



LIFE:READY
Academic | Sports | Arts | Leadership | Global

The Ellesmerian 2024
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LIFE:READY

Academic | Sports | Arts | Leadership | Global

What defines a successful school? Is it the academic results that students have achieved when they leave? Is it the sporting cups, House Points or Colours that they accrue? It is indeed all of these but also a lot more besides. What defines and differentiates Ellesmere College is the success of our students at all levels and how we prepare them for life after College – to be truly 'Life:Ready'.

Our ethos – that every student is, and should be treated as an individual – runs through everything we do and is the focus of our Five Key Principles that work in synergy and which we base our educational philosophy on in the areas of:

Academic | Sport | The Arts | Leadership | Global

These principles drive our learning, co-curricular and pastoral programmes to enable each student to flourish, grow and be successful on both their academic and personal platforms as they take their journey through the College, and beyond. We challenge them at all levels to be the best they can be, successfully developing the individual, supporting their skills development for life and allowing them to learn through the broad range of opportunities we offer.

We are Ellesmere: We are Life:Ready.



Academic

- Student Centred Learning
- A Level, BTEC & International Baccalaureate (IB)
- WAoS Flexible Study Programmes
- Support for Learning (SfL) Provision
- National & International University Destinations



Sport

- World Academy of Sport (WAoS)
- Athlete Friendly Education Centre (AFEC)
- World Class Facilities
- 7 Sporting Academies
- Professional Pathways to Success



The Arts

- Artsmark Platinum Award
- International Choir Success
- Community Theatre Provision
- 5 Choirs and Community Sinfonia
- Conservatoire and University Destinations



Leadership

- Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF) & Expeditions
- Institute of Leadership & Management
- Enrichment Programme – EPQ, ESB
- Careers Partnership Programme



Global

- Model United Nations (MUN)
- Monduli Green Charity – Tanzania
- SAT USA University Preparation
- International Baccalaureate Qualification
- University Destinations Worldwide

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Captains of School

Head Boy: A Phillips
Head Girl: O Trefanenko

College Prefects

L Bacewicz
E A F Curzon
MM Eskandari
GR Gallagher
A G Harrower
J J R Lewers
N Pashova
B L Schumann
E M Tulloch
Z G Brookshaw
C Davies
K L Evans
F Gilmore
W A S Keay
I A Ogunlaja
W G Phillips
H Sun
M W I Yorke

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The Headmaster's Speech

Speech Day 2024



Headmaster Mrs Vicky Pritt-Roberts

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the Captains of School puts me at a distinct disadvantage. As anticipated, thoughtful, incisive, and wise words from both, they have left me with a tough act to follow. As an educationalist it will come as no surprise to you that I have complete faith in our young people and their ability to shape a better world and so I am, unashamedly, optimistic for the future.

However, this speech must first look back and, to quote the words of the late Queen Elizabeth II, 2024, has been our annus horribilis. The weather appears to agree.

We have lost beloved members of our community. In January the sad loss of Mr Brendan Wignall, Headmaster. To echo the words of our Custos, the lovely portrait does exude his warmth and joy of life that we knew so well. It is lovely to see Mrs Wignall with us today, and although she will be leaving us in the coming months, it is good to know that she is not going too far as she relocates into Ellesmere town, where she has played a pivotal role in many projects through her charity work and as Town Mayor. Our links with her projects will continue.

Mr Kevin Whitley, Music Teacher and Organist, was a much-loved teacher with great skill and compassion, he loved his work and that was clear to see. Mr Jon Mathias was School Custos from 2013 to 2017, a man with a passion for life and a great sense of

humour. And the tragic accident where we lost Dafydd Craven-Jones, an upper Sixth Form student who had just completed his BTEC sports course. A talented rugby player who only this Easter had enjoyed going on the very successful Rugby tour to Argentina. Dafydd showcased his talents throughout the tour and was a gentleman off the field too in that he spent time socialising with the opposition which is the real purpose of these tours.

All were valued members of our community who contributed uniquely to the rich tapestry that is Ellesmere College; philosophically, educationally, through governance, leadership, music, sport and above all friendship. So much was given by each, and each did so with a sense of joy, fun, and camaraderie.

Our hearts go out to their families who grapple with their loss. I hope that in some small way our fond memories of their loved ones provide comfort to family and friends. The shock of these losses and the inevitable sadness that has followed has been a difficult period in the College history.

Through these difficult times I have observed, and been most impressed, with how the community has come together to support each other. The kindness that has been shown, the offers of help practically and emotionally between pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community have been a great source of comfort to us all. The resilience that has been shown by so many people on so many occasions in these past few months has left a lasting impression on me.

As I reflect on the College reaching its 140th anniversary, my thoughts have turned to the many, many footsteps that have walked through these corridors, sat in this hall, and for over a century experienced the highs and lows that life



Dafydd Craven-Jones



Viva Voce festival

brings; the tragedies, the challenges, the achievements and the disappointments, the fun and enjoyment that makes this school, this community a very special place.

Special can be an overused word however the unique characteristics of this school, this community, is what makes it special. The recurring theme, over the years, is that camaraderie I mentioned, when times are proving difficult, I see an increase in kindness towards each other; a desire to help, and I see resilience in so many, of all ages.

The thought of resilience is an interesting one and as I look at the history of Ellesmere it is a theme of resilience that jumps out at me repeatedly. It is no coincidence that when we decided to embrace the philosophy of High-Performance Learning, one of the first things we identified were the themes, such as hard-working, meta-cognition, and resilience, that chimed so effectively with what Ellesmere is about. The journey to embrace becoming an HPL school began with a trip down to Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire.

I invited Mr Bottom and Mr Coupe to accompany me to the induction training session which ran over two days. They bravely took up the offer and off we went. We learnt a lot more about the HPL programme and enjoyed listening to interesting lectures by Professor Deborah Eyre, we participated in workshops with other schools and learnt from each other about ways to apply the thinking to our context. We were greatly enthused by what we heard and could see very much that it fitted beautifully with the Ellesmere philosophy.

If any of you know Great Missenden you will recall that it is a very small, pretty town in Buckinghamshire. In the evening, we had a few hours to be able to go for a walk before all attending the training met again for dinner. The three of us strolled into the town and came across the Roald Dahl Museum. The author's family home being on the edge of the town, and a small museum dedicated to him had been set up on the main high street.

A gentleman, who was the curator of the museum, was just locking up. We stopped to talk to him, in the hope we might persuade him to delay so we could have a look. As we were chatting, he noticed that Mr Bottom was wearing an Ellesmere

College tracksuit top. He immediately commented on the Crest and said, 'Are you from Ellesmere College?'. Rather taken aback we said 'Yes.' He smiled broadly as the memories flooded back and he proudly told us that as a young man, he had been one of the extras in the 1978 film 'Absolution' starring Richard Burton, which included the first screen appearance of Billy Connolly. Most of the filming was completed at the College. It is not a film I can recommend to you, other than the opportunity to recognise locations.

The reason that I share this story is to illustrate how the Ellesmere network reaches far and wide. It never fails to surprise me how frequently the College connections pop up when you least expect it and you often bump into it in the most unexpected situations. It has a permanency about it that is a comforting thought - but I digress so back to my thoughts about resilience.

So, what is resilience? Our chemists would tell us it is the ability of a substance to spring back into shape, its elasticity, like a rubber band that we stretch and stretch, so it gets longer and longer and thinner and thinner but upon release it will bounce back into its initial length and thickness. In performing this marvellous feat, it demonstrates a capacity to absorb energy when impacted upon and when released it unloads. But what is it for us humans? Can we stretch and stretch and bounce back?



Students won special award on Annual MUN conference

Well, yes, better than we think we can. It is hard and sometimes the bounce takes longer than we would like but we can, and we do. Resilience is a sign of a strong community, and with that around us, we can bounce back much more easily. It takes time and when we humans bounce back, we are changed, even the elastic band might not fully recover to where it was after it is stretched and stretched – there are limits and we humans are the same. Experience does change us, and so it should. We learn from it, we build empathy on it, and the change we see in ourselves and others is the realisation of what is important in life. We must, of course, give our best, work hard, and try to achieve our goals - but the most important thing that

we can do, and we must do, is look after each other. I have seen so much of that in these past months, across the age ranges – this community has demonstrated great fortitude.

Resilience is an admirable quality, and it forces us to be stoic, to remember the good times, and to savour them more when they come again. We have been saddened and we have been uplifted by kindness, good wishes, support, and the indomitable spirit that we share.

The school year has rolled on and there has been much to celebrate when we look to the endeavours of our pupils and our staff.



Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace

At the heart of the range of our provision is our commitment to 'Life Ready' and one important platform for that is our Spoken English programme which has gone from strength to strength. All students take English Speaking Board qualifications as they move through the years and most OEs look back in fondness on what was, at the time, a nerve-racking test of their hard work and confidence. Year 6, 8 and 10 took their English-Speaking Board examinations and have performed very well with some wonderfully creative and compelling presentations, literary readings and dramatic performances.

Our Lower Sixth have just taken their English-Speaking Board Grade 8 examinations and, as ever, our IB, BTEC and A Level students have the chance to discuss newspaper articles, deliver a talk on their chosen area of interest and recommend a literary work. They excelled at a record 70% achieving a distinction, which is the equivalent UCAS points of half of an A* at A Level. Almost 90% of students achieved a merit or merit plus equivalent to half an A grade, an impressive performance.

Now in its second year, the new Viva Voice programme saw pupils from local maintained schools come to the College to join some of our Year 10 pupils for a series of Spoken English workshops which were led by the Lower Sixth IB students. Then

two weeks later it was the Viva Voice festival where competitions were held in verse recital, presenting and dramatic reading. The standard was incredibly high, and we are most grateful to Mrs Anne Wignall and her daughter Catherine for giving their time to attend and judge the quality to determine overall winners, no easy task. This event celebrates academic agility, confidence and excellence, a programme that will no doubt grow in future years.

Our commitment to the Model United Nations programme continues with groups going out to other schools for competitions and of course, holding a full Year 9 programme here at school. The first conference of this academic year was at the Queen's School in Chester with the theme of progress. We had three delegations and two of our Sixth Form students were invited to Chair sessions. Our second conference was at Stonyhurst School with a theme of sustainable development. Again, we sent three delegations and again, some of our Sixth Form students were invited to run sessions. We had an increasing number of participants with a good number of Year 9 and 10 students attending their first conference. To conclude the season, we were invited to a mini MUN at Concorde College, just at the beginning of this term. This is a smaller event and therefore we sent two delegations. It was also the first event for the new Sixth Form team to organise as the Lower Sixth took over the reins from the Upper Sixth who bowed out to commence their final examinations.

Participation in the Model United Nations (MUN) gives real-life skill development such as critical thinking, public speaking, debating skills and lobbying. Planning is already underway for the conferences that our team will be attending next year, with the first school conference being in early October at Cheadle Hulme School.



Ellesmere Shooting team on target to win national team title

To enthuse a new generation coming through of MUN participation, an in-house conference was organised by Mr Crawford for the whole of Year 9 with assistance from the Sixth Form Committee. This was based on the theme of migration and by all in Year 9 having this experience we are confident a number will have been enthused to step forward to join the team for the next academic year.

Turning to the Arts, students have engaged in a multitude of creative and artistic endeavours. The inaugural Voices of Woodard Weekend took place on 6th October, hosted by

Ellesmere College and led by the Senior Provost, Justin White. Bringing together 120 students and 15 staff from across 6 Woodard Schools, the aim was to immerse students in the music associated with the services of Evensong and Eucharist.

There have been numerous charity concerts that have raised significant sums for good causes throughout the year. In March Ellesmere College was delighted to be finalists in the largest national youth choir competition in the UK. Attracting entries from over 350 schools, 7 senior choirs were given the opportunity to perform on stage at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the country's best concert hall. Eventually, it came down to a single mark that divided four of the choirs in contention, underlining the high standards achieved by the choirs. The Oswestry Music festival was the same month where students excelled in vocal and instrumental categories, resulting in Ellesmere students gaining 1st place in 21 categories, and even more placed at 2nd or 3rd



Annie competed for the GB Junior International - Target Shooting Competition

Michaelmas term is always the time we enjoy the Competitive House Plays. In the Senior School, it was a trip down memory lane for staff and parents, whereas perhaps a new experience for most of our students in tackling an episode each of 'Only Fools and Horses.'

Senior students from each house cast, directed and led their house in performing their allocated episode, having spent time getting an insight into the characters, planning the construction of their set and choosing costumes. Theatre visits included The Lowry to see 'Noises Off' and Theatre Severn where our lower school travelled to watch the all-important annual pantomime.

The Lower School Competitive House Plays were festive in theme this year with all three houses competing for points based on best dance moves, character interpretation as well as costumes and use of props. This provided the opportunity to

build confidence so that a good number of pupils stepped forward to perform in the very well-received production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

We remain firmly committed to providing pupils with the option to access the Speech and Drama examinations offered by the London Academic of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Engagement in this area aids pupils in building their confidence and creativity. This year we have seen over forty students achieve an impressive set of results most of which were Distinctions and Merits.

Several students represented Ellesmere at the annual Chester Speech & Drama festival with success for pupils in both Lower and Senior school in the Solo Drama classes and the Duologue classes.

Moving outdoors, we remain the largest school provider in the county of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Collectively, all award participants in the College have contributed 3224 volunteering hours this year so far. All year 9, 10 and year 12 Duke of Edinburgh groups completed and passed a certified first aid course as part of their DofE this year- a valuable life skill.

The Bronze Award is offered to all of Year 9 as an option to do in addition to their Thursday afternoon activity programme. I am pleased to report that thirty students chose to enrol this year, and all completed their expedition in May.

The Silver Award, as the next step, is offered and eighteen participants taking up the offer this year enjoyed completing their final walking expedition in Snowdonia just a few weeks ago. The prestigious Gold Award is the greatest of challenges and once again a large number of OEs attended the Celebration Event at Buckingham Palace this year to receive their Gold Awards. The path to the gold award continues to thrive with a group of fourteen canoeists completing their five-day expedition this week.

The sporting life of the school continues to thrive with some exceptional achievements.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Buckingham Palace

In rugby we have ended the year with one of our Sixth Formers signing a professional rugby contract with Toulouse, a number being selected for Irish Exiles U18, Wales Exiles, Sales Sharks U18, Sale Sharks U16 and the Midlands Region and of course we always like to follow the progress of our Old Ellesmerians and we are pleased to report that we have OEs being selected for England U19 and England U20s.

In cricket we are pleased to report that our girls' cricket has developed very strongly and is going from strength to strength with a strong performance from the U15 girls (made up of years 7-10) which bodes well for the future ending the season in the North Schools' finals (National quarter finals) for the Sports Magazine, National Girls T20 U15 competition.



Cancer Research UK concert

With county selections, the boys' cricket has also made good progress. This season, players have been selected for Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Lancashire Thunder juniors with a number of players undertaking the County Emerging Players programme.

Ellesmere College retained its place in the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK for the seventh year running. The College was selected from a record number of entries to feature in the prestigious 2023 Cricketer Schools Guide as a result of providing the best cricketing opportunities available nationally. The guide was compiled by the world's number one cricket magazine The Cricketer. Judging was completed against a criterion of commitment to an inclusive cricket coaching programme and fixtures, performance, coaching and facilities.

At hockey, we are confidently anticipating an England selection in the near future and for the moment we have students who have been selected for Wales U18 and the Regional Talent Academy.

In swimming, we are pleased to report that seven of our student-athletes qualified for the Olympic trials in London in April 2024 and 76% of the total swimming academy have qualified to compete at the upcoming British, English, and

Welsh National Summer Championships which takes place towards the end of July. At that event, they will be competing to be recognised as the best in the country. In addition to our swimming academy athletes competing nationally this summer have been chosen to compete internationally for Great Britain at the European Junior Swimming Championships in Lithuania.

At tennis, we have had a national finalist in the LTA Rising Star category who received his award at Wimbledon and the girls' team finished in the top 8 in the UK at the LTA National Senior Students Competitions. The boys and girls U13 and U15 teams were all undefeated in the LTA National Schools Competition as they progressed through the regional rounds.

Our golf academy continues to go from strength to strength with one of our students being selected for the England U18 and another for the England Development Team.

With shooting there have been several outstanding performances and in particular, as you will see in the special awards section of the programme, very impressive national and international achievements.

It is the time of year when we say goodbye to staff as they head off on new adventures.

Ms Jessica Richards embarked on her first year with us on the two-year Early Career Teacher programme in September 2023. She has been a reliable and valuable member of the Lower School team as a year 5 class teacher. She has carefully supported and guided her class through the academic year bringing her love of drama into the classroom through her lessons. Jessica leaves us to continue progressing her career with our very best wishes.

Mrs Hayley Chesters has been a valued addition to the Business & Economics department for the past two years. Joining us in 2022 she brought with her a positive attitude that is infectious. She has great enthusiasm for teaching, and a willingness to get involved. She has been a fabulous teacher showing her ability to engage and inspire across all the year groups she has taught, from enterprise and finance activities in Yr9 to the most challenging academic aspects of the course in Yr13. She has been a tutor in St. Luke's getting actively involved in UCAS references, delivering aspects of the 6th form pastoral programme of study and guiding her tutees on a daily basis. In true business fashion, she leaves us to devote more time to her entrepreneurial endeavours. She leaves with our best wishes.

Mr Daniel Bottom joined us in 2017 as Head of English and quickly established respect from students and staff with his calm and reassuring nature, attributes that were in much demand as he gathered several responsibilities. He took on the position of Meynell Housemaster, then Head of the CCF Navy Section. Prior to the pandemic, and as I mentioned earlier, Mr Bottom engaged with the implementation of our High-Performance Learning path and this timely partnership enabled all staff to benefit from "Word of the Week" emails to inspire and enthuse.

During our online lessons his "Word of the Week" provided focus, integrating the approach to teaching across the whole school and saw pupils and certainly the staff practicing "agility", "hard work" and plenty of "meta-thinking". Mr Bottom was instrumental in the College's accreditation as a World-Class School for HPL. Upon our return to more normal teaching practice, his focus was drawn to the International Baccalaureate as he took on the role of IB Co-ordinator last September. The year has been a very positive experience for all involved with the IB under his management. He leaves us to move closer to family and will continue to grow his diverse skills. We shall miss him and wish him every success.

Mrs Colette McClelland joined us in 2013 as a teacher of English and Drama, and quickly established herself as an excellent practitioner. She took on the role as Head of Media Studies in 2023. It is fair to say that Mrs McClelland has been one of the most effective, organised, and caring members of staff many of us have known, and every lesson, activity, or event that bears her name as an organiser is guaranteed to be run efficiently, with logic and clarity. Alongside her teaching, she has been a tutor to Sixth Form girls in St Oswald's for over a decade and will be much missed by her current group. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has also benefitted from her skill set where she has worked as an assessor at all levels and was instrumental to the re-design of the course for the Year 9 students. It would be remiss of me to forget how Mrs McClelland has been crucial to Girls' Games throughout her time with us, effectively taking teams for training and fixtures. Mrs McClelland and her young family are embarking on new adventures as she joins a new school in Thailand. We wish them every success.

Mr Paul Swainson joined the College in 2006 as a teacher of Chemistry and he was a tutor in St Aidan's and then Lower School before moving to St Cuthbert's. He was co-opted into the CCF and has been heavily involved in supporting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award ever since. He is often be found in his

classroom at lunchtimes giving his time for extra lessons to any who come for help. He became Head of Chemistry in 2013 and more recently, has been running our assessment and reporting system as our Assessment Manager. His leaving gift to the Common Room is an impressive set of board games that he has made, which clearly demonstrate his creativity and wit. He has made a huge contribution to the College and his dedication, his care for others, and particularly his sense of humour will be missed by all. We wish him continued success as he joins his new school in Kuwait and know that his stories will continue and hope that he will continue to share them with us.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our governors to the College, and in particular the work of our Custos, Mr Charles Lillis. They give their time and expertise freely and it has been invaluable. I thank them for the trust they have placed in me and their decision to grant me the honour of being the first female Head of Ellesmere College. I am not sure all the men up there in the portraits behind me would approve. However, I am secure in the knowledge that one certainly would.

The pupils sitting behind me are bringing our school year to a close on a positive and optimistic note – they have given their best in their endeavours and achieved recognition for their efforts. They sit patiently, politely waiting for me to finish. May I reassure them that the end is in sight. I would like to thank the parents too, for working with us to provide the best of experiences for their children as we guide and prepare them to be 'Life Ready'.

At the start of my speech, I spoke of my complete faith in our young people to shape a better world. I have spoken of resilience, of camaraderie, of positivity. Regardless of the challenges that lay ahead, our young people have these essential qualities. I know that we are in safe hands.

SVPR



The 2023-2024 Prefect Team

Head Boy and Head Girl Speeches



Students, parents, staff and custos, it is an honour to stand here today to mark the end of the school year; and for some of us, the end of our academic career at Ellesmere. My seven-year Ellesmere journey has been full of ups and downs, and this year has been testament to this.

I would like to open my speech by paying tribute to our late headmaster, Mr Wignall. His passing this year was a great shock to all of us at Ellesmere. He had a huge impact on us all. His commitment and dedication to Ellesmere over his 27 year long tenure as Headmaster will be remembered fondly. He was highly regarded and valued by both students and teachers alike. Both Oksana and I will be forever grateful to Mr Wignall for giving us the opportunity to become Head Boy and Head Girl at the end of last year, and we have both commented on how much we learnt from Mr Wignall throughout our first term in the role.

Not only did Mr Wignall provide guidance, but he also took great interest in both our plans and our goals for the future, and as you can imagine, Liverpool Football Club was often a hot topic of conversation on Tuesday mornings.

Lent term was made more difficult following the passing of Mr Whitley, but again the community here at Ellesmere came together to support one another; especially those in the music department who knew Mr Whitley best.

The last real struggle for many of us was the tragic passing of Dafydd Craven Jones in half term. A true friend to many, including myself, Daf would do anything for his friends. He had a class sense of humour, a mate you really could trust and rely on, and someone who could always make metres on the rugby field. His tragic loss of life at such a young age came as a great shock to us all.

Being in Daf's Year 7 form, going through Middle School in St Patrick's together and boarding with him throughout Sixth Form – I know that Daf will not only be missed greatly by his friends and family, but all those who knew him throughout his time here at Ellesmere. The immense impact Daf had on so many of us in such a short space of time is impossible to measure and losing him leaves such a huge void for so many of us but we will always remember him.

I hope that there will be some small comfort for all in knowing that people who are so special will never be forgotten.

However, as mentioned earlier, this year has also been full of ups. More personally speaking, Ellesmere has not only developed me as a student but also greatly as a person throughout my time here; and this year was no exception.

Throughout Sixth Form especially, my teachers paid careful attention to me both in and outside the classroom, and this not only goes to my personal subject teachers – but also other staff within the College such as my sport coaches and house staff. A notable memory was hearing Mr Murphy's thick Welsh accent teasingly utter the words – "I think that might be a trip to A&E, All!" following a wet, cold, ear-ripping rugby fixture in Manchester. Long story short, Sir was right. An honourable mention is due to Will for his dedicated captaincy of the first fifteen this season – either that or his keen social media skills have seen rugby at Ellesmere achieving great success this year. The sport on offer at Ellesmere is exceptional – and it really is true when it's said there is something for everyone sport wise. In addition, the co-curricular activities at Ellesmere really do have something on offer for every student. I would encourage any current student to get involved, whether this be through the choir and the arts or through the likes of DofE and the CCF. I will take with me memories of getting lost in Capel Curig, canoeing down the River Wye, House singing competitions and even seeing more boys dressed as girls than girls themselves during House plays.

Ellesmere's unique ability to offer so much more than just an academic education will be one of the things I'll fondly look back and it has helped to shape me into the person I am today. St Patrick's in Middle School and St Luke's in Sixth Form are the places I will miss most when I leave Ellesmere. I will take many memories from both houses with me. Being lucky enough to board with some of my closest friends for the past few years has been very special and it is something I won't forget anytime soon although I'm sure some of my house staff won't forget some of those moments either...

Throughout my time at Ellesmere they have all really helped me develop away from the classroom and special thanks must go to Vicky, Jean, and Mr Owen in St Patrick's and Reb, Mr Baggaley and Mr Garratt throughout my time in St Luke's.

The success of this year's prefect team throughout such challenging times has been extremely rewarding for both myself and Oksana and we would both like to thank all the prefects and House captains for all of their efforts. Every one of you has shown a real dedication throughout the year and this has not gone unnoticed.

We would also like to wish next year's captains Shayna and Connor the best of luck. I am sure you will both do an amazing job and I look forward to hearing of the success of what I imagine will be Ellesmere's first South African Head Boy and Head Girl?!

In addition to the prefect team, the guidance we received from both Dr Chatterjee and Dr Gareth has been particularly helpful, especially during the more difficult periods of the year. This assistance and support is something we are incredibly grateful for. Mrs Pritt-Roberts support throughout this busy year has also been outstanding and her dedication to the school and prioritisation of the students' have meant that we have pushed forward when we could have so easily floundered. Oksana and I thank her for her support.

There are too many staff to thank who have changed me from the awkward boy in Year 7 in Mr Baurence's form into the person I am today. To the teachers who have taught me, the coaches who have given up weekends, the staff who keep the school running and most importantly every member of staff who has cared for me throughout my time at Ellesmere – a massive thank you from me.

This speech would not be complete without a special mention to those who have been my closest friends, whether this be from Year 7 or later. Although it would be difficult to single out everyone, there are many of you who have helped me in many ways throughout my time here – and in these last few months I have been especially grateful to each and every one of you. My parents and family have also been crucially important to me and I will be forever appreciative for the opportunity to come to Ellesmere and your continued support.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Oksana. You have had a vast impact on the leadership of the prefect team, and you are a true role model to many across the school through your dedication, intelligence and leadership. Managing IBs, the prefect team, and full time boarding whilst also attaining an offer from Harvard is hugely impressive. I am grateful to have been Captain of School alongside you and on a more personal note, I am leaving Ellesmere with a great friend and much improved time management skills. I wish you the best of luck not only for your time in America but also beyond this.

To finish, for those leaving, I wish you all the very best for the future – it has been an absolute pleasure to learn, mature, live and grow up with you all. I am pleased that I can call so many of you friends.

For those who still have time left here, the opportunities available at Ellesmere are very unique and set Ellesmere apart from other schools. If you take advantage of them, you really have the ability to pursue your own personal interests alongside studies. I've had an incredible time here at Ellesmere and I'd like as many of you to be able to say the same as possible.

Thank you very much for listening, all my nerves can now be focussed on England's quarter final fixture this afternoon. I hope you enjoy the rest of the day and this evening. Thanks again and have a great summer.

A Philips





Good morning, everyone! Compared to Alex, it will take a while to be counted as an Old Ellesmerian because I am more of a younger one.

It was two years ago when I received a Heads' Conference Scholarship for UK schools and chose Ellesmere as top choice. You might expect profound reasons for it, but they were quite simple: I liked the purple, the logo, and the horse in one photo on Google. No-no, there was more, but these three factors were the basis. So, on September 4th, 2022, I became an international student here.

Being an international student is challenging, especially if you've never been to the country, speak a different language, and always forget what side people drive on. But being an international student from a country at war is an entirely different story. In February 2022, I thought I would never experience the feeling of safety and internal peace again. I believed it was the end of 'normality' for me. Looking back at the newly minted, terrified sixteen-year-old me, I want to say: "Just wait a bit." Because soon, despite the surrounding horrors, she will realise that home can be in more than one place.

Because home is exactly what Ellesmere College became to me. From crawling on the golf court with CCF to quietly dancing in the late 10 pm library. From enjoying the BBQ on terraces to cooking bubble tea in St Oswald's kitchen. From hearing "I haven't done it, too," to singing Jerusalem together:

Only at Ellesmere College can your first English lesson start with Play-Doh, while the Maths class with a joke from a daily calendar:

And only here, instead of watching football teams play the World Cup, will you watch their fellow citizens jumping around the day room. You will understand what a special place Ellesmere is if you come to any house competition, watching everyone covered in paint and screaming their lungs out while cheering or even the quietest one doing their best at House Singing. Or when you witness the smiles on students' faces after our Carol Services or hear the brilliant solutions to global problems from Year 9s on the MUN conference.

Ellesmere's website says we are a community-oriented school, and that explains it all. Whether I was on the airport bus or took part in House Plays, I met so many different people. And each of them taught me something, so let me take a moment to recognise it.

First, I would like to thank a person without whom I would not be on this stage. A person who did not laugh at me jumping surprisingly, not believing that I'd be Head Girl and who taught me to instantly recognise the Liverpool Football Club hymn, and of whom I think first when I hear Taylor Swift. Mr Wignall, I know that you will be forever looking after Ellesmere College from wherever you are, and I know that people here will do everything to continue your legacy. You set a high standard for Ellesmere College, and I am very grateful I had a chance to learn from you.

Mrs Pritt-Roberts, your boundless energy and ability to see the bigger picture have always amazed me. Though your efforts often go unseen, they are essential to our success, especially this year:

Dr Chatterjee, I've been fortunate to know you in three roles: Deputy Head tackling every problem, Biology Teacher holding back laughter at our failing experiments, and teller of unbelievable life stories during our Thursday meetings. Thank you for each of these roles.

Dr Gareh. Although I failed to learn how to serve in volleyball from you, I did learn from your dedication to Sixth Form, which made me want to contribute more. You once said that your favourite part of working here is the people. For me, you were one of my favourite parts of being in Sixth Form. Dr Chatterjee and Dr Gareh were the backbone of our Prefects' and Captains Team. This team deserves a round of applause for their job this year, which was difficult for the school. So thank you for all your help, whether it was during Chapel Services, where Father Philip deserves a big thank you for his patience and humour; or with regular duties.

Another category that deserves eternal recognition is teachers. You do one of the hardest jobs, and you do it exemplarily. I was blessed with one of the best teachers I could imagine. Thank you for explaining the same stuff a thousand times, for all our dialogues in the corridors, and for all your replies to our late panicking emails. I wish I had a chance to know each of you more as a person. Because you might not realise it, but you give students SO much more than just syllabus material. You shape who we are. And I promise: we will make you proud.

As well as the Middle School and Sixth-Form boarding House staff, who support us daily. Mrs Welti, Mr and Mrs Underhill, Angela, and

Miss Killen— thank you for all advice, sweets, and late-night talks. St Oswald's would be incomplete without you.

