restrictions lifting even more – we could see this happen in what Ellesmere history would define as “normal”. Coaching the Lower School on a Thursday afternoon, helping readers in Year 3 and upwards, or volunteering to support the Saturday morning activity schedule were all activities that demonstrated the groups' maturity and willingness to help others.

The first weekend after the Easter break saw the group complete their three-day, two-night Practice Expedition along the River Severn from Welshpool to Buildwas. In tricky conditions and not having camped for a while due to the global pandemic, the group experienced a steep learning curve in terms of managing their kit, working together, and coping with the unrelenting need to stick together and get through difficulties. A couple decided this was not for them but the majority forged on and – by the end – had managed a tough three-day trip. More importantly, they had learned key skills that would be to their advantage in the Summer:

The final week of Summer Term – ‘Expos’ – saw us depart for the River Wye: a return to the usual assessment location after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. Buoyed by their success after Easter, the group coped well with low river levels, long days, and angry swans to complete the marathon river trek from Hay-on-Wye to Monmouth. Sure now that canoeing was not “the easy option”, the group could leave Monmouth to reflect on a year of progress and achievement with just the Summer Ball to survive – and their final sections to complete in Year 13.

My thanks, as ever, to Mr Baggaley, Mr Morgan, Miss Killen, Mr Cowley, and The Drummonds of Shrewsbury for their support this year.

JSU



The Arts



September 2021 started off with a little trepidation as we started to introduce some sense of normality with rehearsals and workshops taking place for plays, choir, dance, drama, and Art. Whilst these were happening in year group bubbles it did allow students to start to engage with one another in a creative sense in person, which students and staff thoroughly enjoyed once again. It was noticeable that Ellesmere were a leading force in continuing with creativity throughout the pandemic, adapting ways of working that met with guidelines for safe practice and allowing students to flourish and make progress. Our students continued to learn and the importance of the Arts became far more apparent as we turned to different forms of media, social media, and methods of communication to interact and stimulate the mind at a time when visits to concerts, exhibitions, and live performance became limited.

Drama

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

After careful consideration, the much-loved Senior School Competitive House Play Competition was launched at the start of the academic year. With students rehearsing in bubbled groups, the Sixth Form Directors and Assistant Directors got rehearsals underway for this year's competition, which looked at the re-telling of Roald Dahl's fantastic twisted fairy tales 'Revolting Rhymes'. Having been allotted one of the famous tales, the Directing team scripted and directed their version of the story. Talbot House presented the heartfelt tale of the unfortunate Cinderella, Meynell House adapted the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood, Wakeman-Lambart re-worked the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Woodard presented the lovely tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Over the two nights 70+ senior school students entertained, interacted, and performed to an in-house audience of students and staff. Ably judged by long standing staff member and Head of the Mathematics Department John Cowley, the following results and awards were given:



'Revolting Rhymes' – The Ellie Awards 2021

	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
The Best Male Lead	Abraham Pritchard (W)	Cal Adlard (M)
The Best Female Lead	Connie Trollope (M)	Sophia Nolan (W-L)
The Most Entertaining Ensemble/Scene	Cinderella Ball (T)	Dwarves Racing (W-L)
The Best Supporting Character	Ethan Beaver (T)	Matty Bland (W)
The Best Dressed Scene	Shrek Forest Scene (M)	Horse Racing Scene (W-L)
The Best Set Design	Taxi, Mirror, etc (W-L)	Tree Scene (M)
The Best Interpretation	Talbot	Meynell
The Best Use of Props	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart
The Best Programme	Snow White (W-L)	Cinderella (T)
The Best Technical Director	Iris Grigorias (M)	Kit Lewers (W-L)
The Best Director	Amy Storey-Gibbons (W-L)	Lucy Stevens (M)
The Best Double Act	Jack Tomlinson & Josh McAndrews (W)	James Barker & Ollie Barret (M)
The Best Narrators	Amy Evans & Doug Carden (M)	Charlie Wood & Beaut Kitirattaniwat (T)



Senior Drama Club

Working in year group bubbles, Senior School Drama Club focused on monologue and duologue performance work for the first term. Students used their creativity and scriptwriting abilities to develop some sensitive and thought-provoking monologue work which they then learnt, directed, and performed in preparation for filming. As the academic year developed and we were able to mix year groups, students started using the afternoon slot to rehearse the whole school production of High School the Musical.



Whole School Production! High School the Musical

In January 2020 Year 7 and 8 had just started rehearsing their Lower School Production of High School the Musical. Fast forward a couple of years and those Lower School students were now in Middle School and still just as keen to get back on stage! Rehearsals

began once again, which attracted the attention of a number of Sixth Form students who were also big fans of High School the Musical; before we knew it, the cast had doubled in size and Ellesmere College were putting on a whole school production with students from Year 7 through to Year 13. The prospect of such a large cast was exciting and the energy amongst the students was palpable. Choreographed by Year 12 student Joseph Baillon, directed by Mrs Zoe Fisher, and produced by Miss Rachel Schubert, the performance was finally staged after rehearsals started two years previous! High School the Musical was finally staged in March 2022, which made it the first performance in the Arts Centre since January 2020.

LAMDA & Dance

Our resilient LAMDA and Dance students continued to access their lessons online for the first part of the academic year and in person from the January onwards. The number of students taking up Speech and Drama examinations have continued to rise, as have students requesting private dance classes in a range of styles, from ballet to jazz and contemporary movement. Whilst we were not able to have as many examination points throughout the academic year, the following LAMDA candidates were successful in achieving the following set of fantastic results in November 2021:

Olivia Philbin	Grade 7 MT Distinction
Henry Copelin	Grade 3 Acting Distinction
Harry Hepburn	Grade 4 Acting Distinction
Oscar Archer Rogers	Grade 4 Acting Distinction
Tabitha Gallagher	Grade 3 MT- Distinction
Esther Gratton	Grade 3 MT- Distinction
Megan Pritchard	Grade 3 Acting - Distinction
Kaylee Mellor	Grade 3 Acting - Distinction
Sienna Hanratty	Grade 3 Acting - Merit

National Theatre Screenings for GCSE and A Level student's

With little opportunity to visit live performance in and around the UK, once again we looked for alternative opportunities to still be able to watch quality performance work from the comfort of our very own theatre. The aspect of a Live Review was still part of the GCSE, A Level, and IB courses of study and therefore the opportunity to watch live streamed performance was essential for all Drama and Theatre students. Opportunities were available for students to watch a range of live streamed National Theatre performances including the widely acclaimed *Frankenstein* directed by Danny Boyle and starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr Frankenstein and Johnny Lee Miller as The Creature. Students were gripped by this stunning performance and set design. During the festive season students enjoyed watching the well-known classic of 'Peter Pan'. This stunning performance presented its audience with exceptional use of an awe-inspiring set and the opportunity to lose oneself in the magic of this all-time classic story. Students were also treated to performances of 'One Man, Two Governors' starring James Cordon, as well as 'Wonderland' a modern concept of the well-known story of Alice in Wonderland. The quality of performance work produced by The National Theatre allowed our students the opportunity to continue watching excellent performance work at a time when school visits to watch live performance was particularly difficult.



Arts Centre Prefect

Every year the Arts are ably assisted by a carefully selected prefect. This year was no exception and Amy Storey-Gibbons was chosen to support the Arts team for the academic year. Amongst the responsibilities of the Arts Centre Prefect is the supporting of the Arts Team, disseminating information to students across the school, representing the Prefect team at Arts events, as well as promoting the Arts not only across the school but also in the local community. Amy has worked hard this year in promoting creativity across the school and we have been delighted with her commitment and enthusiasm.

RLS





Music

Special Music Prizes for 2022

Services to the Choir
Marilyn Amako Cup: Soloist
Marsh Cup for Musician of the Year
Baulcott Organ Prize
Instrumental Music
Garnett Prize for Creative Music

Anouska Newton
Amy Storey-Gibbons
Christopher Davis
Robyn Welti
Molly Fry
Lewis Reardon

Music Captains



Lucy Conway
6th Form Music Captain



Huw Lloyd
6th Form Music Captain



Olivia Philbin
Middle School Music Captain



Kitt Baillon
Lower School Music Captain



Florence Sweeney
Lower School Music Captain

The Oswestry Music Festival

Students and former students competed with great success once again at the Oswestry Youth Music Festival - competing in 34 of the 74 classes, winning 19 and achieving 59 out of 84 1st, 2nd or 3rd places.

The college traditionally performs particularly well in Vocal classes and this year won the 12, 15, 18 and Under classes as well as Under 16 and 21 Youth Choir classes with the Lower School Choir and Chapel Choir.

Singers Charlie Wood and Huw Lloyd took first and second place in the 18 and Under's with Lewis Reardon and Amy Storey-Gibbons taking joint third place.

In the 15 and Under class, Noah Fisher gained first place with Your Song by Elton John and Duarte Gomez came in third when he became the first rapper in the Festival's history. Isobel Philbin won both the Own Choice and Musical Theatre 12 and Under classes with You Raise Me Up and On My Own respectively.

In the 18 and Under Musical Theatre class, Kizzy Lumley-Edwards(OE) took first place, Huw Lloyd, came second with Proud of Your Boy from Aladdin, and Amy Storey-Gibbons came third.

We were delighted to see Old Ellesmerian Jakob Fradley take 1st place in the 21 and Under class and then go on to win the Oswestry Town Council Cup with a brilliant performance of The Green Eyed Dragon by Finley and Drake.

Robyn Welti and Anouska Newton (Year 13) won the vocal duet 21 and under class with an impressive performance of Songbird by Eva Cassidy

The Lower School Choir performed with huge energy singing The Bare Necessities and I'm a Believer, and the Chapel Choir's performance of Mr Blue Sky was electrifying, ensuring wins for both choirs.



Ellesmere instrumentalists also impressed.

Molly Fry (Year 12) won both the 18 and Under; and 21 and Under classes for Brass, and Freddie Heasmer-Jones performed a beautiful rendition of 'Memory' from Cats to win the 15 and Under Strings class. Alex Hu showed great maturity in his playing winning both the 12 and Under Strings and in teaming up with Lucinda Bound of Oswestry to win the instrumental duet category for students for 12 and Under class. Kit Fisher won the 12 and Under Drumkit class with his rendition of Come Together and Jack Arrowsmith played brilliantly to secure the 21 and Under Drumkit with Backing Track.

The Lower School Band brought the Festival to life with their performance of Shake It Off by Taylor Swift and the Senior Orchestra performed a medley from Les Miserables, both securing wins in their classes.

Ellesmere performed outstandingly well achieving 19 First Places and making up 6 of the 14 finalists in the Champions Concert on the final day. It was a delight to hear live music once again and our thanks go to Sue Turner and the stewards for organising the Festival.

APC





ABRSM Exam Results

NOVEMBER 2021		
Oscar Crossen	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Chris Davis	Grade 6 Baritone	Pass
Ellie Kimber	Grade 4 Violin	Pass
Huw Lloyd	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
MARCH 2022		
Olivia Philbin	Grade 2 Piano	Merit
Molly Fry	Grade 5 Piano	Merit
Joseph Joyce	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Adam Crompton	Grade 3 Piano	Pass
Florence Sweeney	Grade 4 Piano	Pass
Isabella Moore	Grade 5 Singing	Merit
Nathaniel Clewlow	Grade 3 Singing	Pass
Aaron Heward	Grade 3 Violin	Pass
Douglas Logan	Grade 4 Violin	Pass
JUNE 2022		
Lewis Reardon	Grade 8 Singing	Merit
Isabella New	Grade 1 Piano	Distinction
Aaron Heward	Grade 4 Piano	Pass
Peter Brown	Grade 3 Piano	Pass
Ewan Johnson	Grade 3 Singing	Pass
Alice Arthan	Grade 3 Singing	Merit
Josh Norris	Grade 4 Singing	Merit
Noah Fisher	Grade 5 Singing	Merit
Lucy Conway	Grade 5 Singing	Merit

Trinity Exam Results

NOVEMBER 2021		
Olivia Philbin	Grade 4 Drums	Merit

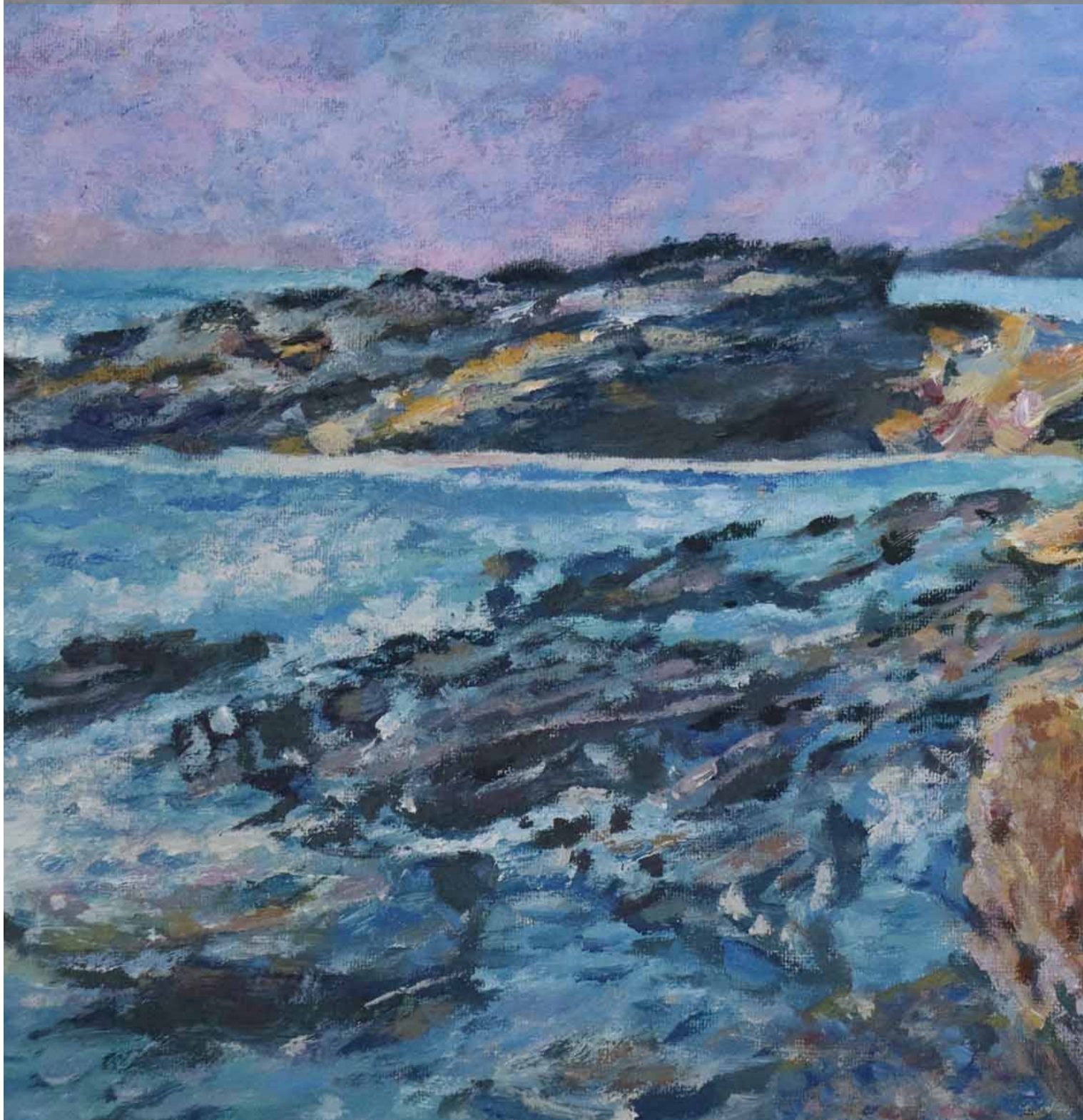
Trinity Rock & Pop Exam Results

Summer 2022			
Jake Hughes	Classical & Jazz	Grade Initial Drums	Distinction
Eoghan Clements	Rock & Pop	Grade 2 Drums	Distinction
Isobel Philbin	Rock & Pop	Grade 2 Drums	Distinction
Joshua Philbin	Rock & Pop	Grade Initial Drums	Distinction

GRADE 5 MUSIC THEORY

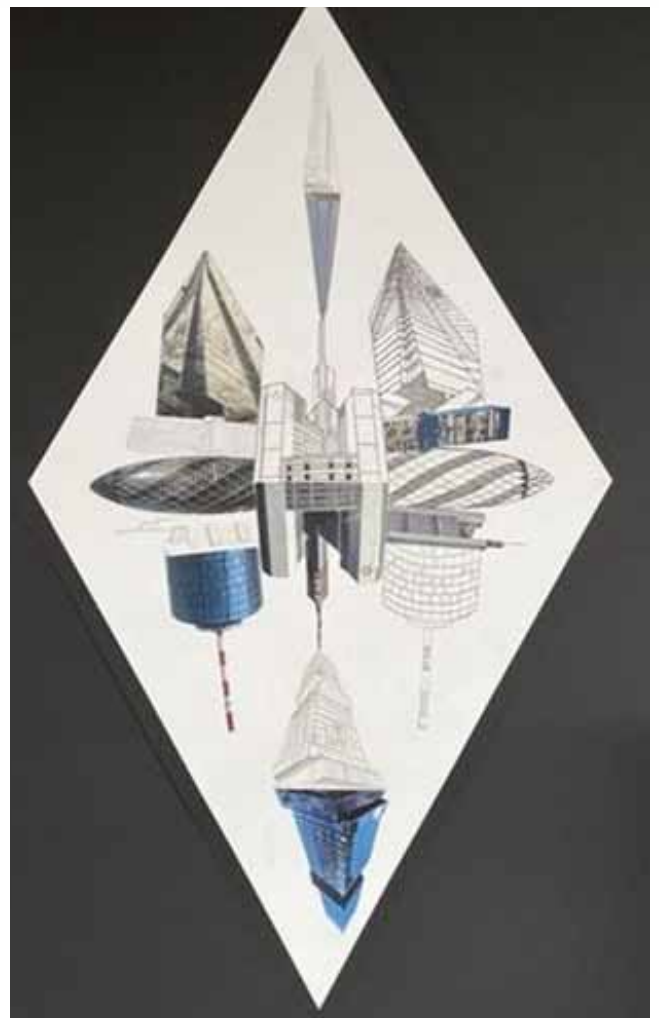
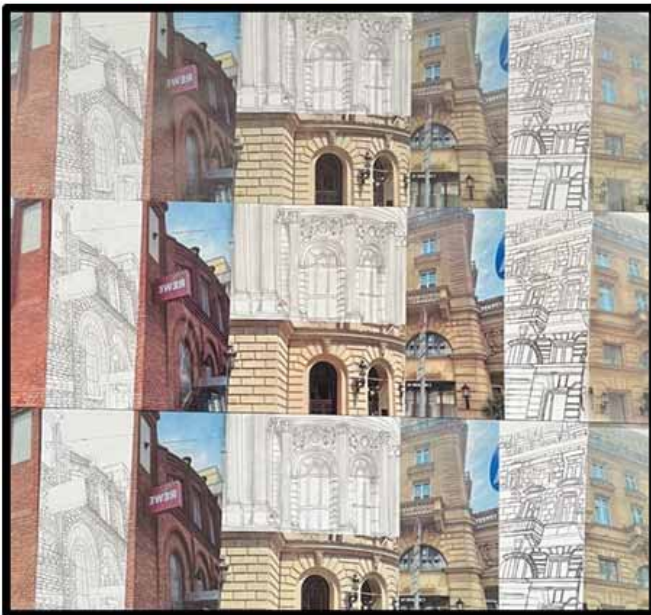
Passes in last academic year	
Kit Lewers	
Huw Lloyd	
Lewis Reardon	

Art





Carl M





GCSE Art

Finlay H



Isabella B



Daniel S



Alexander P



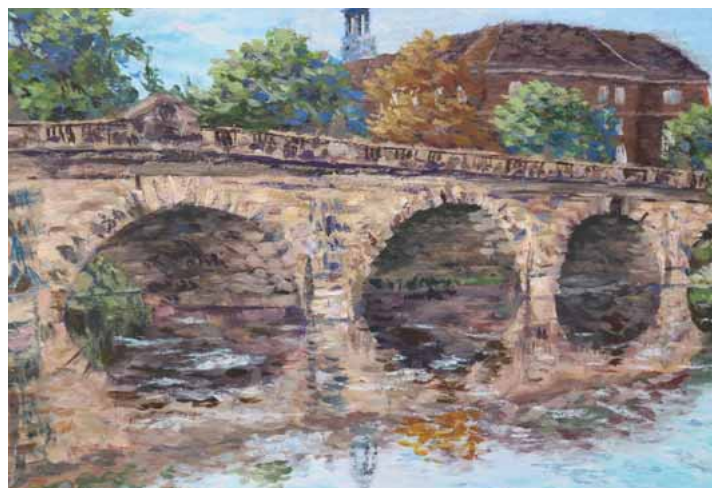
Dafydd CJ



Ceci L



Wendy T



GCSE Art

Lily S



Susan E



Julia S



Emily C



Sam L



Zara B

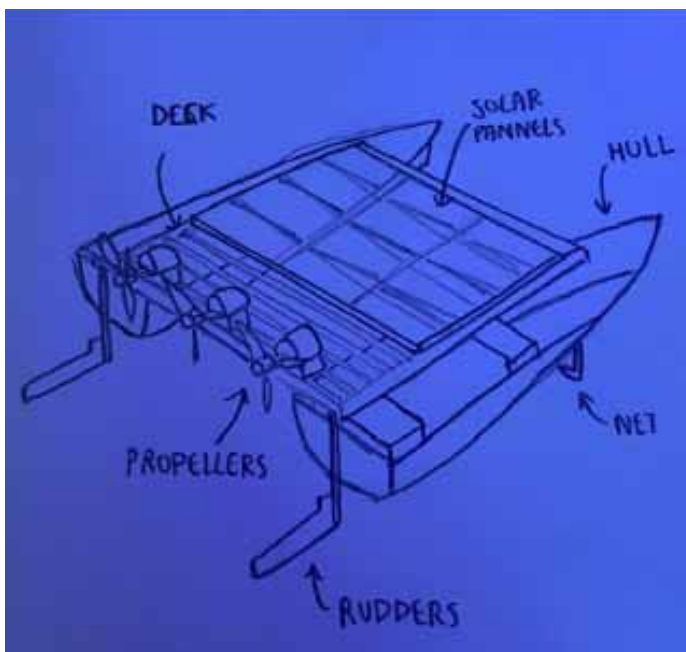
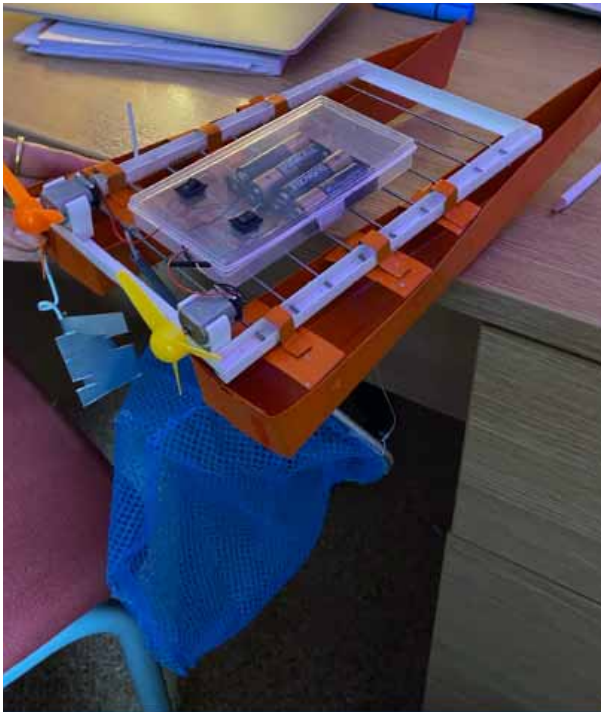


