

# Ellesmere news



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Ellesmere College Newsletter  
Lent/Summer 2024





# In the News...

What everyone has been talking about...



Liked by you and 703 others

We were joined by a range of universities from across the country at our Sixth Form University Fair. Students were able to discuss options for their future and take away information..

#UniversityFair #SixthForm #HigherEducation



Liked by you and 432 others

Friends Adam and Harry played several exciting matches for the Wales U18s. They juggled hockey with revision for their GCSEs and A Levels, maintaining a healthy balance of sport and academics.

#ECHockey #HociCymru #WelshHockey



Liked by you and 826 others

Our Tennis Academy have competed across all age ranges, with students from various countries. Students played in several national competitions, even Wimbledon!

#TennisAcademy #TennisSuccess

View All Comments  
2 HOUR AGO · SEE TRANSLATION



Liked by you and 78 others

Students have been very successful in their shooting pursuits, winning gold medals in a variety of disciplines, at national and international levels.

#ECShooting #Competition #Success



Liked by you and 49 others

The whole school gathered on the Terraces for our school photo. It took just under an hour to arrange everyone and we managed to miss the rain!

#SchoolPictureDay #WholeSchool #IndependentSchool

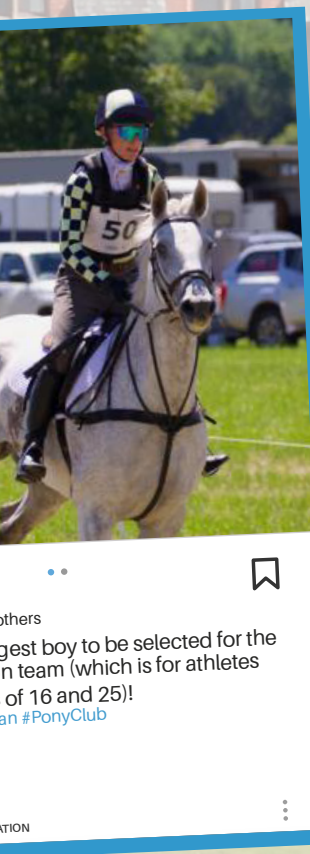


Liked by you and 519 others

Olly was the youngest rider at the 2024 UK Tetrathlon, competing between the ages of 10 and 14.

#Tetrathlon #Equestrian







# Remembering Mr Brendan Wignall

Earlier this year, we mourned the untimely death of Mr Wignall, after a battle with cancer. Mr Wignall had been at the heart of Ellesmere College for 27 years, taking on the role in 1996.

Mrs Pritt-Roberts looked back on his tenure as the Headmaster of the College, saying: "His dedication and hard work to ensure that the school has blossomed through the decades has been remarkable, particularly when considered alongside his involvement in so many local, national, and international charities and organisations."

Mr Wignall took up his role as Head at the age of 35, being the youngest Head in the Woodard group of schools. He set himself the goal of being Ellesmere's longest serving head, which he achieved, alongside the creation of a new Lower School building, expansion of boarding houses and growing sports facilities, such as a new sports hall, tennis barn, artificial grass and a roof over the swimming pool.

He is missed by many and his spirit lives on through his good deeds and the memories of all those who cared for him and he cared for.

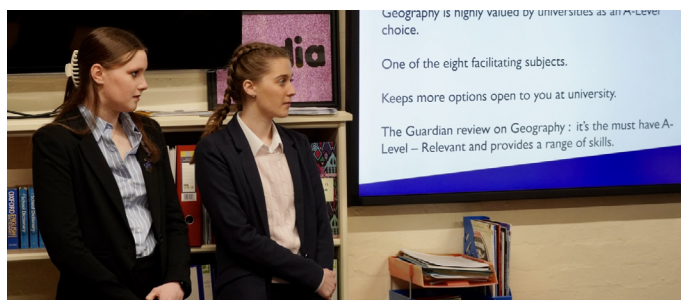


## Sixth Form Information Evening

Ellesmere College held its annual Sixth Form Information Evening, which provides the perfect opportunity for prospective students and their parents to view the facilities and talk to staff and students about everything relating to taking up a Sixth Form place at the College.

Current students acted as Subject Ambassadors and all handled themselves brilliantly, giving personalised talks and presentations to visitors and discussing their own academic and personal journeys.

The event ran very smoothly and everyone should be proud of themselves for how well they displayed the spirit of being an Ellesmerian.