I also want to recognize the support staff, whose behind-the-scenes efforts ensure everything runs smoothly. To all the ground, maintenance, Sick Bay, kitchen, administrative, cleaning, librarians, and IT teams, we deeply appreciate everything you do to keep Ellesmere College the place we all love.

Additionally, I want to express my gratitude to all our tutors who patiently dealt with barely awakened us in the mornings and took on all teachers' complaints. Mrs Reynolds, you have been one of my biggest supporters. I cannot comprehend that now I will live without our morning playlists, duty photos, and your homemade cakes. You are the best tutor one could ask for.

Talking about supporters... Alex, although our only interaction in Year 12 was a brutal snowball fight, I cannot imagine my Year 13 without you. Yes, maybe I struggled a bit with sharing your passion for sports - trust me, I've never heard so much about rugby before - and even managed to misspell your name after working together for six months, but you became a very good friend of mine. Thank you for dealing with Middle Schoolers at moments when I was genuinely rethinking my morals and for translating to me from a British accent. I am so glad that this year's students got such a role model while I got a good friend.

By the way, about friends. They probably decided I forgot about them, but it would be quite hard considering that they surround me. Guys, you became my definition of friendship and proof that soulmates are platonic. I thought controlling my laughter from your jokes in class was the most challenging thing to do, but controlling my tears now is way worse. The best corner of my memory is reserved for moments with you. Lying on the grass, running from Ellesmere ducks, teasing each other in the corridors, watching you getting addicted to Hay Day... I got so used to sharing everything with you that I can hardly imagine not seeing you every day for the rest of my life.

I refuse not to thank my IB class separately. You are genuinely the best classmates. Despite all the TOK arguments, tons of missed deadlines, failed experiments, unfinished English books, and leaked papers, these two years with you were fun. And yes, we have only one full group photo, but I hope there are more to come. You do feel like family. I mean, we even argue like family. I will miss you enormously.

But also about family. Mom and Dad, I wish we could take a graduation picture to put next to the one with a six-year-old me on the first day of school. You are the very main reason I am who I am, and I love you endlessly. I do not know what I did to deserve parents like you, but I will thank the universe forever for it. This being said, everyone here - please hug your parents tighter for me.

Here we come to the main part. Yes, students, talking about you. You are the driving force of Ellesmere. You are why this school exists and why it is the way it is. And I want to thank you for this, too.

Thank you, Lower School students, for being the most organized and nice people I've seen in my life, especially during The Whole School Photo. You have so much ahead of you that you cannot even imagine. But I know you'll do great. You are our future, and I truly believe you will be better than we are.

Thank you, Middle School students, for teaching me resistance and patience, especially in the dining hall queue. Joking. Rock, paper, scissors with you never failed to make me laugh. I didn't know many of you close, but the ones I did, impacted my life hugely, and will stay in it. Your energy and potential are absolutely incredible, and I cannot wait to see where they will take you.

So, Sixth Form. Year 12, you will enter your final year here in just two months. Yes, it will be crazy, quick, and stressful, but it will also be A LOT of fun. Decide what exactly you, not your parents or your friends want and chase it. Honestly. I had a chance to meet you, and I can assure you that you will succeed. And if any help is needed - other Year 13s and I are always there.

Year 13, Well, guys, we made it. It is it. Everyone says that school goes by fast, but you never really get it until your last day. I know you cannot wait to celebrate, but I feel I must say some wise words, at least because Alex told you I would.

We are all excited about the future. Mostly, but I do not want us to lose sight of reality. We are very privileged to enjoy our teenage years carelessly in a place like Ellesmere. But it does not mean that everyone is like us. Wars still range. Children still die. Many people suffer from all different things, starting with natural and finishing with human-made disasters. Thus, yes, the real world is a scary place. And soon, this world will be our responsibility.

So, remember; after today, you are no longer students. You are now full citizens of the real world. And if you want this world to become slightly better than it was before, you need to take responsibility for becoming a person worthy of this world. And yes, one person can make a difference. You can make a difference. I know the world is filled with obstacles, but knowing how good we were making our way around here at Ellesmere College, I know you will find a way to overcome these obstacles, too.

But meanwhile, enjoy your last moments at Ellesmere and try to remember every detail. Because there is a universal truth that we have to face: everything eventually ends. Today is one of these ends for some of us. They say: "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened." Yes, it is hard that what was our everyday reality will be just a memory now. And although we all knew that this day would come, it still hit suddenly. But how lucky we are that we have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

Thank you, Ellesmere, it was a pleasure.

O Trefanenko

Prize Winners for 2024

Special Prizes

Oliver Covill	The Evans Cup for ICT (Donated by Mr Nicolson in 2006, grandfather of OE's Rachel and Daniel Evans)
Chris Astbury	The Richardson Cup for Services to Drama (Donated by Richardson family 2013)
Alix Nicholas	Excellence in Media Production
Marco Wong	GCSE Media Production
Melanie Scarlett	Drama, Services to Choir The Old Ellesmerian President's Cup (OE spirit contribution to School)
Sophia Janahi	The Marilyn Amako Cup for Vocal Excellence (Donated by family of Marilyn Amako teacher for EAL and Japanese at Ellesmere 2001 to 2010).
India Freer-Carmichael	The Hollway Technology Award
Olivia Philbin	Marsh Cup for Musician of the Year
Sean Harris	Instrumental Music
George Gratton	Baulcott Organ Prize
Millie Harrower	The Sandra Lloyd Cup for Chemistry (In memory of Lab Technician 2011)
Kyara Heward	Garnett Prize for Creative Music
Emily Pritchard	Lovel Prize for English Literature
Lukasz Bacewicz	Mark Willis Science Prize Awarded to the highest average mark across two sciences at advanced level. The Woodard Midland Division Talbot Prize for Mathematics
Oksana Trefanenko	Jebson Shield for History, Gledhill O.E. Prize for Leadership, Initiative and Excellence, International Baccalaureate Prize
Emily Curzon	Keith Smith Historical Essay
Marisa Brasch and Liv Dettmar	The Ollier Prize for MFL (Donated by Maureen Ollier retired teacher 2009)
Cameron Davies	Colin Russell Prize for Endeavour in Biology
Mohammad Eskandari	Physics Endeavour Prize
Daniel Scott	James Merrick Cup for Academic Achievement BTEC Diploma Sport: Academic Commitment
Mohammad Eskandari	Contribution to the International Life of the College
Ivana Ogunlaja and Teddy Sun	The Woodard Board Prize (Donated by Woodard Corporation and awarded for notable contribution to the Christian Ethos of the college)
Adam Thwaite	The Claire Griffith Cup for Charity & Philanthropy (Awarded to a senior student who raises funds and awareness for a charity during their school years, with dedication and passion to their cause.)
Sofia Avramidi	The Endeavour and Achievement Award
Zara Brookshaw	Sportswoman of the Year
Morgan Yorke	Sportsman of the Year
Francine Gilmore	Excellence in a single Sport: Sportsperson of the Year
Alexander Phillips	Headteacher's Prize: Head Boy
Oksana Trefanenko	Headteacher's Prize: Head Girl

The Common Room

President's Report



I took over the Presidency of the Common Room in early January 2024. Even considering the pandemic of the summer of 2020, I can honestly say that the Lent and Summer terms of 2024 were the most eventful and consequential of my eleven years at the College.

To begin with, in late January, we celebrated John Cowley's 70th birthday. This was a wonderful opportunity to come together as friends and mark a milestone in what continues to be an incredible career; inspiring young mathematicians and teachers of all subjects alike—a wonderful way to begin my Presidency.

This event was closely followed by the sad passing of Brendan Wignall. The outpouring of affection from the whole Common Room, as well as the wider school community, is clear testimony to the high regard in which Brendan was held. The funeral took place in the school chapel and was a fitting ceremony to mark the passing of our beloved Headmaster. His consistent message of kindness is well documented and will be the legacy he leaves behind for many years to come.

Kevin Whitley played the organ at Brendan's funeral. Kevin had often played for the school at many services but never so beautifully and courageously as he did on that day. He lost his own struggle with cancer just a few weeks later. His warmth and sense of humour will be cherished by many for years to come. As I write, I have goosebumps as I remember the beautiful sound of the Rhos Male Voice Choir's rendition of "Oh Guide Me, Great Redeemer" at Kevin's funeral. For me, this was a testament to how Kevin had touched so many lives in his all-too-short life.

The loss of two members of the Common Room in such a short space of time was difficult for many to process, and I wish I could say that this was the end of the sadness. However, there was one more tragic event before the end of the academic year that would devastate pupils and staff alike. This was the loss of a well-known and well-loved pupil. Dafydd Craven-Jones had attended Ellesmere College since Year 7, and it was in the Summer term of Year 13 that his life was tragically cut short by a road traffic accident, leaving many in shock for long afterward. Dafydd was a very popular member of the College community. A true Ellesmerian through and through, he had represented his competitive House and the school on many occasions, and he was always proud to do so.

At the end of the year, we also said goodbye to four of our colleagues who decided to further their careers elsewhere. Mr Paul Swainson, a Chemistry teacher held in the highest regard by his pupils, has decided to deploy his talents in Kuwait. Mrs Colette McClelland, another highly successful teacher of Media, has also decided to spread her wings and move abroad, this time to teach in Bangkok. Mr Daniel Bottom has gone one step further, opting for both a change of career and scenery as he moves to be closer to his parents in Cumbria. Finally, Mrs Hayley Chesters has chosen to travel even further afield, looking for new opportunities in the field of international golf. All four made invaluable contributions to the life of the school, and we wish them every success for the future.

Towards the end of the summer term, there was still time for some annual sporting events to take place. The Ravens XI played a Prefects XI at football, with the staff coming out on top as 3–2 winners. Goals were scored by James Dilks, Jon Morgan, and the winner by Matt Horton. This was a delightful match, played in a truly good spirit. On the last Friday of term, the Reffell Open was well attended by staff, pupils, and OEs alike in the tennis barn. This year, James Dilks and Aditi Chezian were the eventual winners, defeating Sharon Owen and Bennet Schumann in a gripping final match.

Some of the events above may have caused considerable disruption to the usual rhythm of school life in recent months. I am grateful to our current Headmaster for guiding us through such an emotional time, as she has been the steady hand on the tiller throughout. In addition, plenty of things remain the same; Ellesmere continues to be a wonderful place to both work and learn. Our recent history only serves as a reminder of all the blessings we have to be thankful for. Now, the Common Room looks ahead to the future with buoyancy and hope as Ellesmere moves forward once again.

James Dilks
Common Room President



Jessica Richard

Ms Jessica Richards joined us in September 2023, embarking on the two-year Early Career Teacher programme. She has been a reliable and valuable member of the Lower School team as a Year 5 class teacher, integrating her love of drama into the classroom through her lessons. Jessica leaves us to continue progressing her career, with our very best wishes.



Hayley Chesters

Mrs Hayley Chesters has been a valued addition to the Business & Economics department for the past two years. Joining us in 2022, she brought with her an infectious positive attitude, great enthusiasm for teaching, and a willingness to get involved. She has shown her ability to engage and inspire students across all year groups, from Year 9 enterprise and finance activities to the most challenging aspects of the Year 13 course. As a tutor in St Luke's, she actively participated in UCAS references, delivered elements of the 6th form pastoral programme, and guided her tutees daily. In true business fashion, she leaves us to dedicate more time to her entrepreneurial endeavours. We wish her all the best.



Paul Swainson

Mr Paul Swainson joined the College in 2006 as a Chemistry teacher, later becoming Head of Chemistry and, most recently, our Assessment Manager. Known for his creativity and humour, Mr Swainson has been an invaluable member of the staff. He leaves us to join a new school in Kuwait. His dedication, care, and humour will be missed, and we wish him every success.



Daniel Bottom

Mr Daniel Bottom joined us in 2017 as Head of English, quickly earning the respect of students and staff with his calm and reassuring nature. He became Meynell Housemaster and Head of the CCF Navy Section. Before the pandemic, Mr Bottom championed our High-Performance Learning (HPL) path, creating "Word of the Week" emails to inspire and unify staff and students in the HPL approach. During online learning, his words provided focus, helping to build qualities like "agility," "hard work," and "meta-thinking." Mr Bottom was instrumental in the College's accreditation as a World-Class School for HPL. Upon returning to normal teaching, he took on the role of IB Co-ordinator last September, creating a positive experience for the IB programme. He leaves us to be closer to family and to continue developing his diverse skills. He will be missed, and we wish him every success.



Colette McClelland

Mrs Colette McClelland joined us in 2013 as a teacher of English and Drama, establishing herself as an excellent practitioner. In 2023, she became Head of Media Studies. Mrs McClelland has been known for her effectiveness, organisation, and care, ensuring that every lesson or event she organises runs with clarity. As a Sixth Form tutor in St Oswald's for over a decade, she will be much missed by her current group. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has also benefitted from her skills, as she has served as an assessor at all levels and redesigned the course for Year 9. She has also contributed significantly to Girls' Games, leading teams in training and fixtures. Mrs McClelland and her family are embarking on new adventures as she joins a school in Thailand. We wish them every success.

Brendan Wignall

The untimely death of Brendan Wignall, Headmaster of Ellesmere College, came as a profound shock to staff, parents, pupils and old Ellesmerians, many of whom have not known any other Headmaster; such was the longevity of his tenure over 27 years and entering his 28th.

Brendan took up his role as Headmaster at the age of 35, turning 36 a few weeks later and would modestly speak with pride at being the youngest Woodard Head. He then went on to set himself the goal of being Ellesmere's longest serving Head, which he achieved. He often described himself as the luckiest person to have a job he loved. It showed.

Brendan dedicated himself to Ellesmere and its students. He adapted to changing times, with a fortitude that is so much at the heart of being an Ellesmerian. During his tenure, a new Lower School building was erected, boarding houses expanded and the International Baccalaureate introduced. The development of a range of sports academies and sports facilities grew: a new sports hall, tennis barn, Astro turf and a roof over the swimming pool. Brendan was committed to sport and an enthusiastic follower of Liverpool Football Club.



The College also secured the Arts Council Platinum Arts Award. As a champion of the creative arts, Brendan changed the landscape around the school by adding sculptures and artwork for all to see. He developed a great enthusiasm for the beauty of stained glass, taking pleasure each day from an installation fitted along the Cloisters.

This installation was solely funded by leavers' gifts and energetically directed by Brendan. His interest in stained glass work grew and he went on to develop his own skills to tremendous effect.

Brendan reached out to spread the Ellesmere message further, fulfilling a long-held ambition to see an Ellesmere School overseas, when Ellesmere Muscat in Oman was opened in January 2024 and he set plans in motion for others in the pipeline. He was closely involved with local charities, in addition to being the Chairman of the Council of Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Pupils (CReSTeD) and the Treasurer of the Headmasters' Conference (HMC). Brendan was active in Ellesmere community events and supported his wife Anne in her role as Mayor. As Chairman of the Northwest Academies Trust, Brendan also built a strong partnership with Ellesmere Primary School. He was instrumental in keeping the local pool open, not only showing his commitment to the Primary School but also the wider Ellesmere community.

It is an understatement to say that we are going to miss his presence, his guidance and especially his sense of humour. He was a man of philosophy and it was clear to everyone how that influenced his life. He had a strong moral compass and urged us all to be kind to each other – a favourite theme of his for assemblies. 'Be kind' is a message that will continue to ring down the corridors of Ellesmere for years to come. He has left his legacy in our hearts and minds and Ellesmere College will never forget him.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brendan's wife Anne and children Catherine and Hugh.

We know they meant the world to him.



Dafydd Craven-Jones

"Dafydd was a well-known and well-respected member of the school community. His great enthusiasm and caring and considerate nature towards his friends made him a very special person and he will be greatly missed by all. Dafydd first joined Ellesmere in 2017 into Year 7. Throughout, he regularly represented the College in sports such as rugby, football and cricket. He was a keen sportsman that thrived in competitive situations. He had excellent team skills – indeed this was one of his particular qualities, and he always led from the front.

As a Weekly Boarder, Dafydd was committed to all aspects of school life and the wider school community. In recent times, he took an active part in supporting the coaching of some of the younger pupils in the College, keen to pass on his knowledge and more importantly, generous with his time. He was very much focussed on a career in the RAF and was planning to join after the completion of his 6th Form.

He will be greatly missed by all who loved him and knew him.



Kevin Whitley

Kevin joined Ellesmere in 2016. A first-class organist, pianist, musician and accompanist. He brought skill, support and humour to his work ensuring that students enjoyed themselves and made great progress. Shortly after his arrival, Kevin was asked if he would be happy to be the subject in a series of talks about careers in the arts. A natural collaborator, he agreed but wanted to share the stage, using it as an opportunity to profile a promising young singer, Rhian Carys-Jones, as well as the Flintshire Male Voice Choir. Outside of College, Kevin accompanied the Rhos Male Voice Choir. He settled so well into Ellesmere he moved into the town and he became organist at St Mary's Church, Ellesmere, where he developed the choir and worked alongside Reverend Pat Hawkins.

Kevin was proud of his work at the College and just a few days ago, talked of how lucky he had been to have some amazing opportunities to travel and perform at world-class churches and concert halls. His unflappable approach was often put to the test on tour. Tony has

shared a fond memory of Kevin arriving at St Peter's Basilica in Rome to perform Mass just moments before the service started. There was no time to test the instrument and Kevin was told that he couldn't use about half of the organ stops as they were 'broken' – a point only discovered after the service when, having created the most beautiful accompaniments, he made a joke about it. Anyone who met Kevin will know what a fantastic sense of humour he had.

He was determined to play the Chapel organ at Brendan's funeral. Given Kevin's poor health, having recently completed a gruelling round of chemotherapy, I had my concerns for him so we met to discuss whether he should. In that discussion it was clear how important it was to him to do so, so he played, and as usual, performed beautifully. The Chapel Choir recorded Love Me Tender for him last week and sent it to him Thursday night. Kevin responded to say: 'You know how much this Choir and College means to me and I'm surely very lucky.

He was a lovely gentle man - kind, modest, skilled and most of all, fun. We will not forget this wonderful person who brought so much light into the world. We shall always remember him.



Chapel Notes

I have now been at the College for nine years, and give thanks to God that the life of the chapel has grown and evolved into a rich rhythm of prayer and worship. The redesign of the school website prompted me to update the information about the chapel there, which had become rather out of date. I include the new website copy here for your information, encouragement as a snapshot of chapel life in the mid 2020s.

The Sacristan and Chapel Prefect this year were Ivana Ogunlaja & Teddy Sun, I am grateful for all they did in service of our liturgical life.

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of College life at Ellesmere. Nathaniel Woodard, our founder, had a vision for education enlightened and underpinned by the gospel proclaimed in and through these ancient, and sacred, rites of the church.

The Eucharist is celebrated daily (Mon-Fri) in term time on a voluntary basis in the intimacy of the Lady Chapel. Here too the Blessed Sacrament is reserved as a focus for prayer and as a sanctifying presence



at the heart of the school. This is our 'thin place' where staff and students come to offer private prayers and where the daily Eucharist's intention reflect the current concerns of the school, or of members of our College community – prayers for the dead and for healing are regularly offered.

In both school sections (Lower and Senior) there are larger 'Solemn' celebrations of the Eucharist (with rich traditional ceremonial) for the general student body approximately twice per half term. These take place in a regular pattern and reflect The Church's seasons and themes: Creation, Harvest, Advent, Our Lady, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are all celebrated.

Most seasons are also marked with Sung Evening Prayer. The form for Evening Prayer at Ellesmere College combines the riches of the Anglican Choral Tradition, Plainsong and Gregorian chant which stretches back past the Reformation, and the modern expression of Vespers found in the western tradition.

Worship is lead at both Evening Prayer, and the Eucharist, by our very fine Chapel and Chamber choirs. These ensembles provide a great range of music to support our prayer and reflection. Gregorian chant, Gospel Standards, Coldplay, the Beatles, Mozart, Bach, and Walton have all featured at services. The choir regularly competes and progresses through national competitions.

In between these grander occasions the regular pattern of Chapel sustains us. Mondays and Fridays for the Senior school and Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Lower school. A great emphasis is placed on hearty singing, biblical preaching, and contemporary application. Students regularly read, lead prayers, serve at the altar and once per half term a group of students engages in 'Theological Reflection' to produce a student lead service.

The chapel regularly welcomes members of the wider College Community and the Local Community to festive occasions and services. In Michaelmas Term we hold our First Communion Service, our Requiem for the fallen on Remembrance Sunday, Community Carol Service, and a Candlelit Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Early in Lent Term we have welcomed members of the Community for Epiphany and Plough Sunday Services with music from our own choirs, choirs of alumni, and visiting choirs. Lent is brightened with our annual Mothering Sunday Service, and an Easter Day Eucharist is celebrated in the College Chapel - accompanied by extracts from Handel's Messiah. In the Summer we regularly welcome a bishop to confer the sacrament of Confirmation and Old Ellesmerians gather for a service before the Whitsun Luncheon.

Catechesis and preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation take the form of engagement with two flourishing voluntary worship opportunities. In the Lower School a reverent but often rowdy group meet for Communion Club: contemporary worship music, bible videos, candles, prayers and Jesus in the blessed sacrament sustain and form these young disciples on their first steps of faith. Pizza and Prayer is a lunchtime senior school community focused on eating together, studying the bible together, and praying the Eucharist together.

PJG





Competitive Houses

MEYNELL

Housemaster: Mr D. Bottom

House Tutors: Mrs Evans, Mr Armstrong, Mr Luckas, Mrs Phillips, Miss Darrant, Mrs Hutchon, Mrs Edwards, Mr Horton, Mr Horrocks

Captains of House: M. Laccours J. Osborne

This past year has brought its own challenges but House meetings have remained fun, competitions have been won and the house has been run exceptionally by our Captains of House, Marie Laccours and Joe Osborne. They 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.

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-ballon races getting the new year off with a bang. Also, we had House Plays in a packed Arts Centre. The cast and production team threw themselves into bringing 'Only Fools and Horses' to the stage, though trying to grasp the finer points of Del Boy's very English humour to cast members from Germany, Bulgaria, Ukraine and France was something of a challenge.



Michaelmas also saw the reappearance of the House Photography Competition. Kiri Kilgannon won the Kiri Kilgannon Juniors where the theme was chemistry. The judges liked, "the way this could be an interpretation of her personal chemistry of how this image makes her feel."

In the Seniors, Neli Pashova came second where the theme was ravens. The shadows, the



play of lightness and darkness impressed the judges. As always, we had an impressive number of serious entries from all years.

Other cerebral competitions saw Meynell doing well. In the Lent term, a new 'Story Dice' competition was launched which saw students getting a random selection of 5 words that they had to incorporate into a



50-word story. Catherine Sanderson came second with her, "suspenseful piece of 50 words exactly that builds to a satisfying denouement." Eddie Pytches and Munashe Kugedera were both Highly Commended for their entries. In the Juniors, Tom Males was Highly Commended too. In the House Quiz, though not victorious, we put on a decent show.

"The door wailed as it opened. 'Stan's Antiques', tucked away on 6th Avenue, had anything and everything. Binoculars, cutlery, Apple PowerBooks, car battery, toy snakes. You never knew what was coming. I continued to venture. A strange sensation rippled up my leg. I grabbed the silverware and butchered the snake."

On the playing field, to say Meynell's fortunes were mixed would be to put an overly optimistic spin on things. Many matches went down to the wire and ended with us snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. That said, our girls stormed to victory in Inters Netball and the Juniors came second in indoor cricket. Our volleyballers gave it a good go. On the hockey, rugby, football and cricket pitches, it was one of those years where taking part became more important than winning, though it was striking how much we enjoyed ourselves. Cross Country was postponed to the summer and Alex Hu game second.

One other highlight of the year was the Meynell House Dinner. As in the past, parents attended in their droves to enjoy a formal meal in the Dining Hall, listen to our House Captains review the year thus far with eloquence and humour and share in a celebratory event. It was good to hear the shared laughter and see the communal spirit, and it was a fitting send off for Marie and Joe. Both will be missed and, in their footsteps,

follow two more outstanding leaders, Catherine Sanderson and Freddy Foltyn, who will lead Meynell to more success in the new academic year.

I wish everyone in the House all the very best for the future and know that Miss Hughes, the new Head of Meynell, will be hugely successful. Like me, she will also have a lot of fun!

DB







Every, E. Pritchard, E.J. Williams, B. Qian, J. Thomas, S.B. Gardner-McTaggart, B.E.E. Hui, L.M. Wong, N.H. Wong, C.H. Skillicorn, E.W. Thomas, A. Malo Guerra, C. De La Riva Vazquez, P. Gray, I.L. Galliers, E.N. Skillicorn, J.F. Hewitt, O.H. Pahissa Diaz, A. Lamerton, T.D. Burlando, S.E. Harris, I.F. Dappa, D.-A. Harris, L.S. Moore, I.L.-R. Jones, E.N. Kugedera, M. Lai, Y.C. Hu, Z.A. Stevens, J.A. Lopez Alves, A. De Santiago Perez Rubio, B. Sampietro Olle, I. Fell, G.T. Jones, L.M. Fisher, N. Davidson-Jackson, K.A. Dettmar, L. Klu, G.K. Wheatley Jones, K.H. Walker, H.B. Ward, W. Males, T. Matthews, K.J. Wong, Y. Foulkes, H.D. Loe, A.W. Crompton, A. Sharaf, L.S. You, M. Mackintosh, J.G. Stubbs, T.L. Osmolovych, M. Mahoney, C.R. Sharpe, A.J. Preusse, P.L.F. Garond, S. Gannicott, J.P. Polakova, N. Foltyn, F.C. Loud, O.A. Murdoch, K.A. Sweeney, F.E.M. Szulc, S.T. Lee, H. Bullen, F.H.D. Pytches, E.N. Pryor, S.L. Wong, L.H. Perovic, S. Trevor-Barnston, W.C. Popplewell, A. Roberts, T.H.K. Harumov, A. Mahoney, C.M. Taylor, R.W.M. Woollam, D.R. Lansdale, H. Hutchinson, J. Spek, B.L. Taylor, H.J. Holland, T. Stockton, J.O. Williams, O.W.W. Kilgannon, K.H. Males, E. Heseltine, R.E. Deblaye, F.L.G. Gilmore, F. Phillips, A. Pashova, N. Schumann, B.L. Taylor, B. Hidayat, O.P. Sanderson, C.M. Nicholas, A.H. Cobb, N.L. Harris, F.A. Castella Rivero, M. Mrs L.L. Edwards Mrs S.A. Hutchon Miss M.T. Horton Ms S. Phillips Laccours, M.J. Mr D.J. Bottom Osborne, J.C. Mr H.A. Lucas Mr C.S. Horrocks Mrs J.K. Evans Mrs D. Walker-Smith Mr N.R. Armstrong Harris, R.E.



Melneil
2023

House
2024



Competitive Houses

TALBOT

Housemaster: Mrs Z. J. Fisher

House Tutors: Mr. R.J. Macintosh, Mrs. S. Owen, Miss L. Killen, Mrs. C. Westwood, Mr. J.E. Dilks, Mrs. C.S. Dilks, Mrs. C.A. Empson, Mrs. N. J. Welti, Mr. M. Atherton, Mrs. G.W. Llewellyn-Jenkins

Captains of House: H. Stuart, T. Dyson

2023-24 has been the most tumultuous of times in my 22 years as a member of staff at Ellesmere College. We have all needed to grit our teeth and carry on in the great spirit of the Mighty Talbot House, and I commend each and every member of the House for their strength of character. Reflecting on the year just past, I am truly proud of how our students have demonstrated their resilience.

Our House Captains this year, Charles Hemingway-Deaney and Melanie Scarratt, have demonstrated grit and confidence with a palpable sense of pride in everything "Talbot." Having begun the year by organising Sixth Formers into teams for It's a Knockout, to running the House Play, entering academic competitions, delivering powerful speeches at the House Dinner, and juggling heavy academic commitments, our House Captains have proven themselves excellent role models. On behalf of Talbot House, I offer my thanks for their work. It is with a great sense of pride that Talbot House meets in Big School, under the Talbot Winners Boards, and can see the names of all the Talbot 'Greats' – to which Charles and Mel have now been added. I wish them both every success in the future.

As we reflect on another eventful year at Ellesmere College, it is evident that Talbot House has risen to new heights, embodying the spirit of excellence, unity, and determination. The 2023-2024 academic year has been a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of every member of Talbot House, and it is a privilege to recount the numerous achievements and contributions that have marked this extraordinary period.

From the outset, Talbot House demonstrated its formidable presence across a wide array of competitions, showcasing not only remarkable individual talents but also an unwavering team spirit. Our students have shown exceptional prowess in sports, academics, and the arts, making every event a celebration of our collective strength and commitment.

This year's House Cross Country was a showcase of Talbot House's athleticism, with our runners delivering standout performances across all categories. Isabella Spencer-Blow led the charge in the girls' division, clinching 1st place and demonstrating exceptional endurance and speed. Liv Watts also shone brightly, securing a commendable 2nd place. In the Senior category, Anna Farr's triumphant 1st place finish was a testament to her hard work and dedication. For the boys, Archie Fearnall's victory in the Inters category highlighted his impressive stamina and competitive edge. The collective efforts of our runners, including top finishes by Patricia Roca and Imogen Spencer-Blow, who finished 1st and 3rd respectively, exemplify the outstanding talent and determination that define Talbot House. Congratulations to all our cross-country stars for their remarkable achievements and for making this event a truly memorable one for our House.



The athletes of Talbot House have made us proud with their outstanding performances across various sports. Our Senior Football team achieved a dramatic victory in the House Cup, with Tom Smith making a decisive winning save, Will Phillips scoring the crucial goal, and Sean O'Donnell contributing with a game-changing header. The teamwork and skill displayed by Vlad Vukcevic, Tom Gough-Tilley, Jake Mathers, and Will Keay were also key to this success. In the Inters category, Ollie Earl, Oliver Greening, Alex Dilks, Archie Fearnall (Captain), Alex Poole, Jack Fearn, Henry Bates, Tom Barton, and Harvey Edwards showcased their talent, with a notable performance from Oliver Greening despite a missed opportunity due to "challenging ground conditions."

Rugby was another area where Talbot House shone brightly. The Senior Rugby team, consisting of Tom Smith, Will Phillips, Sean O'Donnell, Tom Gough-Tilley, Tom Dyson, Reuben Gallagher, and George Owen, displayed exceptional teamwork and skill. The Inters team, including Ollie Earl, Oliver Greening, Sam Latham, Alex Dilks, Archie Fearnall, Henry Bates, Tom Barton, and Harvey Edwards, also delivered impressive performances, further underscoring the depth of talent within our House.