Design and Technology

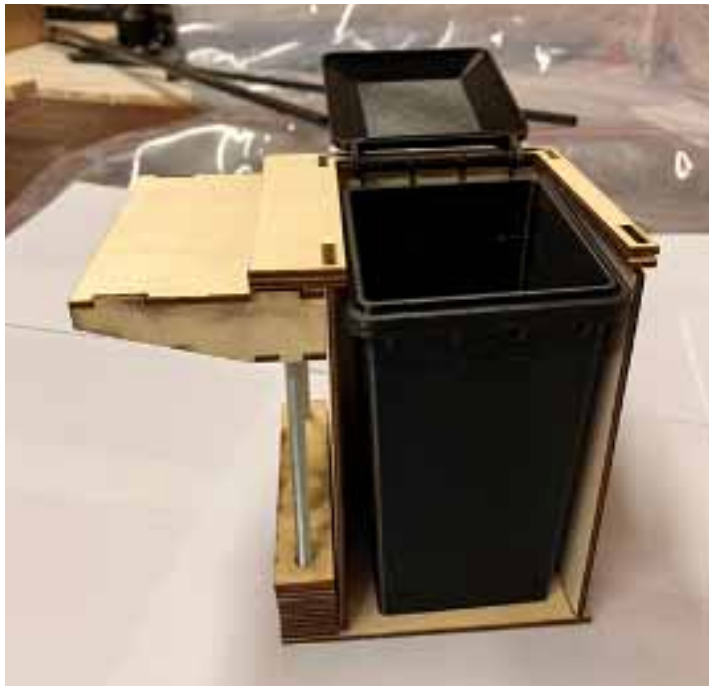
Design and Technology this year saw a slow emergence from the COVID hangover with work being able to be produced. From a point pre-COVID where working prototypes had been manufactured, students this year were able to make scale prototypes of their proposals. For some this was frustrating as they wanted to be more hands on with their outcomes, but regardless of this the outcomes that students produced were fantastic.

MTH

Fleur L – Ocean Waste Collector



India FC - Aid to help elderly load wheelie bins



James K - Caravan Themed Chicken Coop



Chris D - Mountain Bike Storage and Maintenance station



Ellesmere in the News



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 outside 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 focuses 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. The Duke of Edinburgh, CCF, English Speaking Board, Arts Award, the extensive sporting provision, and Model United Nations to name but a few, give Ellesmerians so many ways to develop 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, 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'.



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 70,000 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.

Two of those students Leoni and Iris also qualified to compete in the UKMT Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge. Congratulations and well done to all students who took part.



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 amazing opportunity was provided by helicopter pilot instructor Warrant Officer Class 1 John Sweeney AAC out of RAF Shawbury.

Over the previous couple of years, opportunities for RAF cadets to gain 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 in to land on Parry's field at the College and WO1 J 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, WO1 J 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 WO1 J 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 WO1 J 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

Top 100 UK Cricket

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 the College, which dates back to 2018, firmly establishing the College among the cricketing elite and underlines the 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.





Golf Academy-Top 5 in the UK

Ellesmere College Golf Academy is enjoying continued success with its latest win at a national golf event - the first to do so since the school's Golf Academy was launched, ranking the school fourth in England for golf.

18-year-old student and Golf Academy player Jonjo Ashbrook beat off tough competition to win the individual event at the Independent Schools Golf Tournament National final in Ayr, Scotland - with his twin brother Charlie coming third. In addition, the Ellesmere College Golf Academy Team came an impressive third overall, with 17-year-old Marcus Wildblood and Charlie Boys, 15, competing with the twins.

Head of the Golf Academy, PGA Advanced Professional Robert Ashbrook, said these huge successes show the strength and depth of the Golf Academy at Ellesmere and how it is building each year.

He said: "We were up against all the schools that have Golf Academies or play golf from around Great Britain so it was a great achievement to finish a very impressive third in the team competition but also to have the winner and bronze medal places in the individual event. It is a proud moment for the school - I believe this is the first time one of our academy has won a National event and this will help us gain momentum for the future. Over the past few years the Academy has gone from strength to strength - with the help of impressive facilities such as the indoor SkyTrak Golf Simulator and 9 hole CONGU rated golf course - and are building on each success with a lot of interest from new pupils each year. We have introduced new disciplines, a Player Development Pathway and compete in as many events on as many different golf courses as we can. Of course, we give equal weighting to academia too, so the students get the best of both worlds."

The team qualified for the three-day competition at Dundonald Links by winning at Preston Golf Club and then winning again at the English final at Carden Park, Cheshire. Charlie also won the Shropshire & Herefordshire Youth Championship at Llanymynech Golf Club by one shot; the school hosted a Shropshire and Herefordshire girls' competition; and last year one leg of the European Junior Tour was held at the school. Some Golf Academy members are also part of the Regional Development England Squad.

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.



Igniting STEM Challenge

What better way to ignite our students' imaginations, drive their teamwork, and develop their problem-solving skills than with fun and fast paced STEM and IET Faraday challenges!

Both Year 8 and Year 9 students took on two very different challenges at the end of last term but both were designed to get their teamwork and problem-solving hats on!

STEM days at the school are designed to put the emphasis on students working as a self-directed and motivated team, navigating beyond their comfort zones, and being challenged to explore their own solutions to a variety of real world challenges - aerospace, transport, space travel, etc. Judging from each of the team's presentations and demonstrations, we think they should be very proud of their achievements - don't you?





Platinum Jubilee Trees

In June of this year, Ellesmere College marked the Platinum Jubilee with the planting of over 70 trees in the grounds as part of the creation of a canopy of trees all over the UK. The school now boasts an additional 41 different species of trees in their stunning grounds including fruit trees, hedging trees, a *Cornus controversa* (known as a wedding cake tree), a Giant Redwood, Himalayan Cedar, Monkey Puzzle, Swamp Cypress, Tulip Tree, and many more. Lewis Reardon, a Year 12 pupil at Ellesmere College, also decided to buy a tree and plant it as part of his Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an A Level additional project. His evergreen Oak stands between Lower School and the Tennis Academy Centre.

Mike McCarthy, Director of Operations at the school, said: "This has been a great project for the school. Ever since I have been here we have had an ongoing project to plant new species so this national scheme for the Queen's Jubilee was a brilliant occasion to be part of and make the most of the site. There has been educational value to it, environmental benefits, sustainability for future generations to enjoy, and, of course, CO₂ benefits of having more trees on site. We have plenty of room on site so we won't stop here." Some trees were from the Woodlands Trust, some donated by Old Ellesmerians and the Ellesmere College Parents Society, but most were provided by the school itself.



Swimming Global Success

The Ellesmere College Swimming Academy has been making waves around the globe and celebrating some outstanding results for its swimmers, who have been competing in key international events from the beginning of the season.

Two of the team who were selected to swim for the European Juniors in Romania - Andrew Bertoli and George Smith, who are both in Year 13, competed in Romania in early July. Isaac Dodds was also revealed to be one of the Academy Swimmers competing in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games at the brand-new Sandwell Aquatics Centre!

Key events were also being attended in the British Swimming Championships and Derventio Open meet, the Edinburgh International Open Meet, ESSA National Championships, and the Stockport Metro Spring Meet. These act as pivotal meets as the long-course season is now well under way, making the all-important adjustments after a successful short-course season.

A select group of Academy Swimmers were also chosen to take part in the DISE 2 year course, which is tailored to the athletes and their respective disciplines, offering them the key knowledge and skills necessary in order to become a high-performance international athlete combined with their academic journeys.

We wish them well with their studies and competing!



Rob the Paradox

Our Year 6 pupils took a step back in time when they visited Ellesmere Library to hear all about a local war hero – Rob the Paradox!

Rob the Paradox was born and brought up on a farm near Ellesmere and served in WW2 – saving the lives of soldiers and civilians and undertaking countless parachute jumps with the SAS regiment. Rob was also one of the few animals who served in the war to receive a Dickin Medal – the animal equivalent to the Victoria Cross - and had a book written about him by local author Dorothy Nicolle. Rob's owner, Basil Bayne, chatted to the children about life during the war, how brave Rob was, and the part he played in helping the war effort.

The students loved hearing about Rob's story – Dan said, "It's interesting how it is not just humans that can save lives." Eva commented, "I love the idea of a dog parachuting out of the plane," and Nat agreed, saying, "It was very interesting learning about the different animals that won the Dickin Medal."

New Scholars: Music and Art

Ellesmere College celebrated three new scholars this term at a series of special luncheons designed to allow the Scholars to meet and thank the Scholarship donors.

Music Scholarships

Two new Music Scholars joined the Music Department in Year 12 and, due to Covid restrictions, it was the first time they could meet the families who had generously donated the scholarships to the College.

Lewis Reardon, from Shrewsbury, was awarded the Mullock Scholarship after taking a singing exam at Ellesmere College and a subsequent audition. He sang in front of the Director of Music at Ellesmere College, Tony Coupe, who offered him a place within days of the exam. Molly Fry, from Whitchurch, was awarded the Walker Scholarship to complete her studies at Ellesmere College after impressing Tony with her skills on the Clarinet and Trumpet.

Tony Coupe said, "We are delighted that Lewis and Molly have been able to join the school, the Music Department, and our community here at Ellesmere College. Both are incredibly talented and have already started to perform at events and work with our younger musicians. We are excited to see what they will both achieve and are delighted to be able to continue to offer these life-changing scholarships for pupils to come to this College."

Molly and Lewis were officially welcomed to the school with a dinner, bringing their families together with Mr & Mrs Mullock and Mr & Mrs Walker who generously provide these scholarships for Sixth Form students.

Art Scholarship

The school also welcomed online sensation 'Doodle Boy' - aka Joe Whale - who joined Ellesmere College on the Adlard Art Scholarship awarded by internationally renowned artist Charlie Adlard and who finally managed to meet Charlie at the College this term!

Joe Whale, from Shrewsbury, took his place at Ellesmere College in the spring and has eagerly taken advantage of the opportunities available at the Artsmark Platinum awarded school, which is well known for its arts provision to students and the community.

Charlie Adlard, the artist for The Walking Dead comics and former Comic Laureate, has also funded the new Adlard Art Studio at the College - where Joe will be based - providing a higher platform to showcase some of the excellent art work created by students there.

He said: "I am delighted to see Joe awarded the Scholarship - he is a prodigious talent and one already recognised by many admirers who are following his story online. It's a great opportunity for him and I wish him well at Ellesmere College."

Siobhan Phillips, Head of Art at Ellesmere College, said: "We are thrilled to see Joe awarded the Charlie Adlard Scholarship. It's fully deserved and we look forward to helping Joe develop his artistic potential over his time at the College - it's a marvellous opportunity for him and I would like to thank Charlie for making it possible."

Scholarships play a major role in nurturing young talent, providing a pathway which in many cases may not otherwise be available to them. They open up a world of access and opportunity which are designed to further the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of amazing young talent.



The Mullock Award: Mr and Mrs Mullock, Lewis Reardon



The Walker Award: Mr and Mrs Walker, Molly Fry



The Adlard Award: Mr Charlie Adlard, Joe Whale



Lent Music Concert

There was a wonderful atmosphere of music and laughter at our Lent Music Concert as the choirs and ensembles sang and played through a fantastic repertoire of songs and musical inspired pieces! Standing ovations from a packed Big School audience rounded off a fabulous night!

This was the first concert that the choirs had performed in over 2 years and it was truly a joyous return for all who performed, watched, and joined in!



Frantic Assembly

Following a workshop with theatre group 'Frantic Assembly', the Year 12 students took part in a Physical Theatre Lesson – working on 'Chair Duets' - which is a form of physical theatre dance type work.

Frantic Assembly is an internationally renowned Theatre Company who not only deliver a range of theatre and Physical Theatre Workshop, but are also one of the practitioners studied at A Level and IB, and the style of Physical Theatre is part of the GCSE Drama course.

The workshop was a high energy and dynamic workshop delivered by Marc from the group, who put the students through their paces in a high intensity warm up session of exercises. This was followed by a carefully selected choice of Frantic Building Block movements, which demonstrates Frantic Assemblies' unique way of introducing their challenging ways of working.

The building block movements were demonstrated to the group and the physicality of each of the moves broken down so students were able to attempt the moves safely and – without the individual realising it – get them to work outside of their comfort zone and successfully do something they never thought possible. All students are working on devising collaborative performance examination pieces and will now be able to incorporate elements of physical theatre that the workshop introduced them to.

This was a unique opportunity for our Drama and Theatre students to work alongside a professional theatre practitioner on their examination coursework. There was a real buzz about the department for the remainder of the week, with students trying out their new skills and introducing this into their work. Well done on taking part!



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.

- Sofie Glinos became the U12 singles champion in Herefordshire
- Tom Parr is the U14 singles champion in Shropshire, as well as being named Shropshire improver of the year.
- Jemimah Choi was crowned the U16 and ladies singles champion and U18 and ladies double champion in Wales.
- Emily Males and Skye Thomas became the U11 singles champions in Shropshire and Cheshire respectively.
- Guy Welti became the U16 doubles champion in Shropshire
- Alfie Edwards became the U11 champion and U12 champion for singles and doubles in Shropshire.
- Aditi Chezian was named the U18 and ladies doubles champion in Wales.
- Owen Critchell and Jemimah Choi became the U18 mixed doubles champions in Wales.
- Jacob Popplewell won the Cheshire U16 doubles.



Sport - Rugby



Rugby - 1st XV

After two years without competitive rugby, the aspiration for the 1st XV was to simply to go out and play. There was a high emphasis on enjoyment as everyone involved was able to appreciate just how lucky they were to be the ones to kick-start rugby at Ellesmere College. Due to Covid-19 the squad were unable to attend their usual pre-season training camp in Cardiff. When combined with a two year lay-off from competitive rugby, the team felt a little under prepared and Ellesmere had to work hard in training to get back up to speed. However, it was soon evident that most other schools were encountering the same problems.

The first game of the season was away against Wilmslow School, who were also feeling the effects of a long lay-off. The game was used as a development opportunity with the game carved up into thirds. Ellesmere took a large squad and used the opportunity to try a number of combinations. At one-point the visitors fielded an entire Under 17 side in a bid to give boys game time. Ellesmere ran out as comfortable winners.

A particularly memorable game was the game against Old Swinford Hospital. The Stourbridge school have always provided a great test for Ellesmere with both sides enjoying the spoils over the years. This game would be remembered for a number of reasons. One of them being the referee having to retire after fifteen minutes to be replaced by the home Master of Rugby. Another reason was for the number of injuries that Ellesmere suffered on that particular day, which also included three concussions. However, it was the way that Ellesmere managed to capitulate in the final twenty minutes to throw away a comfortable lead. Some harsh lessons were learnt.

Unfortunately, due to the number of injuries sustained in the Old Swinford game, Ellesmere had to bow out of their cup run. Due to being unable to field a side in the first round of the competition, the rules stipulated that we could not take part in any other competition that season.

Following this tough start, the Ellesmere 1st XV were able to recover and were soon able to apply some of the harsh lessons that had been learnt. They produced some excellent performances against the likes of Adams Grammar, Caldys Grammar, and Bishop Vesey's School. England Under 18 international, Harvey Cuckson, led from the front and ensured that his team were always on the front foot.

There was a good balance between the back line and the pack this season. Although the forwards were a particularly sizeable group, they displayed some excellent handling skills which, when combined with their physicality, wreaked havoc on their opponents. The back line, led by Captain and Fullback Ben Zakers, were one of the quickest the College had produced in a number of years. This combination led to an exciting attacking team.

It was clear that the effects of the pandemic were never far away. Unfortunately, a number of fixtures were cancelled over the course of the season due to opposition schools losing players due to illness or isolation. However, it was a huge positive to see rugby being played again at Ellesmere College. The aims and objectives at the start of the season were enjoyment, participation, and improvement, and all three were certainly met.

AJM



Rugby - U17

Summary of results

Wilmslow High School	-	Won 0 – 36
Wrekin College	-	Won 12 – 33
Rydal Penrhos School	-	Canc.

This was not an easy season. After almost 18 months of no competitive rugby, it proved difficult to find fixtures for our team.

The first game was against Wilmslow on a beautiful day in Cheshire. As this was the first fixture for both sides after the pandemic, it was decided that there would be three mini games of 25 minutes. Our boys were raring to go and relished the chance to play again, having had no competitive games for so long. We played a simple and effective game plan, which suited the mobile and athletic players we had. We carried strongly, recycled efficiently, and moved the ball accurately. Our decision making was generally sound and we worked hard for each other. We proved too strong for our opposition and we ended our game after twenty minutes. It was a positive first run out and there was a good foundation to build on going forward.

Our second run out and our first full game was away at Wrekin. We took twenty players of varying experience, one playing his first game for two years after injury and another playing his first game ever. We started well. Our captain, Will Owen, was clearly a class above and he opened the scoring. However, it was a tight affair, as it often is at Wrekin. We scored once more before the break to lead 14-0 at half time.

The hosts were determined to close the score gap and we spent much of the time defending as they threw all they had at us. We were

organised and generally well disciplined and finally broke out to increase our lead. We were again called upon to defend wave upon wave of opposition attack and again we stood firm. We managed to turn over ball and some good handling allowed us to get outside the opposition defence and run in another score.

With a healthy lead intact, we maybe switched off a little and a series of penalties allowed the opposition to cross for their first score. Will Owen returned to the field and created havoc in the opposition defence. He got the try that his play deserved, which allowed us to bounce back and added a certain symmetry to our scoring.

Wrekin battled hard and finished strongly, scoring the final try of the game. Considering that we had not played in two months we were pleased with the rugby we had put together. It was a shame that our third game was cancelled by the opposition. The boys had trained hard throughout the season and were really starting to show how good they were. There is no doubt that many of them would go on to represent the 1st XV the following year, if not before.

Captain Will Owen went on to represent the England School boys who toured South Africa during the Summer. We all congratulate him on that.

Despite the fact that there were only two games and no home fixtures, there were many positives and to see the way that the boys improved and dealt with the trials of post pandemic sport was an indication of how mentally strong they were as a group. Thank you to all those who supported, coached, and hosted the team.

DJM



Rugby - U15

Coming into the season there wasn't a huge amount of expectation as it was just nice to be back playing rugby again after the group missed out on the whole U14 season. The boys from the off were very focused and driven in wanting to succeed. Our first match was against Wilmslow, who weren't able to cope with our physicality and we came away with a 61-0 win.

From here we knew matches would get more difficult, the first of those being against Old Swinford Hospital, who gave us a stiff contest but our hunger shone through with a 27-17 win.

Trent College away came next the first match in the Cup and were shell shocked in the first 20 minutes when we broke away to a 20-0 lead thanks to some tries from Harry Jackson. Trent struggled to get into the game and lapses at the final whistle gave them a few tries but ended with a 38-10 win.

Our next 3 games against Adams Grammar, Rydal, and Calday all ended in comprehensive results: 54-5, 49-15 and 43-5. From here we welcomed Loughborough Grammar school in the 3rd round in the cup after receiving a bye in round two. The forwards, led by Captain Harvey Leonard, set the platform for the match which allowed George Owen to pull the strings with the backs and execute opportunities. The match ended 55-17 and, with the St Anselm's match unfortunately cancelled, our next match was Uppingham away in the cup.

Uppingham proved to be a match where the whole squad showed how much they were willing to dig in. The conditions were appalling for both teams and the match ebbed and flowed, with Uppingham taking the lead 18-17 with around 5 minutes to play. The boys kept their

heads up and their perseverance was rewarded with a penalty in front of the posts. Josh Williams stepped up and composed himself to slot over the kick giving us a 20-18 lead. There was still a tie left, which we needed to focus for and not give away silly penalties. In the dying minutes the pack dug deep for an Uppingham scrum and stole the ball against the head, which George Owen gladly kicked off play: cue the celebrations. Bishop Vesey's came not long after, with a few injuries picked up from the Uppingham match, we were a bit out of sorts. An injury for Eddie Pytches that required a stretcher unsettled the boys, but they fought back to a 24-24 draw; and thankfully Eddie was ok and there was no lasting injury.