# Senior School House Dinners



Talbot



Talbot



Meynell



Meynell



Wakeman - Lambart



Wakeman - Lambart



Woodard



Woodard

## Introducing the Arts School Manager: Eliza Badham-Moore

Eliza Badham-Moore joined us as our Arts Centre Manager in April 2024. Originating from Lincolnshire, Eliza has developed her skills in Technical Theatre across the UK. She's provided specialist support at festivals, concerts and theatrical productions, such as: the Latitude, Leeds and Love Supreme festivals; Peter Kay, Bring Me The Horizon and Judas Priest' recent tours; and 'Dusk: a Bite Sized Story' at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Eliza's particular specialism is in sound design but she is passionate about all things technical and is keen to lend her hand to set design, lighting, costume and stage management. We have been delighted that Eliza has been able to join the college and share her skills, as we embark on a number of exciting performances across the college site.





# Ukrainian Student, Oksana, Gains Place at Harvard

Oksana came to study the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma here at Ellesmere College, after getting a Headmasters' Conference Scholarship, which allows Central and Eastern European students to study for two years in British independent schools. She joined the school in September 2022 and received an unconditional offer from Harvard this spring.

Oksana studied six subjects for her IB: History, English Language and Literature, Geography, Maths, Biology and German. After joining the Ivy League research university in September, she intends to study International Relations, majoring in either Social Studies or Government and minoring in a language.



## Ellesmere Students Shines in the UK Mathematics Trust Challenges

Over 700,000 students take part in UK Mathematics Trust Maths challenges every year!

Year 7 and 8 pupils competed in the Junior Mathematical Challenge. This is a 25 multiple choice question challenge, completed in 1 hour, which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is the largest of these (Years 9-11) and 59 pupils from Ellesmere College took part, achieving an impressive 29 certificates!

Natt qualified to compete in the Maclaurin Olympiad, achieving a Certificate of Merit and Marco to compete in the Pink Kangaroo challenge, where he gained a Certificate of Qualification.







# Students Share Their Knowledge of High Performance Learning

Year 10 students were invited to discuss the benefits of being part of a High Performance Learning school with teachers from other schools.

The pupils spoke about their personal HPL journey, speaking eloquently about the values, attitudes and attributes (VAAs) they adopt in their learning approach and the advanced cognitive performance characteristics (ACPs) shown in the thorough nature of the work they produce.

Students identified and interpreted how HPL forms part of a holistic education via a presentation on the play Macbeth by William Shakespeare, which they were studying in English classes.

Well done to all of the students for putting their hard work and time into their presentation, which was very well received.



## Festival of the Spoken Word

The Viva Voce Spoken English Festival saw pupils from The Corbet School, in Baschurch and Lakelands Academy, in Ellesmere, join us here at Ellesmere College, as we hosted and took part in the competition. Workshops were held for Year 10 competitors from all schools, designed and led by our Year 12 International Baccalaureate students, in order to give competitors access to resources to help with planning and preparation for the festival.

The event was led by Mrs Fisher, in order to promote and celebrate the power of spoken language. The level of competition this year was of the highest standard and in each category of poetry recital, dramatic reading and presentation of an issue, the judging panel was impressed by the depth of research and quality of speech demonstrated by the performers.

This year we added the Trefanenko Cup, named after Oksana, to recognise her courage, academic flair and warm personality – awarded to the student who demonstrates outstanding ability during the competition.





# Royal Visit and CCF Records for Abi-Lou

Abi-Lou became the only person in the history of Ellesmere College to ever win three Combined Cadet Force (CCF) trophies in one year. She won The Wootton Cup for Best Cadet at Summer Camp, The Axe for Best Cadet at Easter Camp and The Blake Hartley Memorial Trophy for Best Cadet for the year.

Abi-Lou met royal family member, HRH Princess Anne, at a Save The Children event at The Lyth in Ellesmere and said meeting the head of the Veterinary Corps - the exact division she wants to become an Officer in - has given her more reason to keep going.

Abi-Lou was invited to take part as she held a Jebb Scholarship, which was established in 2019, in honour of Eglantyne Jebb and is offered to students demonstrating selfless support to the community through volunteering and fundraising.



# Tennis Rising Star - Cameron

Cameron, who is from Wrexham, was named Rising Star of the Year by Tennis Wales and was shortlisted for the National Rising Star award.

Both achievements came after months of training at the Ellesmere College Tennis Academy and Academy Director Stephen Welti said, "I am so incredibly proud of all the recent tennis success our teenagers have achieved. Cameron has done so well since he joined Ellesmere College on a tennis scholarship. He thoroughly deserves the Rising Star award and we have seen that rise first hand through his commitment to training, taking on board advice from coaches, progress in competitions to county level and also in the classroom here. He is one to watch and we will be rooting for him."







# Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Our students use many opportunities to make friends, have fun and build confidence, such as sports, their respective Combined Cadet Force (CCF) activities and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). The DofE is a youth awards programme which has been running since the 1950's and focuses on personal development and growth of independence.

Our Year 9 students have their first taste of DofE undertaking the Bronze Award and Year 10 students undertake the Silver Award. Pupils completed their expedition when it was wet and challenging but they all did amazingly well and finished the day with a self-cooked hot meal and a smile on their faces!



## Sixth Form Health Fair Morning

The wonderful team in our Sick Bay organised a morning PSHE event for the Sixth Form students. There were stalls targeting a variety of topics for both men and women, talking all things health and wellbeing.

We were joined by stall holders, including members of staff from our dedicated Sick Bay, Oswestry Pride, Cardiac Risk in the Young, CoppaFeel!, West Mercia Police, GamCare and Papyrus UK – and of course Flynn!





# Beating The Blues

The inaugural Beating the Blues Concert took place on Monday 15th January, officially the most depressing day of the year. Our Drum Teacher, Will Oram, wanted to raise money for Shropshire Mental Health Support and local youth bands were more than happy to perform.

8 bands took part performing classics like Sweet Dreams, Highway to Hell, Sunshine of Your Love and Heart of Glass to more recent hits like Believer, Radioactive and Centuries. Students ranged from Year 6 to Year 13 and included bands from Ellesmere Oswestry and Bellan House.

The quality of music-making was first rate, leaving the sell-out crowd happy and inspired – we managed to well and truly Beat the Blues.

Over £300 was raised through generous donations made by family and friends and this goes to Shropshire Mental Health Support to help provide vital local services to people across the region.

My thanks go to Ellesmere College for hosting the event and Will Oram who coaches the bands and led the event with such enthusiasm. We are incredibly lucky to have young people who are confident enough as individuals to get up on stage and able to work together to produce such fantastic performances.



## Senior School Play Mixes Science and Sociology: 'Brainstorm'

Created in collaboration with, the multimedia blueprint play 'Brainstorm' is designed to be created and performed by a company of teenagers, drawing directly on their personal experiences. This is a unique theatrical investigation into how teenagers' brains work and why they're designed by evolution to be the way they are. Students were required to perform in a hard-hitting form of direct address which is designed to make the audience think, laugh and cry all at the same time!

With its Media based set, complex lighting, sound and set design, Brainstorm was complimented by the hard work of our Technical Theatre Club. They adapted their creative needs in accordance with the cast, space and technical resources available to them, with elements of videography, projection, lighting and soundscape design to create the feeling of being within a teenage brain.

Our cast and student creative team worked hard to convey the complex emotional inner workings of the teenage brain to an audience of parents and peers over two nights, to a fascinated audience many of whom came to watch it more than once!







# Dance Club Join Showcase

Our Dance Club is for Year 5, 6 & 7 students, who meet every week to build on creative ideas and share a love of dance. Led by Miss Seagar, pupils have been introduced to a range of different styles and approaches, from ballet to hip-hop. They created a contemporary piece of dance to 'Speechless' from Aladdin and performed it alongside their musically creative Lower School peers in their Summer Showcase.



# Oswestry Music Festival Showcases Ellesmerian Musicality

The week-long Oswestry Music Festival is an uplifting competition, featuring both contemporary and classic performances of vocals and instrumentals by both soloists and ensembles.

The amazing performances from students throughout the College, from Lower School to Sixth Form, showed everyone how confident and versatile our Ellesmerians are. They gained a windfall of impressive results and made us and themselves very proud.

It was an inspiring event that really highlighted the passion students have for the arts and musicality, as well as how well they communicate with and support one another.





## Colourful Cross Country



## Golf Academy Ranks Third in UK

Ellesmere College climbed the rankings after our team finished second in the final Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) event of the season, the HG Trophy tournament.

It is just one of many competitions the Ellesmere College Golf Academy enter throughout the year and came after students topped the leaderboard in three categories at the North Shropshire Schools Golf Championship.

The competition, hosted by Ellesmere College at Hill Valley Golf Club on June 13, saw schools across the county compete to become Shropshire Champion and our students won three categories: Ethan Harrison won the Under 12 category, José Mittelbrum won the Under 14 category and Charlie Boys won the Under 18 category.

Rob Ashbrook, PGA Advanced Professional and Head Coach of the Golf Academy, said: "We have seen some very impressive performances by our pupils, both individually and as a team. This has translated into fantastic results and I have been very impressed with the commitment and attitude of each one of them. Ellesmere College is currently lying third in the national rankings, which is a fantastic position to be in."