Talbot House's success extended to other sports as well. In Volleyball, Tom Smith, Vlad Vukcevic, and Leonard Giesen demonstrated remarkable coordination and skill. Leonard Giesen and Charlie Boys made their mark in Golf, showcasing precision and strategy. Our cricket teams, both Junior and Senior, were exceptional, with the Junior team emerging as champions and the Senior team also performing admirably. Key players in cricket included Tom Smith, Tom Gough-Tilley, Bella Spencer-Blow, Cesca Algar-Pattinson, Kaylee Mellor, Oliver Greening, Archie Fearnall, India Hibbott, Henry Bates, Tom Barton, Lexi Algar-Pattinson, Tabitha Kimber, and Meg Pritchard. The hockey teams, featuring Bella Spencer-Blow, Lyra Cox, Cesca Algar-Pattinson, Kaylee Mellor, Arabella Sernberg, Freddi Carter, India Hibbott, Lexi Algar-Pattinson, Tabitha Kimber, Meg Pritchard, Natasha McGuire, Julia Smith, and Katie Evans, were forces to be reckoned with. Their skill and teamwork were evident in every game.

In netball, the squads, including Bella Spencer-Blow, Lyra Cox, Cesca Algar-Pattinson, Anna Farr, Arabella Sernberg, Freddi Carter, Marisa Brasch, India Hibbott, Lexi Algar-Pattinson, Tabitha Kimber (who enjoyed enthusiastic support from the audience), Meg Pritchard, Natasha McGuire, Julia Smith, and Katie Evans, brought energy and precision to the court, thrilling spectators and securing impressive results.

Beyond sports, Talbot House has demonstrated remarkable achievements in academics and the arts. Our drama and performing arts groups have been nothing short of outstanding. The talent and dedication of students such as Ollie Earl, Kaylee Mellor, Harry Hepburn, Marisa Brasch, Bella Spencer-Blow, Melanie Scarratt, Charles Hemingway-Deaney, Tom Gough-Tilley, Jake Lee, Will Phillips, Freddie Brumpton, Reuben Gallagher, Natasha McGuire, Julia Smith, Katie Evans, JJ Ockendon, and Chris Astbury have made our performances truly memorable. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed by these students have been a source of pride for the entire House.

Our debating team, led by the exceptional Natt Kritchanarat, achieved significant success, with Natt emerging as the winner. The chess team, comprising Ollie Earl, Alex Dilks, and JJ Ockendon, demonstrated strategic thinking and skill. In photography, our House was represented by Ollie Earl, Alex Dilks, Natt Kritchanarat, Bella Spencer-Blow, Harry Hepburn, Marisa Brasch, Tom Gough-Tilley, Tom Barton, Meg Pritchard,

and Elene Tsitsishvili, all of whom showcased their artistic flair. In Story Dice, Marisa Brasch, Vlad Vukcevic, Natt Kritchanarat, Ollie Earl, Alex Dilks, Bella Spencer-Blow, Melanie Scarratt, and Meg Pritchard created imaginative and engaging narratives. Our quiz team, including Natt Kritchanarat, Melanie Scarratt, and Jake Mathers, demonstrated intellectual prowess, while the Chapel team, led by Vlad Vukcevic with Melanie Scarratt, Charles Hemingway-Deaney, Will Phillips, Meg Pritchard, Imogen Spencer-Blow, Tom Gough-Tilley, and Holly Stewart, contributed to the spiritual and communal life of the House.

In badminton and tennis, Sofiia Avramidi, Natt Kritchanarat, and Jake Mathers also showcased their skills and dedication. Well done to all for your effort and participation.

Acknowledgments and Appreciation

As we celebrate the incredible successes of Talbot House, it is important to extend our heartfelt thanks to the House Staff who have supported and guided us throughout the year. Your dedication, encouragement, and commitment have been instrumental in our achievements, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. Your efforts have made it possible for Talbot House to thrive and excel, and we appreciate everything you do to support our students and foster their growth.

Looking Ahead

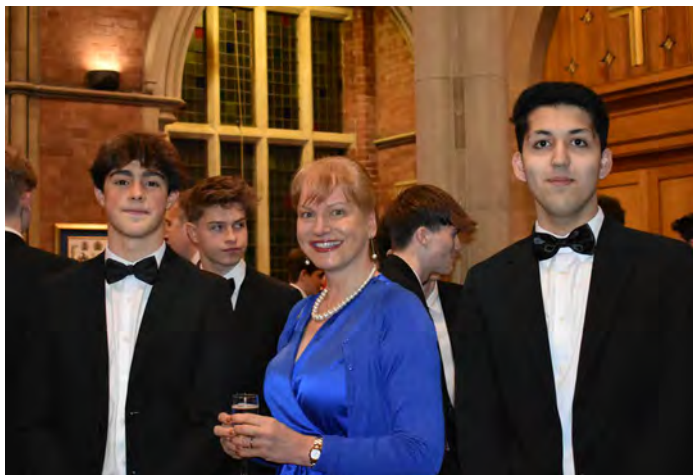
As we move forward into the new year, we are inspired by the words of Simon Sinek: "The goal is not to be perfect by the end. The goal is to be better today." Talbot House is not just a group of individuals; it is a vibrant and uplifting community that exemplifies resilience, creativity, and excellence. Our collective achievements this year have set a high standard, and as we embrace new challenges and opportunities, we will continue to embody the spirit of achievement and collaboration that defines us.

Congratulations to every member of Talbot House for making this year unforgettable. Your passion, dedication, and teamwork have been truly inspiring. As we embark on new experiences and continue to strive for excellence, led by our new Captains (Tom Dyson and Holly Stewart), let us carry forward the spirit of unity and achievement that has made Talbot House exceptional. Here's to a future filled with continued success, growth, and collective triumph.

Prest d'accomplir!

ZJF







Raybould, G. Mellor, K. Heward, A.I. Dilks, A. Algar-Pattinson, A.M. Heward, K. Kimber, T.R. Kritchannarat, N. Poole, A.R.
 Greening, O.T.D. Carter, F. Algar-Pattinson, F.R. Supsakorn, T. Sabe Guix, J. Hibbott, I.C. Cox, L.D. Pritchard, M.S. Marski, P.L. Ng, W.Y. Roca Merella, P. Barber, J.A.R. Kimber, E.M.
 Moore, N.T.R. Caldes Riera, M.M. Watts, O.I. Harper Davies, I.P. Cornwell, R. Gough Tilley, T. Ashton, E. Giesen, P.L. Balakrishnan, S.E. Latham, S.R. Dymond, J.W. Parry, C. Hunibach, E.M. Semberg, A.C.L.J.
 Mutedzi, T. Barton, T.L.R. Edwards, H.M.A. Graham, H.F.I.S. Stephenson, F. Galvez Gomariz, J. Pountney, T.M. Kocyte, N. Lloyd-Brown, T.O. Boonprasopthachot, P. Vukcevic, V. Evans, J. Cornwell, H.R. Donke, C.L. Tsitsishvili, E.
 Fearnall, A.W. Spencer-Blow, A. Hobbs, J.B. Golling, L.H. Winney, H.T. O'Donnell, S.P. Bates, H. Cuckson, C. Astbury, C.L. Dyson, T.J. Owen, G. Povey, M.J. Avramidi, S. Griesbach, E.C. Kocys, J. Dong, B.
 Ockendon, J.H. Hephurn, H.J. Irfan, M.I.M. Schneevogl, O.B.R. Covill, O. Hansen, P.J. Hoyland, J.A. Smith, T.S. Brumpton, F.J. Scarlat, B.L. Lee, J. Hermens, J.B.W. Boys, C. Lelong, J.M.J. Burston, J.
 Earl, O. Cuesta Adan, A. Mathers, J.J. Farr, A. Capewell, S.M. Stuart, H.A. Phillips, W.G. Keay, W.A.S. Gallagher, L. Lapinskaite, G. Fearnie, J.F. Mak, S.L. Batsazov, T. Brasch, M.L.
 Smith, J.M. Mrs N.J. Welti Mrs C.A. Empson Mrs C.S. Dilks Mr J.E. Dilks Mr J. Morgan Searratt, M.R. Mrs Z.J. Fisher Hemingway-Deaney, C. Mrs C. Westwood Miss L. Killen Mr G. Owen Mrs S. Owen Mr R.J. Macintosh Foster, A.

Talbot 2023



House 2024



Competitive Houses

WAKEMAN-LAMBERT

Housemaster: Mr. D.W. Crawford

House Tutors: Mr M. P. Clewlow, Mr J. H. Cowley, Mrs K. Curzon, Mrs H. L. Davenport, Mrs V. Furlong-Hart, Dr M.T. Gareh, Mrs S. H. Gareh, Miss N. S. Hughes, Mrs J. A. Kirk, Mrs C. A. McLelland, Dr J. L. Marsh, Mr M. Needham, Mr G. W. Phillips, Mr P.E. Swainson.

Captains of House: H. Hearn and E. Curzon

As always, we had a strong set of entries and earned the favour of the judges, with Reuban Fox-Kirkham being highly commended in the Junior age group and Alberto Rescigno taking the top spot in the Seniors with a spooky tale.

The House also managed to claim the top spot in House Volleyball, with Wakeman-Lambart undefeated overall—in part due to a hard-fought draw that resulted when one of our players managed to get the (only available) ball stuck in the roof girders! The term ended in fine style, with wins for the Senior age group in both Netball and Football, with both teams unbeaten in their competitions.

September again; a chance for the Wakeman Army to show its mettle came in only the third week, with the Junior Girls taking the Indoor Cricket honours with a win off the last ball. The Senior Girls' team also managed to win their age group. A photography competition saw the Juniors submitting pictures inspired by chemistry, while the Seniors used Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven* as their source material, and we provided a good sample of entries to rack up a solid number of House Points. The House Play was a good challenge, with Houses asked to put on an episode of *Only Fools and Horses*—familiar to older generations but a steep learning curve for twenty-first-century teenagers. Nathaniel Clewlow made a suitably cocky Del Boy, with House Captain Henry Hearn stealing the show as Aunt Alberta in a majestic pair of high heels. Good acting debuts were also made by Oscar Crossen and Myles Webster.

The term ended with the House Rugby: our juniors put up a good fight but were ultimately beaten, while the Seniors were narrowly pushed into second place, missing out on the title for the first time in four years. The Hockey teams had better fortune, with the Juniors coming a narrow second and the Seniors picking up the trophy again, continuing a golden era of Wakeman-Lambart success.

Into January: preparations for the House Singing were going well when we heard the sad news about the death of Mr. Wignall. Accordingly, the competition was cancelled, and the College pulled together for the rest of the half-term. In the second half, House competitions returned, with a short story contest using randomly generated picture dice as stimulus.



Into the summer term, we had time for a scaled-down version of the House Cross Country on a scorching day. Houses put up teams of three in both divisions, and the Wakeman-Lambart runners had a positive day, with seven podium finishes out of eighteen: bronzes for Dylan Avery, Moritz Hartinger, and House Captain Emily Curzon; silvers for Jakob van Acker, Tilly Windsor, and Archie Dandy; and a gold in the Juniors for Cesar Malan. A great result, and congratulations to those who worked so hard.

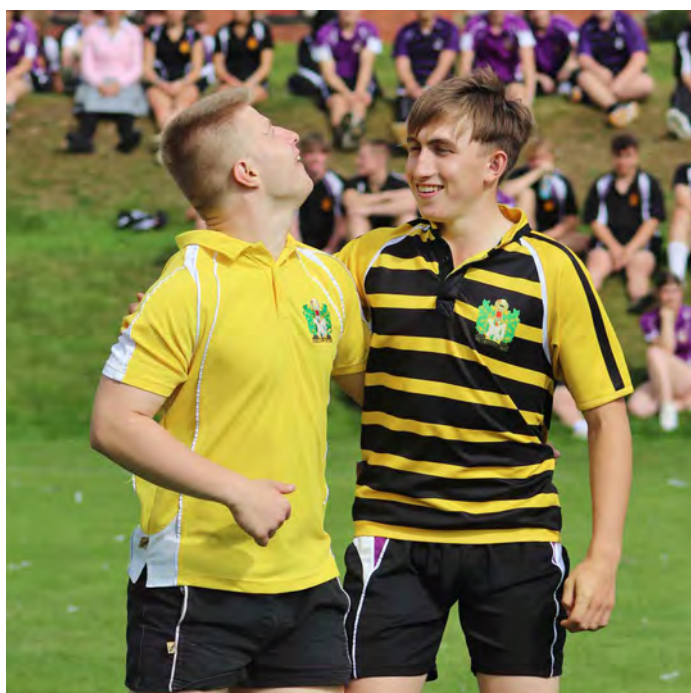
Over the May half-term, we had some very sad news: the Wakeman Army lost one of its longest-serving members with the sudden death of Dafydd Craven-Jones in an accident. Dafydd (and his older brother loan before him) set the standard for what it means to be a legendary member of the House, tackling anything and giving things a go. Wakeman-Lambart House owes him a great deal.

The year drew to a close with us (again!) runners-up in the House Point race. All it would have taken is for everyone to earn just one more point each. Let us do the small things right so that we can accomplish the big things together!

As always, LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!

DWC







Borisenko Arriola, M. Edwards, S.J.C. Wynne, E.A. Adams, E. Orme, H. Li, S.Y. Windsor, M.O.C. Goodwin, A.G. Furlong Hart, D.V. Kaewthong, N. Edwards, A.J. Whale, J.W.
 Whale, J.G. Edwards, S.M. Edwards, I.M.E. Gaskell, A. Richardson-Rutter, A. Griffiths, M.E. Pinuela Markov, S.A. Mukotekwa, A.N. Pearson, O.J. Polonska, A. Bullivant, A.M. Glinos, S.A. Sáz Benítez, D. Powell, S.A. Uras-Garvin, J. Tanner, D.Z.
 Edwards, O.G. Au-Yeung, W.C. Clewlow, N.P.J. Fox-Kirkham, R. Prince, T.G. Dandy, A.J. Di Carlo, C. Holanova, V. Avery, L.G. Winn, E.G.M. Norris, L.E.S. Aston-Stott, W. Liu, X. Babanejad, A. Jones, J. Sandiford, G.E. Nolan, S.
 Roberts, H.M. Janahi, S.F. Gurgooze, G.A. Salikauskaitė, E. Freer-Carmichael, I.S. Kaewthong, T. Holton, J. Webster, L. Davies, F. Reincke, N. Tersteeg, S.G. Mostafavi Nezhad, S.M. Gregory, E. Richardson-Rutter, E. Hou, W.L. Rico Egea, I. Norris, J.H. Jehan-Rautenbach, T-M.
 Wells, M.G. Nicholas, C.W. Green, M.A. Rescigno, A. Kartlakki, A. Kinsey, J.C. Scott, D.K. Jackson, H.J.E. Reindler, P.P. Dunne, C.D.A. Craven-Jones, D.H. Crossen, O. Orme, J.J. Borgetto, J.A.P.F. Joshi, V. Williamson, E.G.O. Prust, F.
 Cook, F. Avery, D.J. Joulie, V. Wynn, T.H. Beuer, C.C. Van Acker, J. Brookshaw, Z.G. Yorke, M.W.I. Bacewicz, L. Lewers, J.J.R. Trefanenko, O. Harrower, A.G. Cuevas Blanco, P.V. Hartinger, M.R. Williams, A. Webster, M. Evans, M. Moran, W.
 Mrs C.A.McClelland Mrs H.L.Davenport Mr P.E.Swainson Mrs V.Furlong Hart Miss N.S.Hughes Mrs K.Curzon Dr M.T.Gareh Curzon, E.A.F. Mr D.W.Crawford Hearn, H. Mr J.H.Cowley Mr M.P.Clewlow Mr G.W.Phillips Dr J.L.Marsh Mr M.Needham Mrs S.H.Gareh


Hakeman
 2023

Lambart
 2024



Competitive Houses

WOODARD

Housemaster: Dr R. J. Hansford

House Tutors: Mr J. J. Baggaley, Mrs H. A. Chesters, 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: O. E. Philbin and M. Eskandari

The start of the academic year saw the promotion of some of last year's Lower Sixth to prominent positions within the House. Olivia Philbin became the Girls' Captain and Mo Eskandari the Boys' Captain. Both were supported by the Vice Captains: Ivana Ogunlaja and Ellie Edwards for the girls, and Sam Linnington, Angus Culkin, and Lukasz Galazka for the boys. This formidable team not only ensured the year ran smoothly but also made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience. However, with a hat trick of Academic Cup wins under Woodard's belt, there was a heavy weight of responsibility on their heads, as usual, to continue the Woodard spirit.

The term got underway with the return of the House plays. This year's theme was *Only Fools and Horses*, and Woodard was given the 'Tobacco Road' episode. Olivia and Mo took on the role of directors and did an amazing job. Woodard produced a performance that would not have been out of place on the BBC. There were notable performances from Mo as Rodney and Sam as Uncle Albert. Sam perfected Uncle Albert's accent, and Mo's comedic timing was excellent. As a result, they both won first place for those characters. Unsurprisingly, Woodard also came first for the slickest performance, the most entertaining scene (a recreation of the *Dirty Dancing* lift), the best use of set, and the best technical organization. Olivia and Mo also won Best Directors, which was well deserved.

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, I'm glad to say after two years of being unsuccessful,

the senior boys had finally come to terms with how to play touch rugby. So much so, they won the senior House event. The junior boys also did a sterling job, coming in third overall against other competitive Houses. In hockey, the girls showed their usual grit and determination in the House hockey tournament against tough opponents. Although we didn't win either the junior or senior competitions, the girls came runners-up in both categories, which was a great achievement.

Academic competitions kicked off in the Michaelmas term, starting with the Photography competition. This year's themes were Science in My Life for the juniors and the poem *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe for the seniors. As usual, Woodard entered the most photos, gaining lots of academic points. We also had a highly commended entry from Seren Garratt in the junior competition, along with a first and third place win for Daisy Cooke and Cici Noss respectively in the senior competition. By the end of the Michaelmas term, Woodard was leading in the Academic Cup.

In terms of House sports, we participated in a mixed age and gender volleyball competition in which Woodard played their hearts out, placing second overall. Badminton also featured in the House sports calendar, and after a match-filled afternoon, Woodard placed second behind Wakeman Lambert, a tremendous result.

House football and netball rounded up the sporting events of the Lent term. In netball, both the junior and senior teams came runners-up. The seniors lost to Wakeman, and the juniors lost to Meynell. The boys also put up a tremendous show in the House football, but sadly this year they didn't manage to win the football trophy, vowing to come back fighting next year.

Academic competitions continued in the Lent term with the story dice competition, where pupils had to write a 50-word story using five AI-generated picture dice. Woodard pupils once again submitted the most entries of any House. We had success in the junior category, with Seren Garratt in Year 10 winning first place for her *Eerie Tale During a Poker Game*, and Arthur Bate, also in Year 10, receiving a highly commended. The end of the Lent term saw the annual House dinner. I was delighted by the support from so many guests, including many parents and

ex-Woodard pupils, past and present—the most of any House. It was a successful evening thanks to the guests, pupils, House staff, and, of course, the stars of the evening, Olivia and Mo, who both delivered great speeches. During their speeches, they reminded everyone of the many highlights of the year. Their passion for the House and all things purple was evident throughout. A huge thanks to all who attended, and I hope to see you next year.

The summer term was as busy as always. One of the main events was the House cross-country race, which saw the entire House compete. It's one of my favourite sporting events of the year, and it kicked off with Sam Linnington, Mo, and Liv leading a great warm-up with the whole House. One advantage of having cross-country in the summer term was that pupils could enjoy the sunshine instead of bracing themselves against the bitter wind, as is usually the case. Woodard pupils wore their purple tribal war paint with pride. Though it wasn't our best performance, the enthusiasm and warmth brought smiles to everyone's faces. The juniors came in joint third with Meynell, with Harry Wyke in Year 9 placing third for the junior boys. The inters (Years 10 and 11) also came in third, with Ana De Francisco, who I convinced to run just half an hour before, placing third for the inter girls. In the seniors, Sen Muya came in first for the boys, and Bea Jones placed second for the senior girls, putting Woodard in first place for the senior cross-country. Overall, Woodard came in third.

The House quiz also took place in the summer term. Our team comprised two Sixth Formers, Isaac Dodds (Year 13) and Darius Golabek (Year 12), and two middle school pupils, Barney Smith and Freddie Heasmer Jones (both Year 11). As in previous years, we faced Talbot in the semi-final, and after nearly forty minutes of intense questioning, including a nerve-racking In the Spotlight round, we triumphed with 145 points to Talbot's 45. In Liv's words, "Talbot were

demolished," and Barney was declared a genius. The team went through to a well-deserved final against Wakeman-Lambert. Mo replaced Darius in the final. It was a tight contest, with both teams neck and neck throughout, but with a final flourish by Oscar, we rose to become the champions of the House Quiz—an amazing result, and a first in a very long time.

The final highlight of the year was another win of the Academic Cup, making it the fourth consecutive year. Towards the end of the year, Wakeman-Lambert was catching up, but in true Woodard style, we rallied when it was needed most. Hopefully, next year will bring another win, making us the House that has won it the most.

I continue to be immensely proud of the pupils in Woodard. My motto has always been for pupils to take the opportunity to try things they've never done before, and I've seen this in action again this year. Rugby players are entering writing competitions, and scholars are playing rugby and netball. I hope we can build on this sense of family and resilience in the coming years. Finally, I want to give a huge thanks to the Year 13s and 11s who are leaving us this year. Your support and effort in House activities have made this year truly enjoyable and memorable. We also said goodbye to Mrs. Chesters, a great supporter of Woodard and a guiding presence in House chapels and events. We wish her every success in her future endeavours, and I hope all of you come back to visit and support the House whenever you can.

As we move into a new year, let's continue to build on this year's successes and show the other Houses what we are made of. May our blood continue to run proudly purple. Woodard, as always, you are simply the best.

RJH







Beattie, M. Cone, B.A.J.A. McNamara, S.A. Hickson, L.S.R. De Francisco Soler, A. Cosgrove, H.M. Brachowicz, L. Mason, S.I. Cripps, M.J. Rein-Hagen, M.G. Noss, E.A. Johnson, O.W.O.
 Cooke, H.F. Higgins, W.C.S.L. Baillon, K. Appleby, A.J.L. Pourarian, A. Mason, G.S. Moore, H.J. Chamberlain, L.B.J.P.J.M. Sanchez Somolinos, G. Appleby, F.E.H. Lutke-Uhlenbrock, C.F. New, I.B. Coe, P.A.
 Pencavel, C.C. Boessl, J.M. Dushchenko, D. Cooke, D.J. Saifullin, N. Coupe, H.I. Garratt, S.E.H. Hickish, O.M. Noss, P. Chadwick, L.A. Noss, C. Heasmer Jones, R.H. Logan, D.C. Bakker, M.S.
 Rolle, V.I. Ramsay, A.N. Cripps, I.A. Jones, B.A. Williams, J. Muya, S. Manso de Zuniga Garcia, S. Round, A.A.H. Leese, R. Dwyer, J. Manzanarez Perez-Nievas, B. Smith, B. Lee, Y.L. MacAndrew, T.S. Iglesias Blanco, O.
 Smith, I.L.M. Garratt, E.C.R. Collins, M.P. Coe, A.G. Leglu-Moore, H.J.P. Baggaley, D.C. Pubill Fernandez, D. Underhill, H. Leonard, F. Copelin, H. Zou, Z. Comesson-Robic, S. Neuenhahn, L. Schneider, T. Floate, A. Fletcher,
 Raw, J.L. Appleby, H.J.A. Gollabek, D. Parr, T. Thwaite, A.J.M. Swimmerton, T. Dodds, O.H. O'Rourke, O.C. Baggaley, F. Draco, O.T. Haji Rahman, T. Heasmer Jones, E. Nicholson, E. Haydn-Lee, H.M. Liley, H.
 Greaves Pym, M. Bouzas Herrero, J. Harris, S.R. Bajramovic, F. Davies, C. Tulloch, E.M. Edwards, E. Cullin, A.J. Limington, S.G. Galazka, L. Ogunlaja, I.A. Sun, H. McKay, G.J. Gratton, G. Droste, P. Higgins, O.T.Y.L.
 Draco, N.J. Leonard, M. Wyke, H.R. Philbin, I.
 Mr J.J.J. Baggaley Mr A.J. Murphy Mr E.J. Richards Mr J.N. Haycock Mr A.D. Quentin Mrs M.D. Reynolds Philbin, O.E. Dr R.J. Hansford Eskandari, M.M. Mr A.P. Coupe Mrs R.L. Schubert Mr C.R. Davies Mrs J.M. Underhill Mr C. Garratt Mr J.S. Underhill

Woodard **House**
2023 **2024**



Lower School

“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. if you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.”

Zig Ziglar

Lower School has had a successful year with many achievements and experiences gained by our pupils. However, I must obviously acknowledge that this year has been a very sad one for the Ellesmere College community, with the loss of our Headmaster, a music teacher and more recently one of our former Lower School students. We have moved forward with understanding, support and kindness from pupils, staff and parents alike.

The calendar has been very full, and we will look firstly to the Michaelmas term where new pupils are welcomed and more familiar ones move to new forms.

In order for pupils to settle quickly and start or continue on their path of enrichment, Ms Rogers works hard to pull together a wide range of activities and clubs that children can attend at lunchtime or during prep time. These opportunities rely on our staff giving of their time and effort to provide children with experiences that will help develop them as people but mainly in the hope that they will enjoy themselves and develop friendships.

Clubs such as Musical Theatre, Chinese, Craft, Wildlife Garden, Chess, Dinkee, Logic and Problem Solving, and Jigsaw take place at lunchtime. Sports are also on offer each lunchtime with cricket, basketball, hockey and football being popular. Communion Club and Shooting Club take place during prep time once a week.

On a Wednesday afternoon, the timetable collapses to make way for an activities programme involving pupils working towards the John Muir Award, and also learning new skills through a carousel of activities that challenge pupils mentally and physically.

Ms Rogers also puts together the programme for Lower School Expeditions. In October pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 had day trips to Cadbury World, Ludlow Museum, Preston-Montford Field trip centre, Enginuity in Ironbridge and the Black Country Museum amongst other activities. Year 7 traditionally visit a residential centre for a couple of nights away as a bonding opportunity through a wide range of challenges to try out.

The days were becoming shorter and darker as the term drew on but as part of the many charities we support at Ellesmere College, we raised money through a sponsored 'Rudolph Run' for Nightingale House. The weather was bad and so Mr Horrocks and the sports staff quickly

designed a route through the Sports Hall building that prevented the pupils from having to get muddy and wet whilst running as many circuits as they could in fancy dress.

In late November we went on our annual pantomime trip to Theatre Severn to see Jack and the Beanstalk with an eco-theme. This is always a fun event and nice for the pupils to experience together. It also kicked off our Christmas celebrations as it was quickly followed by the 'Lighting of the Christmas tree' at Lower School, with some entertainment from our choir and refreshments to warm us up.

In the last week of term, we had the Carol Service by candlelight on Monday evening, followed closely by House Plays which took place in the Arts Centre with the theme of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', Phillips House won but congratulations must go to all Houses for their efforts; it was a very enjoyable afternoon of entertainment.

On Thursday we had the Key Stage 2 Christmas Play, 'Christmas is Forever', with great performances by all and much effort also from the Key Stage 2 staff. On Friday we had our Christmas Lunch as a Lower School with the Headmaster present and chatting with pupils at the top table.

I must thank Mrs Elis, Mrs Paul, Mr Paul, Mr Fisher and Mr Coupe for all their hard work and skills in helping to produce and support the musical performances and competitions throughout the year, but certainly, as we built up towards the end of the Michaelmas term things became very



busy for them. As we moved into the new term the Music department continued to be busy with the Oswestry Music Festival – another successful year for Lower School pupils involved in choir, bands and as individuals with voice and instruments. I must also thank them for their efforts in putting on the Musical Teas we have had each term, which is a perfect platform for parents, pupils and teachers to see how our musically talented pupils are progressing. The Lower School Choir, Band and Rock Band have performed brilliantly this year, and it goes without saying that we have so much musical talent in Lower School.

The Lent term can be very dependent on the weather when it comes to sports fixtures and this Lent term saw quite a few cancellations across the board which is always frustrating. The cross-country races were also hit by the weather and had to be put off till the summer term – a first for Lower School, in my memory.

Before the end of the Lent term, we had the Key Stage 3 play which this year was 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. I was very impressed by the pupils who signed up to be involved. A great deal of learning, courage and determination was needed. Many pupils certainly put themselves out of their comfort zones and performed brilliantly. Learning lines, songs and dances takes a lot of commitment and all those involved proved themselves. Mrs Fisher's efforts were fully appreciated, and we were fortunate to have Mrs Ford on board too, helping with the choreography. Behind the scenes, Mrs Llewellyn-Jenkins and Mrs Pearce were put through their paces so that everything flowed nicely. Mr Fisher and Mr Williams, along with Kit Fisher provided the musical accompaniment that made this year's production a success and one to remember.

Cast

Joseph	Eva Ford / Henry Hughes
Narrator / Adoring Girl	Tabby Gallagher
Narrator / Adoring Girl	Florence Hughes
Narrator / Adoring Girl	Esther Gratton
Narrator / Adoring Girl	VV Alkureishi
Narrator	Elysia Done
Pharaoh	Kit Fisher
Jacob (Joseph's Father)	Nat Johnson
Brothers	
Reuben / Butler	Douglas Dean
Simeon / Baker	Austin Furlong-Hart
Levi	Ellie Devlin
Naphtali	Jayden Igwe
Issachar	Maddie Salmoiraghi
Asher	Rory Dunlop
Dan	Charlie Lowe
Zebulon	Henry Hughes / Eva Ford
Gad	William New
Benjamin	Fyn Greening
Judah	Oscar Winney
Guards	Reece Linge, Rory Gallagher
Potiphar	Jack Hughes
Potiphar's Wife	Amelia Albertini
Dancers	Holly Thomas, Ania Jones
CHOIR	Laila Chester
	Freddie Davenport
	Mia Davenport
	Ari Forrestill
	Tom Ford
	Frankie Haydon

CHOIR

Georgia Lowe
Trixie Oakes
Reuben Pearce
Ren Wahlberg

Crew...