Next up came Newcastle Under Lyne in the last 16 of the Cup. We had some unavailability with Harry Jackson (concussion) and Jed Matthews (dislocated shoulder), but we went into the match confident. The match didn't start off the best and Ellesmere suffered back-to-back tries after having applied a lot of pressure to Newcastle without reward. Another try followed but back to back tries from Luke Rossow put us back to 12-21 at half time. Newcastle scored not long after half time and, despite our best efforts and gaining a try back, we were unable to recover and lost 26-17.

The team were fantastic from start to finish during the season and all deserve praise for a successful season. Harvey Leonard was a fantastic captain throughout and led a hungry group of forwards from Luke Rossow to Henry Appleby, whose engine never stopped. George Owen helped to orchestrate the backs with Harry Jackson being a key figure alongside Josh Williams and Thomas Dyson. They should all be very proud of their efforts as it was a memorable season for all involved.

MTH



Rugby - U14

Summary of results

Wilmslow	-	Won	50 – 0
Wirral Grammar (Round 2 National Cup)	-	Won	50 – 0
Old Swinford Hospital	-	Won	50 – 15
Woodhouse Grove (Round 3 National Cup)	-	WALKOVER	
Adam's Grammar	-	Won	60 – 0
Caldy Grange	-	Won	50 – 0
St. Anselm's	-	CANCELLED	
Bishop Vesey's	-	Won	45 – 0
Prince Henry's Grammar School (Round 4 National Cup)			
Won	-	15 – 15 (On Away Team Rule)	
St. Peter's School (Round 5 National Cup)	-	Won	26 – 17
King's School, Macclesfield	-	Lost	7 – 48

The U14A team have had an amazing season of rugby. This is a dedicated group of boys who are an excellent team and are only going to get better and better as they progress through the College. This year, as well as having their regular fixtures they were also entered into a National Cup competition and went on to have one of the greatest Cup runs in the history of the College. They won every match bar the last eight match of the National Cup.

The season started with a Home match against Wilmslow. Twenty-six players were chosen for the match and everyone acquitted themselves well in a convincing 50-0 win. Next up were Old Swinford Hospital, another team that this team had not played before and therefore we went into this match with caution. However, we soon

stamped our authority on this match too and proceeded to score 50 points.

The next match of the term, which was supposed to be the Third Round match in the cup, was supposed to be against Woodhouse Grove School, however they were unable to honour the fixture and we were given a walkover into the fourth round. Our last match of the half term was a home match against Adams Grammar School. Again we had 20 players available to play in this match and everyone played well to secure a 60-0 win.

After the Half Term holiday we travelled for our first away game of the season at Caldway Grange Grammar School, Prince Henry's Grammar School and St. Peter's School. The final match of this long campaign was away to The King's School, Macclesfield. This was always going to be a tough match and it proved to be so. We unfortunately had a very nasty injury happen to Oliver Loud early on in the match – thankfully he has recovered from this now. Final score 48-7 to the King's School.

In concluding, the team should be very proud of their efforts this year. In my time at the College I do not recall any other rugby team reaching the last eight of a National Competition. They are going to get better and better as they progress through the school and it has been a pleasure to coach the team this year. I wish every player all the best for the future with their rugby.

ILR



Rugby - U13

The U13 rugby team really benefitted from extra pre-season training sessions and were able to bond as a team before the gruelling schedule of fixtures could begin.

Despite this season kicking off with a close defeat to Wilmslow, the signs were already evident that this was going to be a very enjoyable season. Brave tackling and rucking were the hallmarks of this first performance against a physically much bigger side. The match eventually finished with 15 points to the visitors and 5 to Ellesmere College.

The next game against Old Swinford Hospital was a fast-paced game played in a very competitive spirit. It was all square at two tries apiece at half time. However, relentless attacks from the Ellesmere back line eventually wore the opponents down, which allowed the home side to run away with the points to finish the game winners by thirty points to ten. Again, the players showed that they had the heart and desire to grind out a very satisfying win against a well-organised opponent.

This enthusiasm and determination then flowed into the next game, which was their first away from home. Ellesmere gave a dominant performance where aggressive tackling and strong counter-rucking allowed the team to run in a total of eight tries to finish the encounter 40 points to 15 winners.

Some changes to personnel had to be made ahead of the first game after half term due to covid-19. However, the team's winning momentum continued as the U13s entertained a visiting side from Rydal Penrhos. Ellesmere exhibited great ball carrying skills, as well as being ruthless in finishing try scoring opportunities. This game turned

out to be a bit of a mismatch against an understrength opposition; the game was eventually stopped with Ellesmere the winners by fifty points to nil.

This young side's thirst for victory was still not slaked as they then found themselves on the road once more, travelling to Calday Grange Grammar School for their next fixture. This opponent showed itself to be bigger and more physical but not as well-organised. Ellesmere were forced to endure some relentless attacks in the first 15 minutes, but the defenders proved to be equal to the task. Then it was Ellesmere's turn to attack. Terrible weather conditions and high winds still did not prevent Ellesmere from running in five unanswered tries at the end of the game to win by 60 points to 35.

Calday Grange was the high-water mark in the season for Ellesmere U13s as the final game of the season, also played in terrible winter weather, proved to be a bridge too far. Ellesmere began the game with a bare 13 players, as injuries had prevented the team from preparing properly. An exhausted team were glad to hear the final whistle of the game and the season where Bishop Vesey ran away with 55 points to Ellesmere's 10.

This may have been a tough final game of the season but it did not detract from what had otherwise been a very successful season. The squad had won 4 games and lost 2, scoring 195 points and only conceding 130. This group of players move forward into Middle School with a solid foundation on which to build.

JED



Rugby - U12

This was the first season 'post covid' for the U12 rugby squad, with many playing competitive matches for the first time. The season started at Wilmslow, where the boys were clearly not used to the physicality of a proper game and started slowly against a good team who ran in 5 early tries. There was too much offloading in the tackle, some key points were made at half time and the style of play was changed to be more direct and focus on taking the ball into contact. After we had wiped the slate clean and with a clearer game plan, the boys ran in 7 unanswered tries. Some great straight running from Joseph Joyce, Nathan Draco, and Alex Hu put the opposition on the backfoot and under pressure from the kick off. Harry Walker was excellent in attack and, along with Grayson Raybould, was particularly aggressive in defence and led from the front. A much-improved performance and a good win.

Next up was Adams Grammar. A thrilling game for the neutral but the boys were left with a feeling that Adams got away with a win that they didn't deserve at the final whistle. There was plenty of effort on display and some crunching tackles from Nathan Draco in particular and strong running from Oliver Dyson made us look excellent at times, but a failure to play to our strengths was our undoing. We spent much of the game in their half of the pitch but too often failed to turn our dominance into points through silly mistakes and sideways running. There was a noticeable improvement in the second half and we nearly earned a draw with the final play of the match, but unfortunately a slow start cost us on this occasion and we ran out of time to even the scores up. However, it was evident to see progress being made by the group, many of whom were new to rugby at the start of the season. The toughest game of the season came against Calday Grange Grammar. It was a difficult day for the boys; only having a squad of 11, as

3 players pulled out on Friday night, made things tough from the start. There was plenty of heart and commitment but the opposition had size and physicality that we couldn't match and were much sharper around the breakdown. I cannot fault their attitude as they kept going to the final whistle and under the circumstances could have easily lost their heads at such a young age. They did their best, which is all we can ask of them, and I was proud of the effort they put in. A special mention to Oscar Hewitt, man of the match for us, who was at the forefront of displaying a good demeanour throughout and a never say defeated attitude.

The boys saved the best performance of the season till last against Bishop Vesey. In a thrilling game which had great attacking play from both sides, honours were even at the final whistle. We started brightly running in two early tries but a few weak defensive sets let them back into the game. We scored two more tries before half time with Harry Walker scoring a hat-trick and Grayson Raybould running the length of the pitch to score our fourth. In the second half we were less aggressive at the breakdown and failed to compete with them as well at the ruck. There were great performances all round and, considering that we played a team comprising of Year 8 boys, it was a magnificent achievement.

The boys came a long way over the three months and it was pleasing to note that parents and teachers who watched the game recognised the development in their skill sets and commitment to playing rugby to the values in which the game is held.



Rugby - U11

Preparing a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils for rugby certainly has its challenges. Some pupils will have a level of experience, as they may have been involved in club rugby, while others will have never played the game before. Other challenges exist in the form of the physiological differences between the pupils in the same age grade, and the weather during January and February is often unforgiving and not a great way to "sell" the game. Finally, a two-year layoff from competitive sport due to Covid-19 did its best to make life difficult. However, all of these challenges could be deemed to be worth it by the end of the Lent term after witnessing the progress that this small group of players made.

The first half of the term was spent introducing the game to the players. The basic fundamentals such as basic passing and shape were delivered through a variety of fun-based games. Contact skills for the Year 6 age group were slowly introduced throughout the term. Once these foundations were in place, we were able to develop aspects such as attacking and defensive shape. By the end of January, Ellesmere were ready for their first game of rugby. This took place against Prestfelde away.

As this was the first game for Ellesmere it was run as a "training game" where the game was split into thirds and the coaches were allowed to be present on the field to help players find their way. It was encouraging to see Ellesmere putting all of their training into practice. They moved the ball around well while tackling bravely. Other competitive games took place against Oswestry School, both home and away. This was a good way to measure progress. It was clear to see that Ellesmere were by far the more dominant team. However, once again the game was played in the right spirit, with the emphasis being on fun and development for both sides.

It was pleasing to note how far the Ellesmere team had progressed in such a short space of time. The pupils had acquired the individual skills to be able to play the game while also developing a good understanding of game play strategy. However, what was more encouraging was the character development that had taken place across the term. Rugby is well known for developing personal qualities such as resilience, courage, honesty, and teamwork. This was certainly evident in this group of young players.

AJM



Rugby - 1st VII

Ellesmere College has a rich tradition of rugby sevens and over the years the College has enjoyed some considerable success. This format of the game allows Ellesmere to compete with schools far larger than ourselves.

The first tournament on the calendar is the Christ College Brecon Sevens. This has been the case for the last 15 years. This tournament was always a great way for schools to put their training to the test while engaging in some competitive rugby. However, the clientele of this tournament has changed considerably over the years. What was previously a tournament for a handful of private schools has now changed out of all recognition, with Sixth Form colleges now adding a different dimension to the competition. This would prove to be a tough learning experience for the Ellesmere team with results not going their way. Too much contact and poor defence led to four defeats. However, all was not lost. As is often the case in rugby sevens, the underdog can often defeat a favourite. The highlight of the day was Ellesmere's victory against Llandovery. The game took place on the main pitch and saw the black and whites do an excellent job of keeping the ball. They took their opportunities and won 21-17.

The beginning of March saw the country battered by torrential rain. Lots of tournaments were cancelled due to pitches being underwater. Fortunately, Worcester School bravely decided to go ahead with their competition. This would prove to be a memorable evening. Ellesmere have always played a very expansive form of rugby when it comes to sevens. This can perhaps be summarised by avoiding contact at all costs when in attack. However, given the conditions, coaches Murphy and Williams picked a very different side. The success of the

Michaelmas season had resulted from a very dominant pack so some radical changes were made for this tournament. School after school made the error in trying to play traditional sevens in what soon escalated into a mud bath. However, the big forward-dominated Ellesmere side opted for a tight contact-based game, which proved to be the smart move. This served them well all the way to the semi-final where they played the hosts in a game where people could not tell the two teams apart due to the conditions. However, the forward based team was always a gamble, as losing possession on a wide field would often leave them vulnerable. Kings Worcester took advantage of the slow defenders and just pipped the result as Ellesmere squandered an opportunity in the dying seconds of the game.

The highlight of the season is the trip to London for Rosslyn Park. This is a fantastic opportunity for the Ellesmere pupils to see some of the biggest rugby schools in the country and allow themselves to get caught up in the rugby fever of the world's biggest school boy tournament. The competition is always made up of small groups of four and if you are unfortunate to lose a game then the chances of progressing in the competition are reduced considerably. Unfortunately, Ellesmere lost their first game which meant that they were up against it. However, they fought on valiantly with a good win against Wellingborough College and running Epsom close. Although the 1st VII were unable to win any silverware this year, it could be seen as a success with rugby sevens making its return, along with some memorable performances.

AJM



Rugby - U15 VII

As the U15s season went on into January, the focus for the 7s season came a bit later. The focus and hunger was there as it was in the 15s but took the boys a while to get out of 15s mode and into 7s.

We started off with two 7s practice tournaments at Shrewsbury School and Wrekin. The teams there didn't always provide the competition we needed, but we were a very good team and teams struggled to match us at times. These matches gave us time to focus and hone our skills for 7s and allowed us to play our patterns.

The main tournament we had focus for was Kings Worcester 7s, where we were drawn in a tough group alongside Warwick, KES Birmingham, KES Stratford, and Hereford Bluecoat. In the weeks prior to the tournament, we had good depth in the squad but injuries and concussions to George Owen, Thomas Jacques, Thomas Swinnerton, Thomas Gough Tilley, and Yegor Ognov severely hampered the squad.

Our first match was against Warwick, who I assume expected to win. However, a dogged performance saw us come out winners with a 21-19 win after an Adam Jacques conversion to seal the win. KES Birmingham were next, straight after Warwick and on a larger pitch, which we didn't accommodate to quickly enough. The fatigue from the Warwick match didn't help and we slipped to a loss. We knew that we had to win our next two matches to help us progress any further, and we came away with comfortable wins along with a few injuries. In the end we finished joint 1st in the group alongside Warwick and KES Birmingham, but our points difference wasn't as good, which meant we slipped to 3rd and entered the plate.

This meant a Semi-Final match in the plate against Magdalen College School, Oxford. We showed early dominance and Harry Jackson broke through to score what he thought was the first try – but put the ball down too early! In our previous matches we had been playing on a pitch with the try area in-front of the posts, which caused the confusion. The match was very topsy-turvy, with the scores going back and forth. Magdalen scored at the death to level the match, which unfortunately meant the end for our run as the rule for a draw was whoever scored first in a drawn match would progress; in this case it was Magdalen.

It was a cruel way to end the season and could have been very different with a full complement, but the boys did themselves proud. It would have been nice to come away with silverware but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be.

MTH



Rugby - U14 VII

The under 14 team were coming off the back of a very successful Michalemas term. In fact, it was so successful that a cup run saw them spill over into Lent term. However, once this campaign had finished the next one began.

The year 9 boys have always got the difficult job of trying to squeeze in rugby training alongside their other sporting commitments in the Lent term. However, attendance at these extra sessions was excellent and the players were able to get through some good preparation. There were some high hopes for this particular crop of players so they were entered into more tournaments than usual. These were all packed into the second half of the Lent term.

The first tournament saw them play at the Old Swinford Hospital sevens. This was a new competition and allowed the players to put their training to the test. They got off to a good start with some excellent wins along the way. However, a lack lustre performance against the Crypt school saw them crash out in the quarterfinals which came as a shock. This was a good opportunity for the pupils to learn a few lessons in sevens rugby in order to prepare for the Solihull sevens.

The Solihull sevens is always a very large competition with schools from all over the country in attendance. The year 10 boys seemed to have taken the lessons on board from the previous tournament and played some excellent rugby sevens. They kept the ball well and were able to cruise through the group stages with wins against the likes of Malvern, Loughborough Grammar, RGS Worcester and Sir Thomas Richards school. This saw them progress to the semi finals where they were drawn against Warwick school. This was a fantastic game with all the drama that usually comes with the knockout stages of a competition. Warwick were far bigger than Ellesmere but Ellesmere worked hard in defence. They took their chances and at one stage it looked like Ellesmere would progress to the final but they were undone in the last minute of play.

The next competition was another new tournament which was held at Wirral Grammar. By now the under 14 Ellesmere team had amassed a wealth of experience and knew how to play the game. This allowed them to win the tournament at a canter. This gave them some well deserved silverware and the chance to put some final last-minute preparations in place before travelling to London.

This would be the first time that an Under 14 side had represented Ellesmere College at the Rosslyn Park sevens. It proved to be a fantastic experience of the pupils. They got to see some of the biggest schools in the country play the game. The Ellesmere side certainly did not look out of place as they cruised through the group stages beating some well-established schools such as Hymers College, Bedford and the Oratory school. This saw them face Uppingham in the elimination round. The winner of this would progress through to the second day of the competition. Ellesmere college worked hard in a closely fought game and won 33-26. This saw them progress to the second day a feat that had not been repeated by an Ellesmere College since 2012. The next day saw them drawn in another group which included Dean Close school and Brighton. Although aching and tired from the previous day, the Ellesmere team were able to produce yet another fantastic performance beating Dean Close 26-7. This now meant that beating Brighton would see them through to the final stages of the competition. The Brighton game was a fantastic display of sevens with Ellesmere looking fantastic in attack. Brighton scored first but then Ellesmere responded with a try of their own. It continued nip and tuck for the duration of the game. However, with one minute to play Ellesmere scored a try which put them just in front. All they had to do was kick off and keep Brighton out until the ball went dead. However, the Ellesmere team kicked off short and was gathered by the opposition. Brighton moved the ball to the edge where they were able to break a tackle and break Ellesmere hearts.

AJM



Sport - Girls' & Boys' Hockey



Girls' Hockey – 1st XI

Summary of Results

The Queen's School, Chester	-	Lost	0 – 5
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U18 Wrekin 7s Tournament Champions

U18 Shropshire County Tournament Runners Up

(on penalties 3-4 to Shrewsbury School)

The King's School, Chester	-	Cancelled
Withington Girls' School	-	Won 2 – 0
Shrewsbury School	-	Cancelled
Wrekin College	-	Won 1 – 0
Leicester Grammar School	-	Won 2 – 0
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Cancelled
Moreton Hall	-	Cancelled
Rydal Penrhos	-	Cancelled
St Peter's School, York	-	Won 4 – 0
Ripon Grammar School	-	Won 4 – 2

Semi-Final National Cup Tier 3 Tournament:

The Perse School, Cambridge - FT 3-3 Lost 3-4 (on penalties)

The Hockey season of 2021 saw the Ellesmere U18 1st XI team have one of the most successful National Cup runs on record. The team's ethos had always been 'let's have fun' and with this in mind the new campaign began.

A great afternoon of fast and furious Hockey was enjoyed by all at The Wrekin 7s tournament on 29th September, which was dominated by the Ellesmere squad of just nine players. Ellesmere showcased tremendous teamwork and were deserving winners. It

is worth noting that this was the third year in a row that Ellesmere have won this tournament.

Sadly, the team were then given a taste of defeat in the first round of the England Schools Competition against local opposition Queen's School, Chester. This experience of defeat was one the side were hoping not to come across until later in the competition. This then led to the opportunity to play in the Tier 3 competition and it was clear that the squad was motivated to push forward and see how far they could progress.

The first round was against Manchester side Withington Girls' School. With some heavy legs and playing on a very hot day, the team took their time to settle into the match. The game was a close fought contest, with Ellesmere finally slotting three goals past the opposition to progress to the next round.

On 6th October Ellesmere were disappointed to lose in the final of the County Tournament on penalties. However, there was no time to dwell on this because the second round of the National Cup was approaching against Leicester Grammar School. The long coach trip saw the Ellesmere squad arrive blurry eyed, but an upbeat playlist helped everyone to get ready and pumped before the first whistle. The game was a great success and the girls got back on the coach after netting a 2-0 win. This was a game that demonstrated how a high work rate and effort can push a team through difficult games.

The next round saw Ellesmere take on St Peter's School, York on a very wet and cold afternoon. Despite missing three players at the last minute due to illness, the squad played with determination and grit. The defence was solid and the forward players were direct and did not waste time taking the lead. Relentless attacks saw the team take victory with an impressive 4-0 score line.

The draw for Round 4 was again unkind and we were once again packing up and heading along the M56, this time to Ripon Grammar School. Nerves were slightly on edge but a gentle reminder was given of the ethos that was set out at the beginning of the season: to make it fun and enjoy the experience as much as possible. After such a long bus ride the whole team needed some time to get themselves set for the mammoth task that lay ahead. The game was on a knife edge and could have gone either way. Ellesmere showed pure dedication to the cause and managed to win the match with a 4-2 score line. This opened the pathway to the semi-finals.

This semi-final would be against the southern side of Perse School, Cambridge and had been drawn to be played at a neutral venue. The game was intense and saw both teams demonstrate why they

were rightfully at this stage of the competition. Ellesmere played valiantly but found themselves 0-2 by the 29th minute of the first half. The team pulled together and fought back to score two goals in quick succession, bringing the half time score to 2-2. In the second half Ellesmere took an early lead, 3-2. However, Perse School came back to draw 3-3 at the final whistle.

The game was set to go to penalties. Sadly, on this occasion Ellesmere were beaten by some fantastic saves from the Perse School goalkeeper. This closed the score at 3-4 on strokes. All of the players acquitted themselves magnificently with true grit and determination against an experienced and skilful team. The whole team raised their game when they needed to, only to be dashed at the last.

This was a truly remarkable season which has given those involved great memories which will last for many years to come and serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when a team works together.

CSD





Boys' Hockey – 1st XI

Well, what a fantastic term it has been for the boys' Hockey team! Boys Hockey at Ellesmere College has been growing steadily over the past few years, like a lit firework just waiting for its chance to entertain.

With only a few players making the transition into Old Ellesmerian status, the side was relatively unshaken and had the benefit of a few new players to strengthen the squad.

Without any training sessions under their belts, the boys went into battle early on at the Shropshire U18 Tournament. This saw them fight it out with local schools at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre. This would be the first encounter against many of the schools that they would face in friendly fixtures through the coming months. It was a great success for the Ellesmere side. With goals a plenty, the side were undefeated for the whole afternoon and were crowned Champions. This was a fantastic way to kick start the year with multiple wins.