# Swimming Academy Success

Student-athletes successfully balanced their training and academic schedule through both GCSE and A Level exam periods, before turning their attention to end of season competitions. Most notably European Junior Championships, British Summer Championships and Home Nations Championships (English, Scottish & Welsh).

19 ECSA student-athletes achieved qualification for the British Summer Championships and/or one of the Home Nations Championships. They achieved 5 medals at the British Summer Championships (1 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze) and 17 medals across the 3 Home Nations Championships (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 6 Bronze). It was a superb few weeks of racing and as always, it was great to see their hard work in the training pool pay off on race day.

Oscar was selected as part of the GB European Junior team after gaining impressive results at Olympic Trials in April. The European Junior Championships took place in Vilnius, Lithuania during early July. Oscar raced in 2 individual races; coming 20th overall in the 400 Individual Medley and battling to a well-earned 8th place in the 200 Backstroke.



# Will Takes on France

One of our Year 13 students is living 'a bit of a dream' and heading to top French rugby club Toulouse, after securing a place with the squad.

William Phillips, from St David's in Pembrokeshire, has been on an extended trial with Toulouse over the last two years, utilising his school holidays to train in France and has now secured a place with the Espoirs squad!

He joined Ellesmere College's Rugby Academy for Sixth Form and has been the Captain of the school team this year – he will leave to move to France in August. He said of the exciting news:

"I have always wanted to play at a high level, but never really thought I could take it to the point of Toulouse. It is a bit of a dream, it's pretty awesome. I can't wait to live in a different culture and the people have been great out there each time I've been, the food isn't too bad either!

I am going to just make the most of it and see how far I can take it, I will develop myself and learn from the best. I couldn't think of any better place to try and chase the dream of going pro. After this initial year, I hope to have a couple more years at Toulouse and perhaps one day play for my country but one step at a time!"

Will, who predominantly plays fly half but will try different positions while in Toulouse, found out the good news as he was studying for his BTEC in Sport and revising for upcoming exams. It is a family affair, as he has already followed in the footsteps of his Grandad, an Old Ellesmerian, who captained the first team here at Ellesmere College many years ago.





# Celebrating the Chinese New Year

It was wonderful to see so many students taking part in celebrations for the Lunar New Year in Chinese Club.

Ms. Ding brought in sweet treats and everyone got stuck in to celebrating the Year of the Dragon by crafting their very own 福 (fú) character, symbolising good luck and fortune, to adorn our school halls and bring prosperity into the new year!

Well done to all involved for their energy and enthusiasm in helping to celebrate the Chinese New Year!



# The Opening of Ellesmere Muscat

The Ellesmere College model has been replicated in the Middle East, to expand access to state-of-the-art education, as we opened Ellesmere Muscat, in the capital city of Oman.

Ellesmere Muscat will deliver a world class education based on being an International Baccalaureate World School, recognised as a premier global qualification and developed in an effort to expand and meet the demand of the already thriving UK offering.

In creating and developing these international locations, we are able to share our unique and award-winning High Performance Learning model of education but also develop our own creative approach to learning in an increasingly global world, to the benefit of students, staff and society at large.

The school will follow the 'Life:Ready' ethos that every student is, and should be treated as, an individual is a principle that drive the learning, co-curricular and pastoral programmes to enable each student to flourish, grow and be successful on both academic and personal platforms.



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# Model United Nations Conference

Year 9 students undertook a foray into the world of the Model United Nations (MUN), exploring the conference set up and how to research and relay their arguments.

Sixth Form and Middle School students chaired the day-long conference, where students were role-playing as UN delegates and engaging in negotiations, discussions and lively debates, exploring the topic of migration and freedom of movement.

Several students enjoy taking part in MUN regularly, learning the art of discussion, debate and problem solving, with the aim of creating a more cohesive and understanding world.

The opportunity to delve into global issues and explore the realm of politics allows pupils to broaden their horizons and develop a better understanding of the policies of different countries.



# Rugby Academy's South American Triumph

Thirty of our Rugby Academy players travelled to South America, for their first tour in the continent, across Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

The team spent two weeks hopping between countries, taking in the culture and practising and enhancing their skills.

They enjoyed a number of excursions, including Iguazu Falls, a tour of the Tigre Delta and a Gaucho experience and left unbeaten by their international rivals in the friendly games they played.