Lighting:

Chris Astbury, Eddie Harris,
Will Donaghy

Director:

Mrs Zoe Fisher

Choreographer:

Mrs Sasha Ford

Musical Director:

Mr Simon Fisher

Costume Assistants:

Mrs Hayley Chesters,
Nina Fisher, Gabriel McKay,
Izzy Philbin, Kady Morris,
Bonnie Tanner

The Band:

Mr Jamie Williams,
Mr Simon Fisher,
Mr Tony Coupe,
Kit Fisher, Izzy Philbin

Sound Design:

Affine Resourcing,
Chris Astbury

Stage Tech:

Kayleb Alcock,
Will Donaghy

Poster Design:

Ehaan Sharaf, Sam Shone,
Chris Dilks



The Chess Championship was held in this term, seeing VV Alkureishi as the winner battling her way through against Reece Linge. This is the first time we have had two Year 7 finalists and the first time we've had a female winner.

The Summer term came and very quickly things began to get busy again. We had the House Debate competition where a panel of competitors were set the task by Mr Crawford and Ms Rogers to encourage research, rhetoric and debate competition. Phillips House won, and honourable mentions went to Buddy Ball, Lois Eben, Harry Harrison and Florence Hughes for their debating skills.

In the ABRSM examinations, certificates were awarded to Peter Brown for grade 4 piano, Florence Hughes for grade 4 harp, Maddelena Salmoiraghi for grade 4 violin, Leonardo Salmoiraghi for grade 1 cello, William Donaghy for grade 3 piano, Francesca Haydon for grade 2 cornet, Harry Winn for grade 1 cornet and Trixie Oakes for grade 1 singing.



The Year 7 'Volcano Competition' was judged by the Geography Department and prizes went to Eve Scales, Ethan Harrison and Wolf Wahlberg.

The House 'Poetry Competition' was won by Reuben Pearce in Years 3 and 4, Leonardo Salmoiraghi in Years 5 and 6 and Esther Gration in Years 7 and 8.

Ellesmere College Parents' Society very kindly treated Year 7 pupils to an 'Afternoon at the Movies' along with ice cream and popcorn. My thanks go to Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Norris for all their hard work in making it happen.

Again, the Music Department pulled out all the stops with the 'Midsummer Concert' with performances throughout School that were inspiring.

Mr Crawford joined us again, this time for the House Quiz, which he writes and hosts. This year Phillips House won.

Year 8 had a social evening at the bowling alley in Shrewsbury. After some bowling, food was served and then they gravitated to the arcade games where they seemed most happy, although a few had their eyes on the television screens as the Euros were on. A very pleasant evening was had by all.



On a hot evening near the end of term, we had the Lower School Concert. Audience attendance was fantastic as were the performers, but I must admit I was glad to be behind the scenes with those waiting to go on stage as there was a very welcome breeze travelling through the foyer.

English Speaking Board examinations took place this term for Year 6 and Year 8 seeing pupils learning, by heart, a poem of their choice, researching a topic to talk about and answer questions on, and having good knowledge of a novel of their choice and be able to read a selected excerpt to an audience, fluidly. I am pleased to report we had a 100% pass rate with six distinctions.

The House Singing competition came along very quickly. Each House had to choose a Disney song to perform and write and sing a House Anthem. This was the first House Singing competition for Lower School. It was a lot of fun and all Houses certainly rose to the occasion. Brownlow House won.

The STEM Challenge Day for Year 8 was a success thanks to the hard work of Miss Darrant in enabling it through her planning and dedication. She was closely supported by Mrs Owen, as always. Teams worked collaboratively to design and build an E-Formula one car and then design a production line to build several cars as quickly as possible. The winning team showed perseverance and resilience as their first attempt did not work but they went on to produce three perfect models in their production line. Congratulations go to Pippa Blackwood, Daniel Thelwell, Amy Li, Douglas Dean and Nat Johnson.

Just before Expeditions started, we had a visit from the Air Ambulance as part of an awareness initiative for schools. 'Old Ellesmerian' parent, Mr Watkins, got in touch and offered us this opportunity which provided a very informative afternoon for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Drayton Manor, Shropshire Hills and the World Museum Liverpool were a few of the destinations during 'Expo Week'. We also had a Roman Soldier turn up to get Year 5 pupils in order.

From somewhere, Lower School pupils were able to muster up the energy for Sports Day. In the morning Key Stage 2 had their Swimming Gala. Mr Taylor deserves a lot of thanks for planning and executing a rigorous and enjoyable event. Of course, we showed our appreciation by making sure that Mr Taylor also entered the water. Heywood House won.

Whilst the gala was on, Key Stage 3 had a sponsored walk for Nightingale House Hospice. Pupils did a tremendous job in raising sponsors for their walk. In total, Lower School have raised just under £2,500 for the cause this year.

The weather wasn't so kind to us on Prize Giving Day and 'Strawberries and Fizz' had to be served indoors. Before we got to that we had Speeches in Big School and the end of term assemblies for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, respectively.

That morning the following pupils went up on stage in Big School to receive academic prizes:

In Year 7: Chris Dilks, Florence Sandiford, William Donaghy, Jasper Kimber, Florence Hughes, Rose Gretton, VV Alkureishi, Eve Scales and Kit Fisher.

In Year 8: Douglas Dean, Esther Gration, George Wardle, Maya Holzgartner, Amelie Holzgartner, Jose Mittelbrum, Henry Hughes, Eva Ford, Morgan Garratt, Nat Johnson, Krish Kamisetty and Annie Hutchon.

In Key Stage 2 there were excellent results from the examinations earlier that term and a number of Year 6 pupils were awarded Excellence Awards for academic subjects: Ivy Glinos, James Evans, Seb Johnson, Ariella Thelwell, Chloe Hart, Lucas Morgan, Tomas Balakrishnan, Oscar Lea, Charlie Stockton and Fox Fearnall.

Academic enrichment is at the core of pupil development at Ellesmere, again organised by Ms Rogers, each term there are enrichment challenges which are open to all pupils in Lower School – these challenges and competitions happen termly, often with more than one a term. They can be found on the Frog site on the Enrichment pages.

For every event, assembly, competition and challenge a pupil takes part in they get a sticker. Ms Rogers counts each child's stickers, and awards: Bronze, Silver, to: Bonnie Tanner, Scarlett Fearnall, Georgia O'Grady, Ed Whittaker, Poppy Baker, Rory Dunlop, Rory Gallagher, Ania Jones, Sebby Jones, Reece Linge, Phoebe Shortt, Alexandra Dawes, Ben Francis, Xander Blackwood, Fox Fearnall, Lucas Morgan and Alexander Oakes.

Silver awards went to: Douglas Dean, Ellie Devlin, Amelia Albertini Harry Winn, Georgia Lowe, Mia Davenport, Phyllis Dawes, Seb Johnson, Tomas Balakrishnan, Josh Philbin, Toby Sharaf, James Donaghy, Ewan Gallagher, Tate Horton, Arabella Goodwin, Helena Hutchon, Lottie Philbin and Jasper Tomkins.

Gold went to VV Alkureishi.



This year we had someone who managed to get Platinum level – never achieved before – well done to Nat Johnson.

Certificates were presented on behalf of Mr Coupe for outstanding contribution to Lower School band, Rock band and choir to Maddelena Salmoiraghi, Doug Dean, Henry Hughes, Nat Johnson, Peter Brown, Eva Ford, Esther Gration and Tabitha Gallagher. Key Stage 2 pupils were also recognised for their outstanding commitment to the Lower School choir: Frank Whiston, Toby Sharaf, Tristan Richards, Leonardo Salmoiraghi, Josh Philbin, Lucas Morgan, Raeya Khosla, Oscar Lea, Chloe Hart, Seb Johnson, Tom Ford and Tomas Balakrishnan.

Sport is a cornerstone of education at Ellesmere and during the end of term assemblies, awards were presented, and achievements recognised.

Swimming – feedback and acknowledgements from Guy Worrow .

Eve Scales – Effort achievement. Attends 6 swim sessions per week and competes across the country.

Reece Linge – Performance and effort achievement. Attends 6 swim sessions per week training and has also qualified for the Swim Wales National Champs in August across multiple events (ranked top 10 in Wales across these events).

Annie Hutchon – Performance and Effort. Attends 7 swim sessions per week and competes across the country. Ranked top 10 in Britain across multiple events and qualified for Scottish Summer nationals in July ranked top 3 in Scotland across all events.

Eliza Mason – Performance and Effort. Attends 7 swim sessions per week and competes across the country. Ranked top 25 in Britain across multiple events and qualified for English Summer nationals in August, ranked top 20 in England across multiple events.

Tennis – feedback from Mr Welti

There has been great success this year at Ellesmere individually and in teams.

Lower School Tennis Academy players have represented County Teams in Shropshire and North Wales .

Earlier in the year the Girls' and Boys' teams played in the regional finals of the LTA National Schools Tournament giving them a ranking in the top 8 schools in the UK.

This year the year 7/8 boys' and girls' teams won the county section in the National Schools Championships and will go on to play in the regional rounds next term.

The following pupils are eligible in the 'Play your way to Wimbledon' County finals having reached finals in their club and school tournaments. Should they win their respective events, they will be given the opportunity to play on the grass courts at Wimbledon in the National Finals: Poppy Baker, VV Alkureishi and Krish Kamisetty. The Tennis Academy Achievement Award went to Krish Kamisetty. The Tennis Academy Commitment award went to Poppy Baker and the Tennis Academy Endeavour award for demonstrating a good work ethic went to VV Alkureishi.

Shooting – on behalf of Tom Rylands, awards for Air Rifle shooting:

For Excellent grouping of shots

Peter Brown, Flo Sandiford, Esther Gration, Freddie Latham, Morgan Garrett, Anna Underhill, Pippa Blackwood, Angus Leonard, Alberta Gaskell, Isabelle Rafferty, Chloe Hart, Frankie Haydon, Ren Wahlberg and Alexandra Dawes.

Certificates were also presented for:

Most improved shooter

Laila Chester

Great range etiquette

Zach Bedwell

Showing great perseverance and patience when there was a problem with his rifle

Tom Ford

Cricket – feedback from Mr Owen and Mr Jones**Spirit of Cricket**

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket, respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket. Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires. Play hard and play fair.

Acknowledgement of Performance

- School

- County

Commitment

- Practice (lunchtime voluntary practice)

- Playing for a club

- Availability for school fixtures

Leadership and Teamwork**Positive Mental Attitude****Organisation of players and kit****Assisting with scoring**

This year the following pupils were awarded the Spirit of Cricket:

KS3 Boy: Harry Harrison**KS3 Girl:** Eliza Mason**KS2 Boy:** Fox Fernall**KS2 Girl:** Chloe Hart

Commitment is an important quality to have, and we try to foster this through our sports and activity programmes, academies and our competitive Houses. Recognised for their commitment to such things were:

Harry Evans, Poppy Sutton, Rory Owen, Tabitha Gallagher, Austin Furlong Hart, Harry Fell, Eliza Mason, Eban Fox Kirkham, Dan Thelwell, Ethan Harrison, Milo Castle and William Webster.

Thanks to Mr Horrocks for an inclusive Sports Day. As one of the biggest House competitions of the year pupils work hard to gain points. This year Brownlow House won over all but there were many impressive athletic performances from individuals in all Year groups. This is celebrated through the Victrix and Victor Ladorum awards. The following pupils were awarded:

Victrix Years 3 and 4

Francesca Coupe

Victor Years 3 and 4

Jasper Tomkins

Victrix Years 5 and 6

Amber Leonard

Victor Years 5 and 6

Ben Francis

Victrix Year 7

Eve Scales

Victor Year 7

Reece Linge

Victrix Year 8

Eliza Mason

Victor Year 8

Henry Hughes

After all competitions have taken place and House points counted the House Cup for the year is awarded. This year it went to Brownlow House, congratulations!

The Scarisbrick Cup was presented to an inspirational geographer. The shield was donated by Mrs Scarisbrick who was the former Head of Geography. Elisa Ripault, despite only being here for a short time having travelled from France to join us for one term, really impressed the Geography Department.

The CSN Cup is awarded to a pupil who shows true Ellesmerian spirit, has a go at everything including things out of their comfort zone, will take responsibility and who shows kindness to others. This year the cup went to Douglas Dean.

The Young Musician of the Year Cup was donated by Mr Clewlow from the Clewlow family to acknowledge a pupil's overall contribution to music. This year the cup went to Henry Hughes.

The Kindness Awards this year went to Amber Leonard, Ewan Gallagher and Pippa Blackwood.

Captains of House, Chapel Prefects and Prefects – Father Phillip would like me to thank, on his behalf, the Chapel Prefects from this academic year – Nat Johnson, Anna Underhill and Annie Hutchon.



I would like to thank the Captains of House and Vice Captains, Austin Furlong Hart, Eliza Mason, Rory Owen, Tabitha Gallagher, William Webster, Poppy Sutton, Angus Leonard, Elysia Done, Lois Eben, James Cosgrove, Pippa Blackwood and Jake Hughes for all their hard work over the course of the year.

I would also like to thank the prefects, Morgan Garrett, Scarlett Fearnall, Amelie Holzgartner, Maya Holzgartner and the Deputy Head Girl, Georgia O'Grady and Deputy Head Boy, Morgan Lay for all their support.

In September Esther Gration and Harry Harrison took on the roles of Head Girl and Boy. This, I'm sure they won't mind me saying was out of their comfort zone, but I congratulate them and thank them for taking on that responsibility and I hope they have enjoyed it. Both gave speeches at the end of the term:



Harry Harrison – Head Boy Speech

Good afternoon, ladies, gentlemen, teachers and my peers.

Now, as I get ready to hand over my Head Boy reins of Lower School, I am here to say my thank you and goodbyes.

I leave Lower School with mixed emotions, but I am excited about the new adventures that behold me when I begin my new adventures in Middle School.

I first visited Ellesmere, as a small shy 8-year-old boy, I was pretty keen to come over from Oswestry School for a taster day!

I had secretly heard that they played lots of cricket!

I entered the building with my chin on my chest and believe it or not, I left at the end of the day with my chin on my chest! Phew, I was nervous! But once back in the car, I said Ellesmere was the place I really wanted to be, and quite honestly, I have never looked back! My chin was quickly raised I can promise! And let me tell you, I have done a lot more than just PE, which for those who know me well, I am a big fan of!

That September, I began a very excitedly in Year 4. Well, little did we all know after one fun term with Mrs Morgan, COVID would hit and we would be introduced to 'Teams'. I can now tell you, that apart from the seriousness of the pandemic, I did actually enjoy jumping on Teams at 9 am with my Pyjama bottoms still on, bacon sandwiches out of the camera view, and off I went, raising the odd hand or two on to join in

with class discussions. Oh my, would anyone ever believe what we all had to do! Mum had to learn how to scan my work the right way up! Both mine and Mum's IT skills have since improved massively!

So, what have been my highlights of Lower School??

Ok, to be totally honest, lunch has to be up there, so a big thank you to Ellesmere's fabulous catering team. I do love my food!

I have immensely enjoyed every PE/Games lesson, every football match, every rugby match and every single cricket match. Not so much my cross country, but I've always done it, and to date have never needed the oxygen!

I am fairly competitive, or maybe very competitive, so I have enjoyed all of our House competitions, including: football, cricket, quiz, debate and our fabulous sports day.

Also all the games we have all played on the pitch making infinite memories and hard – fought victories, for example our cricket game against Queen Mary's where we fought from the dead to win the game against all odds, all I will say is that it involved Dan Thelwell's tunes and a bowling masterclass for Bertie A and Jake H, not to forget our best mascot, parents, madly cheering us on.

The opportunities that Ellesmere has given me have been phenomenal, I really cannot thank all the staff, and students for this. To finish my Ellesmere Lower school journey as head boy, has been a dream come true, I'm not sure that I would have the same opportunities anywhere else. This is because Ellesmere has a focus of enriching students to become more rounded individuals.

To all my younger peers, if there is one thing to take away from what I say, is please grasp the opportunities you have in Lower School. The ethos and attitudes of our school are there for a reason. They set us up for the future to be the best we can be. I honestly believe that everyone has the potential to do what they want to do, so make it happen. Ellesmere has been so good to me and taught me many things. All the new friends I have made and the happiness that it brings.

After 5 years in Lower School, I hear the teachers sigh
So happy to get rid of us as they say goodbye

I've loved my time in Lower School, with lunchtime out on top
I'm now going to Middle School, I'm glad that will not stop

And just before I go, I really want to thank:

- Mrs Morgan for all her care and support
- Esther our Head Girl for all her great support and teamwork all the way!
- Prefects, Morgan and Georgia
- The secretaries, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Arrowsmith (Mum will miss your kindness)
- Paul my fabulous bus driver (One day I promise to be early)
- Rod, Mr Owen and Mr Horrocks for all your continued support, on and off the pitches
- To all our teachers, that continually support and encourage us all.
- I will always fondly remember Mr Wignall, and our football chats over Christmas lunch last year, I could never tell him I supported Manchester United, rather than his famous Liverpool.

Esther Gration – Head girl speech

First of all, I'd like to say how much of a privilege being Head Girl has been, especially to have been Mrs Morgan's first Head Girl, in her first year being head of Lower School.

Secondly, as it is the end of my long and well-enjoyed time in Lower School, I'd like to thank all of the teachers and staff who have been here the whole way through and taught me all the things I know now. I'd like to especially thank Mrs Morgan who taught me in Year 3 and 4 and made me feel so welcome when I joined, and Mr Prescott for being such a great form tutor this year. I'd also like to thank all of the people behind the scenes: groundsman, caterers, and our hard-working cleaners who work so hard to make Ellesmere the great place it is.

I'd like to share with you some of my favourite memories from my 6 years in Lower School, that will probably stay with me forever and have made me so fond of my time here. I really enjoyed Year 3 and 4, probably because Mrs Morgan made it seem like we were doing very little actual work. We all enjoyed the famous Maths Mansion episodes every week, much preferred to the actual maths lessons that I used to dread - not much has changed there. Mrs Morgan was the most supportive and caring teacher I could have hoped for, getting us stuck into activities and science experiments making Year 3 and 4 my favourite years in Lower School.

I really looked forward to Year 5, moving into a new classroom with a new teacher. This year was spent in tracksuits and on teams for the most of it though, but the time we spent all together was well enjoyed. I remember especially the weekly quizzes over teams, especially Annie cheating when she thought she was on mute. My favourite part of summer term was when we looked after caterpillars which grew into butterflies we released. I think we all enjoyed seeing them grow and looking after them. Mrs Phillips was a big help in the Christmas plays that I used to look forward to every year, reminding me once that the play was the next day and I still hadn't learnt my lines.

Moving into Year 6 with Mr Hutchings we learned about the World War bunkers, how to be quiet in lessons, and most of all, what sarcasm was. I enjoyed Year 6, we had the excitement of moving up into Year 7 the next year and being the oldest in KS2, which came with having more independence. Year 6 was our first ESB, which all of Year 6 and 8 just did about a week ago, we had a lot of help from Mr Hutchings to prepare for it, he was patient even when I'd changed my poem again.

After Year 3 and 4, Year 7 was my favourite. I really enjoyed moving up into KS3 and not having all my lessons in one place, being able to move around school and having even more independence. I had new teachers and made new friends, and visited new classrooms.

And that brings me to Year 8. Being a prefect this year has been a real honour and has come with responsibilities and duties. I have really been privileged to have been Head Girl this year and have tried my hardest to help Mrs Morgan and the rest of the teachers when they've asked me to and have happily done duties and other things alongside the prefect team. Whether that has been reading with KS2 on a Thursday or helping out in chapel. I've shared my captain's duties with Harry, who has been Head Boy this year, and continually annoying and funny right through from Year 4 when he joined, until now, especially when he fell off his chair in Year 4 and couldn't speak for 5 minutes afterwards. When Mrs Morgan said I'd get on with him one day I never believed it. It's been good knowing Harry better and performing duties with him, and even fighting over which gown we wanted.

Before I end, I'd like to say that with its so many opportunities and experiences, Lower School helps you grow into the person you are and helps you discover things you love, that you never would have expected.

So a massive thank you to Mrs Morgan for choosing me to be her first Head Girl, I feel very honoured, and a massive thank you to all of the teachers who have taught and cared for me throughout Lower School. You have made it such a special and memorable part of my life. All the best to all the year sevens going into Year 8 next year, particularly the prefect team.

The year went very quickly and that is usually a sign that things are busy. That's certainly how it felt. It has been good to reflect on the time past and to see how much was achieved on personal levels, within teams and as a Lower School. I have only touched on part of what has been achieved this year and I'm sure you can appreciate just how much goes on in order to offer pupils opportunities for development.

Many thanks to all who have supported Lower School this academic year.

SEM





Philbin, L. Haydon, F.S. Pearce, R.P. Dawes, Z.P. Dawes, J.T. Blackwood, A.R. Hart, C. Goodwin, A.M. O'Grady, J. Gaskell, H. Wahlberg, A.J. Gallagher, T.

Davenport, F.J. Francis, B.W. Chester, L.F. Coupe, F.J. Rafferty, F.J. Gallagher, E.B. Lea, O.G. Whiston, W.F. Latham, E.R. Sharaf, T.M. Leonard, A.R. Stockton, C. Forrestill, A.R. Forrestill, O.J. Tomkins, J.D. Salmoiraghi, L.F. Dawes, A.H. Oakes, T.M. Bedwell, Z. Forrest, H. Balakrishnan, T.E. Ford, T. Morgan, L.W. Fearnall, H. Johnson, S.P.L. Khosla, R.L. Thelwell, A. Fearnall, W.F. Spencer-Blow, F.J. Richards, T.W.H. Lay, E.J.M. Oakes, A.T. Simmons, R.C.M. Philbin, J. Evans, J.

Jones, A.C. Donaghy, W.R.J. Gaskell, A. Gretton, R.I. Baker, P.A.M. Greening, F. Ebbon, L.A. Pearson, M.R. Poole, A.M. Devlin, H. Hutchon, H.R. Lowe, H.A.M. Beattie, O.J. Horton, T. Glinos, I.N. Donaghy, J.R.N. Davenport, M.S. Lowe, C.T. Billington, R.C. Sandiford, F.M. Cornwell, S.V. Latham, F.L. Jones, S.E. Fearnall, F. Dilks, C.G. Gallagher, R.F. Fell, H.O. Hughes, J.D. Holzgartner, M. Holzgartner, A. Dunlop, R.J. Harrison, E.O. Thomas, H.A. O'Grady, G.

Pocock, L.E. Brown, P.L. Shone, S. Tanner, B.J. Baldwin, K.A. Sharaf, E.W. Webster, W.R. Cadwaladr, O.T. Every, C. Whittaker, E.T. Madeley Roe, F.J. Evans, H. Barabash, E. Seales, E. Kimber, J.F. Jones, W.H. Blackwood, P. Mittelbrum, J. Furlong Hart, A.D. Sutton, P.L. Hughes, F.L.E. Fisher, K. Cosgrove, J. Garratt, M.B.R. Castle, M.O. Goodwin, W.G. Ball, B.D. Hughes, J.C. Barnes, W.T.P. Harris, E.G. Underhill, A. Owen, R.J. Leath, O.T. Oakes, G. Igwe, O.

Kamisetty, K.D. Walker, O.B. Lay, M.D. Ling, R.O. Done, E. Fox-Kirkham, E. Fearnall, S.W. Dean, D.G. Leonard, A.W. Johnson, N.D. Thelwell, D. Albertini, A. Hutchon, A.P.I. Hughes, H.W.A. Mason, E.R. Alkureishi, G.J.A. Ford, E. Mukherjee, S. Mrs A.Arrowsmith Mrs S.Vickers Mr R.S.Fisher Mrs A.Done Mrs E.Phillips Mrs J.M.Hibbott Harrison, H.A.J. Mrs S.E.Morgan Mr S.J.Prescott Gratton, E. Fr Phillip Mr M.J.Atherton Ms S.Rogers Mr J.M.Richards Mrs C.E.Pearce

Lower School 2023



School 2024

Middle School

“Education is everything,
Education is your power
Education is your way in life for
whatever you want to do”

It's time to reflect on the dynamic and vibrant life of Middle School. Once again, our students thrived in an environment filled with opportunities for personal growth, academic achievement, and community engagement. The past year has been marked by a series of events and activities that have not only showcased the talents of our students but also fostered their development in numerous ways.

The academic year began with the usual flurry of excitement and anticipation as students, both new and returning, selected their Thursday afternoon activities. These sessions, a hallmark of Middle School life, offered a diverse range of opportunities, including the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), Year 11 leadership courses, the Green Team, Arts Award, and the ever-popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Each of these activities provided students with a unique platform to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships.



One of the most eagerly awaited events of the Michaelmas term was the House Play Festival. This year's theme, "Only Fools and Horses," inspired a wave of creativity and enthusiasm among the Middle School pupils. Whether performing on stage or working tirelessly behind the scenes, every student involved demonstrated remarkable dedication and talent. The festival not only highlighted the artistic flair of our students but also underscored the importance of teamwork and collaboration.

The term also saw our Year 11 students engaging in a careers event designed to help students navigate their future pathways. This event provided invaluable insights into various professions, with representatives from universities and industries offering guidance and answering

questions. The opportunity to explore different career options and hear from experts was immensely beneficial, leaving students better equipped to make informed decisions about their futures.

Expeditions remained a cornerstone of our educational approach, offering students a chance to experience learning beyond the classroom. This year, a variety of activities took place, from CCF camps, DofE walking and camping activities. The Arts Award group embarked on an exciting trip to London, visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum, attending performances of "Wicked" and "The Lion King," and exploring the National Gallery. Other students participated in a drum workshop led by Tom Morley, former drummer of the 1980s band Scritti Politti, and had the opportunity to see "Jesus Christ Superstar" in Liverpool. These experiences not only broadened their horizons but also provided lasting memories.

Throughout the year our collective spirit came to the fore during our assemblies—an invaluable period during which Middle School comes together to share its own interests and passions on a wide range of subject matters. These assemblies were both enlightening and invigorating, covering topics that resonated profoundly with the students. The task of addressing peers, allows pupils to build confidence and stretches even the most able of our young people.

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 endeavours for which we present certificates as a sign of success which are presented by myself and Mrs Curzon, Assistant Head of Middle School.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education) is a strong element of our curriculum, and it's a time when pupils are taught as a tutor group. Our dedicated tutors led discussions encompassing subjects ranging from mental well-being to ecological concerns and study skills. The annual online safety course underscored the significance of digital literacy, equipping students with tools to navigate the digital realm responsibly, in the current climate where we need to make our young people safe online it is so important that they understand how to navigate the digital world safely.



MUN (Model United Nations) students went on a visit to Stoneyhurst College for a conference. Winners included George Gration best young delegate in the security delegation and Nathaniel Clewlow best young delegate in the social and economic delegation.

Cultural celebrations were another highlight of the year, with events such as European Language Day and the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival bringing the school community together. These occasions allowed students to immerse themselves in different cultures, fostering an appreciation for diversity and global awareness. World Poetry Day was another significant event, where students celebrated the power of words and creativity through various poetry readings and performances.

The sense of community and social responsibility was further emphasized through numerous non-uniform days held throughout the year. These events, organized to raise funds for MHESS (Mental Health and Ellesmere Support System) and Macmillan Nurses, showcased the generosity and compassion of our students, who eagerly participated in these initiatives to support important causes.

The arts continued to flourish at Ellesmere, with a music concert held in aid of Race Against Dementia. This event was a testament to the talent and dedication of our student musicians, who performed with passion and purpose. The Oswestry Youth Music Festival was another occasion where our students shone, winning in many categories with their outstanding performances.

STEM education remained a focal point, with Year 10 students participating in a day of STEM challenges. These activities encouraged teamwork and problem-solving as students tackled a series of tough challenges. The Year 9's took part in an Ethics convention, where they explored various ethical topics, including the question of whether it is

ethically viable to pay women less in sports. This event stimulated thoughtful discussions and helped students develop their critical thinking skills.

In the realm of sports, Ellesmere College continued to excel, with a significant number of Middle School pupils representing the school in various competitions. There are too many successes to mention here but a couple of highlights, include the Cricket Academy which had much to celebrate, with several players selected for the Lancashire Cricket Emerging Player Program, including girls from Years 9, 10, and 11. The Football Academy also had a noteworthy visit from former Manchester United coach Mike Phelan and elite performance coach Dave Horrocks, who shared insights on what it takes to reach the very top in sport.

Year 11 student Ewan Skillicorn made us proud by winning the Young Umpire of the Year award at the Shropshire Association of Cricket Umpires, a remarkable achievement that reflects his hard work and dedication.

Middle School life at Ellesmere College, once again, proved to be rich with opportunities for growth, creativity, and achievement. From the arts to sports, from academic pursuits to community service, our students have embraced every challenge and emerged stronger, more confident, and ready to take on the future. As we look ahead to the next academic year, we remain committed to nurturing the holistic development of our students, ensuring that Middle School continues to be a place where every child can thrive.

SP



Sixth Form

“ You never fail until you stop trying. ”

Albert Einstein

Our pre-term trip to St Davids, Pembrokeshire, Wales, for all the incoming Sixth Form pupils who wanted to try something different, began when we met 42 pupils bright and early at 8am on Thursday morning. This year, we took four minibuses (one of which didn't make it, and Dr Marsh did an amazing job sorting out that drama) and eventually arrived at the Bug Farm to enjoy the insect lunch provided. What followed was a great four days enjoying the sunshine, coasteering, spotting Prince William's hand waving out of a black Range Rover, taking a speedboat ride around Ramsey Island, and listening to the noisy calls of the seals and their pups, among other activities. We also learned a little about conservation, did our part with a beach clean-up, and enjoyed marshmallows around a campfire on the last evening.

We returned for the new pupil meetings with tutors and the usual talks from me and the Headmaster; with smiling faces, albeit a little weary after such a busy four days. It was an experience that I hope was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Monday induction day continued that theme in the afternoon with the usual madness of the Competitive House competitions, giving the whole of the Sixth Form an opportunity to have some fun and prepare for a busy year.

The Sixth Form also attended the October 'Careers Fair' which proved to be very useful in helping some finalize decisions and giving ideas to others. Additionally, a number of our Lower Sixth pupils completed the Mental Health First Aid Awareness course and will be helping to continue the good work of MHESS at Ellesmere.