The Ellesmere side were given two tough matches in the England Hockey Nation Cup that saw them make an early exit from the competition. This grounding was hard but was useful for the players as it gave perspective on the season, making the side more determined to push on and play harder.

The side were fired up to play against Shrewsbury School, with many things to put right from previous games. It was a close game that saw both sides linking well and creating scoring opportunities. Just before the half time whistle Shrewsbury School scored a well worked goal. Ellesmere went in for the break a goal behind. This was soon put

right with three swift goals being scored early in the second half. The final score of 3-1 was a great result in such a hard-fought contest.

The next test for the team was playing in a 7aside format of the game at the annual Wrekin 7s tournament. This was a challenge that the Ellesmere side were ready to take on, and they did so with great success. The 9 man squad found themselves progressing swiftly in the tournament and finishing as Champions, bringing home the silverware. Another successful outing that showcased how well the side can play as a team, linking well with each other and creating team goals.

The side were very excited for the final game of the season. Local club Deeside Ramblers were coming to the campus to play in the annual game. This long standing tradition goes back many years. It's always a highlight in the calendar and often draws a large crowd.

After last year's long-awaited victory for the Ellesmere team, the local visitors were up for revenge. The game was on a knife edge as it entered its final minutes. In the dying seconds of the game, Deeside managed to score the crucial yet painful goal, which saw them take the lead 4-3. This fantastic exhibition match really showcased how far the side has come over the past few years. And without a doubt, we are looking forward for the rematch in the season ahead.

It's been a pleasure to work with such a talented group of individuals who have shown real commitment and dedication to the sport, as well as to each other, building a real team, with true Ellesmerian spirit.

SJT



Girls' Hockey – U15

Summary of Results

King's Chester	-	Lost	0 – 5
Shrewsbury School	-	Lost	0 – 3
Wrekin College	-	Lost	0 – 2
Adcote School	-	Won	9 – 0
Bedstone College	-	Won	2 – 0
Moreton Hall	-	Lost	0 – 1

The season began with high hopes with a group of talented and enthusiastic Year 10 girls. They turned up to squad and games practices with great determination to improve themselves as players and develop as team players. It was also great to see some new faces to the College, a few of them having played a good standard of Hockey before joining us. Many of the girls wanted to be considered for the Squad and thankfully I am able to say that most girls played at some point during the term.

The first match of the season was away to King's Chester. Knowing that we were going to be faced with a challenge, the squad were determined to start the season well. Kings were strong and, with a lack of match experience and fitness, Kings were the better side. The next two matches were the most challenging of the term and were against Shrewsbury School and Wrekin College. The team played well in both games and there was great improvement, but Wrekin and Shrewsbury both proved to be slightly too strong for us.

The latter part of the term was a successful one and probably where I felt the team really started to progress and reach their potential. We won 2 out of the 3 games. The game against Moreton Hall was our most difficult but, again, we showed great determination and even

though it was an even game and we had our chances, unfortunately Moreton grabbed a final goal in the dying minutes to win the game. All in all, a promising term of Hockey which was again disrupted due to schools postponing fixtures. All girls contributed to the team. Well done to all the girls and good luck as you progress up into Senior Hockey.

HLD



Girls' Hockey – U14

The season began with the 7-a-side North Shropshire tournament. Despite having had few opportunities to play together as a team, we threw ourselves into the challenge. We looked strong going forward but sometimes struggled to track back and regain possession. However, this was something that the team rectified as the tournament progressed. We beat Sir John Talbot 2-0, Adcote 4-0, and drew 1-1 with Moreton Hall. As a result, we ended level on points with Moreton Hall to share the trophy.

The transition from 7-a-side play to 11-a-side, when playing against King's, showed that we had a lot of work to do on decision-making within the game. We were able to win possession in midfield areas but all too often conceded it when trying to move further up the pitch. However, we never gave up and sheer tenacity meant that we did score a consolation goal just before half time. This gave us a boost and we kept a clean sheet throughout the second half.

Close losses against Shrewsbury and Wrekin followed, but we managed to get on the scoresheet through some determined persistence inside the 'D'. The team managed to build on this and went on to back-to-back victories against Adcote and Bedstone College. What was most pleasing in these matches was increased evidence of supportive play and players working together for the good of the whole team. It was also real dogged defending that ensured that we kept clean sheets in both these matches, meaning one goal was enough to clinch victory in each match.

Towards the end of the season, one of the worst storms in recent years put paid to the fixture against Rydal Penrhos. This meant that we were a little rusty when we ended the season with a trip to Moreton Hall. This was probably the closest encounter we had all season and both teams were determined to finish the season on a high. It was a game that neither team deserved to lose due to the level of commitment across all areas of the pitch. Unfortunately, we were unable to keep out the relentless attacks from Moreton and ended up losing 1-0.

The most pleasing things to reflect on at the end of the season were greater team cohesion and seeing players developing their understanding of the game.

LK



Girls' Hockey – U13

This past season saw the U13 girls side grow in confidence and knowledge of the game. The young Ellesmere side started with a keen and enthusiastic approach to their training, taking on board all the advice and guidance that was on offer.

The first test was against local side The King's School, Chester, where the Ellesmere side put into practice what they had learnt in the previous weeks. It was a great display of hockey on show, and they used the width to great effect. The Ellesmere team were delighted with the final result of 2-2. There was an incredibly close fought contest. The side's first taste of victory came against Adcote School for Girls. This home game for the Ellesmere side was one of the best displays of hockey the side had given. With great linking play between the defence and the forwards, the team was able to transition the ball well in the opposition's 'D'. This led to many shots on target and plenty of penalty coroners. As the final whistle blew, it left the Ellesmere girls very pleased with their 3-1 victory.

One of the final tests that Ellesmere relished the opportunity to face was welcoming Bedstone College to the campus. With the match being played on a Saturday morning it gave the home team a massive boost to see all the support on offer from family and friends. With both sides keen to end the season on a high, the game was played with passion and pride. Bedstone were quick to score the opening goal and this served to motivate the Ellesmere side to get to work. With plenty of action throughout the game, both goalkeepers were kept busy. The final goal of the match was scored by the Ellesmere side, levelling the final tally to 1-1. It was a truly great display of hockey from both sides.

The team set out to improve their understanding of the game and work together as a team. It was a fantastic season and I can safely say that their goal was achieved.

SJT



Girls' Hockey – U12

Summary of Results

The King's School, Chester	-	Lost	0 – 3
Packwood Haugh	-	Cancelled	
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Cancelled	
Adcote	-	Postponed	
Adcote	-	Won	2 – 1
Bedstone College	-	Won	8 – 0
Packwood Haugh	-	Cancelled	
Rydal Penrhos	-	Cancelled	
Moreton Hall	-	Drew	0 – 0

The Year 7 girls were raring to go as the Hockey season got under way and this showed in their first game, which was played with lots of enthusiasm and enjoyment. They were up against some tough opposition in the form of The King's School, Chester; but everything was to play for at half time when the score was still 0-0. However, energy sapped in the second half and Ellesmere eventually went down 3-0 in the second half, but important lessons had been learned that would be invaluable later in the season.

An unfortunate run of cancellations due to Covid meant that the next fixture would not be played until 9th November where Ellesmere came out on top with a 2-1 victory over Adcote School. Some great hockey and teamwork was displayed by both sides. It was pleasing to see the girls put into practice within a match situation the skills we had been working on during training. Then came the girls' best result of the season on 13th November, beating Bedstone 8-0. The team set the standard early by scoring the first goal within the first three minutes of play. Superb team

work was displayed, moving the ball early and looking for the free players, which was pleasing to see as this had been a focus in practice.

The continued enthusiasm displayed by the girls was brilliant. With so many wanting to play we had to rotate the team selection from match to match in order to give players at least half a match of game time per fixture.

Bad weather dictated that the following two fixtures were cancelled. The season was rounded off with a difficult 0-0 draw with Moreton Hall, which was a fair result as both teams played valiantly.

CSD



Girls' Hockey – U11

The Ellesmere U11s had a very productive season. Many of the games that the side were set to play were unfortunately postponed or cancelled due to the poor weather conditions in the hockey season, but the girls continued learning the rules of the game with every training session and game.

The team did manage to get a couple of games played and there were very positive experiences for all involved. The side fell short of victory in their games but both times with the smallest of margins. The closest of the matches ended 0-1 vs Packwood. This was a very tense game with the ball going end to end and both sides having plenty of chances to score. Credit goes to Packwood, as they managed find the Ellesmere goal and end proceedings with a victory.

With many of the side still very new to hockey, I was immensely proud that the girls were trying to implement in matches what they had learnt during the training sessions. The side were keen to keep possession and try to link clean passes as they progressed up the pitch.

With a great season to reflect on I am looking forward to seeing the U11 return as U12 next year.

SJT



Sport - Netball



Netball – 1st VII

Summary of Results

Oswestry School	-	Won	6 – 4
Shrewsbury High School	-	Won	11 – 8
Bedstone College	-	Won	13 – 3
Wrekin College	-	Cancelled	
Morton Hall	-	Won	28 – 4
Rydal Penrhos	-	Cancelled	
Newcastle-under-Lyme School	-	Lost	21 – 26
Shrewsbury High School	-	Won	21 – 13
Wrekin College	-	Lost	2 – 30
Oswestry School	-	Drew	23 – 23
Wrekin College	-	Cancelled	
The King's School, Chester	-	Won	14 – 9
Newcastle-under-Lyme School	-	Lost	14 – 25
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Lost	9 – 12

NSSAA Tournament Joint Champions

A fantastic morning of Netball at the Oswestry School Tournament, showing promise for the season to follow. The first round against Oswestry set the bar high and the team had to pull together to ensure this win. The following two rounds proved less demanding, but nonetheless both were physically demanding games, during which all players stepped up to the mark. Being crowned Tournament winners was a great way to start the term,

County Tournament

HAB Adams	-	Won	6 – 4
Thomas Telford	-	Won	8 – 2
Newport Girls	-	Drew	6 – 6
Shrewsbury High School	-	Won	11 – 4
Semi-Final v Wrekin College	-	Lost	3 – 11

On Wednesday 3rd November, the 1st team gave an excellent team performance in a really tough County Tournament competition.

We built our group stage success on solid defensive performances and through court play. We looked dominant in defence but at times just snapped at the final ball in the shooting circle. However, we always upped our game in the second half performances and came second in the group to earn our semi-final place. This was always going to be a tough challenge for us, with the majority of the Wrekin College team being Severn Stars Academy players. The Ellesmere team struggled with physical pressure and, although we fought all the way, it was unfortunately not our day. A great afternoon with passionate players.

On Saturday 12th February, despite once again having a depleted team due to illness, the players put on a fantastic display of teamwork played against Shrewsbury High School. The defence was solid and created many opportunities, dominating the through court and providing shooting opportunities which were not wasted. An excellent performance throughout.

On Wednesday 16th February the team faced Shrewsbury High School. It was a great match and very evenly balanced until the third quarter when we lost our way and gave ourselves too much to do in the final quarter. The weather conditions were very blustery and affected our game play. Obviously this was the same for the opposition, but Shrewsbury School were faster to adjust their style of play. A very brave performance in the final quarter saw us pull it back to almost level. However, we just ran out of time. A great team effort in very difficult conditions.

Wednesday 2nd March was a rather disappointing afternoon having to face our difficult opponents, Wrekin College, with a much-depleted team. Fortunately, we were able to call upon some younger players to help fortify the squad and they played their part with aplomb. The Ellesmere team worked non-stop until the final whistle but could do very little against an all-round stronger, fitter, and more skilful team. Despite the score line, the squad showed complete commitment and their work rate could not be questioned.

Unfortunately, we again did not have our full squad which meant that we had our work cut out against a strong Oswestry team on Saturday 5th March. A slow start to every quarter meant we had to use all our determination and passion to keep pulling ourselves back in the game. Despite making good use of attacking space to feed a well-defended shooting circle, we failed to capitalise on this. We went into the final quarter leading but unfortunately a few errors forced the game back level and made the final five minutes very tense. We could have potentially just got the win with the last shot of the match but overall a draw was a fair result.

On Wednesday 16th March we travelled to The King's School, Chester and managed to come away with a convincing and thoroughly deserved 14-9 win.

A great performance from the 1st XII for the last North Shropshire Netball Tournament, with the honours being shared with Oswestry as North Shropshire Champions. We really battled hard in our game with Oswestry and worked relentlessly at winning the ball in defence but, unfortunately, we just could not break down their defence. It was end to end, nail biting stuff and the players gave it their all. It became very much goal for goal and with time running out we had to agree the draw was the fairest result.

Saturday 26th March's fixtures against Newcastle-under-Lyme School and Wolverhampton Grammar School were a great way to end the season, playing both of these well-drilled teams. A fiercely competitive game against NULS, with end to end play. Both teams showed huge talent for their age groups. They quickly turned over possession and delivered the ball up through the court with great speed and efficiency. Unfortunately, on the day NULS's shooters had better statistics than us and our missed attempts on goal cost us the victory.

CSD and TC



Netball – 2nd VII

We began the season with the short trip to Moreton Hall. As ever, this was a closely fought contest with committed defending and attacking from both sides. We were neck and neck after each quarter, with the lead alternating, both teams matching each other goal for goal. Unfortunately, we began to fade in the final quarter and ended the match losing 18-22.

We then had to face some of our toughest opponents in matches against Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Shrewsbury High School and Shrewsbury School. Despite conceding heavily against NULS, we kept our composure and were able to score 16 goals against a really competent defence. We were also missing key defenders, through injury, against Shrewsbury High School and Shrewsbury School, which meant we were always trying to play catch-up. Other players stepped in to fill these defensive positions and the team could not be faulted for the level of effort and commitment on show.

A number of the 2nd team also made up a large proportion of the U16 team that played in the North Shropshire tournament. The team demonstrated great resilience in the face of adversity when one of the team suffered a serious injury. At the end of the group stages, we went through to the final against Oswestry School. Scores were level at full time and even after extra time the teams could not be separated, so it was agreed that the trophy would be shared.

Games against Wrekin are always a tough proposition and we were fielding a team with a number of younger players. They proved to be a great addition to the side and gave us some extra strength in both attack and defence. After going behind in the first half we rallied and put in a strong performance, but could not quite make up the ground lost earlier in the game. Nevertheless, a loss with a score-line of 18-24 proved that we are capable of challenging opponents. The fixture against King's, Chester is always played in a good spirit and this season was no exception. Despite challenging conditions, both teams fought hard, demonstrating some real commitment and we made the most of our attacking opportunities to end the game with a win.

Unfortunately, the scheduled triangular fixture with Newcastle-Under-Lyme School and Wolverhampton Grammar School did not go ahead, so we were unable to finish the season with this real test of our abilities. Overall, this was a challenging season for a team that comprised novice, young and experienced players but was also one that highlighted players' abilities to show fortitude and resilience, both on and off the court.

LK



Netball – U14

Summary of Results

Moreton Hall	-	Lost	4 – 17
Rydal Penrhos	-	Cancelled	
Adcote	-	Lost	6 – 18
The King's School, Chester	-	Cancelled	
Shrewsbury High School	-	Lost	7 – 5
Wrekin College	-	Cancelled	
Newcastle-Under-Lyme School	-	Lost	6 – 23
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Drew	5 – 5

NSSAA Tournament Runners-Up

The opening game of the season for the U14 Netball Team on 19th January was a tough match against Moreton Hall. With little time to prepare for this game, it was clear that more focus was needed, especially in the attacking third. However, no-one could be in any doubt about the players commitment and enthusiasm. The final score was 4-17 but, despite this, everyone enjoyed the occasion and looked forward to working on their passing and shooting skills before the next match.

An improved performance was observed on 26th January against a very well organised Adcote team and, although the final score was a loss of 8-16, some green shoots of progress could be seen to emerge (and would bear fruit at the NSSAA Tournament). This was a great opportunity for the team to play a competitive match and work on skills that they had been developing over the first few weeks of the season. The score line could have been more flattering if all of our attempted shots had gone in, however this was a good performance from the team overall.

On Wednesday 9th February, Ellesmere finished the NSSAA Tournament runners up after losing a close final match against Oswestry but defeating Moreton Hall, The Marches, SJT, and Adcote School. Great teamwork and ball movement demonstrated all that this team were about and they thoroughly deserved to finish the tournament in second place. On a very blustery Wednesday 16th February, we faced Shrewsbury School in what was a very respectful game against an evenly matched team. We managed to control the centre court well, however, we could not finish capitalise on all goal scoring opportunities.

A defeat against Newcastle-Under-Lyme School, as well as a hard fought 5-5 draw with Wolverhampton Grammar School, followed and the team showed genuine progression at every turn. Throughout the season, the squad consisted of a number of pupils who were completely new to the game of Netball. The progress they demonstrated in game awareness, understanding and movement throughout the court over the course of the season was truly remarkable and they all should be very proud of themselves for their achievement – especially considering the significant disruption due to Covid-19 absences for some key fixtures.

CSD



Netball – U13

Summary of Results

Oswestry School	-	Won	4 – 2
Shrewsbury High School	-	Drew	6 – 6
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Lost	0 – 2
Prestfelde	-	Lost	2 – 7
Bedstone College	-	Won	
Wrekin College	-	Lost	5 – 18
Rydal Penrhos	-	Won	9 – 7
Abbeygate	-	Lost	1 – 13
The King's School, Chester	-	Won	9 – 4
Moreton Hall	-	Won	10 – 9
Shrewsbury High School	-	Lost	4 – 23
Oswestry School	-	Lost	16 – 24
Adcote	-	Won	11 – 6
Newcastle-under-Lyme	-	Lost	2 – 23
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Lost	9 – 11

On Saturday 15th January, Ellesmere's Year 8 girls were looking forward to playing Wrekin College but unfortunately went down 5-18. The team started well and the score line did not really reflect the effort that Ellesmere put in. The team's work rate was good and this led to lots of scoring opportunities but, sadly, the final shot just would not quite go in. The team began to tire towards the end and this probably led to heads going down a bit too soon. However, there were lots of positives to work on.

On Saturday 5th February King's School, Chester hosted their annual Quad Tournament. After an initial slow start against our

first-round opponents Rydal Penrhos, we managed to secure our first victory 9-7. Next up was Abbeygate, which proved to be a tough game against a very strong team with many club players. Our flow through court was disrupted as the opposition made key interceptions and saw the final score at a disappointing 1-13. The final game of the morning was against the hosts, King's School, Chester. A great match to finish on, the team managed to re-group and regain control of the centre court together with some solid circle defence. Final score was a pleasing 9-4.

By Tuesday 8th February, the team were ready to face the might of Moreton Hall. The crowd were treated to a gripping 10-9 Ellesmere win, which was nothing less than the players deserved. A close but fiercely contested match with some excellent passages of play combined with solid defence.

On 16th February, the team played at the County Tournament. The team started slowly and lost their way against a well organised Prestfelde team, losing 3-11. In the rounds that followed the team started to better pass and move the ball through court to have some close games with pleasing results. Unfortunately, we seemed to run out of steam, in our final game and some poor decisions meant that the game slipped away; the draw cost us a place in the semi-finals. However, the afternoon afforded some excellent performances, great team spirit, and the opportunity to take away with us some key points to work on for this enthusiastic squad.

CSD



Netball – U12

Summary of Results

Wrekin College	-	Won	8 – 3
Rydal Penrhos	-	Cancelled	
The King's School, Chester	-	Won	12 – 3
Rydal Penrhos	-	Won	14 – 0
Abbeygate	-	Won	7 – 2
Moreton Hall	-	Won	7 – 1
Shrewsbury High School	-	Won	26 – 5
NSSAA Champions			
Oswestry School	-	Won	27 – 4
Adcote	-	Won	13 – 1
Newcastle under Lyme School	-	Lost	0 – 13
Wolverhampton Grammar School	-	Lost	1 – 10

The U12 Netball team had a terrific start to their season on Saturday 15th January as they defeated a competent Wrekin College team by 8 points to 3. They had worked so hard on their passing and movement skills and their through court play showed how well they had understood their individual roles as part of the team. Their ability to turn and pass quickly opened up lots of attacking opportunities and the shooters were excellent in the attacking circle. A promising start to the season.

The string of successes in the previous games really did set the scene for the NSSAA tournament, where Ellesmere topped their group, accumulating more points than Moreton Hall, Adcote School, Thomas Adams, Sir John Talbot, St Martins, and The Marches. This was followed up by a 4-0 semi-final win against The Grove and then a 4-2 victory over Moreton Hall to win the tournament in style.

On Saturday 5th March the Team played away at Oswestry School. An outstanding performance was once again demonstrated. They worked hard for each other and showcased both skilful and intelligent netball.

On Monday 7th March, The Shropshire County Tournament was a great afternoon where the girls exhibited more talented and hard work. They started off with 6-0 victory over Idsall but then ran into trouble with close rivals Moreton Hall losing 2-0. The team needed to regroup and talk about the style of play they wanted to execute and how they could improve. The girls came right back with a 7-1 victory over Oswestry. Two more solid wins over SJT and Priory and then a tight 2-2 draw with Wrekin College left their progress dependant on beating the group leaders Thomas Telford. The girls were magnificent & excellent shooting meant they secured a semi-final place with a 5-3 win.

Ellesmere's opponents in the semi-final were Prestfelde and sadly, due to a few tired passes and lack of concentration on a penalty, they lost 2-1 in a close game. The team's overall performance was excellent and their sportsmanship and work rate were top class.

The next two matches against Oswestry School (won 27-4) and Adcote (won 13-1) were also outstanding performances from this talented and committed team. They worked so hard for each other and showed great skill with intelligent netball. However, the final two matches against NULS and Wolverhampton Grammar School were much tougher and Ellesmere came off second best. Despite the final two fixtures, this was still a very successful season. Every player gave 100% and the coaching staff cannot ask for more than that.

CSD



Netball – U11

Summary of Results

Moreton Hall	-	Lost	1 – 2
Adcote	-	Draw	4 – 4

The U11 team only had two matches: Moreton Hall and Adcote School. The girls showed some excellent play in both attack and defence for this age group.