# Celebrating 140 Years of Ellesmere College

This year marked an extraordinary milestone as Ellesmere celebrated 140 years of excellence, tradition, and growth. The run-up was filled with memorable moments, beginning with the Lower School students forming the number "140" on the school grounds. Their vibrant energy and enthusiasm set the tone for the celebrations, creating a striking visual that symbolised unity and the school's rich history. This beautiful display reflected the collective spirit of our community, honouring the generations of students and staff who have contributed to our legacy.

The celebration continued with a special Chapel service, a time for reflection and gratitude, where students, faculty, and families gathered to honour the school's enduring values. This heartfelt service highlighted the deep sense of purpose and connection that defines our community. Following the service, everyone enjoyed the OE lunch, fostering a spirit of togetherness and joy amongst our community. It was a day filled with pride and inspiration, reminding us of the journey that brought us here and the bright future that lies ahead.





# City Drinks

The annual City Drinks event at the Antelope Pub in London has become a cherished tradition, bringing together alumni from across generations in a warm and inviting setting. This informal gathering offers a wonderful opportunity for new and seasoned alumni alike to reconnect with the school community, share fond memories, and forge new friendships. The historic charm of the Antelope Pub provides the perfect backdrop for an evening of storytelling and camaraderie, where laughter and nostalgia flow as freely as the drinks.

More than just a social occasion, the City Drinks event serves as a dynamic networking platform, allowing alumni to exchange ideas, build professional connections, and strengthen their ties to the school. The event embodies the vibrant spirit of our alumni club, showcasing its ability to unite diverse individuals through shared experiences and a common bond. Whether reminiscing about school days or discussing future endeavours, attendees leave with a renewed sense of connection and pride in being part of such a remarkable community.





# Gold Duke of Edinburgh Recognition

A group of exceptional students from Ellesmere had the distinct honour of visiting Buckingham Palace this summer to celebrate the completion of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. This prestigious accomplishment is a testament to their perseverance, resilience, and dedication to personal growth. The DofE Award challenges participants to step out of their comfort zones, develop new skills, and undertake adventurous journeys that test both their physical and mental endurance. Their visit to Buckingham Palace not only recognised their hard work but also celebrated their commitment to achieving this outstanding milestone.

Throughout their DofE journey, the students demonstrated incredible determination as they tackled various challenges, from navigating demanding expeditions in unfamiliar terrain to dedicating time to voluntary service and mastering new skills. Each aspect of the program pushed them to hone their leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities. Whether learning first aid, teaching younger peers, or conquering challenging hikes, they grew in confidence and capability, gaining invaluable experiences that will benefit them for life.

Completing the Gold Award represents the pinnacle of the DofE journey, requiring sustained effort and a strong sense of self-motivation. It is a highly respected achievement, recognised not only for its rigour but also for the character it builds in young people. Their visit to Buckingham Palace served as a fitting celebration of their success, offering a moment of pride and reflection for their families, teachers, and themselves. These students embody the values of determination, courage, and service, inspiring others in our community to strive for excellence. All of our community celebrate their achievements!





# From Ellesmere to Luxury Fashion: Mariagiulia's Inspiring Journey

It is always great to hear about what our students go on to do and especially great, when they give up their time to speak with our current students about their own journey. It was a delight to welcome back Mariagiulia, who joined us direct from Italy to share her story.

Since graduating from Ellesmere, Mariagiulia has embarked on a remarkable journey filled with challenges, growth, and achievements in the fashion and luxury sectors. Starting with a move to London to study at one of Europe's top fashion schools, Mariagiulia pursued her dream with determination, earning a First Class Honours. She then furthered her education at the University of California, San Diego, completing a master's in Marketing Leadership and Management. These experiences cemented her passion for marketing and PR, leading to an impressive career path that has taken her to global fashion capitals and prestigious roles, including working at London Fashion Week and Milan Fashion Week 2023. Her dedication to excellence and love for the fast-paced industry led to her current position as a PR Officer for BVLGARI's accessories category in Rome, fulfilling her dream of working in luxury fashion.

Reflecting on her journey, Mariagiulia credits Ellesmere with laying the foundation for her success. Transitioning from a traditional Italian upbringing to life as a full boarder at Ellesmere gave her the independence and resilience needed for her future challenges. From learning English to taking on leadership roles such as Vice Captain of Oswald's House, her time at Ellesmere was filled with unforgettable memories, friendships, and life lessons. She remains connected to the Ellesmere community and encourages current students to embrace challenges and follow their passions, knowing that hard work and persistence will pave the way to success.



If any other alumni wish to share their career journey to date, please get in touch with external.  
[relations@ellesmere.com](mailto:relations@ellesmere.com) and we can look to arrange a captive audience.





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