The usual end-of-year festivities took place, rounded off by Christmas lunches and carol services, which were extremely popular this year as things returned to their normal busy state. We also had a visit from the Yipiyap team, advertising the gap year opportunities they offer.

The Lent Term began with the usual focus on mock exams for the Upper Sixth and a very successful PSHE morning for the Lower Sixth, covering substance abuse, mental health, well-being, and managing stress, as well as a tough session of self-defence in the sports hall. Other planned events did not take place as the focus was firmly on ensuring that academic work remained the priority while we all came to terms with the devastating passing of the Headmaster.



The Summer Term began for the IB pupils with exams, so they had a month of intense pressure. Once exams were over, they were able to relax and either enjoy the facilities of the school or spend some time visiting friends and family.

The Ellesmere community was again hugely affected by the passing of Mr Whitley, the Head of Music, and then, at the start of the half-term break, by the tragic accident that resulted in the loss of Dafydd Craven-Jones and two other young people. The Sixth Form pupils, in particular, came together and did an exceptional job of coping with the loss of a fellow pupil, and they also played a huge part in supporting his family. I know that this will continue even after they leave us for pastures new.

Rounding off an exceptionally challenging six months, at the end of the term, the Sanatorium Sisters again arranged an even bigger and better 'Health Fair' for the Lower Sixth, and this will now be the way forward for the foreseeable future.

This year has highlighted to me why teaching, and particularly teaching at Ellesmere College (I am now ending my 24th year here!), is something truly special. It is the staff and pupils that make this school such a welcoming, caring, and supportive place to work and learn, and I am confident that all our leavers take away with them many positive skills and an outlook on life that will serve them extremely well in the future. I wish them every success in life and hope that they will find the time to come back in the future so we can look back on their time at Ellesmere and reminisce together.





Wong, C.H., Edwards, S.M., Qian, J., Edwards, S.J.C., Reip-Hagen, M.G., Pritchard, E.J., McNamara, S.A., Li, S.Y., Lamerton, T.D., Gray, I.L., Galliers, E.N., Carter, F., Gardner-McTaggart, B.E.E., Burlando, S.E., Furlong Hart, D.V.,
 Cripps, I.A., Holanova, V., Smith, J.M., Norris, J.H., Braseh, M.L., Rolfe, V.I., Salkauskaite, E., Lapinskaite, G., Smith, M.S., Nicholas, A.H., Domke, C.L., Nolan, S., Kugedera, M., Lai, Y.C., Hickson, L.S.R., Noss, P.,
 Hidayat, O.P., Ismail, M.I., Gough Tilley, T., Stuart, H.A., Williams, J., Detmar, L., Capewell, S.M., Iglesias Blanco, O., Smith, I.L.M., Mathews, J., Davies, F., Farr, A., Sanderson, C.M., Wells, M.G., Jones, B.A., Di Carlo, C.J., Norris, L.E.S.,
 Pountney, T.M., Bajramovic, F., Avramidi, S., Puhill Fernandez, D., Reineke, N., Giesen, P.L., Collins, M.P., Vukcevic, V., Freer-Carnichael, J.S., Sharaf, L.S., Pytches, E.N., Garratt, E.C.R., You, M., Balakrishnan, S.E., Mackintosh, J.G., Mathers, J.J., Manso de Zuniga Garcia, S., Muya, S.,
 Lloyd-Brown, T.O., Lee, J., Orme, J.J., Gannicott, J.P., Galazka, L., Preusse, P.L.F., Garond, S., Folly, F.C., Joshi, V., Connors-Robic, S., Zou, Z., Karlakki, A., Povey, M.J., Schneider, T., Borgetto, J.A.P.F., Gurgoz, G.A., Polakova, N.,
 Harris, S.R., Green, M.A., Bullen, F.H.D., Rescigno, A., Coe, A.-G., Floate, A., Kocyle, N., Golling, L.H., Osborne, J.C., Kinsey, J.C., Covill, O., Scott, D.K., Sharpe, A.J., Neuenhahn, L., Hobbs, J.B., Leagle-Moore, H.J.P.,
 Haydn-Lee, H.M., Spek, B.L., Wong, L.H., Dyson, T.J., Appleby, H.I.A., Culkin, A.J., Craven-Jones, D.H., Golabek, D., Phillips, W.G., Harrower, A.G., Curzon, E.A.F., Burston, J., Perovic, S., Dunne, C.D.-A., Jackson, H.J.E., Taylor, H.J., Raw, J.L., O'Donnell, S.P.,
 Thwaite, A.J.M., Le'long, J.M.J., Hansen, P.J., Reindler, P.P., Trevor-Barnston, W.C., Boys, C., Hermens, J.B.W., Hepburn, H.J., Schumann, B.L., Tulloch, E.M., Gallagher, R., Sun, H., Taylor, R.W.M., Hoyland, J.A., Evans, M., Schneevogel, O.B.R., Irfan, M.I.M., Haji Rahman, T.,
 Draco, O.T., Linington, S.G., Webster, M., Williams, A., Hartinger, M.R., Van Acker, J., Smith, T.S., O'Rourke, O.C., Keay, W.A.S., Lewers, J.J.R., Hemmingsway-Deaney, C., Davies, C., Bacewicz, L., Mahoney, E.M., Swinerton, T., Beuer, C.C., Harunov, A., Wynn, T.H., Dodds, O.H., Brumpton, F.J., Woollam, D.R.,
 Mason, S.I., Appleby, F.E.H., Sernberg, A.C.L.J., Janahi, S.F., Foster, A., Jones, E.N., Taylor, B., Edwards, E.E., Huntbach, E.M., Moore, N.T.R., Tsitsishvili, E.,
 Evans, K.L., Eskandari, M.M., Gilmore, F., Scurratt, M.R., Pashova, N., Mr J.E.Dilks Mrs C.S.Dilks Mr D.J.Morgan Phillips, A., Dr M.T.Gareh Trefanenko, O., Mr J.S.Underhill Mr C.Garratt Yorke, M.W.I. Laccours, M.J., Brookshaw, Z.G., Philbin, O.E., Ogunlaja, I.A.

Sixth Form 2023



Form 2024

University Destinations

University Applicant Results 2024

Name	University	Course
Arrowsmith Jack	Leeds Beckett University	Real Estate and Property Management
Avramidi Soflia	Durham University	Geography
Bacewicz Lukasz	Minerva University, San Francisco, CA., USA	Natural Sciences and Law, Philosophy and Ethics
Bajramovic Farah	Koç University (Turkey) or Minerva University (SF, USA)	Medicine
Battuvshin Sodjantsan	Northwestern University, Illinois	Business Management
Bittmann Emma	University of Leeds	English Literature with Creative Writing
Brookshaw Zara	Leeds Beckett University	Fine Art
Brumpton Frederick	Harper Adams University	Rural Property Management (with Placement)
Connesson-Robic Sacha	San Diego State University, USA	Liberal Arts (Football Scholarship)
Covill Oliver	University of Liverpool	Medicinal Chemistry with Pharmacology
Critchell Owen	Leeds Beckett University	Sport Business Management
Culkin Angus	University of Liverpool	Chemistry
Curzon Emily	University of Birmingham	History
Davies Cameron	Cardiff University	Physical Geography
Dodds Oscar	The University of Birmingham	Mechanical Engineering
Edwards Ellie	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Psychology
Edwards Susan	Shrewsbury 6th Form College	Child Care or Beauty
Eskandari Mohammad	Lancaster University	Computer Science
Evans Katie	University of Liverpool	Law with Business
Evans Major	Cayuga Community College, New York, USA	Business Management
Freer-Carmichael India	Cardiff University	Biological Sciences (inc Professional Training Year)
Galazka Lukasz	TBC - International University	IT based course
Gallagher Reuben	Liverpool John Moores University	Criminology and Psychology
Gilmore Francine	Newcastle University	Marine Biology
Gurgoze Guliz	University of Amsterdam	History and International Relations
Hansen Paul	Germany	Economics and Finance
Harris Finlay	Staffordshire University	Computer Games Development (with Foundation Year)
Harrower Amelia	University of Birmingham	Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery
Harumov Arsen	University of Brighton	Business Management with Entrepreneurship
Hearn Henry	Def 2025 - Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management
Hemingway-Deaney Charles	University of Warwick	History and Politics
Henderson Monty	Nottingham Trent University	Forensic Science (with Foundation Year)
Hermens Julius	Utecht or Amsterdam	Business Analysis
Hidayat Olivia	Def: Northumbria University, Newcastle	Humanities Foundation Year
Hutchinson Jake	USA	Swimming
Iglesias Blanco Olaya	Def: Leeds Beckett University	Business & Management
Irfan Mohammad	University of Sussex	Business Management and Economics (with a Foundation Year)
Ismail Mohammed	Loughborough University	Media and Communications
Jones Bea	University of Birmingham	Mathematics and Philosophy
Jones Ella	Cardiff University	Marine Geography with a Year of Study Abroad
Joshi Vihan	Nottingham Trent University	Business (with Foundation Year)

Name	University	Course
Keay William	Edge Hill University	Business & Management
Lai Yin Cheuk	Leeds Beckett University	Digital Marketing
Lelong Joseph	Bocconi University, Milan	International Economics and Management
Li Sum Yee	Back to Hongkong	
Linnington Samuel	USA	Game rearing
Lloyd-Brown Thomas	Gap year	Armed Forces
Mabaquiao Lennox Zoe	University of Leeds	Classical Civilisation and Philosophy
Moore Natasha	Lancaster University	Business Economics
Noonan Maia	Nottingham Trent University	English and Philosophy
Norris Lucinda	University of Exeter	Geography
Noss Prue	Manchester Metropolitan University	Manchester City Community Football Coaching
Ogunlaja Ivana	University of Surrey	Politics and Economics
Orme Jason	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Entrepreneurship
O'Rorke Orson	Leeds Beckett University	Sports Marketing
Osborne Joe	Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Pashova Neli	Munster Technological University , Ireland	Pharmaceutical Science
Philbin Olivia	Trinity Laban Conservatoire	Music
Phillips Alexander	University of Bath	Politics and International relations
Phillips William	Open University	Rugby Contract with Toulouse
Polakova Nikola	Slovakia	Return to previous school to complete one extra year of study
Pountney Tamzin	Towson University, Maryland, USA	Sports Management (Tennis Scholarship)
Pritchard Emily	Nottingham Trent University	Marketing
Quail Maximilian	Leeds Beckett University	International Business
Scarlat Ben	Germany	Biomedical Sciences
Scarratt Melanie	Lancaster University	English Language and Linguistics (Placement Year)
Schneider Tom	Bosch, Germany	Apprenticeship
Schumann Bennet	Germany or Italy	Medicine
Scott Daniel		Fitness instructor qualification
Sernberg Arabella	Def 2025 - Cardiff University	International Relations and Politics
Smith India	Cardiff University	Law
Smith Julia	Falmouth University	Film with Integrated Foundation Year
Sun Haobo	Durham University	Finance
Taylor Beatrice	Oxford Brookes University	Life Sciences Foundation
Tomlinson Jack	Cardiff University	Mechanical Engineering
Thwaite Adam	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
Trefanenko Oksana	Harvard College, USA	International Relations
Wong Lok Hang	Nottingham Trent University	Electronic and Electrical Engineering (with Foundation Year)
Woollam Daniel	Manchester Metropolitan University	Sports Business Management
Yorke Morgan	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
Zou Zhihui	Nottingham Trent University	Sport and Exercise Science

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 leadership skills through training, thereby becoming more self-reliant, resourceful, and confident.

From the first parade of the Michaelmas term, it was clear that the Navy Section was in excellent health; forty cadets from around the globe donned their uniforms and began practising drill and learning about the Royal Navy's assets, history, and structure. Alongside more campus-based activities, each week a group of cadets made their way to Whitemere, where superb instruction from Shropshire Sailing Club helped them develop their sailing skills on the Section's RS Qubas or the club's own Laser Bahias.

For the October expedition ('expo'), the Section joined forces with RAF cadets to further develop their resilience by partaking in various engineering challenges and training activities. We also visited the RAF Museum at Cosford and enjoyed a somewhat competitive day at Outpost AirSoft. Smiles (and the odd tear) were in evidence, and it soon became clear that Year 10 cadets Pearson, Earl, Ockendon, and Crompton had plenty of leadership potential. Over the year, three of the Lower Sixth cadets also stood out: Pyches, Appleby, and Mahoney.

As winter turned to spring, the Section continued to practise drill, learn about careers in the Navy, and develop their theoretical knowledge of sailing. With the start of summer, we returned to the waves at Whitemere. Once again, Shropshire Sailing Club was incredibly helpful in facilitating this, with instructors giving up their Thursday afternoons to help cadets get on the water. This culminated in the summer expedition, as we headed back to Whitemere for a day of fun and competition, with the chance to go paddleboarding on the Ellesmere Canal and develop bushcraft skills on campus.

During the course of this year, Mr Baggaley and Mr Atherton joined the Navy Section and, along with Mr Needham, all under the command of Sub Lieutenant Curzon, will take the Section from strength to strength.

DB





The Combined Cadet Force RAF Section

The Royal Air Force section of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has had an incredibly eventful and successful year, packed with diverse activities that have challenged and enriched the cadets' experiences. Throughout the Michaelmas term, cadets embarked on a journey of growth and adventure, creating lasting memories and developing skills that will serve them well in the future.

The term began with a focus on outdoor adventure, as some cadets prepared for their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. This award is a highlight each year, offering cadets valuable opportunities for personal development.

New recruits also joined during this time and began working through the First Class syllabus, covering a wide range of subjects, including the history of the Royal Air Force, an introduction to the CCF, Airmanship 1, the history of flight, basic radio communication, first aid, and the essential elements of drill. The enthusiasm of the new cadets was impressive, and senior cadets enjoyed taking a leadership role by helping teach the new recruits.

In the second half of the Michaelmas term, the focus shifted to marksmanship, with cadets undergoing rigorous training to qualify for the Trained Shot badges. Despite their dedication, the term ended on a disappointing note when weather conditions caused RAF Cosford to cancel scheduled flying opportunities.

However, the Michaelmas Expo was another exciting highlight, with a visit to RAF Cosford and its museum, where cadets explored the history of flight and British military aircraft. They also participated in leadership activities and an exhilarating day of Airsoft alongside the Navy section, which often brings a fun rivalry.

The Lent term brought the next phase of classification training, with all cadets diving into the Leading Cadet syllabus. Subjects included Airmanship 2, Principles of Flight, and Basic Navigation, giving cadets a deeper understanding of aviation. Aviation remained a central focus, as cadets took part in Part-Task Trainer (PTT) flying sessions, with several earning the coveted Blue Wings badge. RAF instructors also led leadership sessions, guiding cadets through command tasks.

As the Summer term began, we said farewell to some cadets heading off for study leave but kept up a rich schedule of activities. Cadets continued their classification studies and focused on improving their drill and appearance. With the arrival of warmer weather, cadets took part in a survival course, learning critical wilderness survival skills such as shelter construction and outdoor cooking using stoves and mess tins. Leadership training remained a priority, as cadets developed radio communication skills and practised planning and executing Command Tasks using the SMEAC approach.

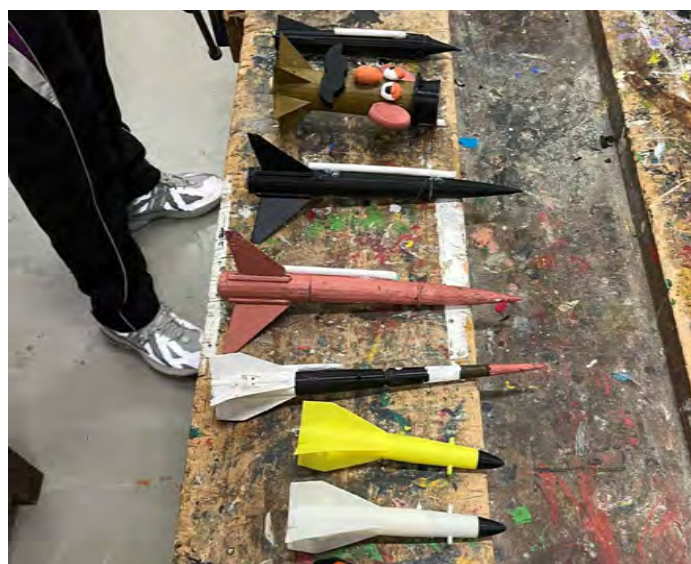
The Summer Expo, held on school grounds, was an action-packed and educational experience. Cadets took part in a variety of hands-on



activities, including designing and building remote-controlled paper airplanes, testing their flying skills with mini FPV drones, and completing the rocket challenge. The rockets they designed, using computer-aided design and 3D printing, reached heights of over 1,000 feet. The expo wrapped up with a day on the shooting range, where cadets sharpened their marksmanship skills.

It has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding year for the RAF section of the CCF. Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Test Sgt Tomkinson. He will be missed by the cadets, but we hope to see him again at camps such as Inskip when it becomes available. We have now welcomed Test Sgt Taylor to the fold. He has made a great impact on the squadron and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and fun activities for the cadets.

Flt Lt J Haycock



The Combined Cadet Force Army Section

The major development in the Army Section in the last year was the move to the new Army Cadet Syllabus (ACS) which was finally published. This is a detailed and well-resourced syllabus which contains most of what Ellesmere has been doing for many years. There is an element of prescription to it if cadets are to progress through its ACS star levels with some mandatory modules and optional elements but it is now embedded in our Training Programme. In summary Year 9 cadets should complete their Basic Cadet Level by Easter of Year 9 and make a start on the 1-star Level. We aim to complete this in twelve months. On completion of this, the Junior Cadets would then embark on their 2-star programme which we aim to complete before the end of the Lent term in Year 11. They would then become a Senior Cadet. Some cadets will achieve the 3-star level as well depending on whether they sign up for a variety of other opportunities. The syllabus is roughly linear although cadets will achieve some elements of Higher Levels earlier in the training programme. The whole syllabus is compatible with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award eg completion of Bronze DofE Expedition training will result in the award of the 1-star Expedition and the 1-star Navigation passes and vice versa. This is usually done over the course of the October Expeditions and indeed this was the case last year. Successful completion of the actual Bronze Expedition in the summer of Year 9 secures a 2-star pass!

The start of the year was hectic as cadets of all ages prepped for the October expeditions. At this stage, the Year 9s were yet to make a

choice between the RAF, the Navy or the Army sections but all took part in what was a mostly generic training programme which would continue throughout the year. The cadets learnt something about resilience and the wisdom of packing the right kit over a very damp two-day experience. Unfortunately, the Year 10s and 11s were unable to carry out their exercise at Swynnerton as it was cancelled at the last minute for reasons outside of the Contingent's control. Access and the use of training areas remain a challenge. They completed their 1-star Skill at Arms and 1-star Shooting under the watchful eyes of Major Quentin in College which was a major achievement under the circumstances. As always, our senior NCOs made a huge contribution to the success of these three days. Over the coming "dark months" the cadets learnt a huge range of skills, from First Aid, through Fieldcraft and Navigation, Drill and much else. The Senior Cadets of all three services paraded the Contingent's Colours on Remembrance Sunday with Abi-Lou, William and Eddie doing a magnificent job. Several Army Cadets attended our fantastic Easter Camp at Dundonnell which is reported elsewhere in this journal.

At the start of the Summer term, the Contingent paraded to thank our senior NCOs as they stood down to prepare for their final examinations. The Contingent Commander presented them with engraved CCF medallions and their Colours. Cdt CSgt Tom Lloyd-Brown was awarded Best Army Cadet whilst Cdt Sgt Abi-Lou Foster was awarded the Blake Hartley Trophy for Best Cadet. This achievement made





Abi-Lou the first cadet ever to hold the "Grand Slam" of the Wootton Cup for Best Cadet on Camp, "The Axe" for Best Cadet on Easter Camp and the Blake Hartley Trophy for Best Cadet. A remarkable achievement.

Summer Expeditions saw Year 9 complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition and their Basic Shooting. The Year 10s took part in a two-day Fieldcraft exercise thanks to the superb staff at Tern Hill. Our thanks to them. Twenty Year 9 and 10 Junior Cadets took part in Central Camp at Warcop in July. They were an absolute credit to the Contingent. Ellesmere were by far the youngest group of cadets on Camp but acquitted themselves very well indeed. They were very popular with all the Training staff due to their resolutely cheerful and positive attitude throughout. Cdt LCpls Chadwick and Clewlow were jointly awarded the Wootton Cup for their leadership of such a young group of boys and girls.

I would like to thank all of my fellow Officers for their help, support and hard work to make so many opportunities possible for so many Ellesmerians. It is much appreciated.

Lt Col Martin Clewlow



The Combined Cadet Force Easter Camp 2024



We returned once again to Dundonnell for our Easter Camp 2024. We took with us twelve cadets on what turned out to be another fantastic week of winter mountaineering. Half of the cadets were new to Easter Camp and the others were returning "old hands". Dave Escott, our chef, continued to raise the bar in the kitchen.

The group had the usual day of winter training on Day 1. They walked into Glas Tholl from where the seniors, with Huw Gilbert OE, submitted on Glas Mheallo Liath and Bidein a Ghlas Thuill. They refreshed their winter skills in Coir a Mhuilinn then walked into Dundonnell. Our instructors Ian and Alan practised winter skills on the lower slopes at the back of the corrie with the juniors. The next day they walked from the hut into Coir a Mhuilinn and reached the summit of Glas Mheall Mor to bag their first Scottish peak. The seniors climbed Sgurr nan Clach Geala.

The next day saw an ascent of the iconic Stac Pollaidh in the most glorious of springtime weather. This truly was a special day for the Contingent Commander as Cadet Clewlow celebrated his 15th birthday at the summit. This is a unique location and is rightly a fixture whenever we visit Dundonnell. On returning to Dundonnell Dave had excelled himself with an afternoon tea to shame the Savoy, including birthday cake! The Camp dinner was fabulous and Cadet Oliver Earl proposed the Loyal Toast. Lt Colonel Huw Gilbert OE, who first attended the Camp as a Cadet in 1993 and has helped us for many years since, and Ian Carter who has been a great help for two decades, were both presented with Contingent Medals. It was then time to go off on the three-day overnight expedition and the younger group headed south to the Cairngorms. They spent 2 nights at the Glen Feshie bothy and reached the summit of Mullach Clach a Bhlaigh in the middle day. This was achieved in much more typical Highland weather which made for a completely different mountain experience! The seniors stayed more locally at Loch a Choire Mhoir bothy and climbed Seana Bhraigh in the middle day.

The challenge of Easter Camp was, and is, a unique opportunity and the cadets responded superbly. They were exceptional both on and off the mountain and a genuine pleasure to be with. "The Axe", awarded to The Best Cadet on Camp, was presented to Abi-Lou Foster by Huw Gilbert at the final dinner. My thanks to all those who made this event possible.

Lt Col Martin Clewlow



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award

The summer expedition for the year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group was the final 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 two legs of the walk were from Llandegla to Llangollen along the Offa's Dyke path, and a circular route around the Llantysilio mountains. Both days were approximately a 15km walk with some challenging terrain and tricky navigation. A couple of groups found the Llandegla Forest leg of the walk particularly challenging to navigate. The weather wasn't kind either. After such a warm few weeks leading up to the expedition, it then rained most of the time during the two days of walking. All groups kept their spirits high and showed remarkable resilience when arriving at Abbey Farm campsite and putting up their tents with minimal fuss.

Pupils were very tired after the physical demands of day 1, so after making themselves a hot supper it was an early night all round. The campcraft skills and behaviour demonstrated by pupils were outstanding and, after a speedy breakfast, the various walking groups packed up their tents and set off for their second day of walking.

The groups did incredibly well overall, and their navigation skills were dramatically improved from their training expedition in October. Despite the weather, all groups completed day two in good time and deserved a rest in their own comfy beds that night. The assessors were extremely impressed with all groups positive attitude and teamwork with all pupils successfully passing their Bronze assessed expedition.

GWP





Silver Award

The Silver DofE ran differently this year. For the first time, the sessions occurred outside of the normal Thursday activities, which enabled pupils who were part of the CCF and Arts Award to undertake the award as well.

Expedition training, including cooking, team building, putting up a tent, and how to stay safe in the wild, took place once per half term in the lead-up to the expeditions themselves. For their volunteering, skills, and physical sections, pupils did a range of activities, including football, hockey, learning the piano, and helping with the Brownies.

The advantage of the award now running outside of normal expedition timings was that the expeditions could take place in the more clement temperatures of the summer term. The practice expedition took place in and around the Long Mynd in Shropshire. The first day was glorious, and the pupils set off in their walking groups to complete their final navigation training with Mr Digby, Mrs McClelland, and myself. The views from the Mynd were exceptional, and we could see for miles, which helped with taking bearings, and obviously, during the breaks, pupils could enjoy their packed lunches in the warmth of the sun. All groups did well and returned to camp in Ratlinghope to put up tents and cook an evening meal. However, overnight the unmistakable sound of pounding rain on canvas began; in fact, the rain didn't really stop until the end of the final day.

On the second day, pupils headed off near Stiperstones. As Mr Digby and I arrived, the mist descended, and the stones were nowhere to be seen! Mr Digby assured me it was a beautiful place, as he strode off into the mist in search of DofE pupils. A bit like Scott of the Antarctic, I was concerned that I wouldn't see him or the pupils ever again, so I was very relieved when the first group came through, a little bedraggled, followed closely by the second and third groups and then Mr Digby himself. I was rather relieved, to say the least.



One of the groups, which comprised Tanny Clewlow, Lucy Chadwick, Tilly Leonard, Darcy Furlong Hart, Oliver Earl, and Olivia Watts, was incredibly organised and all cooked-on masse, each having brought and carried their section of the meal. The food was an Asian-Italian fusion and, although not a combination that would normally spring to mind, it smelled amazing. However, I wasn't so sure about their choice of tuna and sandwich spread sandwiches, which they ate for lunch on both days. Other groups cooked up some equally interesting meals, and George Gration's group, which included Florence Sweeney, Adam Crompton, Alex Dilks, and Kaylee Mellor, enjoyed homemade flapjacks that George had brought with him. I've never seen so much flapjack in one person's rucksack before—enough to feed the 5000—but he assured me he would eat it all by the end... and, well, he did, with a little help from his friends.

Luckily, Day 3 was a little less eventful, and the pupils finished the walk in Carding Mill Valley, having walked through Church Stretton, bathed in sunshine, where we treated them to a well-deserved ice cream before heading home.

The assessed expedition took place in and around Capel Curig and Betws-y-Coed. Again, in true British style, the weather and the thoughts of the practice were not far from our minds. We set down in a lay-by at the foot of Tryfan, and the sun was shining and the vistas were amazing. This time we had Mrs Turena with us, who assessed the pupils during this expedition. After a quick briefing, the pupils went off in half-hour slots. But, as you've probably guessed, the sunshine was short-lived, and this time it was blowing a hoolie too. The windiest spot was at the head of the reservoir, where at times it was gale-force. George didn't let that bother him, as he strode into the checkpoint in his sunglasses, as though on the set of an indie rock video and eating... yes, you guessed it, more flapjack! The first night's campsite was just outside of Capel Curig, and it was the sort of place where you need to grow hairs on your chest and become a man of the mountain. In fact, I think all but us were men of the mountains. The midges were also out in force, and the pupils were eaten alive; poor Florence ended up with the most bites—I think she counted over a hundred!



The second day started briskly with a walk back to Capel Curig, then to Plas y Brenin, with some stunning views of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), and finally into Betws-y-Coed. The second night's campsite was nearer to Betws-y-Coed, and a little more genteel, with free, warm showers and people in fancy campervans. We looked right at home in our bright green DofE tents and wind-swept expressions, but the pupils, in true Ellesmerian style, took it in their stride.

The final day saw pupils leave the campsite and walk through the woods up towards Llanrwst and then back down to the Ugly House. Along the way, they took in lakes and history, including a disused lead mine. Pupils were up, literally, at the crack of dawn, and I have never seen a group of DofE pupils say they were getting up and then actually do so. The first group was off and out by 6.30 a.m., and all had gone by 7.30 a.m. Two groups walked and navigated exceptionally well, though the third group, after two great days, had a turn of fortunes. Having set off well, they ended up going missing. Eventually, when we had mobile signal, they explained they were at an outdoor centre. So, off Mr Digby and I went to find them. However, after walking around and through the

outdoor centres, where in another phone call they assured us they were, I started to worry, as they were nowhere to be seen—perhaps they had entered a parallel dimension! We did (well, Mr Digby did) find them at a mountain bike track near Llanrwst, having gone completely off-piste. Admittedly, people were doing outdoor pursuits there, but it definitely wasn't an outdoor centre or a parallel dimension, thankfully. Mrs Turena had kindly checkpointed the other pupils, debriefed, and passed the other groups when we returned. The boys did pass in the end, and we all headed back to College for a well-deserved rest.

RJH

Gold Award

This year saw fourteen Year 12 pupils sign up for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. With priority given to those who had completed a Silver Expedition (and with our new requirement to book a Residential by January 2024), we had a committed, engaged, and mature group—serious about wanting to complete a demanding but worthwhile challenge.

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 we were again supported by our in-house Nursing Team with First Aid sessions focusing on CPR and other crucial skills.

The three days in October allowed the group to work on the Welshpool canal due to flooding on the River Severn—finishing with a day's journey from above Ardleen into Welshpool—where one group even saved a cow from drowning in the canal! It was good to see leadership and resilience emerge that day under tricky conditions. While canals may seem relatively safe, manoeuvring in windy, wet conditions is challenging, as is the portaging involved in negotiating locks.





All of the group persevered with their hour-long weekly commitments to: 'Volunteering' (either sports coaching or supporting reading in Lower School); 'Skills' (a diverse range from learning to drive to raising calves); and 'Physical'—mainly netball, hockey, and rugby. All fourteen had booked their Residential by January, which means that they will very likely go on to complete the entire award. The Residential involves five days away with people they don't know, working on new skills or volunteering, and some of the group have—at the time of writing—already got this signed off.

Towards the end of April, we were able to take the group on a 'River Skills' day, where they tested their canoe handling on moving water and honed their rescue technique. A week later, they took on a two-night, two-day Practice Expedition from Llandrinio to Shrewsbury, where the group battled against a typically British mix of heat, downpours, and morning frost to learn how to efficiently cope with the demands of long days on the river whilst camping overnight. The learning curve was steep, but by the second day, the group was ready.