The first game was against Moreton. We started off well and went into the lead very early in the first half, and then it was level for most of the game. Moreton Hall scored the winning goal in the last two minutes of the match, making it 2:1 to them.

The second and last game was against Adcote School. It was a very close affair; the scores were level for most of the first half and though Adcote had edged in front by one goal at half time, Ellesmere picked up the pace, passing and intercepting well. Unfortunately it wasn't enough, and the game finished with a 4:4 draw.

EG



Sport - Football



Football – 1st XI

Summary of Results

Abbeygate College	-	Cancelled	
Oldham Hulme Grammar School	-	Cancelled	
Denstone College	-	Won	3 – 1
Liverpool College	-	Draw	2 – 2
Oswestry	-	Cancelled	
Abbeygate College	-	Won	5 – 0
Denstone College	-	Won	3 – 0

The 1st XI Football team originally had seven fixtures lined up for the term, but the weather conditions on some of the weekends put a spanner in the works and we only ended up playing four matches. However, what matches! We ended up achieving an unbeaten season, which is not an easy feat, and the team should be congratulated on their efforts throughout the term. Well done!

In the first match, we were the better team on the day and the opposition started to lose their composure as they became more and more frustrated with our dominance over them. Major Evans was solid in goal, the back four of Finn Reddington, Louis Penrice, Josh Birungi, and Toby Walker kept the opposition at bay for large parts of the match; Ioan Craven-Jones, Rohan Thiethy, and Ollie Barrett dominated the midfield; while Sacha Connesson-Robic and Sen Muya on the wings looked dangerous every time they went forwards with the ball. Dom Powell up-front was unlucky not to get on the score sheet. Overall we won 3-0, with Barrett scoring a hat-trick; an excellent performance all around.

The next match was a much tougher affair against a good Liverpool College team. The opposition scored two goals in the first 20 minutes, we clawed one goal back before half-time. After the break we went at it and we scored another goal, this time an excellent free kick from Ollie that managed to squeeze under the goal keeper. We then hung on for a well-earned draw.

After the Half Term break, we had a home fixture against Abbeygate College. This was one of the best displays of the term. We dominated the play and the opposition just couldn't cope with it; they and their parents were starting to get frustrated but we just capitalised on it and were 4-0 up at half time. The final goal was a reward for Matthew Bland, who was also making his debut for the 1st XI up front: he scored a great goal to finish off an excellent performance.

The final match was away at Denstone. Confidence was high that we could beat them, considering the score line of the first match, and we again played well in difficult conditions. We scored twice in the first half through Bland and a Barrett penalty. The second half, Finn Reddington off a corner, was very well taken. We finished 0-3 winners and achieved an unbeaten season.

Very well done to all the players that represented the 1st XI this year and good luck to everyone who is leaving this year. It has been a pleasure coaching the team this year and it was a nice end to my time as 1st XI Coach. Thank you!



Football – 2nd XI

Summary of Results

Denstone	-	Won	7 – 0
Birkenhead	-	Lost	1 – 3
Denstone	-	Draw	1 – 1

It is never easy to gain any momentum when fixtures are cancelled for all sorts of reasons. The cancelling of the first game did allow crucial time to assemble this squad from all corners of the football landscape in the school and undertake some much-needed organisation and practice. Already in place were the Football Academy players – Sean Zou, Jonas Hage, Carl Muller, Wajdan Tasaddak, Oscar Sevcik, and Timur Aimurzayev – providing skill and footballing guile. However, the addition of the senior boys coming off the back of a rugby season, who had always played football throughout the school, added substantially to the ingredients required to develop a squad to undertake a challenging fixture list. This included experienced Ellesmere sports players such as Ben Zakers, Alex Bain, Drew Murdoch, Alfie Linnington, Sam Patmore, and the Mr Dependable goalkeeper William Brookshaw. The final firework to add to the icing on the 'football cake' was the discovery of Ethan Beaver who thrived on being the 'target player' and scoring goals, Dominic Powell providing robustness in midfield, and Mohammad Eskandari who 'moved like a rocket' down the right wing, providing a much-needed outlet from the back and midfield.

A win against Denstone got the season under way. Ellesmere must have had most of the possession in both halves and converted changes

to put the outcome of the game beyond doubt. A hat-trick by Ethan Beaver showed the importance of having a 'target player' up front.

Other experienced Ellesmere players came into the equation for the game against Birkenhead with the introduction of Cameron Davies, Sean Lai, Jonty Lewers, Joshua Mellitzer, and Kotaro Shinozka. By the time they started to 'blend' as a team, it was already too late as Birkenhead 'stole a march' with regard to the score line. Chances were missed aplenty by both sides but Birkenhead managed to secure the win.

Victory should have been achieved against Denstone away. Ellesmere had the 'lions' share of the possession and tried to play the better football. However, it was not an easy playing surface to play possession football on. When the 'penny' finally dropped regarding the appropriate tactics for the surface the team became far more comfortable in the game. Having won the game so easily at home it appeared the team thought it would be an easier task away than anticipated. Had the game continued beyond full time Ellesmere probably would have secured the win as they finished the stronger.

This side came to understand the value of being organised and that keeping to the game plan generally pays dividends. As the season progressed the team became to trust each other more and as a result the team played some great football at times. A really enjoyable couple of games with a very pleasant group of players.

GO



Football – U15

Having a lot of rugby players in the squad, some of the boys took a while to transfer to a game that required them to kick the ball more than physically pass it. Archie Floate was selected to captain the team and unfortunately had to wait awhile to do so as the first two matches against Abbeygate and Oldham Hulme were cancelled due to weather conditions.

Eventually the team got the season started against Oswestry and, despite being on-top for the majority of the match, were unable to execute any of the chances; the match ended in an even 0-0 draw. We then travelled across to Sir John Talbot without a few of the Football Academy players, who were a massive help in the team. Our final third let us down and we went down 3-1.

Liverpool College came soon after and, despite a promising start, we again went behind and lost 3-1 to a team who were no better than us but took their chances.

After the half term break the return fixture of Abbeygate came around. Abbeygate are known to be good at football so we expected a good test. It turned out to be our best match of the season where everything clicked and we took our chances running out 7-1 victors.

Our last match of the season came against Denstone away. By the end of the first half, it looked all over: we were 5-1 down. It was obviously a spiritual team talk by myself and Mr Richards at half time, as with the last kick of the game from Harvey Leonard we came back to take a 6-6 draw.

After a shaky start to the season the boys grew and grew, culminating in two fantastic performances – one of which I don't think I will be forgetting any time soon.

MTH



Football – U14

The season turned out to be a very inconsistent in the end for the U14s this year. Many of the team were still involved in the Rugby sides had progressed deep into the cup competitions, meaning a lot were unavailable for trainings and sometimes matches. However, we persevered and we had some positives to our performances.

The team generally were very strong on paper but, of course, football is played on grass, as Brian Clough once said. Our first game against Oldham Hulme Grammar School was a very frustrating one for the boys. They went 1-0 up and were dominating possession and creating more of the opportunities. Then Oldham decided to play more directly and got a lot more luck going forwards. Our defence had more eyes on getting forward than defending sadly, as Oldham scored 5 goals all from direct balls over and through the defence. Ellesmere managed to score another and even hit the woodwork three times, but it ended 5-2. The Oldham coach could not believe they won and complimented Ellesmere's quality but, ultimately, Oldham put their chances away whereas Ellesmere did not.

The team were a little frustrated with the last game, but certainly found their shooting boots against Oswestry School in the next game. They played Oswestry's U15B side and managed to win the game 8-1. There was even a 'world class' (in his own words) overhead kick that went straight into the top corner. It was a fun game for the boys to play in after the frustration of the last one. Buoyed by that

last performance, the next game was against Liverpool College. In what was quite a tricky match, the boys ended up keeping it very solid at the back and also taking their chances well, walking away with a 4-0 win.

A few games were cancelled throughout the season sadly, so the last game the U14s had was against Abbeygate. Sadly, a few players were missing for this one and it did indeed show. Abbeygate were far stronger than Ellesmere and walked away with a 4-0 victory. It was a tough afternoon for the boys, but not all seasons go perfectly to plan. Overall, the season was as successful as it could be with the Rugby disrupting the flow of trainings and matches. The boys all appeared to enjoy the games and training sessions, with participation and interest for the game growing each day.

I look forward to seeing how they all progress next year as U15s.

MDS



Football – U13

A combination of Covid-19 illness and appalling weather conditions meant that this was an extremely challenging season for the U13 boys football team. Therefore, it became apparent from very early on that the emphasis for this team had to be on making it as fun as possible.

Wind and rain made the first two fixtures of the season impossible to fulfil so Abbeygate and Oldham Hulme were unfortunately cancelled. This meant that the first opportunity to actually play a game came on 1st February against Sir John Talbot's School. This was a hotly competitive game that could have gone either way, but a loss in concentration allowed the visitors to gain the upper hand and score from a corner making it 2-1 at full time.

An away trip to Oswestry School came next where both teams agreed to go all out on attack and not to worry too much about defence. This highly entertaining game finished 5-4 with Ellesmere being on the losing end but only just.

Two defeats from our opening two fixtures meant that morale was low going into the next game away at Liverpool College. However, a change in formation from a 4-4-2 to a 5-3-2 made a significant difference in the team's ability to defend in numbers and also to attack wide areas. Unfortunately, despite several chances to clinch the game, Ellesmere were unable to find that final pass to unlock the Liverpool defence and secure their first win of the season. The team had to settle for a 0-0 draw but spirits had been restored by this gritty and determined performance.

After the half term break and an improvement in the weather, the Abbeygate fixture was able to go ahead. This was another closely contested game where both sides had several chances to take the lead and control the game. On this occasion, despite having the majority of the possession, Ellesmere were susceptible to counter attacks which led to Abbeygate taking a 3-2 lead with just five minutes to go. In the dying moments of the game Ellesmere were still able to create chances to level the score but were unable to take them.

The final game of the season was held at home against local rivals Lakelands Academy, which was played in a good spirit with lots of attacking opportunities. However, Ellesmere were once more (only just) on the losing end. This final game of the season finished 2-1 to Lakelands.

JED



Football – U12

Summary of Results

Sir John Talbot's School	-	Lost	1 – 5
Oldham Hulme Grammar Schools	-	Lost	0 – 4
Oswestry School Boys-U13B	-	Won	4 – 3
Liverpool College	-	Lost	0 – 8
Abbey Gate College	-	Lost	1 – 4

It was a tricky season for the U12s. Having had quite a bit of time out of football and playing schools that were mainly two term football schools made it very challenging, so the term was about development and we worked hard in training to try and get the team up to speed. This showed in many of the performances where, when we stuck to the tactics, we showed some excellent play.

Having had our first game cancelled it was going to be challenging playing a side which has been together since last September. We started slowly and the SJT took advantage. We looked a little rusty and finished the half 3-0 down. We had started to show we could play some football but it was a steep learning curve. The second half proved more fruitful as we worked ourselves into the game and enjoyed far more possession. We managed to score a goal, which was reward for our effort throughout the match, but went down 5-1 in the end. A good start since we haven't played in over 2 years and all 18 players in the squad got game time.

It was terrible weather and extremely cold conditions but the Liverpool seemed more intent to play. There is a lesson there for mental fortitude. The opposition was good but we made too many

errors and gave the ball away too easily to give us any chance of competing. A disappointing day but we dusted ourselves down and worked hard in training to improve our level.

After a slow start, we started to settle and finished the half on top. Second half we transformed as a team and dominated possession and territory but couldn't quite snatch a goal despite several very good chances. The effort was amazing from every player. Unfortunately, a couple of simple errors proved costly and the score line flattered the Oldham Hulme. The improvement was brilliant and playing two schools who have both been training and playing football since September has been a tall order.

It was a season of "what ifs" but there is clear potential amongst the squad and the support each member of the team gives to each other is reward enough. It has been a difficult year to get back into the swing of things, but, credit to the boys, they have worked hard in each training session and listened closely to the coaching at all times.

If they can keep on improving both during and outside of the football season, then there is clear potential and success within the squad, which clearly is the goal for the whole team. The performance in parts have been excellent and with perseverance and dedication we will get there. If we can continue to show the improvements we made in each game across the seasons to come our performances will be great.

Many thanks must go to the parents who supported throughout the term.

ILW



Football – U11

Summary of Results

Woodside Primary	-	Won	4 – 1
Packwood	-	Won	6 – 1
Terra Nova 6-a-side Competition		PLATE WINNERS	
Ellesmere College 6-a-side Competition		3rd PLACE	
Oswestry	-	Lost	2 – 3
Packwood	-	Won	2 – 1
Oswestry	-	Won	2 – 1

The U11A team have had a pretty successful year. They have had a mixture of “friendly” fixtures and two tournaments. The focus has been on developing skills, teamwork, and fitness.

We started the term off with a visit to Woodside Primary school in Oswestry. There was a nice balance to the team, with Jake Hughes playing well and very reliable in goal for us, and Harry Harrison and Ethan Harrison controlling things well at the back, Oliver Walker in the middle of the park, and Dan Thelwell playing just ahead of him along with Angus Leonard, Oscar Sahota, and Austin Furlong-Hart playing on the wings and up-front respectively. We made it final score 1-4 to Ellesmere.

We travelled to Packwood school for our next match and again the team gave a good account of themselves and secured a 1-6 win. Following on from the Packwood match we played our first tournament of the term. This was a 6-a-side competition at Terra Nova School, a competition we had not played in before. It was a good test to see where we were, as there were some big prep schools at this event. In

our group we played three matches: we won our match against Altringham Prep's B Team, we lost against The Ryley's School, and we drew with Stockport Grammar School. This meant we went through to the Plate Competition. In our semi-final we beat Stafford 2-0 and then set up a final against Altringham. We eventually won this 1-0 after some good football from both teams.

This tournament had been good practice for our own 6-a-side competition. We did very well in this; we won three and drew one of our group matches, beating West House, Prenton Prep and Birchfield, and drawing with The Firs. This meant we topped our group and went through to the semi-final of the main competition, against The Ryley's School. After normal and extra time the score was still 0-0 and therefore it went to penalties. We scored two, as did the opposition, which meant it went to sudden death. Unfortunately, we missed ours and the opposition scored – never a nice way to lose a match. However, we did not have time to be too upset as we had to pick ourselves up for the 3rd/4th place Play Off match. This went all the way to penalties, but this time we scored our first two penalties and Birchfield only scored one out of their three, which meant we were 3rd. The final two matches were both return fixtures against schools we had played earlier in the term. Packwood visited us and this was a much closer match than the previous one. We eventually edged it 2-1 and both teams played some good football. This left us our final match, away to Oswestry, and this time we played better and much more as a team to eventually seal a 2-1 win. This was nice way to finish the term.

ILR



Football – U9

Summary of Results

Packwood	-	Lost	1 – 6
Oswestry	-	Lost	2 – 3
Moreton Hall	-	Won	3 – 2
Moreton Hall	-	Won	1 – 0
Packwood	-	Lost	0 – 5
Oswestry	-	Cancelled	

The U9 team has had some great football matches this term. The emphasis is on fun, developing skills, and playing as a team – the results don't really matter at this age. The team has played well in patches and developed well as the season progressed.

The first match was a tough encounter at Packwood, with only a couple of weeks of training behind us. However, the energy and enthusiasm shown by the team was good and we did lots of things well in this match, which was pleasing to see and helped us prepare for future matches by giving us information on what we need to work on for next time.

The next match was at Oswestry and we put in a much better performance, which was good to see and showed that the training has started to pay off. We were unlucky not to at least get a draw in this match but, again, fun was had by all who played and skill development was shown again in the match.

Moreton Hall were the visitors just before the Half Term holidays and, with a couple of matches now under our belts, we had the

experience to play some better football than we had in previous matches and this enabled us to score a couple of good goals in this match, which was great to see.

After the Half Term break we travelled to Moreton for the return fixture. This was a much closer affair, with both teams putting a lot of effort into the match and producing some nice football at times. We just managed to squeeze the match 0-1.

Our final match in the end was at home to Packwood. Again, we found it tough at times and sometimes reverted too much to us all chasing the ball rather than trying to keep some shape when playing. However, once again fun was had and some good development has been shown by all the players.

Well done to everyone who represented the school and good luck next year as you move up into either Year 4 or Year 5.

ILR





Sport - Cricket



Cricket – 1st XI

A good number of the U15s who were involved in the 1stXI provided leadership for their own age group team. Captained by George Owen, with Thomas Dyson as vice-captain, they proved to be a more than capable outfit with a results ledger. The three wins against Wolverhampton Grammar School, Shrewsbury School, and Bridgnorth Endowed School provided a platform for the County Final versus Newport Haberdashers. Against Bridgnorth Endowed in the semi-final, Tom Dyson helped Ellesmere set a substantial target with a 64 not-out with Charlie Boys (36) and Harry Pyke (24) making important contributions. The opening bowlers of Henry Appleby and Jonathan Evans soon put paid to any doubts about Bridgnorth making the score with a decisive opening spell of bowling. Unfortunately, in the final against Newport, achieving County champions did not happen. It was a close fought game and could have gone either way. It did not quite happen for Ellesmere at key moments. However, the very respectable position of being county finalist was something to celebrate.

GO



Cricket – Girls' 1st XI

It was amazing to see Girls' Cricket back after such a long break due to Covid-19. For many pupils, this is the highlight of their playing career and the chance to represent your school at this level is always something to treasure. Only two fixtures were able to be played in the time allowed but they were both memorable occasions for very different reasons.

The first round of the National Cup was a twenty over match against Moreton Hall on Friday 29th April. Ellesmere had won the toss and decided to open the batting. They soon began building a solid score of 35 without loss. However, a couple of quick wickets then fell and the middle order began to feel the pressure. Nevertheless, some sensible batting – pushing singles instead of going for the big hit – meant that nerves were settled once more, which allowed Ellesmere to finish their innings on 135 for 2. Moreton Hall then began the chase, but some consistent bowling from Ellesmere's openers kept the run rate low. Moreton were keeping their wickets but not really keeping pace with the runs required. This meant that as the game ended, Moreton Hall could only manage a total of 122 for the loss of 1 wicket. Ellesmere had won the match and progressed to the next round.

The second round of the National Cup was then played on 12th May against Shrewsbury School. Again, Ellesmere opted to bat first and were subjected to some ferocious bowling by the Shrewsbury opening pair. An uncharacteristic batting collapse then followed, with Ellesmere slumping to 32 all out, not being able to complete the full 20 overs. Despite some courageous fielding, Shrewsbury were then able to chase down the total without loss to knock Ellesmere out and progress to Round 3.

Despite this ignominious end to the season, all girls who took part represented their school magnificently and will take fond memories of friendship and comradery with them.

CSD



Cricket – Boys' U15

Summary of Results

Wolverhampton Grammar	-	Won by 7 wickets
Shrewsbury A/B	-	Won by 140 runs
Wrekin	-	Lost by 9 runs
Oswestry	-	Won by 45 runs

A pleasingly warm Summer Term and the return of cricket: a lively and capable band of cricketers took up the fight against all comers, and a few useful new arrivals strengthened the team.

The opening fixture saw the Under 15 team make a long coach journey to Wolverhampton on a scorching hot day. The Ellesmere team made a good start to the season, restricting their hosts to only 60-9 off their twenty overs, with Harvey Leonard picking up three wickets and Oliver Draco and Eddie Pyches taking two apiece. Harvey then shone with the bat, bludgeoning 29 not out and threatening a few windows in the process as Ellesmere strode to victory in only the twelfth over.

Four days later, the team travelled to Shrewsbury where they faced a combined A/B team. Batting first, Ellesmere took advantage of some less experienced bowlers to clock up 186-6 in twenty overs, with Charlie Boys, Henry Appleby, and George Owen scoring quick thirties. With a large total to chase, the home team made a shaky start as Henry Appleby produced both speed and movement with the ball, picking up a hat trick as the fielders held their catches well. Harry Pyke and Evan Garrett claimed two wickets each, and some good work on run outs ended the run chase early for a big win. Another warm weekend: a journey to Wrekin College and a difficult

match on a tricky pitch. Nonetheless, the Ellesmere team stuck to the task when bowling with very few loose balls and plenty of chances created. They needed to create lots of chances, because catch after catch hit the deck, with only Harry Pyke providing a reliable pair of hands. Wrekin made the most of their nine lives to end on 129-7 from their twenty overs. The Ellesmere response was spirited and the total climbed steadily, with the main impetus coming from left-handers Luke Rossow and Tom Dyson. When they both fell, the innings slowed and in the end Ellesmere finished nine runs short.

The final match of the season in mid-June was the team's only home fixture, playing host to an Oswestry side. Batting first, Ellesmere made steady progress – with George Owen and Henry Appleby leading the way – finally posting a total of 161-8. The visitors made a good challenge, but three wickets for Harvey Leonard and two useful stumpings from George Owen proved decisive as the Oswestry total reached only 116-4.

Overall, a positive season, with good wins and a valiant defeat: some useful debutants and reliable performances from our veterans.

DWC



Cricket – Girls' U15

On Saturday 7th May the U15 Team stepped out for their first ever hard ball match in a friendly away game against Moreton Hall. The fixture provided the team with the opportunity for everyone to bat and field in a competitive but coached environment. There was a lot to take away from this first experience, which proved vital for our next match.

The spirit with which the team played against Shrewsbury School was incredible. The team demonstrated some efficient fielding and batting, which showed the giant strides they had made in a very short space of time.

Unfortunately, after a great start against Moreton Hall in the final match of the season, the team lost their heads and in very quick succession a number of wickets fell. This, however, should not put a damper on the very promising start that the players have shown and we already look forward to next season.