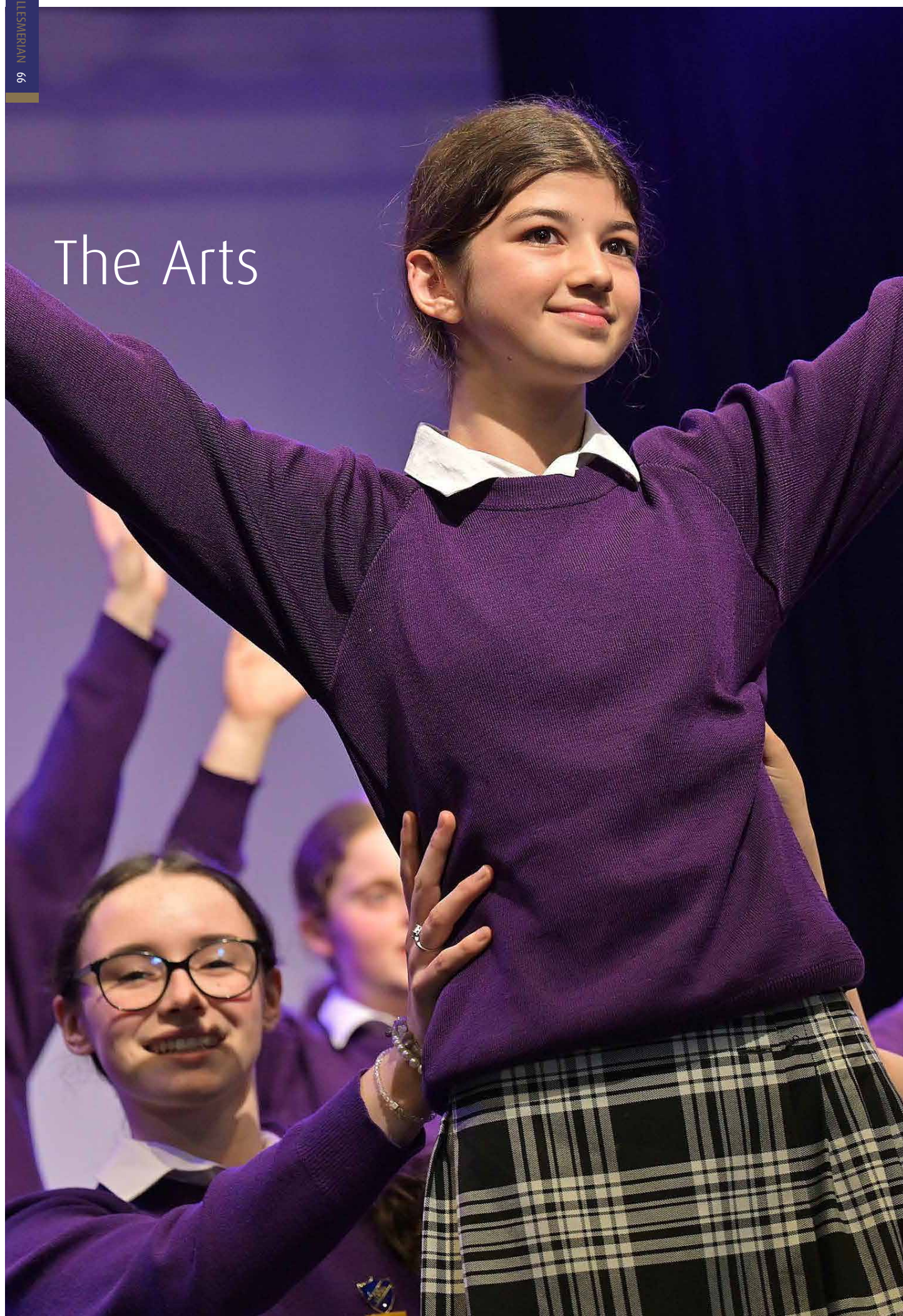
For the Assessed Expedition, the group journeyed over four days from Hay-on-Wye to Monmouth in the first week of July. This is always a significant challenge and one that tested resolve, group work, and determination. Once the section from Byecross to Tresseck had been completed—a mammoth 45k section—the group had broken the back of the trip and finished near Monmouth in record time. They developed into one of the strongest groups in recent years—a testament to their early resolve to take the award seriously.

My thanks, in particular, to Mr Cowley, but also to Ms Killen and Mr Morgan, for their help and support throughout the year. I look forward to seeing the group again in Year 13 to help them finish the final sections and complete the full award.

JSU



The Arts



Drama

Senior School Competitive House Plays October 2023 'Only Fools and Horses'



This year, our Senior School Competitive House Plays in October featured four selected episodes from the well-known British comedy Only Fools and Horses. Students from across all competitive Houses performed, with senior students from each House casting, directing, and leading their House in bringing their episodes to life. A range of skills was displayed, from marketing each play and embodying the famous characters of 'Del Boy,' 'Rodney,' and 'Uncle Albert,' to constructing the set and selecting costumes. This much-loved event marks the beginning of the academic year, giving both well-established Ellesmerians and newcomers an opportunity to immerse themselves in a creative and enjoyable House competition. Following two nights of performances, the hotly contested 'Ellie Awards' were announced, accompanied by positive and uplifting adjudications from Mr James Baggerly and Miss Rachel Schubert.



Theatre visits

Theatre visits were also highlights this year. Students had the chance to see Noises Off at The Lowry in Salford Quays and attended the annual pantomime at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury. Additionally, some were able to experience professional West End theatre, enjoying trips to see the musicals Wicked and Jersey Boys.



Lower School Competitive House Plays

Our Lower School Competitive House Plays embraced a festive theme this year, with all three Houses competing in performances of much-loved pantomimes. Competition was fierce as they vied for awards in categories such as best dance moves, character interpretation, costumes, and use of props. The entire Year 7 and Year 8 groups competed within their Houses, presenting an enthusiastic audience with their renditions of classic pantomimes.

LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations 2023

This academic year over 40 students achieved a fantastic set of results most of which were awarded Distinction or Merit levels. Students continue to access weekly LAMDA lessons which see students continue to build their confidence and creativity.

Chester Speech & Drama Festival 2024

The Chester Speech & Drama Festival 2024 saw a number of our LAMDA students representing Ellesmere, with successes in solo drama classes and duologue classes across Lower School and Middle School. Students prepared their solo pieces, duologues, and musical theatre performances in LAMDA lessons in readiness for the March competition.

Lower School Production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat



The Lower School production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat featured over 50 students in a vibrant show full of singing, drama, and dance, performed over two evenings. Students prepared during the Lent term, rehearsing weekly and challenging themselves with line-learning, song performances, and dance routines. In addition to acting, students were encouraged to participate in set design, lighting, sound design, backstage crew, costume creation, poster design, and programme development. Through this, students gained valuable insight into the time and dedication required for such an entertaining production, which they thoroughly enjoyed being a part of.



Senior School Drama production of 'Brainstorm'

The Senior School Drama production of Brainstorm explored the teenage brain through drama. Created by Ned Glasier and Emily Lim with Company Three in collaboration with neuroscientists Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and Dr Kate Mills, this play is uniquely designed to be created and performed by teenagers, drawing on their personal experiences. Brainstorm delves into the science of the teenage mind, depicting why its chaotic and exhilarating changes are evolutionarily essential. Performed in a hard-hitting, direct-address style designed to provoke thought, laughter, and tears, Brainstorm utilised a media-based set with complex lighting, sound, and set design. The production captivated audiences over two nights, with many returning for a second viewing.



Discover & Explore

The Discover & Explore programme gave our younger students in Years 3 to 6 the chance to engage creatively with drama, cartooning, mask work, and storytelling, a crucial stage in their school experience. Pupils engaged in structured play, learning dramatic skills such as tableaux, physical storytelling, exaggerated movement, and mask work. These activities fostered confidence, imagination, and a strong desire to interact and play.



Junior Dance Club

Our Junior Dance Club has flourished, with enthusiastic junior dancers continuing to join in large numbers. Led by Miss Seagar, the club has introduced pupils to a range of dance styles from ballet to hip-hop. The club's popularity has grown, spreading widely across the school, with many passionate pupils participating.

Junior and Senior Tech Club

The Junior and Senior Tech Clubs have also made a significant impact. Students displayed their talents by learning about set, costume, lighting, and sound, and they applied these skills in support of lower and senior school productions this year. The Senior Tech Club has been integral to numerous College events for years, and recognising the need to introduce technical theatre skills to Lower School students, the Junior Tech Club was established. As students develop their basic design skills, they will contribute increasingly to the technical aspects of lower school productions and events.

RLS





Music

Voices of Woodard Weekend

The inaugural Voices of Woodard Weekend took place from 6th – 8th October, hosted by Ellesmere College and led by the Senior Provost, Justin White. Bringing together 120 students and 15 staff from across 6 Woodard Schools, our aim was to immerse students in the music associated with the services of Evensong and Eucharist, allow the students to build on their vocal skills and have the opportunity to get to know one another.



Students from Sir Robert Woodard Academy, Worksop College, Crompton House C of E School, Queen Mary's School, and The Peterborough School arrived on Friday, receiving a warm Ellesmere welcome. Rehearsals began with Mozart's Ave Verum, with the choir quickly building confidence and demonstrating strong teamwork.

The weekend was a success, a testament to the welcoming spirit of Ellesmere and the enthusiasm of visiting students and staff. Thanks go to parents for their support and for joining us at the services. We hope Voices of Woodard sparks further collaboration within the Woodard Schools group.

Race Against Dementia concert

After a year of planning involving our good friends Robin and David Mullock, the College was delighted to present a music concert in combination with Jackie Stewart's 'Race Against Dementia' charity on Friday 13th October. With a staggering number of people suffering with dementia around the world, the community of Ellesmere College came together to raise much-needed funds for ongoing research into cures and treatments. In all we raised £2,300.

The concert was designed to be life-affirming, celebratory and also, at times, reflective. The performers, young and young at heart brought energy and joy to Big School and I had to remind myself that we were only in Week 5 of the new academic year – these are all ensembles who have just formed and they were, in the words of Craig Revel-Horwood, A – MA – ZING!



Highlights of the night included the orchestra's rendition of Uptown Girl, the Choral Society's Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, and the Adcote School Choir's a-cappella Royals performance. Chamber and Chapel Choirs delivered moving pieces like In My Life and Fields of Gold. The evening concluded with a raffle featuring autographed items and a heartfelt audience singalong to What a Wonderful World, celebrating resilience and community.

Candlelit Carol Service and Classical Gala Concert

The Candlelit Carol Services continue to be a major highlight of the Ellesmere year, and 2023 was no exception. Beautiful music provided by the Chapel, Chamber, and Lower School Choirs brought the year to a memorable close.

In the New Year, we began preparing for our Classical Gala Concert for Cancer Research UK, led by Bells Lewers. This included singers from the College Choral Society, Shrewsbury Cantata, and other enthusiastic singers from the region. A "Come and Sing" Day was highly successful, with over 70 singers raising more than £800 and tackling the challenging task of learning Handel's Dixit Dominus. The Ellesmere Camerata Orchestra joined the combined choir and soloists to create an electrifying evening, performing both Handel and Vivaldi's Gloria. There was a tremendous outpouring of emotion and celebration – brilliant music and brilliant people united in one cause: to commemorate and celebrate those affected by cancer and to raise essential funds for this vital cause. In the end, we raised over £15,000, a monumental sum, directed by Bells' own personal journey and commitment.

The second half of the year was a challenging time for the entire College community, marked by the loss of our beloved Headmaster of 27 years, Brendan Wignall, and subsequently Kevin Whitley, Head of Music and College Organist. A special service was held at St Mary's Church for Mr Whitley, where our musicians joined with the Rhos Male Voice Choir.

Oswestry Music Festival



The Oswestry Music Festival was once again a success, about 1,000 young musicians from 40 schools across Shropshire and North Wales – and Ellesmere College collected 20 first places from the 88 competitive classes. These ranged from solo instrumental and vocal to orchestras, rock bands, choirs and musical theatre ensembles, as well as 5 new classes that were introduced this year for singers aged 13 and under.



Barnardo's National Choir Finals

In March, Ellesmere College was delighted to be finalist in the largest national youth choir competition in the UK. Attracting entries from over 350 schools, 7 senior choirs were given the opportunity to perform on stage at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the country's best concert hall. Eventually it came down to a single mark that divided four of the choirs in contention, underlining the high standards achieved by the choirs.



Other Musical events

The Chester Music Festival brought a successful season of competitive music-making to a close for this academic year, with our choir named both Youth and Adult Choir Winners of the Year.

In April, we held the Ellesmere Music Gala, featuring all the College ensembles, rock bands, and choirs. This event effectively marked the end of the music year, as Year 11 and Year 13 students turned their focus to exams.

However, due to a postponement earlier in the year, we performed one more concert: the Midwinter – now Midsummer – Concert, joined by our long-standing guests, the Porthywaen Silver Band.



The Music Department is always happy to be busy, and this year was no exception. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Kevin Whitley for his dedicated service to both Music and the College. I would also like to thank the Music Captains for their hard work and to congratulate the students both on their individual achievements in music exams, but also for being fabulous, generous with their time, and for always being willing to put in the hard yards. This is never taken for granted and is always deeply valued. THANK YOU!

APC



Instrumental and Vocal Music Exams

AUTUMN 2023

William Donaghy	Grade 3 Piano ABRSM	Distinction
Alex Hu	Grade 1 Piano ABRSM	Distinction
Josh Norris	Grade 5 singing ABRSM	Pass
Isobel Philbin	Grade 5 singing ABRSM	Distinction
Tilly Leonard	Grade 4 singing ABRSM	Merit
Leo Salmoiraghi	Grade 1 Cello ABRSM	Pass
Bella New	Grade 2 Sax ABRSM	Distinction

LENT 2024

Sophia Janahi	Grade 8 Singing ABRSM	Distinction
Sophia Janahi	Grade 8 Singing ABRSM	Distinction
Trixie Oaks	Grade 1 Singing ABRSM	Pass
Adam Crompton	Grade 4 Piano ABRSM	Pass
Francesca Haydon	Grade 2 Bb Cornet ABRSM	Merit
Harry Winn	Grade 1 Bb Cornet ABRSM	Pass
Tobias Stubbs	Grade 2 Trumpet ABRSM	Pass
George Gratton	Grade 4 Piano ABRSM	Pass
Florence Sweeney	Grade 5 Piano ABRSM	Pass
Jake Hughes	Grade 3 Drums Trinity	Distinction
Kit Fisher	Grade 6 Drums Trinity	Merit
Fox Fearnall	Grade 1 Drums Trinity	Merit
Sebastian Johnson	Grade 1 Drums Trinity	Merit
Frederick Heasmer-Jones	Grade 6 Drums Trinity	Pass
Jack Arrowsmith	Grade 8 Drums Trinity	Distinction

SUMMER 2024

Holly Coupe	Grade 5 Singing LCM	Distinction
Kiri Kilgannon	Grade 5 Singing LCM	Distinction
Guy Mason	Grade 5 Singing LCM	Distinction
Mini Uras-Garvin	Grade 5 Singing LCM	Distinction
Susie Edwards	Grade 5 Singing LCM	Distinction
Isobel Philbin	Grade 4 Trinity Drums	TBA
Josh Philbin	Grade 2 Trinity Drums	TBA

Arts Award 2024



For the second year running I was grateful to parents in supporting a group of students to visit London and explore the many artistic highlights on offer. We set off from school and then took the train from Crewe to London Euston arriving at midday and then making our way to the YHA at Earl's Court to drop off our bags.

Students acclimatised well to the Underground and we headed to South Kensington to visit the V&A Museum where they are currently hosting an exhibition on Chanel. Students enjoyed the sculpture, and visited the fashion, theatre and jewellery collections as well as the Cast Courts. There was also time to sit outside in an area that used to host music concerts.

That evening we stopped off at Buckingham Palace before attending a performance of Stephen Schwartz's 'Wicked' at the Victoria Apollo Theatre. This show is a prequel to the Wizard of Oz focusing on good and evil, the power of propaganda and the growing friendship between two characters, Elphaba and Glinda. The students really enjoyed the show giving it a standing ovation at the end.

On Wednesday we visited the memorial to the Great Fire of London, designed by Christopher Wren before heading to Leadenhall Market, a location that has inspired scenes from the upcoming film, 'Wonka'. We walked down to the Tower of London, passing the oldest church in London before making our way across the river to Southwark Cathedral. Not only is this church the place from which Chaucer's Pilgrimage to Canterbury begins but also is where John Harvard was christened and Shakespeare's brother is buried.

They were hosting the Museum of the Moon, a giant recreation of the moon using NASA images that was suspended above the Nave. Students took photos, lay underneath the moon and enjoyed the juxtaposition of such a large object in a place of worship.

In the afternoon we were due to see 'As You Like It' at the Globe but the performance was cancelled due to sudden staff illness just 8 minutes before it was due to start. Instead we had a guided tour of the space,

learning all about how Shakespeare's original Globe Theatre would have operated. Students got to see how the stage space is used and why interaction is so important in this particular theatre.

After spending time in Covent Garden listening to some beautiful classical music and being entertained by a magician, we made our way to the Lyceum Theatre for the evening performance of 'The Lion King'. This piece continues to impress me on each viewing with its attention to detail and use of African artistry in everything from the beading on the costumes to the masks and the additional music. Once again our group were impressed and enjoyed a stage door experience meeting a variety of actors who were more than happy to speak and answer questions about their work.

On Thursday we visited the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery at Trafalgar Square before attending our final performance, 'The Jersey Boys' in the afternoon. This was completely different. A juke-box musical based on the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, a biopic showing the struggles and successes.

On the way back to Ellesmere, I asked students to reflect on their experiences. Each had taken different things from the trip, explaining why a particular show was their favourite or discussing a particular piece of art they had seen. I love introducing students to new places. For some this will have been their first experience of London and for others their first visit to the theatre or perhaps their first time staying away from home. It underlines to me the importance of having the expos.

Here is what one of our students, Giselle, said: 'I love exploring new cities and appreciating its history and aura. I enjoy theatre, museums and just walking around, it's the best way to get to know a place. Before this trip I had never been to London, and within 3 days I got to visit most of the main attractions, see 3 plays, 2 museums, and stroll around shopping and trying new foods. The Globe was absolutely phenomenal. I've gained so much knowledge from this experience. This trip has made me fall in love with the city of London, it has made me want to live there in the future.'

While the London crew were navigating their way around the Westend, the rest of us were being fully entertained back home.

Tuesday was a day filled with creativity; the wonderful workshop lead by Tom Morley the original drummer and a founder member of Scritti Politti, the 80s band, had the whole group drumming up a storm of musical delights. Using a vibrant blend of music and humour, he gave students the confidence and freedom to activate their 'rockstar energy' and find their unique voice as a group. Some unexpected performances went on into the afternoon with a few surprises stealing the show.

In addition, the Arts Award groups also did an intensive print making workshop in the Ellesmere Art department led by Mr Davies. Pupils explored a range of different print making processes and experimented with techniques and generated a selection of printed images.

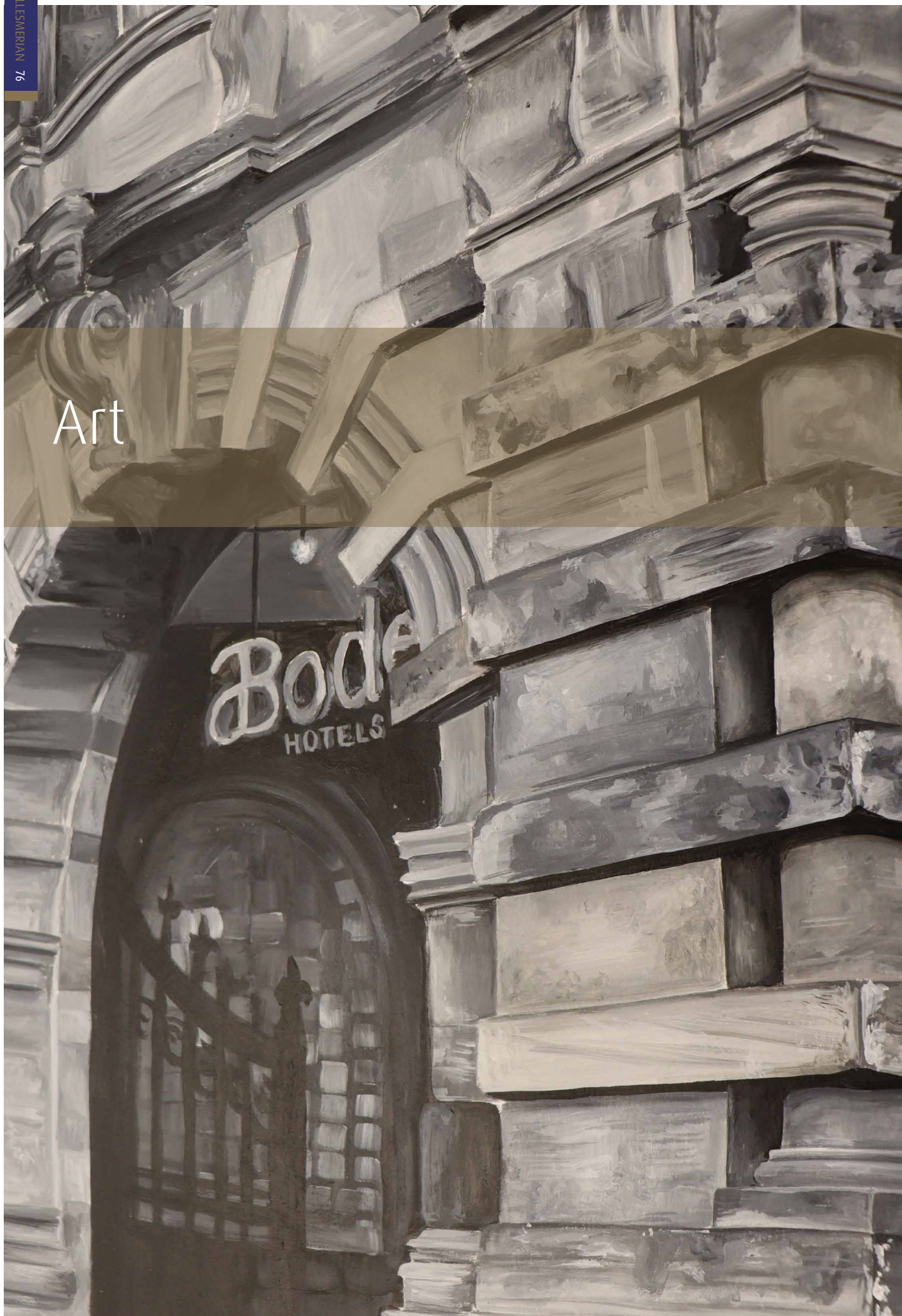
We all hopped on the mini buses on Wednesday morning and headed over to Liverpool. First stop was the World Museum where the exhibitions were enjoyed by all. There was time to do some retail shopping before making our way over to a packed Empire Theatre to see the show, 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. And what a treat it was! The biblical tale with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice was fresh and engaging. The cast poured on to the stage and gave an immediate boost to the ambience in the theatre, their energy, quick movements and song, dazzling and immediately gripping. I think we all came out of the theatre somewhat moved by the spectacle of Jesus Christ hanging from the cross and by the impactful music that accompanied the scene.

We had an early start with a trip to the Memorial Hall in Oswestry on Thursday. Lizzie Dibble, the founder of 'With Love From...', spoke about the project that promotes the idea of recycling clothes rather than throwing them away. This gave all of the students an insight into the world of recycling textiles, they were shocked to learn of the true scale of waste in the textiles industry and the issues faced as a result of the increasing amount of plastic and synthetic materials used to make contemporary fashion clothing. All students got the chance to experiment with making their own clothing designs and bringing them to life by recycling old items of clothing. Some very interesting pieces were concocted by some of our budding designers.

I think it is fair to say that we all had an entertaining, educational and fun-packed Expo!



Art



A Level Art

Ceci Li



Ella Jones



Julia Smith



Zara Brookshaw



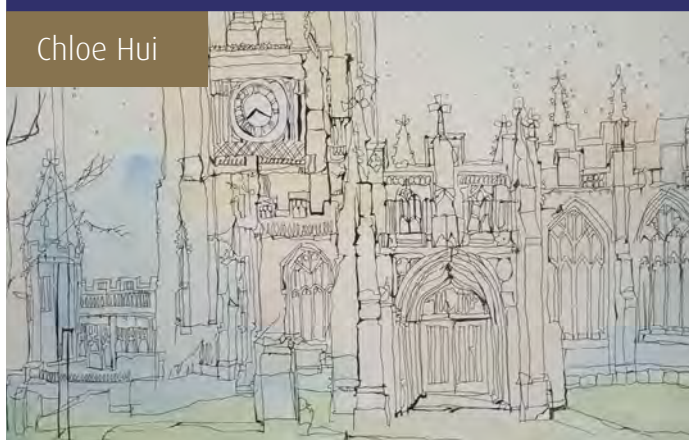
Lily Sharaf



Arabella Gaskell



Chloe Hui



Evie Adams



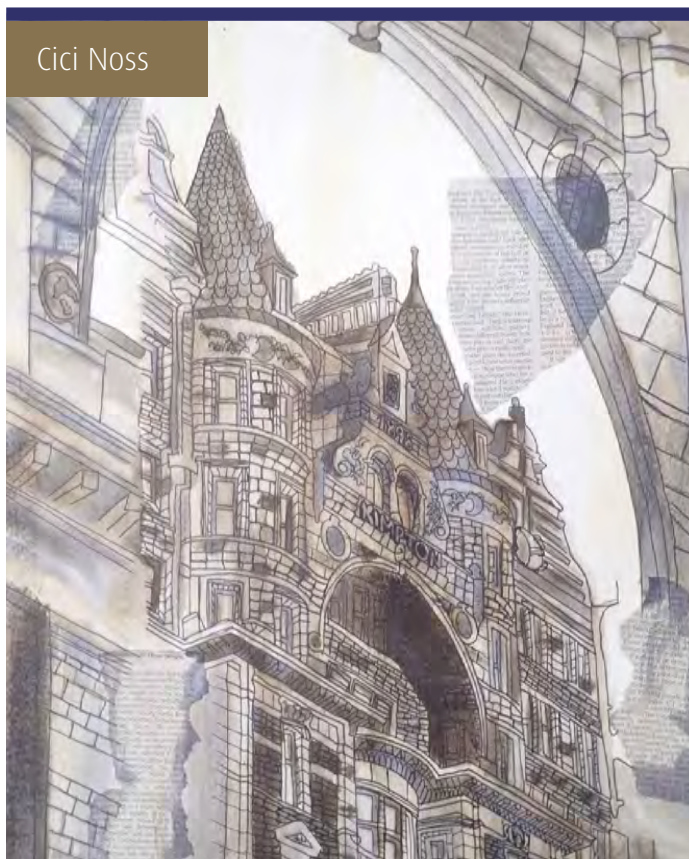
Henry Copelin



Ellie Kimber



Cici Noss



GCSE Art

Isabel Harper Davies



Johanna Boesl



Kyara Heward



Marco Wong



Theo MacAndrew



Tiya Prince



Design and Technology

Students in Design and Technology were again given the opportunity to develop and enhance their skills within the department, whether graphically or through the physical making of products. Year 11 students achieved successful grades in both disciplines, with Punn Boonprasopthanhachot earning the top mark of a Distinction* in OCR Engineering Design, and Chris Astbury doing likewise in the GCSE.

At A-level, Year 12 students showcased their skills through the manufacture of side tables and pendant lamps, along with taking a trip to Rycotewood Furniture Studio to explore degree-level work and future pathways in the subject.

In their final year, Year 13 students were able to select their final briefs for their projects, ranging from bike stations to a redesign of the school library by India Freer-Carmichael.

The past year has been another successful one, and we look forward to the future projects and developments that students will produce.

MH





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Ellesmere in the News



Ellesmere Retains World Class School Status with HPL Reaccreditation

Ellesmere College is named one of the best in the world for learning once again!

Ellesmere College has been reaccredited as a High Performance Learning (HPL) World Class School and will hold this status for another three years. The international accreditation aims to deliver educational change, working with schools and teachers to provide a flexible learning framework that builds cognitive competences and is designed to achieve academic and lifetime success.

Ellesmere was first accredited by the specialist teaching organisation in 2020, and school leaders are delighted they have retained the prestigious title.

Headmaster Brendan Wignall said: "We are delighted to have secured High Performance Learning World Class School Accreditation again, and we are in elite company with only 38 other schools holding this status globally. The HPL World Class School Award Scheme delivers a flexible teaching and learning framework that systematically builds cognitive competencies, leading to academic and lifetime success. It is a programme we have fully embraced, which has been hugely successful. Visitors to the College have taken notice and are eager to learn more about it."

Ellesmere College employs the HPL approach throughout the whole school system – from Lower School to Sixth Form.

Professor Deborah Eyre, Founder and Chair of High Performance Learning, said both staff and students at Ellesmere were 'delightfully

committed and enthusiastic'. She was particularly impressed with the development of the College's collegiate professional community, which is wholly focused on making high performance learning a key feature of the College's ethos and vision.

Deborah added that the reaccreditation was a 'considerable milestone in the school's quest for continuous improvement'.

The HPL reaccreditation report stated: "An incredibly positive feature of the school is the warmth and collegiality that pervades all aspects of the College's work. The success of students and their increasing levels of self-confidence and motivation is palpable. The College recognises that schooling is not just about academic outcomes, important as they are, but the development of young people who can face an increasingly diverse and challenging world. Ellesmere College has made inspirational progress, adapting its ways of working to include articulating how teachers teach and why they do the things they do. The outcomes for students, especially those with learning difficulties, are exceptional. One is left in no doubt that the 'Life Ready' mantra is translated into reality for the students privileged to be schooled at Ellesmere College."

HPL has proved to be a successful programme that dovetails with any subject or curriculum, helping to achieve academic excellence alongside a broader set of values and attitudes while supporting pupil wellbeing. Ellesmere College will officially receive the award at the HPL Annual Conference in March (2024) at the University of Warwick.

Year 13 Student Meets Royalty on World Mental Health Day



As part of World Mental Health Day, Year 13 student Adam T—recently appointed as a Young Ambassador for Action for Children—had the honour of meeting Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Adam, along with other ambassadors, attended the 'Exploring Our #EmotionalWorlds' event, a series of workshops focusing on the importance of understanding our emotions and building positive relationships.

Adam met the charity's Royal Patron, the Princess of Wales, and the group discussed the mental health challenges their generation faces.

Shropshire Students Shooting for the Stars with Sporting Success



A group of students from Ellesmere College impressed both individually and as a team at the West Midlands and North West Championships. The senior competition saw an Ellesmere College team consisting of Francine Gilmore, Christopher Astbury, and Oliver Loud take first place. This means the team will advance to the national finals, but each of these students also qualifies for the individual finals after impressive solo performances.

Francine has been ranked ninth nationally in her category, while Christopher and Oliver are ranked 19th and 23rd, respectively, out of more than 100 competitors.

Another team of Ellesmere students—Bea Taylor, Joshua Norris, and Harry Taylor—also took third place in the same competition last month (November).

The students, who are between Years 11 and 13, complete their studies alongside a training schedule of two to three days a week in the school's Shooting Academy facilities.

Academy Coach Tom Rylands expressed his admiration for the students' efforts, saying: "We have some incredible talent in the Shooting Academy right now, and I am very pleased to see these students recognised for all their hard work. They richly deserve this success thanks to their fantastic attitude towards both their academic studies and their sport."

The students will now participate in the national final of the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships in February.

Ellesmere College Student Oksana Trefanenکو Earns Place at Harvard

Oksana Trefanenکو, originally from Chernivtsi, Ukraine, received her acceptance to Harvard University just as an air raid alert sounded in her city, signalling the danger of missiles.

The 18-year-old, currently studying for her International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at Ellesmere College, joined the school in September 2022. She received an unconditional offer from Harvard this spring.

Oksana said: "I am still in disbelief and genuinely cannot believe it! I am so delighted to have been offered a place at Harvard in the class of 2028. I opened the decision email during an air alert, which only added to my emotions. The support from everyone at Ellesmere College accompanied me throughout the application process, and I will be forever grateful. I cannot wait to start my studies!"

Oksana is studying six subjects for her IB, in addition to the Theory of Knowledge: History, English Language and Literature, Geography, Maths, Biology, and German.

She will join the Ivy League university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in September to study for a four-year undergraduate degree, taking courses across different subjects in her first two years before choosing a major in her junior year.

Intending to study International Relations, Oksana hopes to major in either Social Studies or Government, with a minor in a language. Oksana earned a place at Ellesmere College through the HMC Projects (Headmasters' Conference) Scholarship, which allows Central and Eastern European students to study at British independent schools for two years.

Oksana took full advantage of this opportunity by participating in various school activities, including Competitive House Events, leading the Model United Nations club, volunteering, and being appointed Head Girl for her final school year.

Last summer, she was awarded a full scholarship to Yale University's Yale Young Global Scholars summer program, where she joined students from around the world in an in-depth study of solutions to modern global challenges.

Vicky Pritt-Roberts, the current Head of Ellesmere College, said: "We are thrilled for Oksana and her offer to study at Harvard University. She has been a brilliant addition to Ellesmere College during her time with us, and I am positive that many of her peers have also learnt a lot from her."



We are delighted to have played a small part in her educational journey and look forward to following her progress after she leaves Ellesmere this summer."

Year 11 Student Elisa Griesbach Trains with German National U16 Hockey Squad



Our Year 11 student Elisa Griesbach, who recently trained with the German National U16 Hockey Squad. This followed her impressive performance with her Hamburg team at the National Hockey Championships last month. Although her team lost on penalties to the eventual winners, Düsseldorf, Elisa's performance in the final games caught the attention of the selectors, and she was invited to attend national squad training.

A huge congratulations to Elisa!

Our innovative spoken English festival has returned, with students from schools across the county battling it out in a bid to have the last word.



The Viva Voce Spoken English Festival, which was held for the first time last year, 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. Mrs Zoe Fisher, who will be taking over as Head of English at Ellesmere College from September, set up the competition alongside current Head of English Mr Daniel Bottom.

New for this year's festival was the Trefanenko Cup, named after the College's current Head Girl, Oksana Trefanenko.

Oksana joined the College in September 2022 as a Ukrainian Scholar, and the cup was introduced as a way to recognise her courage, academic flair, and warm personality – it is awarded to the student who demonstrates outstanding ability during the competition. This year's winner was Francesca Widdon from The Corbet School.

In addition, for the first time this year, two media students, Freddie Prust from Ellesmere College and Joe Holland from The Corbet School, covered the competition and wrote a media release about it, to be shared among the communities of the three schools.

Before the competition, workshops were held for Year 10 competitors from all schools, designed and led by our Year 12 International Baccalaureate students to give competitors access to resources to help with planning and preparation for the festival.

Ellesmere College celebrates Oswestry Youth Music Festival

"This year was my favourite Oswestry Youth Music Festival" – the words of a school music teacher and conductor after students hit the right note with judges in another excellent showing.

The festival, in its 47th year, saw a record 525 entries involving about 1,000 young musicians from 40 schools across Shropshire and North Wales – with Ellesmere College collecting 20 first places.

But Tony Coupe, Director of Music at Ellesmere College, said it was the spirit of the festival that made it particularly stand out this year, which bred confidence and brought out the best in everyone.

He said: "The atmosphere this year was so encouraging – powerful performances with adjudicators who were passionate advocates for youth music, encouraging young people to take part and express themselves.

"It was a delight to see the care and support that our students showed, not just to one another, but also in supporting students from other schools.

"A great performance of music connects with the audience, expressing something that can move the listener – when Olivia and Isobel Philbin performed My Love, My Life from Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, many people were swept up in the moment – the voices grew in intensity, resonance, and emotion, leaving half the audience and one of the girls in tears.

"The thought that young people can produce this kind of moment is awe-inspiring – sometimes performances transcend the process of adjudication in a festival.



"It was such a memorable festival and a privilege to see our students performing with joy and demonstrating such bravery and skill. Young people are inspiring!"

To accommodate the higher number of entries this year, organisers added an extra evening to the festival, running from February 27 to March 2, with the finals concert taking place the following day at Christ Church.

The festival featured 88 competitive classes ranging from solo instrumental and vocal performances to orchestras, rock bands, choirs, and musical theatre ensembles. Five new classes were introduced this year for singers aged 13 and under.

Over 120 students from Ellesmere College took part in the festival, both as soloists and within ensembles, aged from eight to 18.

There were rock bands performing songs by The Killers and Evanescence, instrumental ensembles performing In the Hall of the Mountain King and Crocodile Rock, and choirs performing Bridge Over Troubled Water and Frozen Heart, alongside a huge range of musical theatre and classical music solos.

Mr Coupe added: "Anyone thinking of taking part in a music festival – my advice would be to absolutely go for it.

"You get the opportunity to gain valuable performance experience and receive quality feedback – it is well worth it."

The Ellesmere College model has been replicated in the Middle East to expand access to state-of-the-art education.

Ellesmere College, based in Shropshire, England, has opened Ellesmere Muscat in the capital city of Oman, catering to local and international students.

Ellesmere Muscat will deliver a world-class education as an International Baccalaureate World School, recognised as a premier global qualification, developed to expand and meet the demand for the already thriving UK offering.

Headmaster Brendan Wignall said: "We are pleased to be able to replicate the Ellesmere model in our first overseas school in Muscat.

"It is a natural extension of the College's long-established commitment to developing a global perspective on learning and educating students from diverse international and cultural backgrounds.

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

"The provision at Ellesmere Muscat is tailored to reflect the cultural context of the city the school is based in, but has the same end goal – to help students achieve their full potential, wherever their talents may lie, and prepare them to be life-ready."

The 'Life: Ready' model was a fundamental part of developing the Ellesmere model into the Middle East. The ethos that every student is, and should be treated as, an individual drives the learning, co-curricular, and pastoral programmes to enable each student to flourish, grow, and be successful both academically and personally.

Ellesmere College will work in close partnership with EC Muscat, but the Oman campus will operate as an independent institution, with its own management teams and governing bodies. Ellesmere College is involved in setting standards and providing governance and oversight.



Ellesmere Muscat has highly qualified and experienced teachers who promote a love of continuous learning and skills development.

Neil Tomalin, the Principal of Ellesmere College Muscat, said: "Through Ellesmere Muscat, students will embark on a transformative educational journey, equipped with the skills needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world."

Ellesmere College is now in discussions with several other partners looking to expand the Ellesmere College family of schools into other territories around the world.

ELLESMERE has retained its place in the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK for the seventh year running.

The College has been chosen from a record number of entries to feature in the prestigious 2023 Cricketer Schools Guide as a result of providing the best cricketing opportunities available nationally.

The enviable record dates back to 2018 and has firmly established the College among the nation's cricketing elite, underlining its highly successful Cricket Academy and Player Pathway programme as a centre of excellence for youngsters keen to develop their talents in the sport alongside their academic studies.

The guide, compiled by the world's number one cricket magazine The Cricketer, has this year listed the top 100 Senior, top 50 Prep and Junior schools, and top 20 all-girls schools in the UK.

Judging was completed against the criteria of a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixtures, and coaching.



Gareth Owen, Ellesmere College Cricket Academy director, said: "We are proud to have been named in the top 100 in this prestigious national guide for the seventh year running.

"It's an amazing achievement and one that recognises the success of our Cricket Academy Player Pathway Programme.

"Cricket is an integral and inclusive part of the sports provision at Ellesmere College, and the Academy Pathway Programme provides the ideal environment for young players, regardless of their ability, to achieve their full potential through a comprehensive Player Pathway coaching programme and a culture of self-improvement.

"We provide access to first-class facilities, high-performance coaching, regular structured practice, and competitive competition, alongside academic support, which is delivered as part of a year-round cricket development programme.

"The Academy continues to be extremely successful and one that receives high levels of enquiry interest from prospective students and their parents.

"Retaining our place in the Guide is a testament to everyone's efforts at the school in ensuring that we continue to offer the best opportunities possible in this mainstream sport."

Ellesmere College has a proud cricketing tradition and has links with Wales Cricket, Shropshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire County Cricket programmes.

It is also playing a leading role as a cricketing hub in the community, providing opportunities to boys and girls of all abilities.

The Cricketer editor Huw Turbervill said: "Our 2024 Schools Guide celebrates the best cricket programmes in state and independent schools across the country."

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.

This is just one of many competitions the Ellesmere College Golf Academy enters throughout the year and comes 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 from across the county compete to become Shropshire Champion, with our students winning in three categories: Ethan Harrison won the Under 12 category, José Mittelbrum won the Under 14 category, and Charlie Boys won the Under 18 category.

The ISGA HG Trophy was held at Warwickshire Golf Club and included 20 schools. Alongside the Ellesmere team's second-place finish overall, international student José won the Under 15 age group, with a gross score of 74.

The school boasts exceptional golf facilities, including a CONGU-certified nine-hole golf course, an indoor Skytrak facility, an artificial putting green, and access to strength, conditioning, fitness, and cardiovascular gyms on campus, supervised by a fitness coach. Rob Ashbrook, PGA Advanced Professional and Head Coach of the Golf Academy, said:

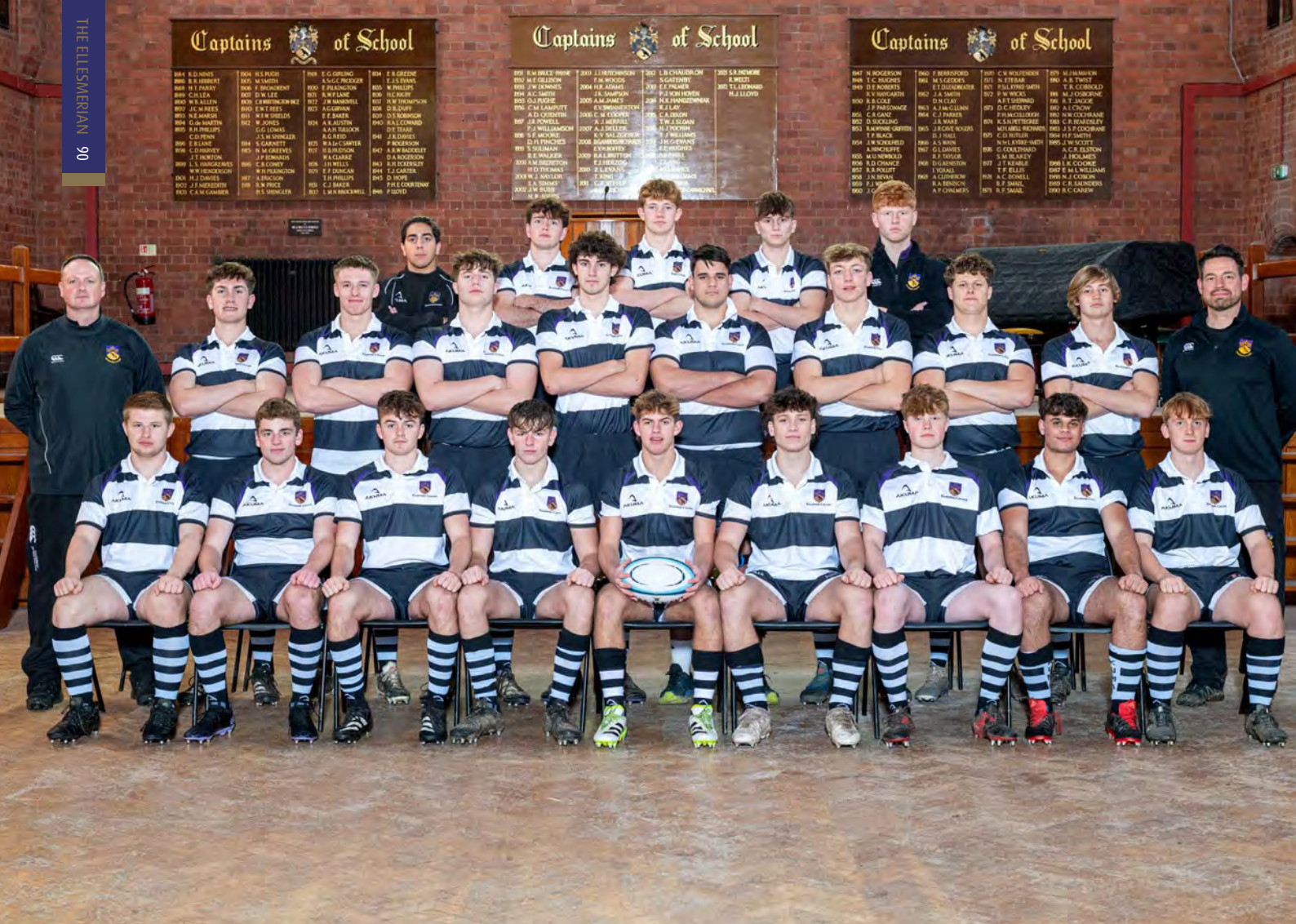
"We have seen some very impressive performances by our pupils this season, both individually and as a team. These have translated into fantastic results, and I have been very impressed with the commitment and attitude of each one of them. Ellesmere College is currently lying fourth in the national rankings, which is a fantastic position to be in."

The Ellesmere College Golf Academy offers girls and boys of all standards, from ages 8 to 18, the opportunity to choose from a range of programmes designed to enhance each stage of their golfing journey.





Sport - Rugby



Rugby - 1st XV

The 2023-24 season for the Ellesmere College 1st XV has been a remarkable journey filled with triumphs, challenges, and unforgettable memories. The team began with the traditional pre-season trip to Cardiff, where they were put through their paces in preparation for the season ahead. This tough start laid the foundation for what would be a determined and cohesive team effort throughout the year.

Their hard work paid off immediately, as Ellesmere secured an impressive victory against Sandbach in the first round of the National Vase competition. This win set a positive tone for the campaign, but in the second round, they faced a familiar foe in Ambrose, a team they had encountered at this stage the previous year. Despite a valiant effort, Ellesmere came up short once again, exiting the competition. The only other loss of the season came to old rivals Old Swinford Hospital in a hard-fought game.

In the regular Saturday friendlies, the team showcased their skill and teamwork with notable victories over Adams Grammar, King Henry VIII School, and a second triumph over Sandbach. However, the standout performance of the season came against Kings Macclesfield, a much larger school. In a superb display of both defensive grit and tactical prowess, Ellesmere put the visitors under immense pressure, making the most of their possession and controlling the territory with precision. The team struck a perfect balance between creative flair and forward power, with points coming from well-executed team plays as well as moments of individual brilliance.

The season ended on a high note as Ellesmere delivered a commanding performance, thrashing Wirral Grammar School by a 50-point margin—a fitting conclusion to a season of growth and achievement.

This year will be remembered not just for the victories, but also for the camaraderie and lessons learned along the way. Sadly, the season was marked by the tragic loss of one of their own, Dafydd Craven Jones. A dedicated and passionate player, Dafydd had been a key figure in Ellesmere rugby since Year 7 and proudly wore the black and white of the 1st XV. His presence, both on and off the field, will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The 2023-24 season was a fantastic journey, and Dafydd's memory will forever be a part of Ellesmere's rugby legacy.

AJM



Rugby - 2nd XV

We started the season with a home game against Caldy. The opposition had cancelled the 1st XV game, and I suspect that a few of those players were in the team that competed against us. Our team was made up of players who had not been involved in the mid-week cup match and, therefore, had little time to train together beforehand. However, the boys worked hard to claim the win in a tight match.

Our second game was against our county rivals, and we had a large group of boys all eager to be involved. We played very well throughout and secured a handsome win. Despite the scoreline, the opposition never dropped their heads and made us work until the final whistle. We followed this with an away game at OSH. This was a closer match than the scoreline suggests, and although we lost, there were many positives to take into the next match.

Our fourth match took place on a glorious day in November. Two good sides competed, and the lead changed hands several times. As the second half progressed, we grew stronger and eventually secured the win that our work rate and attitude deserved. We were developing into a strong all-around team.

We travelled to Sandbach for our next game. Injuries meant that we had to reshuffle the team, but it also provided an opportunity for players stepping up. We started well and took an early lead, but as the half wore on, we became disjointed. We trailed at halftime and fell further behind during the second half. We then lost a player to the sin-bin. However, this seemed to focus the team; the leaders stepped up and carried others with them. We steadily closed the gap and snatched victory with little time to spare. This lifted the whole squad, and we trained well leading up

to a difficult away fixture at St. Anselm's College. Unfortunately, that game was cancelled due to frost.

Our final game was away on the Wirral. We had trained well and had good competition for places, which proved to be an excellent indicator of how we had progressed over the term. We were dominant throughout, playing some excellent, fluid rugby. We kept the ball alive and moved it with pace. Our high tempo was too much for our opponents, and we worked hard off the ball to constantly create options. It was the culmination of a term of high-intensity training and a pleasing way to end the season.

Team: Sam Linington (C), Morgan Yorke (C), Tom Wynne (VC), Dafydd Craven Jones, Mohammed Eskandari, Angus Culkin, Freddie Brumpton, Tom Dyson, Josh Macintosh, Archie George Coe, Ollie Draco, Jed Matthews, Tamim Haji Rahman, Evan Garratt, James Hoyland, Theo MacAndrew, Ellis Ashton, Charlie Cuckson, Victor Joulie, Dylan Avery, Caleb Mahoney, Elliot Williamson, Alfred Appleby, JJ. Evans, Kristian Davidson-Jackson, Harry Underhill, Hugh Cornwell, Finlay Baggaley, Henry Copelin, Hal Winney, Ernie Gregory.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who helped the boys achieve such an impressive season: co-coach Mr H. Lucas and all the other coaches involved in senior rugby, the parents and students who supported us throughout the season, and the medical staff for always being available. I am sure Mr Lucas would agree that the boys were a pleasure to coach.

DJM



Rugby - U14

The season kicked off with a very early cup match at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby. With perfect weather the stage was set for a promising season. With some positions not quite solidified, Ellesmere College played in a game full of unforced errors from both teams. Nathan Draco led the forwards well with George Sandiford at the scrum half position directing the play. Jimmy Dwyer imposed himself well and used his physicality to get points on the board, however, the game swung to Haberdasher's with our boys suffering a 19-17 loss.

The next match, again away, put us against Caldys Grange Grammar School. From the 'get-go' this was a difficult match for our boys with Caldys having the upper hand in all areas. A 52-17 point loss ensued and we drove away very disappointed. The next match we travelled to Haberdashers' Adams. Another close match with strong opposition and in this game Atticus Round managed to get the ball in a bit of space and really showed everyone his speed. With two tries, Atticus led the charge and a 10-point win for Ellesmere College. Next up was Old Swinford Hospital, who in the previous season has been undefeated – so the stage was set for a tough match. With home advantage, our boys came out fighting led by Jimmy Dwyer who fought for every ball and every yard of territory. With a tactical switch in putting George Sandiford in at the flanker position, this gave Ellesmere a stronger rucking presence and quicker ball to use at the break down. The game finished 21-7 in favour of Ellesmere College.

With two straight wins, confidence was high and we knew the toughest match of the season was at Kings Macclesfield. The match being played on Armistice Day was preceded by 2 minutes silence which both players and spectators respectfully observed. The field for this match was particularly

boggy and Ellesmere College picked up several injuries on the way. In the last 20 minutes, Nathan Draco, normally found in the front row, was needed in the full back position such was the need. Kings Macclesfield dominated play and territory for the whole game and we drove away licking our wounds and a 55-5 loss.

The last game of the season brought Sandbach School to Ellesmere. The game was particularly well-balanced with both teams creating scoring opportunities and making some fantastic tackles. Once again, Jimmy Dwyer took the initiative in gaining valuable territory and points on the board. The back-row combination of James Skillicorn, Henry Roberts, Oscar Hewitt and after half time George Sandiford worked tirelessly cleaning up loose ball, competing in the break downs and turning the ball over. With only a few minutes to go Ellesmere were up by 4 points and were pushing towards their opponent's try line. However, an infringement in a ruck handed the ball back to Sandbach. With a line break and some very good back-up play and hands, Sandbach scored a match-winning try in the very last play of the game.

With a couple of matches cancelled due to poor weather, the U14 rugby team ended the season with a 2:4 win-to-loss ratio. Very many lessons were learned along the way and many flashes of brilliance displayed. The losses were hard to take, but this bunch of boys certainly have some rugby acumen and we look forward to seeing them grow as a team in the future.

MH



Rugby - U13

The Ellesmere College U13 rugby team got off to a flying start to the season with a solid win against Calday Grange. It was a high-scoring game in which both sides threw caution to the wind in an attempt to gain the upper hand. Excellent tries were scored by centres Dan Thelwell and Will Goodwin. In addition, barnstorming runs by Buddy Ball and Will Barnes set up Rory Owen to score a brace of tries.

The next fixture was a hard-fought and thrilling arm wrestle between ourselves and Haberdashers' Adams Grammar School, played in extremely good spirits. Will Goodwin led the way to the try line to give Ellesmere the lead, but fatigue began to set in, and some defensive mistakes in the last five minutes handed Haberdashers' Adams Grammar the win.

Old Swinford Hospital always promises to be a challenging match, and this one was no different. Ellesmere started with high hopes and created some good chances to score. However, the team was unable to take their opportunities and came away with no points. In contrast, breakaway tries for Old Swinford Hospital, created by mistakes from the home team, were the difference between the two sides.

The long journey to King's School proved difficult, but the team learned some important lessons in defence. They also showed great resilience and team spirit, fighting until the final whistle. These lessons were evident in the final game, which was an open and entertaining match. Sandbach took an early lead, but Ellesmere soon fought back with tries from Rory

Owen and Dan Thelwell. However, in the end, Sandbach were a little stronger in the final minutes of the game.

The whole team had much to be proud of; they had worked hard all season and developed as individuals and as a team.

23 Sep 23	Calday Grange Grammar School	Won	40 - 20
07 Oct 23	Haberdashers' Adams	Lost	10 - 15
14 Oct 23	Old Swinford Hospital	Lost	0 - 25
11 Nov 23	The King's School, Macclesfield	Lost	5 - 60
25 Nov 23	Sandbach School	Lost	15 - 35

JED



Rugby - U12

This rugby season showcased a mix of triumphs and challenges for the team. A standout victory came against Calday Grange Grammar School, where we secured a solid 30-10 win. However, we faced a tough defeat against Haberdashers' Adams, suffering a 0-35 loss, primarily due to one standout player who tore through our defence.

The battle against Old Swinford Hospital was intense, ending in a high-scoring 35-55 loss that tested our resolve. Our toughest match was against King's Macclesfield, where we fell 10-35, highlighting the areas we need to improve as we move forward. Overall, the season was a combination of hard-fought games and valuable lessons learned.

MJA



Rugby - U11

This year, our Under-11 rugby team faced an unusually challenging season due to constant rain and flooded grounds, making it the wettest season on record. Although matches were limited, the boys tackled every obstacle with enthusiasm and a true love for the game. The first half of the term focused on mastering the fundamental skills of rugby. Each dark, wet evening saw them out on the field, working hard, embracing every drill, and showing commitment to their development.

Our one match against Prestfelde School was played with a strong focus on growth, and the boys gave it their all. The game itself was about so much more than the score—it highlighted the values that make rugby so special. Each player showed respect for their teammates, their opponents, and the referee, setting a great example of what sportsmanship is all about. Every tackle and every play served as a reminder of the importance of honesty, with the boys learning to follow the game's rules, respect the referee's decisions, and play fairly. Their work ethic was evident in every step, as they displayed great focus on improving their skills and understanding the game.

As the season continued, they faced setbacks with resilience, accepting that conditions weren't always ideal but refusing to let it dampen their spirits. Together, they learned that challenges are merely opportunities to become stronger players and teammates. Even without many games, this team grew tremendously, learning valuable lessons about teamwork and determination.

In the end, this season was about embracing the core values of rugby: respect, honesty, resilience, and a strong work ethic. The boys made their coaches, school, and themselves proud with their dedication and positive attitudes. Well done, team!

AJM



Rugby - 1st VII

The 2023 sevens season will be remembered as one of the wettest on record, with many tournaments unfortunately falling victim to relentless rain. Despite this, the Ellesmere 1st VII showed great resilience and adaptability throughout a season marred by cancellations and difficult conditions.

One of the most frustrating moments came with the North of England Sevens. The team made the early morning journey, full of optimism and ready to compete against some of the best sides in the region, only to find that the pitch conditions were deemed unplayable upon arrival. The players were forced to turn around and head back to school, their chance to shine washed away by the downpour.

Similarly, the much-anticipated Kings Worcester Sevens and Rydal Penrhos Sevens were also cancelled due to the unrelenting rain, denying the team further opportunities to test themselves in what was shaping up to be a challenging season.

However, amidst the cancellations, there was a bright spot—the inaugural Ellesmere College Under-18 Sevens Tournament. Despite the weather taking a turn for the worse as the day went on, Ellesmere took great pride in hosting this 10-team competition early in the season. The conditions may have been far from ideal, but the hosts adapted better than anyone, demonstrating their skill and determination in the face of adversity.

The Ellesmere 1st VII, showing both grit and tactical nous, played the better sevens throughout the tournament, handling the wet ball and slippery ground conditions superbly. Their hard work and focus paid off as they took home the honours, marking a highlight in an otherwise stormy season.

While the weather proved to be a significant challenge, the team's determination and ability to adapt shone through. The 1st VII can take pride in their performance in their own tournament, even if the rest of the season didn't go as planned due to the weather.

AJM



Rugby - U16 VII

Wirral Grammar School Sevens

The U16 Sevens team travelled to Lymm RUFC for their first tournament of the year. Although the day was cold, it was bright, dry and calm.

The format was a straight league of 6 teams:

Ellesmere	15 v 24	Stonyhurst
Birkenhead	7 v 34	Ellesmere
Wirral GS	7 v 45	Ellesmere
Cheadle Hulme	12 v 31	Ellesmere
Ellesmere	55 v 5	Shrewsbury School

We warmed up well and looked forward to a good day of sevens rugby. The first game was against a strong rugby school, and they knew how to play Sevens. Unfortunately, we did not perform well in the first half. You could call it nerves, but the fact remained that we froze and did not attempt to play as we had trained. Stonyhurst took advantage and scored three unanswered tries. We took the field for the second half with a totally different mindset. We closed the gap but ran out of time.

As the results show, we improved as the tournament progressed and were able to dominate teams with a good mix of skill and physicality. Stonyhurst managed to secure less convincing wins against the opposition, but they hung on to finish unbeaten. It was a good

run-out for us and we learnt a lot in a tournament situation. Sevens is an unforgiving game and the seven-minute no-show cost us the silverware.

Shrewsbury U16 Sevens Tournament

The conditions were not ideal for sevens with the pitches being very heavy and soft, however the rain had stopped. This was in complete contrast to our first tournament and so we had to adapt to a more physical approach. This was a mini/training tournament with only three opponents.

Ellesmere	22 v 0	Bishop's Castle School
Ellesmere	17 v 0	Wrekin
Shrewsbury	7 v 21	Ellesmere

In our first game, we were far too strong for the opposition.

The second game was extremely physical as Wrekin threw all they had at us. We stood up to the test and our defence was solid. We adapted well and showed the intelligence needed to turnover ball and capitalise out wide. It is rare for a team to completely shut out the opposition and so it was very pleasing to go into our last game having not conceded a point.

Our final game was against the hosts and they were determined to

avenge their loss to us at an earlier tournament. The first half was very tight and the heavy conditions had got worse, meaning that the game was a little slower than we would have liked. Shrewsbury opened the scoring with an intercepted pass and led at the break. We changed tactics for the second half, and our opponents struggled with our more direct approach. We dominated the second half to take the win.

King's School Worcester U16 Sevens Tournament

Ellesmere	42 v 7	King Edward's School, Birmingham
Ellesmere	19 v 10	Magdalen College School
Ellesmere	21 v 14	Malvern College

We had a tough group, but we played well to win all three games and finish top. This put us into the semi-final of the cup.

Semi-Final

Ellesmere	26 v 27	Dean Close School
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This was a game between two good teams where we just lost out. It was disappointing as we were excellent in the first half and held the lead but the momentum changed in the second half and we could not hold on.

Team: Ellis Ashton (C), J.J. Evans (VC), Dylan Avery, Theo MacAndrew, Thomas Males, Archie Ramsey, Tom Barton, Hugh Cornwell, Charlie Cuckson, Victor Joulie, Kristian Davidson-Jackson, Alfred Appleby, Oliver Loud, Henry Bates, Elieot Williamson.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for their support, and co-coach, Mr Lucas for his input.