CSD



Cricket – Boys' U14

It was good to see that a number of U14 boys players including Thomas and Adam Jacques and Jonathan Evans were able to gain valuable experience of being challenged at a higher level, not only playing in the U15s but also for the U17s and the 1st XI. Not only that but they often provided valuable contributions for those teams. Hugh Cornwell ably captained the U14 Boys Team team with valuable contributions from other County players including Ewan Skillicorn and Harry Underhill. As a result, the more experienced players were able to support the inexperienced players in their own developing squad with competitive games against Shrewsbury School, Newport Haberdashers, and the King's School. The team beat Newport in the first round of the National Cup before losing to a very strong Shrewsbury School side.

GO



Cricket – Girls' U14

The opening game of the season for U14s Girls' Cricket Team against Moreton Hall on 7th May was, for some players, their first experience in playing cricket. Ellesmere were convincingly on the losing side that day and clearly had a lot to learn, but everyone must start somewhere!

After some hard training, the team's next outing was at the NSSAA Softball Cricket Festival. The girls clearly benefitted from the preparation, as they played brilliantly and went on to win all four of their matches. They beat SJT by 52 runs, Oswestry School by 50 runs, Moreton Hall by 20 runs, and Thomas Adams by 30 runs. As a result, the team then progressed to the County Finals on Tuesday 7th June.

Another loss to Moreton Hall on 25th May did not dampen spirits, as this time the 18 over encounter was a far more competitive affair with Ellesmere only losing out by 88 runs to 103 runs for our opponents.

Tuesday 7th June was a return to winning ways as Ellesmere (representing North Shropshire), played brilliantly and won both of their matches against Shrewsbury High School (representing Shrewsbury) and Charlton (representing Telford & Wrekin), to be crowned Shropshire KS3 winners!

The girls have come an incredibly long way in a very short space of time.

HLD



Cricket – Boys' U13

The U13 Boys Team was very much an emerging squad who won as many as they lost with victories against Wrekin College, North Shropshire Festival sides, and Oswestry School. Ewen Nicholson captained the side and showed enthusiasm, a developing knowledge, and tactical acumen. It is worth noting that Oliver Dyson (Yr 7) scored 60 runs (retired) of a total of 96 against North Wales. Unfortunately, it proved not to be enough to achieve the North Wales total of 130 runs. It was great to see the U13B side gain a creditable victory against St John Talbot's School in softball game.

GO



Cricket – Girls' U13/U12

The U13 Girls' Cricket Team played well in their first outing in the Lent Term on 17th March, with a round robin indoor tournament where they convincingly beat Moreton Hall, Oswestry School, and Thomas Adams. In a nail-biting final match of the afternoon Ellesmere narrowly lost to Packwood in the final over of the match. As a result, Ellesmere (together with Packwood) progressed to the regional stage of the Lady Taverner's Indoor competition.

This encouraging start to the season was then followed up by the first Summer Term match against Oswestry School on 11th June, where Ellesmere won by 30 runs and only conceded one wicket. This was particularly pleasing as the girls had worked hard on their communication when batting. Although there was still work to be done to tighten up the fielding, the team still managed to take five wickets.

A super afternoon of Lower School Cricket was then observed on 14th June with a full complement of fixtures against Moreton Hall. The U12B, U13B girls, and U12A mixed team all went on to win their games in style. However, more important than the result was the fact that have all the girls in Year 7 and Year 8 took some part in the event, showing the progress that they had all made in a very short space of time.

Then on Saturday 21st June, the U13 Girls played a very competitive fixture away against Wrekin College. The girls played well and at the end of the agreed ten overs had won 34-27 runs. As there was plenty of time remaining both sides agreed to each bat a further six overs.

Wrekin made the most of all their catching opportunities, which prevented us from significantly adding to our total but it was more important to allow the players to have as much game time as possible to sharpen those cricket skills. Time finished on Wrekin accumulating 53 runs to our 37 and a good time was had by all.

Unfortunately, that turned out to be the end of the season for these players as the team were forced to withdraw from The Wrekin College Cricket Festival on 23rd June due to Covid-19.

CSD



Cricket – Boys' U12

The U12 Boys Team only lost one game throughout their cricket campaign, thus they were the 'stellar' side of the season. Victories against Sandbach, Packwood, and Terra Nova set the platform for their semi-final victory in the County Cup against Wrekin and the subsequent victory in the final against Prestfelde.

Against Packwood it was very much a team effort with Ralph Cornwell, James Skillicorn, and Skye Thomas sharing the core of the wickets with 2 each. Ellesmere reached the Packwood total of 60 with Oliver Dyson batting through the innings (20 not out), and with Ralph Cornwell and James Skillicorn both contributing 13 and 12 runs respectively. Oliver Dyson and Skye Thomas applied themselves as finishers when focus and concentration was required.

In the County Final Prestfelde set a challenging total of 96 runs. James Skillicorn (3 wickets) and Joe Whale (2) were the pick of the wicket takers even though all bowlers contributed to keeping the score achievable. Once again Oliver Dyson provided the backbone of the batting with a score of 56 runs with Harry Harrison supporting with 16 runs. Skye Thomas (13 not out) and James Skillicorn proved to be the capable finishers in line with the game plan. This team go on to represent the Shropshire as U13's in the Regional National Competition next season.

GO



Cricket – Boys' U11

The U11s Boys Team had a couple of very pleasant victorious games against Moreton Hall and Prestfelde and thus were confident of success in the Wrekin Festival; unfortunately, the festival was cancelled. The U9s also had a great couple of games against Moreton and Oswestry.

By far the most satisfying development this year were the junior softball mixed matches where girls and boys played alongside each other against other boys and girls. These matches proved to be a great success, with Sir John Talbot's and Moreton taking part in this development.

GO





Cricket – KS2/U12 Mixed

Restarting the cricket schedule for KS2 pupils amid considerable Covid-19 disruption was a significant challenge for everyone involved. It was crucial to introduce as many girls as possible to the game and ensure that the maximum participation was achieved. Emphasis was placed on having fun from the very beginning of term and all pupils played their part, whether they were cricket enthusiasts or new comers to the game. Results at this age group really are a secondary consideration. Several matches were forced to be cancelled due to Covid-19 but the few fixtures that did go ahead were thoroughly enjoyable and a valuable opportunity to give the pupils important game time experience.

The first fixture of the term was held on 5th May where U9 and U11 games were held at Moreton Hall. The U9s were victorious while the U11s lost their match by 19 runs.

On 19th May a mixed U12 game was held against Sir John Talbot school. In this 10 over match Ellesmere managed to accumulate 95 runs for 4 wickets in reply to their opponents scoring 93 runs for the cost of 1 wicket.

This victory was quickly followed by a narrow defeat to a mixed U12 team from Moreton Hall by just 9 runs on 24th May. After half term, on 9th June a return fixture against Sir John Talbot school saw Ellesmere Mixed U12s win again, this time by just 7 runs. This was followed by a chance to put right the earlier defeat against Moreton Hall on 14th June. This time Ellesmere came out on top by 12 runs.

Unfortunately, the final occasion of the season for the U11 Girls would have been The Wrekin College Cricket Festival on 23rd June but this was another one of those occasions that Ellesmere could not attend due to Covid-19 illnesses.

CSD



Sport - Equestrian



Throughout the school year Ellesmere riders have competed at a variety of NSEA (National Schools Equestrian Association) competitions, including dressage, showjumping and eventing. Both Teams and individuals have enjoyed success and gone forward to compete at prestigious venues such as Hickstead, Keysoe, and Princethorpe. Along with our seasoned competitors, we have a very promising group of young riders in Lower School who have also achieved some great team results this year. Once again, grateful thanks goes to our riders' parents without whose support none of the fun and success of competing in riding events would be possible.

In September 2021 the NSEA held a qualifier for the Annual National Championships. Ellesmere sent five riders to compete in dressage and jumping classes at Southview Equestrian Centre. The Ellesmere team won the 90cm Jumping with Style (JwS) and came 2nd in the 100cm JwS, with Individual placings 1st, 2nd, & 3rd for Oliver Loud, Bella Spencer-Blow, and Tessa O'Brien.

In January 2022, three riders competed in the NSEA Eventers Challenge class at Kelsall EC. Bella Spencer-Blow came second in 100cm class and qualified for the Championships at Hickstead in May.

A young Ellesmere Grassroots team also celebrated a win and another Hickstead qualification in the 50cm Grassroots Showjumping competition at Beaver Hall, with individual placings for Amelie Holzgartner, Maya Holzgartner, and Freddie Spencer-Blow.

KC





Sport - Tennis



U11 tennis

U11 and KS2 only had two matches; games against Adcote School and Moreton Hall. Everybody had a turn to play; it was a very close and competitive fixtures, that ended up level.

U12 tennis

U12 girls also played only two fixtures, against Moreton Hall and Adcote School. The girls showed some excellent skills in defensive and offensive tennis.

The first match was against Adcote school, with the girls starting very well and won every set in the first rubber. The second round was quite an easy affair for the Ellesmerian girls as well, they won 24 games out of 30.

The next match was against Moreton Hall away, it always was going to be a difficult one as Moreton Hall play a lot of tennis. The team squad were Lexi Algar-Pattinson, Kiri Kilgannon, Emily Males (Captain), Megan Pritchard, Imogen Spencer-Blow and Ellie Winn. The girls played some amazing tennis, but despite all the effort, ended up level on score, 4 sets each.

U13 tennis

This year our girls put up a great fight against some very strong players. The team consisted of Sofie Glinos - captain, Cesca Algar-Pattinson, Lucy Chadwick, Eleanor Every, Emilia O'Mahony and Florence Sweeney

Their first game was against Adcote School, winning 7:2. The match was dominated by Ellesmerian girls who produced some excellent shots and consistency. After Adcote it was an away game against Moreton Hall School. The girls were very tough here and stuck out for the win. I'd like to mention Florence Sweeney and Sofie Glinos, who not only played very well in the U13, but also helped the U14 team.

U14 tennis

This year group were supposed to have three fixtures against Moreton Hall, Adcote School and Rydal, but the Rydal fixture have to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

The first match was against Adcote School. The U14 girls weren't available for this fixture, so the U13 girls played instead. Lucy Chadwick, Eleanor Every, Nina Fisher, and Florence Sweeney played some amazing shots and stepped up for their challenge but despite all the effort and fight, they went down 1:3.

The last match for the U14s was against Moreton Hall and it wasn't the easiest fixture to play because of the windy conditions. The girls had to concentrate and work hard to make the shots, Isabella Moore and Bella Spencer-Blow played some unbelievable tennis but lost both matches on the tiebreak, the oppositions were just a bit luckier.

U15 tennis

The U15 girls were also supposed to have three fixtures, but one of them against Rydal had to be cancelled for the same reason – British weather.

The first game was against Moreton Hall on the same day as the U14 fixture with the same very windy conditions. Georgie Prescott and Isobel Grey played some awesome tennis and won their opening match 4:1. The second match was a very tough and very close one, but the girls lost 3:4.

Next stop was a U15 North Shropshire tournament, unfortunately, Georgie wasn't available for this one due to a geography trip, Isobel Gray and Florence Sweeney played together and came second out of 3 schools.

EG



Reffell Open

The Reffell Open this year was all about the past and the future. It was about the past, well, about half PAST six rather than 5.45pm, that the Evans family decided to turn up. Lesley, Mark and Amy were up to mind games as they made sure that the opposition had tired themselves out by having to practise for forty-five minutes! It almost worked but they had forgotten one important factor: Reffell players are more interested in chatting than practising! Mark and Amy did manage a quarter-final berth where they almost put out defending champions John Cowley and Chelsea Watson.



It was about the past too in that the original Reffell Champions, David Reffell and Gemma Hepburn, nee Torrance, joined forces once again. Despite being a mother of four, and having left over twenty years ago, Gemma had lost none of that graceful power, and, amazingly, not aged a day! It was a delight to have her back, albeit in a tennis centre that didn't exist in her day. The Hepburns had travelled all the way from Hampshire on the day. This showed real commitment and they arrived on time through busy Friday night traffic, whereas the Evans' claim that major traffic queues in that metropolis that is Criftns (population 7 people, 12 horses, and a postbox, emptied once a week) held them up didn't quite convince the officialdom.

It was about the future too, as most looked on in awe as players like Guy Welti, Aditi Chezian, and Jemimah Choi dazzled us with the level of tennis. These young players have a great future ahead and are a credit to the Tennis Academy and Stephen Welti, the Director of Tennis. All three brought out the best in their partners: Guy coaxed his sister into a semi-final, much, I imagine, to Robyn's surprise (and probably her parents), and Aditi hauled that Reffell giant Jon Morgan into his second final. Jemimah Choi had other ideas though. As Morgan shed half his body weight in sweat and tears, Jemimah effortlessly returned almost every ball that anyone hit at her. With Gemma's husband, Mark, also in a league above most of the other men, Morgan did well to make the final so close. At one stage Aditi and Morgan were 1-2 and 15-40 down with Morgan serving (well, he calls it serving, the rest of us are just left wondering why a man who must be well over six feet has one of the weakest serves in Western Europe!). But he managed to win the game leaving it finely balanced at 2-2, but Ice Queen Jemimah was to serve next. And whilst Morgan struggled to breathe, having being targeted – or some might say bullied – by the opposition, Jemimah's first drop of sweat thought about rolling down her forehead but then thought better of it as she

served out to win the match. So well done, Jemimah and Mark. We all hope Mark returns next year to defend his title and brings the family. Who knows, soon Gemma will be partnering one of her own brood rather than her ageing partner!

As usual the Watson clan turned up. The Reffell Open wouldn't be the same without Chelsea's smile, although teaching in Walsall seems to have given her a slightly more vicious streak, with Mrs Watson's Pimm making skills and now Mr Watson who is the official chip delivery man! We look forward to seeing Chelsea back again. Rumours that she might be living in Glasgow soon, presumably as a street fighter, worry the organiser. Surely Scotland doesn't deserve another feisty woman!

Anyway, enough banter. There was the usual fun and laughter. Did Tash Dalziel ever stop laughing?

Thanks to Ian and Christianne Williams for presenting the prizes. I expect to hear that there is a school in Hong Kong with a similar tournament. And yes, if there is, Chelsea, you can enter it.

At the end of the evening John Cowley presented me and the College with a new trophy called the Harry Cup, to be presented each year to the player or pair who most reflect the true spirit of social tennis. It was deeply touching, so many thanks. Fortunately social tennis is in good hands. Next year's Head Girl, Tabitha Leonard, has taken on the mantle of social tennis secretary, meaning her priorities are now social tennis, A Levels, dragging her father off the karaoke floor in the Ellesmere Hotel, cricket, music and finally Head Girl. We wish her luck in all those roles but know she will accomplish all in her charming way.

We look forward to next year and the years to follow. Social tennis is one of the great Ellesmere events, now involving local people, parents, OEs, and occasionally perhaps those from Criftns if they can book a BnB half way to break the long journey up!

HO





Sport - Badminton



Badminton

Played 8 | Won 2 | Lost 6

This year our badminton team, ably led by Captain Gavin Yang, had a pleasing season. Gavin leads by example and is well-respected by his peers, but the team should also be commended, with rival schools often commenting on their positivity and enthusiasm.

Our Girl and Boy teams, made up of six players per team, have competed against Shrewsbury School, Oswestry School, and Wrekin College over the course of the year. The team were new to one another and worked hard during their training sessions to decide which pairings worked best. Despite experiencing success against Wrekin College (both home and away), the teams at Shrewsbury School remains the main challenge for both teams! The boys' team in particular must be acknowledged; their drive and determination have been admirable and many of the singles matches, against all three schools, ended victorious.

Overall, despite experiencing more losses than last season, the team enjoyed having a more spirited competition with the local schools and many of the games were narrow defeats.

Unfortunately, this year we lose many of our 1st team players who move on to start their university courses. I know that they will be greatly missed and we wish them all the very best.

Next term we look forward to the new season and hope that the success of the badminton team at Ellesmere College continues to go from strength to strength.

First team players:

1. Gavin Yang
2. Alexander Norris
3. Nelson Chong
4. Frank Wu
5. Dylan Cunningham
6. Christopher Davis
7. Teddy Sun
8. Jason Jia
9. Percy Chan
10. Cecilie Pinholt
11. Leonie Li
12. Wendy Tam
13. Ceci Li
14. Natasha Moore
15. Lily Sharaf

REW



Sport - Fencing



Fencing

I began coaching fencing at Ellesmere 10 years ago as part of a start-up Modern Pentathlon project with maybe half a dozen students. Now there must be at least 30 fencers from Year 5 up to Year 13 and we've developed into a full-on fencing club, meeting in two sessions, one for Lower School mostly and a later Senior squad session.

Looking back over the decade, Ellesmere fencers have regularly qualified to represent the West Midlands in the British Youth Championships – every year they've been held, in fact. Ed Astbury has been selected for four National Championships over the years. Several have kept fencing and represented their universities too. A regular fixture list has developed – probably the termly match with Shrewsbury School is the most keenly fought. In the most recent match the combined score was 18-7 to Ellesmere, which is probably the best result we've had. Ellesmere fencers were Ed Astbury, Alex Norris, Louis Reardon, Oscar Crossen, Julia Smith, and Oliver Earl.

What attracts people to fencing? Talking to students, there are a lot of different motivations. In my own case, 50+ years ago, it was the fact that it was indoors and individual – I was not a good team player. For some fencers it's the fighting aspect they enjoy, others the challenge of doing a sport that is a bit more unusual, or it's simply that swords and the kit look good. There's a sense of responsibility too – being responsible for each other's safety, having to make your own decisions when you are fighting, having to plan, having to referee, helping to coach and train each other. Winning is a great feeling too, as the

Ellesmere fencers in the latest Shrewsbury match will be able to attest.

This is a good place to pay tribute to the Sixth Form fencers who helped me coach the Lower School fencers. Ed Astbury's and James Joynson's contributions have been invaluable and the Lower School fencers seemed to really enjoy working with them too.

We've got a couple of fixtures planned already for 2023 and there must be enough Old Ellesmerian fencers out there to have an 'Old v. Current' match too. And, especially Year 11s and Sixth Formers – you'd be very welcome to the later Friday sessions!



Sport - House Comps

Rugby

Senior School-Lower School

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts f	Total	Position
Woodard	3	0	0	14	9	1
Talbot	2	1	0	15	6	2
Wakeman	1	2	0	9	3	3
Meynell	0	3	0	6	0	4

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts f	Total	Position
Woodard	3	0	0	11	9	1
Meynell	1	1	1	15	4	2
Talbot	1	1	1	7	4	3
Woodard	0	3	0	6	0	4

Year 7 and 8

	W	L	D	F	A	P
Phillips	1	0	1	5	3	1
Brownlow	1	0	1	3	2	2
Heywood	0	2	0	3	6	3

KS2

Tag rugby competitions for KS2. One was a Year 3 / 4 competition and the other was Year 5 / 6.

The overall winners were Brownlow as they won both competitions.

1st Place: Brownlow

2nd Place: Phillips

3rd Place: Heywood.

Football

Senior Boys

1st Woodard | 2nd Talbot | 3rd Wakeman | 4th Meynell

	Meynell	Talbot	Wakeman	Woodard
Meynell		1-3	1-1	1-8
Talbot	3-1		2-1	0-4
Wakeman	1-1	1-2		0-2
Woodard	8-1	4-0	2-0	

Junior Boys

1st Wakeman | 2nd Woodard | 3rd Meynell | 4th Talbot

	Meynell	Talbot	Wakeman	Woodard
Meynell		7-0	2-6	2-2
Talbot	0-7		1-4	2-9
Wakeman	6-2	4-1		2-2
Woodard	2-2	9-2	2-2	

Lower School Year 8

- 1 Brownlow v Phillip 2
- 0 Heywood v Phillips 5
- 2 Brownlow v Heywood 0

Overall Year 8 Result

- 1st Phillips
- 2nd Brownlow
- 3rd Heywood

Lower School Year 7

- 3 Brownlow v Phillip 2
- 3 Heywood v Phillips 1
- 3 Brownlow v Heywood 0

Overall Year 7 Result

- 1st Brownlow
- 2nd Heywood
- 3rd Phillips



House Cross Country

Senior and Middle School Cross Country

Junior – first 5 boys and first 3 girls | Senior and Inter – first 10 boys and first 5 girls to count

	Meynell	Talbot	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart
Junior Boys	60	46	56	51
Girls	18	17	21	27
Total	78	63	77	78
Position	3=	1	2	3= Junior cup
Inter Boys	238	336	102	202
Girls	56	35	89	48
Total	294	371	191	250
Position	3	4	1	2 Inter cup
Senior Boys	283	233	140	170
Girls	58	41	51	65
Total	341	275	191	235
Position	4	3	1	2 Senior cup
Overall Total	713	709	459	563
Position	4	3	1	2 Athletics standard cup

Merit cup (largest representation from a House)

	Meynell	Talbot	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart
Total	65	63	68	70
Position	3	4	2	1 Merit Cup

Junior

Boys winner - Thomas Jacques (Wakeman Lambart)

Girls winner - Bella Spencer Blow (Talbot)

Inter

Boys winner - James Li Campbell (Wakeman Lambart)

Girls winner - Eleanor Broughton (Meynell)

Senior

Boys winner - Louis Lermite (Woodard)

Girls winner - Anna Farrow (Meynell)

Lower School Cross Country

Year Group	Brownlow	Heywood	Phillips
3/4	1	3	2
5/6	2	3	1
KS2 Placings	1=	3	1=
7	3	2	1
8	1	3	2
KS3 Placings	2	3	1
Overall Total	7	11	6
Position	2	3	1

Individual Cross Country Placings

Year 8			Pos	
Adam Crompton	M	Year 8	Phillips	1
Henry Bates	M	Year 8	Brownlow	2
Eoghan Clements	M	Year 8	Brownlow	3
Hattie Jones	F	Year 8	Heywood	1
Florence Sweeney	F	Year 8	Brownlow	2
Cesca Algar-Pattinson	F	Year 8	Phillips	3

Year 7			Pos	
James Skillicorn	M	Year 7	Phillips	1
Alex Hu	M	Year 7	Heywood	2
Dylan Tanner	M	Year 7	Phillips	3
Emily Males	F	Year 7	Brownlow	1
Esmee Noss	F	Year 7	Brownlow	2
Imogen Spencer-Blow	F	Year 7	Brownlow	3

Year 5 & 6			Pos	
Daniel Thelwell	M	Year 6	Brownlow	1
Angus Leonard	M	Year 6	Phillips	2
Austin Furlong Hart	M	Year 6	Phillips	3
Anna Underhill	F	Year 6	Heywood	1
Amelie Holzgartner	F	Year 6	Brownlow	2
Pippa Blackwood	F	Year 6	Brownlow	3

Year 3 & 4			Pos	
Freddie Spencer-Blow	M	Year 3	Brownlow	1
Leo Salmoiraghi	M	Year 4	Brownlow	2
Seb Johnson	M	Year 4	Brownlow	3
Ariella Thelwell	F	Year 4	Brownlow	1
Amber Leonard	F	Year 3	Phillips	2
Adrienne Wahlberg	F	Year 3	Phillips	3



Hockey

House Hockey

Year 7 & 8

1st Brownlow (10 points)
2nd Heywood (5 points)
3rd Phillips (0 points)

Year 9 & 10

1st: Talbot
2nd: Meynell
3rd: Wakeman-Lambart (on goals)
4th: Woodard

Year 11, 12, 13

1st: Wakeman-Lambart
2nd: Talbot
3rd: Woodard
4th: Meynell

Interhouse Girls Year 9 & 10 Indoor Hockey

2WL v Wo 1
3Mey v Wo 0
9Tal v WL 0
4Mey v W/L 0
3Tal v Wo 0
1Mey v Tal 2

1st Talbot
2nd Meynell
3rd Wakeman Lambart
4th Woodard

We enjoyed a great afternoon of Indoor Hockey to restart the Interhouse events this year: The last two games saw a play off for 3rd and 4th between Wakeman Lambert and Woodard, which nearly resulted in a draw as the last seconds of the match ticked away. Talbot clinched a good victory over Meynell to secure the trophy for this year.

Basketball

House Basketball

Brilliant Senior Boys' basketball event. Great turnout from the senior lads, hopefully setting the standard for the next three tournaments.

Senior Boys

1st Meynell
2nd Wakeman Lambart
3rd Woodard
4th Talbot

Junior Boys

3 Meynell v Talbot 0
0 Wakeman-Lambart v Woodard 6
8 Meynell v wo 2
6 Talbot v Wakeman-Lambart 0
10 Meynell v W/L 2
3 Talbot v Woodard 6

1st Meynell
2nd Woodard
3rd Talbot
4th Wakeman Lambart

Senior Girls

8 Woodard v Wakeman-Lambart 4
0 Meynell v Talbot 14
3/4th place 0 Meynell v Wakeman-Lambart 12
Final 8 Woodard v Talbot 2

1st Woodard
2nd Talbot
3rd Wakeman Lambart
4th Meynell

Junior Girls

10 Meynell v Woodard 4
3 Wakeman-Lambart v Talbot 0
3/4th place 0 Woodard v Talbot 6
Final 0 Meynell v Wakeman-Lambart 2

1st Wakeman Lambart
2nd Meynell
3rd Talbot
4th Woodard

Netball

House Netball

Senior Girls

- 1st Place Woodard
- 2nd Place Talbot
- 3rd Place Meynell
- 4th Place Wakeman Lambart

Junior Girls

- 1st Place Talbot (on goal difference)
- 2nd Place Meynell
- 3rd Place Wakeman Lambart
- 4th Place Woodard

Volleyball

Senior House Volleyball

We saw the return of House Volleyball this year, which is a very popular event. It's a great game where all ages can mix and play. It was played with tremendous spirit and sportsmanship across all the teams.

	Meynell	Wakeman Lambart	Talbot	Woodard
Matches won	2	4	7	5
Matches lost	7	5	2	4
Result	4th	3rd	1st	2nd



Golf

Senior House Golf

The annual House Golf was played at the normal time of year but in very windy conditions. We had a great turn out as this annual event grows in popularity. We played a modified stableford game with points available on each hole. Charlie Boys posted a 32, two over par for the day. Talbot and Wakeman Lambart battled it out with the Academy golfers just seeing Talbot edge the lead.

	Meynell	Wakeman Lambart	Talbot	Woodard
	Oliver Moore 19	Will Aston-Stott 33	Charlie Boys 35	Ben Wright 27
	Jacob Popplewell 18	Elieot Williamson 29	Marcus Wildblood 30	Sam Linnington 26
	Charlie Sweeny 18	Sander Eppers 26	Shinil Balakrishnan 29	Alfie Linnigton 19
	Dylan Cunningham 16	Ben Zakers 20	Laurance Jones 19	Jack Tomlinson 17
Totals 3 to count	57	88	94	62
Result	4	2	1	3



Sports Day

Lower School Sports Day

This year saw the return of a fuller Sports Day. The weather was kind and the competition was excellent. We welcomed parents back to support for the first time in two years. It was a joy to see the students support each other and play their own individual parts in the team performances.

	BROWNLOW	HEYWOOD	PHILLIPS
KS2 totals	64	56	67
KS3 totals	71	99	83
Team Totals	135	155	150
Positions	3	1	2





Sport - The Academies

Cricket



TOP 100 SCHOOL OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS – Ellesmere College has once again been named as one of the Top 100 schools for cricket in the country by the world's leading cricket magazine, The Cricketer. Ellesmere College was selected from hundreds of applicants to make the final list against an extensive list of criteria that each school had to meet. All entries are forensically examined against an exhaustive set of internal and external criteria.

REPRESENTATION

The school aims to provide talented young cricketers with the chance to receive top-level coaching and playing opportunities whilst furthering their education. Any boy or girl wishing to play cricket has the opportunity to do so. Any boy or girl aspiring to become a county and/or professional cricketer has the opportunity to progress.

Georgia Munro has played age group cricket for Wales and has again been selected for the Western Force Academy EEP Player Programme, based in the South West and Wales. The team represents South West England and Wales and is one of eight regional hubs in domestic cricket involved in the new Women's Elite Domestic Structure providing world class training, coaching, and match play opportunities to develop the most talented players. It is formed of Somerset CCC, Gloucestershire CCC, Glamorgan CCC in conjunction with Devon Cricket Board, Cornwall Cricket Board, and Wiltshire Cricket Board. Sky Thomas, and Daisy Cooke and are also linked to North West Thunder, another of the eight regional hubs, partnering with Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria and in particular Lancashire CCC.

Oliver Moore has recently played for Staffordshire U18s. Ben Wright has been selected for the EPP Cheshire Cricket Programme, and Charlie Boys has been selected for the EPP Wales Cricket Programme.

This year over 20 players have been identified for the County/District Pathway Selection Process including Ben Wright, Oliver Moore, Georgia Munro, Ewan Tullock, George Owen, Henry Appleby, Charlie Boys, Tom Dyson, Adam Jacques, Hugh Cornwell, Harry Underhill, Thomas Jacques, Ewan Skillicorn, Jonathan Evans, and Alfred Appleby from the Senior School and Skye Thomas, Ewan Nicholson, Harry Harrison, Adam Crompton, Henry Dawson, Ralph Cornwell, Oliver Dyson, William Ward, Harry Walker, Archie Fearnall, James Skillicorn and Jake Hughes from Lower School.

Throughout the school there are over 60 pupils who are involved in playing in local clubs and it was good to see that Ellesmere pupils were prominent in achieving club awards. Austin Furlong-Hart achieved the U11s Merit Award for Recognition; he was an excellent and mature captain who not only bowled and batted well, but also encouraged and supported all youngsters in a calm, patient manner. Charlie Boys, Jake Hughes, Morgan Lay, and Henry Roberts also received playing awards for their respective clubs.

SUMMER FIXTURES PROGRAMME

In addition to the indoor competitions it was good to see that there was a full summer term's fixtures programme of 100 planned fixtures with a number of the usual friendly matches for the following teams: 1st XI, U18 Girls, 2XI, U17, U15A, U15B, U15A Girls, U14A, U14A Girls, U13A, U13A Girls, U13B Girls, U13B, U13C, U12A, U12A Girls,

U12B Girls, U11A, U11A Girls, U9A, U9A Girls.

There was also a significant number of the national cup competitions including the following:

- National U14 ESCA/ECB 2015 National Competition.
- U15 and U13 LadyTaverner's National Indoor.
- HMCT20 National Competition.
- U17 National Competition County Champions
- School Sports magazine U15 and U18 National T20 Girls
- U12 National Bunbury Cup.
- U13 County Cup
- District Festivals

Particular cup successes were the U12, who won the County Final and will represent Shropshire in the regional finals. The girls also won the U15 County Indoor Softball Competition. The U15 boys were county finalists.

It was amazing to see cricket back after such a long break due to Covid-19. For many pupils this is the highlight of their playing career and the chance to represent your school at this level is always something to treasure.



AWARDS AND COLOURS

Senior School

The following were awarded their cricket colours for their significant contributions to the Ellesmere College Cricket Community –

Year 13

Full: Ioan Craven-Jones

Half: Robyn Welti, Alfie Linnington, William Selby, Alex Ratherham.

Year 12

Georgia Munro, Sam Appleby, William Owen, Ben Wright, Oliver Moore, Monty Henderson, Abigail Febrey, Valerie Fubery de Jong, Jennifer Hooper, Anna Maughan, Lucy Conway.

Year 11

Half: Emily Curzon, India Freer-Carmichael, Bea Taylor, Zara Brookshaw, Katie Evans, Olivia Philbin.

Year 10

Half: George Owen, Thomas Dyson, Henry Appleby, Charlie Boys, Luke Rossow, Harry Pyke, Harvey Leonard, Evan Garratt, Oliver Draco, Thomas Gough Tiley, Archie-Gorge Coe, Thomas Swinnerton, Felicity Davies, Tilly Davies, Tibby Galliers, Isobel Gray, Alix Nicholas, Macy Walton, Stephanie Edwards, Anna Farr, Darcy Furlong Hart, Poppy Johnson, Harriet Louch, Elexi Povey-Abbott.

Lower School Spirit of Cricket Awards for Performance, Commitment, leadership and Teamwork were awarded to the following:

Coaches Award: Year 8 Ewan Nicholson, Year 7 Oliver Dyson and Skye Thomas, Year 6 Harry Harrison.

Most Improved Player: Ralph Cornwell

Lower School Colours were awarded to the following:

Year 8

Full: Cesca Algar-Pattison, Nina Fisher, Eleanor Every, Tilly Leonard, Kaylee Mellor, Seren Garratt, Emilia Mahoney, Florence Sweeney, Mini Uras-Garvin, Adan Crompton, Archie Fearnall, Jack Jones, Thomas Males, Ewan Nicholson, William Ward, Henry Bates, Henry Dawson.
Half: Hattie Jones, Freddie Johnson, Kit Ballion.

Year 7

Half: Oliver Dyson, Skye Thomas, Ralph Cornwell, James Skillicorn, Joseph Joyce, Harry Walker, Joe Whale, Jesse Whale, Imogen Spencer-Blow, Esmae Noss, Ellie Winn, Imogen Edwards, Lexi Algar-Pattinson, Kiri Kilgannon, Isobel Philbin, Hannah Orme, Megan Pritchard.

Nathan Draco and Max Christie were awarded Improvement awards.

The U11s and U9s were very much involved in the **ELLESMERE COLLEGE 'POWERPLAY' CRICKET AWARDS**. The Cricket Development Programme with Academy Pathway very much focuses on individual player development, offering enjoyment, opportunities, and challenge where appropriate. One such opportunity and challenge has been the development of the ELLESMERE COLLEGE POWERPLAY CRICKET AWARDS starting at Bronze level and progressing through a Silver level, Gold level, and eventually to Platinum level. This year all Lower School pupils achieved on the programme.

While room dictates that not all can be named, it is worth noting those who achieved Platinum and Gold levels: Harry Harrison, Jake Hughes, Austin Furlong-Hart, Angus Leonard, Peter Brown, Oliver Walker, Nathaniel Johnson, Daniel Thelwell, Oscar Sahota, Louis Pocock, and Kit Fisher.

Hopefully all of the pupils will be looking to challenge themselves to reach the next level in the future.

Altogether, a very busy year from a very committed coaching team and squads of talented players. A big well done under the circumstances irrespective of restrictions.

Mr G. Owen, Director of Cricket
Mrs C. Dिल्s, Head of Girls Games

GO



Sport - The Academies

Rugby



Eighteen months without any competitive rugby would always be a test for Ellesmere's rugby players. The sport's governing body, World Rugby, had put strict rules in place for training, limiting elements such as team-based games, contact, and strict hygiene. Yet out of this restrictive environment Rugby at Ellesmere seemed to thrive.

Perhaps it was a form of escapism from lockdown and online learning, but numbers of pupils to training seemed to grow as the season progressed. In the early stages the emphasis was on fun and individual skill development, but as certain restrictions were lifted we were able to incorporate a new format of rugby – Rugby Ready. This proved massively popular with the pupils and became the staple of training sessions for the season. This non-contact form of rugby allowed players to put their skill development work into practice in a competitive environment. Soon, Rugby Ready had become the format for schools Inter-House Rugby competitions. This fun game proved so popular; it attracted a number of players to the game that had previously shown little interest prior to Covid-19.

This rise in popularity led to the introduction of the senior Rugby Ready League. Players were equally spread across three teams and would do battle on a Friday afternoon. The spirit shown in these sessions was a welcome relief from gloomy news of Covid-19. Ellesmere College is lucky to have such a tradition of Rugby Union within its DNA to fall back on. Interest in the game could have quite easily waned but this plucky and defiant spirit ensured that the game not only continued but actually grew in popularity.



A large number of pupils made use of the time to work hard at honing their skills and keeping fit. Academy fitness sessions continued and were managed in their year group bubbles. One of the highlights to come out of this was Harvey Cuckson. Harvey, a member of Worcester Warriors Academy, was selected to attend England Under 18 training camps, which culminated in him achieving an England International Cap against Italy Under 19s. The game took place when rugby had been allowed to return and resulted in yet another International Cap for Ellesmere College. Meanwhile, several other players continued to be selected for regional academies such as Worcester and Sale.



For rugby to continue to thrive under such testing circumstances only goes to show that there is still a huge demand for the sport. The game continues to be attacked at the professional level with worries of concussions and injuries but this pause in the sport would have been the ideal time for people to turn away. However, the spirit shown by the College during this tumultuous period highlights the need for this outlet amongst our young people. It has been well-documented that the number of mental health issues rose significantly during lockdown, but one of the best ways to combat this has proven to be physical exercise. Like many other sports, rugby can provide the usual health benefits associated with cardiovascular exercise, but its deep rooted values and traditions seem to deliver another element of support. Values such as teamwork, respect, discipline, and enjoyment appear to provide young players with a level of connection to a community. It is this belonging that allows our pupils to develop so many qualities such as confidence, resilience and self-awareness. I am aware that Covid-19 has provided us all with some huge challenges but I strongly believe that rugby at the College has been a great source of support for so many of our young people.

AJM

Sport - The Academies

Golf



The Ellesmere College Golf Academy looks to be gaining even more momentum after a successful 2021-2022 year, which saw the academy rise from a position of 24th to an amazing 5th in the ISGA National rankings. These rankings are taken from all the independent schools and colleges from around the United Kingdom.

2021-2022 results Include:

A comfortable win against the Shropshire and Herefordshire under 18s Boys team.

Winning the ISGA Regional Final.

Reaching the ISGA National Matchplay Final at Formby Golf Club.

Jonjo Ashbrook winning the individual competition in the ISGT Northern Schools Open at Carden Park.

Ellesmere College qualifying for the ISGT National Final at Dundonald Links Golf Club, Scotland.

Jonjo Ashbrook winning the individual competition and Charlie Ashbrook finishing third in the ISGT National Final.

Charlie Ashbrook having a top ten finish in the very prestigious HMC singles tournament at the Berkshire Golf Club.

Charlie Ashbrook third in the ISGT regional final at Preston Golf Club.

Charlie Boys third in the net competition in the ISGA Scottish Open at Gullane Golf Club.

These are just a few of the successes from the year. Ellesmere College also went through the season with an unbeaten record in all friendly matches.

This coming year we will be competing in all the ISGA tournaments and hoping to climb the National ranking even higher. We have already had a victory in the ISGA match play area round 1 match against Oswestry School, competed in the Welsh Invitational at St Pierre, and travelled up to Northumberland to play in the British Schools North East Links Trophy.

The academy has also grown in numbers; we now have fourteen academy members that travel regularly to Hill Valley Golf Club for on-course practice, and meet on a Tuesday afternoon on the Ellesmere Course for short game practice.

It's also great to hear that former Ellesmere College Golf Academy students are progressing with their golf after leaving the college. Claudia Hastings is currently at university in the USA where she is gaining some notable success in her golfing career, and Charlie Ashbrook is looking to turn Professional towards the end of the 2023 season.

AR



Sport - The Academies

Football



Season 2021-22
 Last season saw the Football Academy return to some sort of normality after Covid by playing competitive fixtures. There were some very good results and performances throughout the year, and what's more pleasing is that we have retained the whole group for this coming season. A special congratulations must go to the following players for the awards they received: Sean Zou - Player of the Year; Sen Muya - Players' Player of the Year; and Kene Onyebuch - Coaches' Award. Furthermore, we saw Alex Sharpe represent Shropshire County and Telford, whilst Archie Floate continues his good work at Welsh side Airbus.

This season has seen the Academy swell ranks and welcome an influx of new players. We named Sean Zou as our Captain and added a couple of new members of staff with terrific coaching and playing pedigree. We're involved in a number of competitions this year, including an U19 Shropshire league, U18 ISFA Cup and Shield,

U16 County and Presidents Cup and U15 County Cup, so we're in for a very eventful and busy season.

Live Veo
 We've also managed to add a live streaming video recorder for players' families and friends to log in and watch games (network dependent), which will help our players feel so much closer to relatives whilst boarding away.

From my point of view, I'm really happy with how we've started and look forward to another great year.

DR



Sport - The Academies

Swimming Academy



The 2021/22 season was our first full season in three years, following on from a disrupted period of training and competitions due to Covid-19. The resilience and determination of our student athletes to get back to training and competing at the highest of levels was the catalyst for the success of the Swimming Academy in the 2021/22 season.

Our athlete-centred approach and attention to detail has enabled athletes in their time at the Swimming Academy to achieve World Senior Medals, International Junior Medals, British Age Group Records, National Medals, and many more. This year was no different, with a number of our student athletes representing Great Britain and their Home Nations internationally.

Following various qualification events, Ellesmere College Swimming Academy boasted a total of seven athletes selected to represent Great Britain on the International stage.

- James Raw – LEN Open Water Cup, Barcelona
- Fleur Lewis – European Open Water Championships, Roma & LEN Open Water Cup, Serbia
- Oscar Dodds – European Youth Olympic Festival, Slovakia
- Jake Hutchinson – European Youth Olympic Festival, Slovakia
- Isaac Dodds – Commonwealth Games, Birmingham
- Andrew Bertoli – European Junior Swimming Championships, Romania
- George Smith – European Junior Swimming Championships, Romania

LEN Open Water Cup, Serbia 2022

Fleur Lewis

Leg 4 of the LEN Open Water Cup series was in Serbia, where Ellesmerian Fleur Lewis was selected to represent Team Great Britain in what was her first senior call up, swimming in the 10km event.

The marathon swimming event not only requires physical strength but also the mental ability to remain focused for over two hours, so it is definitely not one for the faint-hearted. Fleur started the event well and worked her way through the pack as the event progressed to its finish. In the last 100 metres Fleur was in the mix for a bronze medal, but was touched out by 0.1 of a second finishing 4th in a time of 2:04:14.8.



LEN Open Water Cup, Barcelona 2022

James Raw

Leg 6 or the final leg for the LEN Open Water Cup was Barcelona, with Year 10 student athlete James Raw selected to represent Team Great Britain in his first senior call up.

Although the youngest competitor for the 10km event, James was ready to show the senior competitors he's no push over and one to watch out for. Let's not forget, this is Europe's finest that our Year 10 Ellesmerian is competing against. Although the youngest in the field, James let the field set the pace over the marathon event, showing a mature head on his shoulders, sticking on their feet, and never losing sight. Coming into the final 200 metres, a strong finish from James secured a 19th place finish in the senior field in a time of 1:54:07.2.

European Open Water Championships, Rome 2022

Fleur Lewis

Off the back of the pool event, the European Open Water Championships were held in Rome with Ellesmerian Fleur Lewis picked for her second senior call up in as many months.

Fleur competed in the 5km open water event, to then turn up the next day and compete in the 10-kilometre, a massive ask both physically and mentally.

First up, the 5km event. With this being the European Championships, the field was stacked with the best open water had, but Fleur was riding high from her 4th place finish at the LEN Cup in Serbia the previous month. The event was tough from start to finish; with no breakaway pack the athletes struggled to make headway and the event became a little scrappy. Finally, Fleur managed to make some movement towards the end of the race to finish a respectable 17th place in a time of 59:58.3.

The following day, Fleur was back in action but this time in the 10km event. The event proved to be similar from the previous day, a close and tough contest with no clear water around the Ellesmerian. Fleur managed to finish in 21st position in a time of 2:13:30.1

European Youth Olympic Festival, Slovakia 2022

There were also international debuts for Jake Hutchinson and Oscar Dodds in the 2021/22 season, who travelled with Team Great Britain to Slovakia for the 2022 European Youth Olympic Festival. Jake Hutchinson qualified fastest in the 200m Freestyle and Oscar Dodds fastest in the 200m Backstroke at the British Trials in April, meaning they earned their spots on Team Great Britain along with 14 others, to race the best in Europe in their age groups.

Oscar Dodds

Oscar's first race came on Day 3, swimming in the 200m Backstroke. A high-quality field and a strong performance in the heat meant Oscar finished in 7th place. Although finishing in a semi-final spot, the rules of this particular competition are that only one athlete per nation can progress onto the next stage of competition, with a fellow team GB member touching Oscar to the wall in the heats.

The following day, Oscar was back in action in the 4 x 100m Mixed Medley Relay. He swam the Backstroke leg of the heat swim in a time of 59.04, under his previous personal best. The team went on to finish in Bronze medal position in the final.



On the final day of competition, fresh off the back of his Bronze medal relay swim, Oscar swam in his second individual event of these championships, the 400m I.M. After a strong heat swim, touching just outside of his personal best, Oscar finished in 7th as fastest Briton and progressed onto the final later that day.

After a well-deserved break, Oscar was back for the 400m I.M. final. The competition was strong, with the talent littered across the 8 lanes. The first 200m was controlled, letting the field set the pace. Oscar worked well on the third 100 metres and, with a fast finish, touched the wall in 5th with a new personal best of 4:36.21, wrapping up a successful week in the pool and a Bronze medal for his troubles.

Jake Hutchinson

The first day of competition saw Jake compete in the 100m Backstroke event. With a busy schedule ahead, this was a great opportunity to experience the international stage for the first time. A strong swim in the heat saw Jake finish just outside the semi-finals in 18th.

Day 2 and Jake was back in the pool, this time competing in the 100m Freestyle and 4 x 100m Mixed Freestyle Relay. Starting with the individual event, Jake swam under his personal best, in a time of 52.57. Although he finished 14th, as he was the second fastest Briton he subsequently didn't progress onto the semi-finals on this occasion. His next swim was the Mixed Freestyle Relay, where his time of 52.36 ensured the team progressed onto the final later that day in 5th position.

Jake's first final came later that day, with the fastest male and female freestylers battling out in the Mixed Freestyle final. Team Great Britain fought well, with Jake splitting a 53.11 and the team finishing 7th.

Day 3 and another swim for Jake to prepare for, the 4 x 100m Men's Freestyle Relay. The team swam well, with Jake offering a 52.37 split, which secured the team a 3rd place finish and a ticket into the final later that day.

With Jake's second final of the competition, the team and Jake were ready. The Ellesmerian swam a fantastic leg in 52.31, his fastest race to date, and although the team finished in Bronze medal position they were later disqualified for an early relay takeover from another athlete within the team. They used this as motivation with the best yet to come.

The penultimate day, Jake was again back in action in the 200m Freestyle. A strong first 100m saw Jake finish just outside of his personal best and the semi-finals. This fuelled Jake for his final day in Slovakia.

The final day of the five-day event saw Jake up again to race, despite having already swum each day of the competition. This time, he swum in the 4 x 100m Men's Medley Relay. Swimming the Freestyle leg, Jake saved his best until last, splitting a 52.15 ensuring the team progressed onto the final in pole position. The team later won the event, and Jake was presented with a Gold medal.

We cannot wait to see what the future has in store for these talented student athletes and look forward to their continued success within the Swimming Academy over the coming seasons.

Commonwealth Games, Birmingham 2022

Isaac Dodds

Representing Jersey, Isaac's first senior call up was a big one: the Commonwealth games in Birmingham. Brushing shoulders in the athlete village and pool with the Commonwealth's finest was an experience the Ellesmerian was looking forward to.

Isaac competed in six individual events and two relays for Jersey over the course of the week. With a stacked programme, Isaac achieved lifetime bests in the 1500m Freestyle in a time of 16:21.80 and the 400m Individual Medley in a time of 4:29.70. In the same event, Isaac narrowly missed qualification for the 400m Individual Medley final finishing as first reserve.

Competing in the very last men's event of the pool schedule, Isaac swum the Butterfly leg of the 4 x 100m Medley Relay for Jersey. In his first senior final, Isaac and his team swum four strong legs of the race, Isaac splitting a 56.50 in the fly, with the team finishing 5th at the Commonwealth Games final in a time of 3:49.71.

European Junior Swimming Championships, Romania 2022

The European Junior Swimming Championships brings the best Europe has to offer aged 18 and below (female 17 and below).

With passports stamped back in April, both Andrew Bertoli and George Smith had been working hard in the training pool to ensure they gave themselves the best opportunity in Romania. Andrew was going into the event as a first timer, and George, having previously swum at the championships in Rome last season, was hungry for international success.

The championships were across 6 days, with both swimming throughout the competition in various events.

Andrew Bertoli

Swimming first and last day of any competition is never an easy task, but Andrew was certainly up for the challenge. Starting with his favoured 200m Butterfly on Day 1 and entering the competition in 24th place, Andrew swum a tactically outstanding race to qualify 12th going into the semi-finals later that day, a huge step up and also qualifying as fastest Briton. Following the heat swim, and although inside his entry time and again executing a well-swum race, Andrew finished just outside the finals spot, leaving the competition with a new personal best of 2:02.52.

On the final day of competition, Andrew swum in the 400m freestyle. A strong second 200m from Andrew saw an exciting finish to the heat, touching just outside of his personal best as the third fastest Briton at the competition in a time of 4:03.40.

George Smith

Having previously experienced the competition last season, George knew what lay ahead this week. Starting on Day 2 with the 200m Individual Medley and brushing off the cobwebs with a strong heat swim, George swum just under his personal best to qualify 4th into the semi-finals, and fastest Briton. Returning later that day, George swum a focused race to not only take over a second off his personal best but also to qualify for the 200m Individual Medley final.

George's second day of competition started with the 200m Breaststroke, entering the event 9th fastest, George swum a quality heat swim to qualify in pole position for the semi-finals later that day. A busy evening session meant George had to complete the 200m Individual Medley final and 200m Breaststroke semi-final.

First up, the 200m Individual Medley final, a packed field of Europe's finest medley athletes. George swum a tactically strong race, with the fastest breaststroke leg in the pool, but was touched out at the finish into 6th place. George had to remain composed as the 200m Breaststroke semi-final was 39 minutes later; he remained focused and swum himself into the final in another lifetime best.

The final day for George was the 200m Breaststroke final. Following outstanding performances in the preliminary rounds and the 200m Individual Medley, George was focused and looking in good shape for the final. Starting the race well, George let the field set the pace. Turning at the halfway mark in 5th position, George was perfectly positioned for his obligatory strong second half. George came back on the 2nd 100m in an astonishing 1:09.15, finishing the race in 3rd position in a time of 2:13.79, taking over two seconds off his original entry time.

George left the championships with two new personal best times – 2:02.93 in the Individual Medley and 2:13.79 in the Breaststroke – as well as being European Junior Bronze medallist.

Good Luck Ellesmerians

As with any season, the curtain comes down on those finishing their Upper Sixth education at Ellesmere College. This season, we say goodbye to the following Ellesmerians:

- Andrew Bertoli
- Isaac Dodds
- Isaac Hall
- Olivia Herron
- Fleur Lewis
- Lola Oke
- Alex Rosser-Barnett
- George Smith
- Mya Watt

Having been a massive part of the Swimming Academy over several years, we say a huge thank you for your support, and good luck in your new journeys. We hope to see you poolside over the coming seasons.

Since my arrival, I have been overwhelmed with the determination and enthusiasm of the student athletes at Ellesmere, and this shows in their successes during the 2021/22 season. Having a programme boast seven international athletes is a huge achievement; well done to all those student athletes that qualified and were able to compete for their country.

However, our achievements do not stop there. In addition to our international recognitions, we had countless other successes last season including County, Regional, and Home Nation Champions and medallists, as well as personal bests in abundance. A massive well done to each and every one of our student athletes for their successes during the 2021/22 season.

The Coaching Team and I want to personally wish the Ellesmerian class of 2021/22 who are moving on from the Swimming Academy, good luck in their future both in and out of the pool.

We start the new season with a vision: to be the leading independent school programme in the country. The work starts now.

GW



Sport - The Academies

Tennis



National Schools Championships.

Having beaten all our opponents in the county and regional sections of the LTA Schools National Competition (Year 7/8), our Boys team qualified for the National Finals at Bolton, placing them in the Top 4 in the UK. Our Girls team reached the regional final and will look to go one stage better next year. Boys: Tomas Parr, Adam Jacques, Thomas Jacques, Cameron Parry, and Alex Popplewell. Girls: Sofie Glinos, Skye Thomas, Emily Males.



The Senior Students teams also played well, with both the Girls and Boys teams winning their regional groups. The Boys team won the Regional Championship, beating teams from Nottingham, Leicester and Birmingham. Team: Sander Eppers, Jacob Hansen, Guy Welti, Simon Kunz.

Our players have missed out on the Aberdare Cup and Glanville Cup events over the last two years due to Covid. This year our Girls team beat Oswestry, Thomas Telford, and Moreton Hall as they progressed to the regional rounds. They were only beaten by a very strong Worcestershire side in the round before the National finals. The Boys team beat Shrewsbury and Oswestry, also reaching the regional rounds. In the final they lost to a side from Birmingham. Our teams will be keen to improve on these results next year, as nearly all our first team players are here for another year.

Individual successes.

The Academy players have had some astonishing personal results over the year, winning National, Regional, and County titles around the UK. Our students have won events in Wales, Shropshire, Cheshire, Herefordshire, and around the country in Grade 3, 4, and 5 LTA tournaments. Sixteen players have represented their counties and Jemimah Choi is to be congratulated on playing internationally for Wales. County Players, Tournament winners and Runners up include: Emily Males, Alfie Edwards, Sofie Glinos, Skye Thomas, Aditi Chezian, Owen Critchell, Jemimah Choi, Jacob Popplewell, Thomas Males, Harry Wyke, Cameron Parry, Lili Harvey Hemming, Oscar Hewitt, Alex Popplewell, Jake Hughes, Tamzin Pountney.

Five years on.

It has been five years since the opening of the Ellesmere College Indoor Tennis Centre, known to most as 'the tennis barn'. It has been a huge success both in terms of the increase in numbers playing the game and in the rise in standards at all levels. 120 students are having lessons each week (they are never rained off!) and a record number are now in training squads at development and performance level. Additionally, the indoor facility enables the College to host tournaments and competitions, with over 60 being held at the College this year. This acts as a shop window for all the other activities in the College and it would not be unreasonable to suggest that the steep rise in numbers at the College this year is at least partly to do with the exposure tennis offers to a wide audience from around the UK. Our overseas numbers in the Academy are also on the rise as our reputation grows far and wide.

Farewell and thank you

Unfortunately, we said farewell to Matt Lee this year. He moves to London to be with his partner. He has been a performance coach at the College for six years and his contribution to the Academy will be greatly missed. Matt has played to a high standard nationally and it was no surprise that he secured a coaching position at one of the country's leading performance academies at Halton. We wish him luck and feel sure that one day he will be back.

As one door closed another two opened and we are delighted to welcome Eifion Jones and Kyle Harvey, who join us from Wrexham. Eifion is a performance coach with a great track record. In fact, some of the current members of our Academy were coached by him prior to joining Ellesmere. Kyle also has a great reputation, and is known regionally as a conscientious and hard-working motivator. Both have LTA Level 4 qualifications and a wealth of experience. We hope they quickly feel part of the Elite Coaching team and enjoy their time at Ellesmere.

Thank you also to our Captain, Mey Funke, who has been a member of the Academy for three years despite originally coming to the College for one term. She saw us through the barren Covid years and we wish her good luck for all she plans for her future.

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Sport - The Academies

Shooting



I am pleased to report that, despite losing a strong cohort of leavers last year, shooting has thrived at Ellesmere despite the slow emergence from pandemic restrictions.

New talent has appeared and, whilst it must be regarded as a development year, there have been some significant successes. In the Michaelmas term, the new 1st team got off to a flier with some superb shooting and came out winners of the National Schools League. Fine performances from Anna Maughan, James Caldwell, Iona Taylor, Francine Gilmore, and Will Williamson ensured Ellesmere finished top by quite a margin.

New junior shooters performed well, and the enthusiasm shown bears well for the future. Rising stars include Archie Fearnall and Florence Sweeney, who both improved to the point of selection for school teams for the first time.

Almost all the shooting has taken place at the College, with little opportunity to travel to shoulder-to-shoulder matches; hopefully the situation will improve over the coming months. The Regional event for the British Schools Pistol Championships was again postponed and converted to a postal qualifier as per last year. The Seniors and intermediates did well, with two teams qualifying for the finals. The senior team – consisting of Ed Astbury, James Caldwell and Francine Gilmore – excelled in the finals held live, finishing on the top of the podium. A great effort.

There have again been several notable individual successes during the year. Anna Maughan, James Caldwell, Iona Taylor, and Francine Gilmore were selected to shoot for England, and Will Williamson for Wales, in the International Postal Match. Again a significant achievement and England came out winners against Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands.

Anna Maughan and Francine Gilmore have performed extremely well on the National Stage this year; Francine, with her pistol shooting, is currently rated in the top 10 Nationally at senior level and Anna won the National under 21 Championships and shot extremely well at the National Championships, winning a number of trophies.



The Schools Meeting was held for the first time in 3 years this Summer and a strong but inexperienced squad travelled from Ellesmere to Bisley in July. There was some excellent shooting, with eight of the 14 strong squad finishing well up in the prize lists during the individual competitions. The Ashburton Match itself was a challenging experience and, while not finishing in the top 10, much experience was gained and we will return much stronger in 2023. The Cadet Pair, Myles Webster and Charlotte Goss, performed extremely well in their first national competition at Bisley.

James Caldwell and Will Williamson have been shooting very well in cadets and were selected earlier this year for the GB Cadet Rifle Team. This is a fantastic achievement, and they are the very first Ellesmerians to be selected for the team. The team, known as the "Athelings", first competed in 1910 against various national cadet teams from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Subsequently, a regular exchange has taken place with Canada. Sadly, this year due to pandemic restrictions the team could not tour to Canada but instead toured the UK, competing against National Teams. In the event, Will was unable to travel but James excelled on tour, scoring a memorable 75 ex 75 at 900 yards and the team beat Wales at Bisley at the end of the tour.

Anna and Francine's success this year did not go unnoticed, and they were both selected to shoot for England in their respective disciplines at the CSF ED championships in Cardiff. This is a senior event that runs as a precursor to the Commonwealth Games and attracts competitors from all over Europe. Both Anna and Francine shot very well to finish with podium places. Of note, Old Ellesmerian Alan Bain was also selected for England and one of our coaches, Mark Parry, was selected for Wales in the prone men's event. Both qualified for the final and ran neck and neck right to the end, with Mark just shading out Alan on the very last shot of the final by a fraction of a point!



Shooting is thriving at Ellesmere, and we look forward to a full program in 2023.

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Ellesmere College Parents' Society

Ellesmere College Parents Society (ECPS) has been revitalised this Michaelmas term and it has been great to welcome lots of new members and to be able to get together again. Our grateful thanks go to Janet Kelly, our outgoing Chair, whose tenure was interrupted by the Covid pandemic.

Janet held the post from 2019 and, at first, it was 'business as usual' with meetings, events, and activities including a Quiz Night, MacMillan Coffee Morning, flower rota, and Christmas Party for Key Stage 2 pupils, followed by a Burns Night celebration in January 2020. However, as the pandemic moved the world online, meetings then became virtual and events impossible. Janet kindly agreed to extend her stewardship of ECPS for an extra year until we were finally able to get together when restrictions were lifted.

Christmas 2021 saw the first 'in-person' ECPS event - Creativity Day - take place since lockdown (albeit socially distanced), with 18 parents taking part in creating Confectionery Advent Bouquets and Christmas wreaths, all wearing masks and 2 metres apart in a well-ventilated old Sports Hall.

Finally, we were able to host the long-awaited Ladies Lunch - a popular event in the ECPS calendar - before the end of the Summer Term. This was a hugely enjoyable finale, with 172 parents and friends coming together to have lunch in the marquee on the Terraces, browse the 17 stalls, and listen to our speaker, Becky Warren from The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen. Becky was an engaging speaker who inspired us all with her experiences in Afghanistan as an army nurse and her work in setting up the Covid vaccination centre at the hospital. The event raffle raised an impressive £1,241, which was split between the Speaker's charity choice: the garden project at the RJAH's Spinal Injury Unit, and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

ECPS is now regaining its momentum, with the monthly meetings resumed, the flower rota re-established, and a number of activities already in the calendar. We look forward to welcoming all parents to join us at one (or all!) of these fun, social events.

For information about ECPS or any of our events, please email contactecps@gmail.com and ask to join the ECPS WhatsApp group or check out the school's Instagram.

Rebecca Lloyd and Claire Williamson (Co-Chairs)





Old Ellesmerians

The Ellesmerian Club

Club activities in this academic year were again somewhat curtailed by the remnants of COVID, however some traditional events could and did occur, alongside the start of new ones that will hopefully become annual fixtures including Old Ellesmerian rugby matches between leaver years and OE Girls hockey fixtures against the current College 1st XI.



Things started well with a rugby match between the 2019 and 2020 leavers organised by a father and son combination of Nick and Branden Turner. The match was held on Saturday 4th September. Approximately 40 Old Ellesmerians returned to College, and it was won by the 2019 Leavers. Final score 29 – 12. This was the first match to be played on the First XV pitch for two years due to the ravages of COVID. The game was well supported by OEs, with a total of over a hundred players and supporters. The teams were very smart, with two fantastic sets of kit designed and supplied by Akuma, which is operated and owned by the Aldersley brothers who are, of course, OEs.

On the same day, a hockey match between the College First XI and a leavers team was held on the Astro-turf pitch as part of the warm-up for the College team, drawing 3-3. Again, the match was well supported by both OEs and parents.



These sporting events are to become annual, and at the time of writing both have occurred, and a second rugby match this time between the 2021 and 2022 leavers is scheduled for December 2022. These matches are helping to draw younger members of the Club into more active participation and it is hoped this will be expanded with cricket matches in 2023.



Regrettably it was again impossible to hold the normal Remembrance Service. A more formal act of Remembrance than in 2020 was held on the 11th of November. Our Chairman Richard Thurgood laid a wreath on behalf of the Club alongside others laid by College Staff and a Guard of Honour provided by the Cadet Force. The event was videoed and published on the College website for members to watch this simple but moving ceremony.

Unfortunately there was a quiet period of Club activities in the first five or six months of the year but in June the Summer Lunch returned with a good turnout of OEs. There was also a chance to introduce the 2021 leavers to the Club and its activities as part of the overall College events that day. This lunch was the final Club event to be organised by Olivia Beckett. Liv has been a stalwart in supporting our activities over the last ten years but is moving to a new position outside of the College. At the end of the lunch a presentation was made to her and she was elected an Honorary OE.

The Club executive met regularly during the year and commenced planning of a large, exciting event to be held in 2023. This will be an OE Family Festival Day to be held on Saturday 26th August. There will be numerous sporting events, College tours, children's activities, and a variety of catering attractions. Nick Turner will be taking the lead in organising the sport whilst Richard Thurgood will be leading the logistics team. The event will also be open to parents and pupils. It is nearly twenty years since the last event of this nature which drew about 900 attendees and it would be great to beat that number. There will be a series of adverts and details of how to take part launched over the next few months but place this in your diary now – the success of this event depends on you and I look forward to meeting many OEs and their families there.

Richard Thurgood
OE Club Chairman

DofE Gold

A group of past and present students from Ellesmere College attended Buckingham Palace on Friday 20th May 2022 to receive their gold Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards.

Fifteen current and former students were among the 10,000 DofE Gold Award holders hosted over two days in the beautiful Buckingham Palace Gardens for inspirational speeches and fun activities.

The Gold Award Celebration at the Palace was hosted by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex and Forfar (Prince Edward) and many other well-known Olympians, celebrities, adventurers, and inspirational speakers were there to share their own stories regarding careers, life goals, and extreme physical endurance challenges that they have faced and overcome.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, this celebration event has been postponed a number of times, but it was great to see it finally return and an opportunity for our most recent leavers and pupils to come together and celebrate their DofE Gold success, 2-3 years after they completed the award.

The weather tried its best in parts to affect the day, but those DofE pupils have been through far worse weather on their expedition trails and didn't allow it to dampen their enthusiasm for this day of celebration.

Those collecting their awards included: Sarala Chatterjee, Verity Buglass, Charlie Munro, William Mullock, Will Davies, Tom Keay, Henriette Czech, Charlie-Ann Williams, Matthew Manton, Lavinia Mottershead, Emily Rose Coupe, Josie Evans, Dan Samarji, Philippa Bowers and James Knowles.

Ellesmere College is the largest single contributor in Shropshire to the DofE scheme as every student has the opportunity to go through it as part of their co-curricular activities - directly or via the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) - Army, Navy or RAF, to encourage the development of key life skills, leadership, team building, confidence, and independence.

Since it was launched, about six million people have taken part in the DofE scheme and nearly three million awards have been presented. The scheme was launched by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 and has grown to the point today where it is taken up by more than 10,000 institutions nationally each year, including schools, prisons, and youth clubs. It enjoys the support of more than 3,000 partner organisations and some 40,000 adult volunteers.

Jim Underhill, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Leader at Ellesmere College, commented on the awards: "This was a wonderful day for all our students who took part in the scheme and obtained the Gold Award - it was an experience to enjoy and will live with those who took part for the rest of their lives. We are immensely proud of the achievements of all our Gold Award winners. They work hard to ensure they complete their academic studies but the DofE Award adds another set of life skills to help them in their future careers." Headmaster of Ellesmere College, Brendan Wignall, said: "The scheme is an asset to the growth and development of our young people across the country. Taking part strengthens character and provides a unique perspective and insight for those involved. It is amazing to think that this scheme helps to prepare nearly half a million young people for life and work across the country every year. We value it very highly here at Ellesmere College."

Our thanks go to HRH The Earl of Wessex for hosting this spectacular event, and everyone who joined us to celebrate.



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 a 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, which 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.



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 programmes 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 three, including the best gross score at Wallasey Golf Club in 2020. I won the Lancashire Girls Millennium trophy two 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 in 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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