DJM





Rugby - U15 VII

This season, the U15s had just one sevens tournament, held at Adams Grammar School. We were in a group alongside Abraham Darby, Wrekin, and the hosts, Adams Grammar. Our first match was against Abraham Darby, not knowing what to expect. We started off strongly, playing to our pattern of play, which proved too much for the opposition, and we came out comfortable winners.

Our next match, against Adams Grammar, followed a similar pattern. By playing to our strengths and utilizing space, players like Tom Barton, Archie Ramsey, and Tom Males were able to exploit gaps effectively. The last match of the group was against Wrekin College, who, like us, had won both of their opening matches. Wrekin, playing with confidence, employed a very direct game, and it took us a while to adapt. The match itself was back and forth and could have gone either way. With the last play of the game from kick-off and Wrekin ahead, Archie Ramsay put up a high kick, which Tom Barton leapt up to grab. He managed to evade oncoming defenders and successfully crossed the try line to score the winning try, meaning we finished top of the group.

In the semi-final, we were drawn against Hereford Cathedral, who had finished second in their group. The match was tightly contested, but unfortunately, we struggled to contain the pace of one of their players, who used the width of the pitch to great effect, and we lost three tries to one. It was an unfortunate end to the season, but the boys should be proud of all their achievements throughout the year.

MH

Sport - Hockey





Girls' Hockey – 1st XI

Summary of results

1st XI Girls' Hockey

Old Ellesmerian Select - Lost 1 – 7

National Cup

Tier 2 Round 1 The King's School, Worcester - Lost 0 – 7

Tier 2 Plate Malvern College - Lost 0 – 5

County Tournament

Shrewsbury School - Lost 3 – 4

Wrekin College 7s Tournament

Team 1 – Winners

Wrekin College Team 2 - Won 9 – 0

Moreton Hall - Drew 1 – 1

Shrewsbury School Team 1 - Won 4 – 0

Final v Wrekin College Team 1 - Won 1 – 0

Wrekin College 7s Tournament

Team 2 – Finished 6th / 8 schools

Shrewsbury School Team 2 - Won 3 – 0

Hereford Cathedral School - Lost 0 – 4

Wrekin College Team 1 - Lost 0 – 3

Shrewsbury School Team 1 - Lost 0 – 1

Shrewsbury Hockey Club - Won 5 – 0

Whitchurch Hockey Club - Lost 2 – 1

Abbotsholme - Won 5 – 1

Oswestry School - Won 6 – 1

Rydal Penrhos School - Won 3 – 2

Moreton Hall - Won 4 – 0

The Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team can look back on a season filled with intense competition, notable triumphs, and remarkable resilience. With a newly assembled team captained by I.F.-C, the players faced both highs and lows, showcasing a fierce spirit and determination that made for an inspiring season.

In the County Tournament, Ellesmere faced Shrewsbury School in a tight match. Both teams were evenly matched, and by the second quarter, the score was tied at 2-2. Shrewsbury scored off a short corner in the third quarter, putting Ellesmere down 2-3, but the team rallied with a fantastic goal in the final quarter to bring it to 3-3. Unfortunately, another well-executed short corner by Shrewsbury in the final moments led to a hard-fought 3-4 loss. This game highlighted the team's grit and growth, providing a strong foundation to build upon.

In the UI8 National Cup Tier 2 match against King's Worcester, the team faced a tough challenge. The players battled valiantly but were ultimately bested by a skilled and organised opponent. Although the 0-7 scoreline was disappointing, it does not fully capture the determination displayed by the team, who continued to push forward despite adversity. This experience offered valuable lessons in endurance and resilience.

In the Plate against Malvern College, Ellesmere started strongly with several attempts on goal in the first ten minutes. However, after the opposition scored their first goal against the run of play, Ellesmere

found themselves on the back foot. Despite multiple penalty corners, they were unable to convert them into goals, and Malvern's counter-attacks proved difficult to contain. The final score of 0-5 did not reflect the team's energy and persistence, as they fought hard until the final whistle.

The Wrekin College 7s tournament brought an exciting change of pace, with Ellesmere College fielding two teams in a round-robin competition of eight teams in two sections. Team 1 advanced to the final in a thrilling last-minute finish, clinching the title with a 1-0 victory by scoring the winning goal in the final 20 seconds. This memorable win, characterised by focus and determination, underscored the team's potential and teamwork.

In a match against Oswestry School, the 1st XI, depleted due to illness and injury, took to the field without substitutes. After a challenging first half, which ended 0-1, the team regrouped with renewed determination. M.B scored the equaliser five minutes into the second half, sparking an offensive surge. The defence, bolstered by Z.B's goal-line save and E.H's five impressive saves, held strong. The final score of 5-1 highlighted the team's ability to overcome challenges and rally when it mattered most.

In an exhilarating match on the Welsh coast against Rydal Penrhos, the 1st XI delivered a memorable 3-2 victory. Ellesmere took the lead early with a well-executed penalty corner, but Rydal Penrhos equalised late in the first half. GK E.H kept the score level at 1-1 with a series of exceptional saves. The second half saw intense back-and-forth play, with Ellesmere scoring off a perfectly coordinated penalty corner, only for Rydal Penrhos to equalise shortly after. With the score poised at 2-2, Ellesmere's teamwork shone through, leading to a decisive goal that secured a hard-earned win, showcasing the team's composure and synergy.

This season, the 1st XI grew together through competitive matches and intense tournaments, showing resilience and commitment. With standout moments and hard-earned victories, this season laid the groundwork for future success and a promising foundation for the team's continued growth. Each player should take pride in their achievements and the spirit with which they approached every challenge.

CSD



Girls' Hockey - 2nd XI

Summary of results

Whitchurch Hockey Club	-	Lost 1 - 2
Adcote School for Girls	-	Won 3 - 0
Shrewsbury School	-	Lost 1 - 0
Oswestry School	-	Canceled
Wrekin College	-	Lost 3 - 0
Moreton Hall	-	Lost 1 - 0

The 2nd XI hockey girls started off the season with some new faces but a steely determination to play good hockey, enjoy themselves, and work well as a team. The first match was against a local club side, Whitchurch, who were well-organised, well-drilled, and eager to show their abilities. Whitchurch had the initial advantage as they were familiar with each other's play, while Ellesmere was still developing as a team. However, Ellesmere had the better of the latter part of the match, scoring an

excellent goal and spending extended periods in the opposition's half. This performance boded well for the next match against Adcote School, where Ellesmere were dominant for large portions of the game, worked well as a team, and emerged as worthy winners. The remainder of the term saw matches against much tougher competition, but Ellesmere acquitted themselves well in every game. Learning from their previous efforts, the defence was solid, and the attack and midfield grew in confidence. The matches against Shrewsbury School and Moreton Hall were very close, and Ellesmere was particularly unlucky to concede against Moreton with nearly the last hit of the game. The team grew in confidence and cohesion throughout the term and will be a stronger, more experienced unit for Michaelmas 2024.

JWN



Girls' Hockey – U16

The U16A XI participated in the Shropshire County tournament hosted at Shrewsbury School. They found themselves in a very tough group, competing against Shrewsbury U16A, Wrekin College, and Bedstone College. The girls battled incredibly well against both Shrewsbury and Wrekin but, unfortunately, came out second-best in both matches. Going into their final match against Bedstone College, they needed a convincing win to stand a chance of progressing to the knockout stages. Bedstone battled hard, and while Ellesmere persevered with continuous attacks, they could not quite secure the goals needed to advance.

A strong team spirit was developed, which will carry through to the 1st and 2nd XI squads for the 2024 Michaelmas term.

JWN



Girls' Hockey – U15

Our season began with a friendly match against Whitchurch Hockey Club at home. We knew it could be a tough game against an established hockey club, but we were full of optimism, with some of our players familiar with the opposition as they were playing against their teammates. The game was exciting from the start, and we looked comfortable in both attack and defence. It was a slow start in terms of chances, however, and we were unable to convert our possessions into opportunities in the first half. Just before half-time, we took the lead from a short corner, which boosted our confidence going into the second half. We gathered ourselves, maintained control of the game, and went on to win 5–0 against a strong side—a great start to the season.

In our match against Moreton Hall, our confidence was high, and we had learned a great deal from our first game. We controlled large parts of the game, scored some excellent goals, and won 8–0. Although the score might not suggest it, we also had to work hard in defence as Moreton looked to attack, but our strong defensive unit was able to prevent them from reaching our defensive D.

Following our two strong wins, we knew the next game against Shrewsbury School would be very different. In the first ten minutes, both teams looked well-matched, and the game was played in a competitive spirit. However, Shrewsbury had a great second half and went on to win 9–3.

Our last game of the season saw us secure a solid 5–1 win against Adcote. We were strong in both attack and defence throughout, and we made some position changes to make the game more competitive and enjoyable for both teams.

It was a very successful season for the U15s, and I wish them all the best, as I am sure many of them will be stepping up to play in the 1st and 2nds next year.

A very successful season of Hockey for the U15's, I wish them all the best as I am sure many of them will be stepping up to play in the 1st and 2nds next year.

HLD



Girls' Hockey - U14

We began the season with a friendly fixture against Whitchurch Hockey Club. This was a great opportunity to get used to playing 11-a-side. The progression from the 7-a-side format can sometimes take a bit of getting used to, but with good communication and effort, this was not the case, and we won the game 5-0.

In Round 1 of the U14 County Tournament, we made a great start against Shrewsbury School B. We were straight out of the blocks, scoring in the opening minutes, and concerted pressure led to a close-range second goal. Our third goal came after relentless pressure and countless saves by the Shrewsbury keeper. A strong strike from a penalty corner led to our fourth goal, and a fierce shot that gave the opposition keeper no chance resulted in our fifth. We were unlucky to concede one in the second half. The game against Moreton Hall was much closer. After going behind, this seemed to galvanise our efforts. We had many attacking opportunities but found it tough to get past their keeper. Eventually, we levelled the score, but Moreton managed to score a second goal. We defended with real determination and kept pressing towards their goal, but we were unable to convert our chances, finishing with a 2-1 loss.

For the North Shropshire tournament, we reverted back to the 7-a-side format. We entered two teams that had mixed fortunes on the day. One team won four out of their five games, some by a considerable margin, only losing one game by a single goal to the eventual tournament winners, which meant we finished as runners-up.

We then played Shrewsbury School in the County Cup. Despite some

really determined efforts, we were unable to break down their defence and were denied by the post on more than one occasion. Shrewsbury's attacking pressure was consistent and sustained, and they finished as 4-0 winners. Abbotsholme School then visited us, which was a really positive fixture featuring a large squad of players. This allowed us to rotate players and be a bit more experimental in some areas of the pitch. With so many attacking options, it was no surprise that we finished as 5-0 winners.

Following matches earlier in the season, we were keen to improve on our next visit to Shrewsbury School. Unsurprisingly, this was a really tight fixture. Both teams were determined to gain the upper hand, and despite conceding, we managed to stay in the lead and hang on for a well-earned 2-1 win. On 11th November, we welcomed Rydal Penrhos. Both teams respectfully observed a two-minute silence before the game. When play got underway, we dominated possession for large parts of the game and won 4-1.

Playing in the Midlands Zone play-offs was always going to be a tough proposition. We were pitted against Newcastle-Under-Lyme School and Loughborough School. Despite losing both games, we were pleased to have reached this stage and to have scored against both teams, who were very strong opponents.

In addition to the U14 matches, a good number of players also represented the school in a combined U15/14 team for a couple of fixtures, helping to complete two emphatic wins in these games.

LK

1008	J.H. WELLS	1043	R.H. ECKLESLEY
1009	E.F. DUNCAN	1044	T.J. CARTER
1010	T.H. PHILLIPS	1045	D. HOPE
1011	C.J. BAKER	1046	P.H.E. COURTNEY
1012	L.M.N. BROCKWELL	1047	P. LLOYD

1000	A.M. BREWSTER	1030	E.J. HERZOG
1001	R.D. THOMAS	1031	Z.E. EVANS
1002	W.J. NAYLOR	1032	T. KING
1003	S.A. SIMMS	1033	C. JONES
1004	Z.W. BURB	1034	N.R. JONES

1056	R.D. CHANCE	1066	D.G. BENSTON	1077	J.T. KEABLE	1086	I.K. COOKE
1057	R.A. POLITT	1067	I. VOYALL	1078	T.F. ELLIS	1087	E.M.L. WILLIAMS
1058	J.M. BRYAN	1068	A. CLITHERSON	1079	A.C. DONELL	1088	N.J. CONDON
1059	P.J. WRANGHAM	1069	R.A. BENSON	1080	R.F. SMAL	1089	C.B. SAUNDERS
1060	J.G. WILLIAMS	1070	A.P. CHAMBERS	1081	R.F. SMAL	1090	R.C. CAREW



Girls' Hockey - U13

The U13 Girls' Hockey team wrapped up an exciting and hard-fought season, demonstrating tremendous growth, teamwork, and determination throughout. From the first whistle to the last, the team showed a commitment to improving both individually and collectively, creating a bond that carried them through every challenge on the pitch.

As the season progressed, the girls truly gelled as a team. Their ability to communicate and work together was evident in each match, as they supported one another both on and off the ball. Their training paid off, with improvements in passing precision and defensive organisation.

One of the season's most thrilling matches came against Rydal Penrhos, a strong seaside school side that tested the team's resilience and skill. The game was closely contested, with both sides having opportunities. The girls showcased excellent teamwork and fought hard to hold their ground against a well-drilled opponent. The match ended with the visitors in the lead, leaving the Ellesmere side disappointed but proud of their efforts and eager to build on their performance.

Another highlight of the season was a narrow but spirited contest against Moreton Hall. Despite the heartbreaking 1-0 loss, the team displayed incredible heart and determination throughout. After going behind early, the girls fought back tenaciously, searching for an equaliser, but the final score didn't reflect the effort or skill shown by the entire squad. It was a match that demonstrated just how far they had come since the start of the season.

In every game, the U13 girls developed a strong team spirit, and their camaraderie on the pitch was evident in their performance. From tight defensive battles to free-flowing attacking moves, the girls gave their all in every match. Their passion for the game, combined with the support of their coaches and one another, created an environment where they could flourish and take pride in their progress.

As the season draws to a close, the team can reflect on their journey with pride. They've not only improved their skills but also built lasting friendships and memories. The future looks bright for this talented group of players, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and succeed in the seasons to come.

Well done, girls, on a fantastic season!

ST



Girls' Hockey – U12

Summary of results		
Adcote School	-	Won 2 – 1
Moreton Hall	-	won 3 – 0
Shrewsbury High School	-	Cancelled
Oswestry School	-	Cancelled
Rydal Penrhos	-	won 2 – 1
Adcote School	-	won 2 – 1
Newcastle-under-Lyme School	-	Cancelled
Bedstone College	-	Cancelled

The U12 Hockey Team demonstrated growth and resilience throughout this season, despite a series of cancelled matches due to weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances. With four games cancelled—two due to opposition unavailability and two because of frozen pitches—the team made the most of every match that went ahead, showcasing impressive teamwork, skills development, and determination.

Throughout the season, the team focused on developing both individual skills and cohesive team play. The goalkeeper worked hard on her technique, gaining confidence and honing key skills. This effort was evident in her ability to communicate effectively with the defence and make crucial saves. The forwards concentrated on enhancing their attacking play, focusing on maintaining shape to better support one another. Their hard work paid off, as they were able to capitalise on scoring opportunities and apply sustained pressure on the opposition. The defensive line, including the goalkeeper, showed commendable progress in working

together on short corners, demonstrating strong communication and positioning. This teamwork significantly contributed to the low number of goals conceded and kept the team competitive in each game.

While it was disappointing to lose several games to cancellations, the girls took every opportunity to grow as players and as a team. Their commitment to improving their skills and fostering a collaborative approach on the pitch has been impressive, setting a solid foundation for future seasons.

All in all, it was a positive season, with clear signs of potential and promise for further development. With continued practice and the same dedication to improvement, the U12 girls are well-positioned to take on new challenges as the future U13 Team.

CSD



Boys' Hockey – 1st XI

The Ellesmere College 1st XI hockey team continues to build a reputation for success, showcasing hard work, determination, and passion throughout the season. Facing strong opponents both regionally and nationally, the team demonstrated significant progress, refining their skills and building chemistry with every match.

- **National Cup 2nd Round vs. King's Chester (Home):** The season began with a convincing 3-0 victory over a well-regarded opponent. Strong defensive play and superior fitness allowed Ellesmere to dominate the second half, setting a confident tone for the matches to follow.
- **Wrekin College (Home):** In a highly anticipated local derby, Ellesmere displayed a commanding performance, dominating possession and converting chances effectively. A cohesive midfield and a solid defence ensured a memorable win.
- **National Cup 3rd Round vs. Caldry Grange (Away):** This hard-fought match tested the team's perseverance, with both sides creating opportunities. A last-minute winner secured a dramatic victory, reflecting Ellesmere's never-give-up attitude.
- **Shrewsbury School (Away):** Facing a prestigious opponent, Ellesmere showcased their depth and flexibility, rotating the squad to give newer players valuable experience. The team controlled the match and achieved a comfortable win, experimenting with tactics for tougher fixtures ahead.
- **Abbottsholme School (Home):** In one of the season's most challenging games, Ellesmere fought back from an early deficit to secure a hard-earned victory. This test of resilience and adaptability

highlighted the mental strength of the squad.

- **National Cup 4th Round vs. Yarm School (Away):** Playing just a day after a gruelling match, Ellesmere narrowly lost 1-0 in a tightly contested game. Despite the result, the experience against a highly skilled team will benefit the squad moving forward.
- **Deeside Ramblers (Historic Fixture):** The season concluded with a special annual match against Deeside Ramblers. In a lively contest, Ellesmere secured a close win, capping the season with a memorable performance.

Looking Ahead

The Ellesmere College 1st XI hockey team can reflect on the season with great pride. Each game contributed to the squad's development, and the national cup run provided valuable experience at a high level of competition. The season demonstrated the team's ongoing growth, and with commitment and the right attitude, the future looks bright. Beyond results, the team embodies the joy of playing hockey and the camaraderie that comes with it. For the players, hockey is as much about building friendships and character as it is about competition. The coaching staff encourages a love for the game and hopes players will carry this passion with them, creating lasting memories and connections well into university and beyond. This ethos will continue to drive the Ellesmere College 1st XI hockey team as they look forward to another year of development, challenges, and success.

JJB



Sport - Netball



Netball – 1st VII

Season Overview:

The 1st netball team experienced a short but competitive season, showcasing significant growth, resilience, and teamwork. With a blend of seasoned players and fresh talent, the team navigated a series of challenging matches, demonstrating exceptional skill and determination.

Match Highlights:

- **Opening Match vs UI6 Wrekin**

Score: 19-16

This opening game set a positive tone for the season. The team's defensive strategies were particularly effective, with standout performances from our goalkeeper and captain, Zara Brookshaw.

- **Mid-Season vs Oswestry School**

Score: 16-18

A close game where the team's defensive strengths continued to shine. Despite the loss, this match highlighted the team's growth and competitive spirit. The players held their ground against a skilled opponent, demonstrating improved tactics and cohesion.

- **Final Game vs King's Chester and Moreton Hall**

Score: 10-15 vs King's

Score: 13-1 vs Moreton Hall

The triangular fixture against King's and Moreton Hall produced mixed results. The team's attacking combinations began to gel, and overall, they demonstrated great progress.

Prospects:

Looking ahead, the team is set to build on this season's successes and challenges. With several key players returning and promising new talent emerging, plans for the off-season include a pre-season to build momentum and further develop skills.

Conclusion:

The 1st netball team's season was a testament to hard work, dedication, and the power of teamwork, both in training and on the court. Despite facing challenging times at the College, the players' commitment and perseverance resulted in a memorable season. We look forward to continuing this journey and achieving even greater heights in the coming seasons.

BMD





Netball – 2nd VII

The season began with an away trip to Wrekin College—a tough test for a new mix of players against a well-organised and experienced team that was already midway through their season. Despite some initial anxieties, we fought well and managed to keep the score close until half-time. We were unlucky not to stay level and lost out in a few 50-50 situations which, had they gone our way, might have allowed us to take the lead. The Wrekin defenders worked tirelessly to keep our attackers under pressure and limit our scoring opportunities. Ultimately, we lost the game 13-16 but gave a really good account of ourselves.

Unfortunately, our next match against Moreton Hall was cancelled. This is usually a very close fixture and might have helped us build some momentum in what is a short season. The following week, we took a large squad to matches at The Grove School. This was a great opportunity to involve a large number of players in some social netball matches, and the games were played in a fantastic spirit.

Our next fixture was an away match at Oswestry School. This was another very close game. We fought hard in the centre court, securing some excellent turnovers and enjoying intense possession periods. However, Oswestry was very determined in defence, managing to stifle much of our attacking play. Some tough calls in tight defensive situations meant we conceded a number of penalties, which made it difficult to keep pace with Oswestry's scoring rate, ultimately losing the game 18-15.

Our final game was an away match at King's School. There was very little between the teams, with the lead alternating throughout. Once again, we showed fierce determination in the centre court, disrupting the opposition for significant periods. King's had a fair share of attacking possession, but we defended with conviction and persistence. Through some committed attacking play, there were moments when it seemed we would pull ahead, but each time we were reeled back in. Unfortunately, King's emerged victorious, winning 9-8 with almost the final play of the game.

We were set to finish the season with several 2nd team players representing the school at the U16 and U19 North Shropshire Netball tournaments. However, due to adverse weather conditions, the tournaments had to be cancelled.

LK



Netball – U15

Our U15s had a fantastic year, marked by hard work and dedication in matches, friendlies, and lunchtime sessions. They started strong with a win in their first friendly. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly this year's County Tournament, where they dominated every match until the final, narrowly missing out on the Plate victory by only two goals. The girls used the day to showcase how much they've improved and grown together over the past year.

Their commitment throughout the year, attending weekly lunchtime netball sessions and putting in the effort from the start, had a significant impact on the maturity and consistency of their match play. The girls chose their Players' Players for this tournament to be Florence Sweeney and Cesca Algar-Pattinson. This decision was well-deserved, as Florence scored 27 goals with an impressive accuracy of 87%, while Cesca worked diligently in defence, making around 20 interceptions throughout the day!

The Coach's Players were awarded to both Nina Fisher (Captain) and Holly Cooke (Vice Captain), though this was a difficult choice, as all the girls delivered their best performances to date. Nina scored 27 goals with 82% accuracy, while Holly made 8 interceptions, created countless opportunities throughout the court, and delivered accurate, consistent passes to the shooters. Every girl put in 100% effort and made every second count, with Lucy Chadwick (Vice Captain) recording 11 interceptions, and Eleanor Every, Tilly Leonard, and Seren Garratt each making around 5 interceptions.

It was a memorable day and certainly a performance to be proud of—well done, girls! They finished the year with some excellent netball against a tall team at Moreton Hall. The girls adapted their game well and maintained a good lead throughout most of the match. Although they tired slightly towards the end of the hour-long game, they persevered and managed to finish with a draw. Players' Player went to Nina Fisher, who scored from all over the D, while Coach's Player was awarded to Lucy Chadwick for her countless interceptions and motivation of the team throughout the match.

The girls should all be incredibly proud of themselves and how much they have improved. I began coaching them two years ago, and they have grown into not only great netballers but also mature sportswomen whose attitudes serve as an inspiration to their younger peers.

NSH



Netball – U14A

The U14A netball squad participated in the North Shropshire tournament on Wednesday, 7 February 2024. In the group stage, the first match was against SJT. With games lasting just 8 minutes one way, passing accuracy was crucial, as every mistake was likely to be punished. The team played exceptionally well, with all 10 players getting time on the court, and secured a 5–0 win. The defence line-up consisted of Ellie Winn, Isobel Philbin, Lucy Rayner, Tilly Windsor, and Isla Harris. Imogen Spencer-Blow captained the team, playing as Centre, with Hannah Orme and Imogen Edwards covering Wing Attack, while Meg Pritchard and Emily Males took on the role of shooters.

The second match was against Oswestry School, and once again, the team worked well together, moving the ball swiftly down the court and creating plenty of scoring opportunities. This match also ended in a 5–0 victory. The final match of the group stage was against Thomas Adams School and proved to be much closer; however, solid defence prevented many goals from the opposition, resulting in another win, 3–1. This undefeated performance meant that Ellesmere finished as winners of Pool B and moved on to face the runners-up of Pool A, Adcote, in the semi-final.

The semi-final match was an end-to-end battle with plenty of goals scored in just 8 minutes, making it an exciting game. The Ellesmere team had truly found their rhythm by this point, securing another victory with a score of 9–5. The final was against Grove and was extremely tense. The opening minutes were tightly contested, with both teams scoring goals and occasionally losing possession. However, the Ellesmere girls dug deep and stayed calm under pressure, managing to gain a one-goal lead, followed by another, resulting in a 3–1 win.

The entire squad of 10 players worked together exceptionally well and fully deserved to be crowned champions. Special thanks to Mrs McClelland for umpiring our matches so professionally.

SHG



Netball – U14B

The U14 netball squad enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at the North Shropshire B Team tournament. The team won all three of their group-stage matches: 8–1 against Thomas Adams School, 7–2 against Adcote, and 13–0 against St Martins. Kiri and Tallulah worked tirelessly to get free and shot with great accuracy. In mid-court, Lilly, Patricia, Candela, Hannah, and Bella moved the ball quickly from defence into attack, and Gwen was brilliant as Goal Keeper throughout, despite it not being her preferred position. The role of Goal Defence was ably filled by Candela, Patricia, Hannah, and Bella as needed.

These fantastic results meant we topped our group and advanced to play Oswestry, the hosts, in the semi-final. The girls quickly found their stride and were convincing winners with a score of 9–1. We then faced Corbet in the final, a closely contested match with only a one-goal difference for most of the game. Corbet eventually gained a small lead, winning 8–4. The girls can be truly proud, not only of how they played but also of how they conducted themselves and supported each other throughout.

SHG



Netball – U13

Season Overview:

The U13 netball team enjoyed a remarkably successful season, characterised by strong performances, consistent improvement and a robust team spirit. The players displayed exceptional dedication and enthusiasm, translating into an impressive series of victories and commendable sportsmanship.

Match Highlights:

Opening NSSAA Tournament at Marches School.

Scores: 8-0 Thomas Adams	11-0 St.Martins
13-0 Grove	15-0 Priors
5-1 Semi-final v Adcote 5-1	6-2 Final v Marches

The season kicked off with a commanding win at the North Shropshire Tournament and where the team became North Shropshire Champions. The team's discipline was particularly effective, with each player sticking to the game plan, displaying brilliant sportsmanship.

Friendly match against Ellesmere College U.14A&B

Score: 27-1 U.14B 5-7 U.14A

This match was a positive moment for the team. They showcased excellent discipline and good teamwork against their older peers.

County Tournament

Despite numerous close games and unfortunate losses this tournament highlighted the team's growth and competitive spirit, alongside a promising future for the young side. The team held their ground against skilled opponents, demonstrating improved tactics and cohesion.

Match v Oswestry School

Score: 43-4

A convincing win at Oswestry School was a good confidence boost to the team given the recent run of difficult matches.

Final Match v Wolverhampton Grammar

Score: 26-4

The U13's ended the season with a big win which was a result of the teams effort, demonstrating the girls had work throughout the term. The seasons focus was to build on a strong foundation of basic skills and introduce understanding of game tactics. Regular training sessions and players commitment to the netball sessions was evident in their final performance and cohesion on the court.

Future Prospects:

With a solid season behind them, the U13 team is poised for continued success. Many of the players will be advancing to higher age groups, bringing their experience and skills to new challenges.

Conclusion:

The U13 netball team's season was marked by outstanding success and personal growth for all players. Their hard work, determination, and positive attitude were key factors in their achievements. The team's journey this season has laid a strong foundation for future successes, and we look forward to seeing these young athletes continue.

BMD



Netball – U12

U12B NSSAA Tournament at Oswestry School

Eager to start the season, the girls showed excellent defensive play, with Sylvie earning Player of the Match against Moreton. Alberta scored the only goal and was Player of the Match against Oswestry and Grove Park. Notable performances from Poppy and Rose highlighted the team's effort. Though disappointed not to secure a win, they were pleased to score against tough opposition. Valuable lessons included driving for the ball, getting in front of opponents, and slowing the pace to improve passing accuracy.

U12 NSSAA Tournament at Ellesmere College

With several games postponed or cancelled, the girls were excited to play in the tournament at Ellesmere College. Confident shooting from Florence Hughes and excellent teamwork led to a solid opening 12-2 win over Adcote. Strong play from Eve as Centre and agile movements by Florence Sandiford gave the team an attacking edge, which resulted in victories over Oswestry School (13-4) and Marches (12-0). Anabelle displayed great versatility in both attacking and defensive roles. A challenging game against Moreton ended in a 3-3 draw. The final match against SJT, who had won all of their games, was a close, physical encounter ending in a 4-4 draw. This left SJT as the tournament winners, with Ellesmere in a commendable second place. The girls' teamwork and effort were outstanding—well done!

U12 vs. Oswestry School

Excellent teamwork and growing confidence led to a decisive 26-3 win over Oswestry, with Florence, Rose, and Eve all getting on the score sheet. Bonnie impressed with her defensive skills, while Rose was voted Players' Player of the Match.

U12 County Netball Tournament at Wrekin

The team faced seven fast-paced, physical matches and worked extremely hard against strong opponents. The team showed excellent defensive play, with VV shining in this area, and Alberta and Anabelle demonstrated their versatility in both attack and defence.

U12 vs. Wolverhampton Grammar

In a competitive and fast-paced match, the girls showcased all the skills developed over the season. Alberta excelled as Centre, while Anabelle demonstrated agility at Wing Attack. Bonnie impressed as Goal Defence, with Rose scoring 2 goals and Ellie adding 1. The team displayed excellent resilience and teamwork, marking a strong end to the season with plenty to look forward to next year.

CP



Netball – U9

Summary of results

Prestfelde	-	Cancelled
Adcote	-	Drew 0-0
Old Hall	-	Won 4-0
Packwood Haugh	-	Cancelled
Moreton Hall	-	Lost 0-6
Old Hall	-	Lost 2-3
Oswestry School	-	Cancelled
Adcote	-	Lost 0-2

This season marked a fantastic introduction to netball for the U9 Girls, with each player showing enthusiasm, effort, and a commitment to learning the game. Across a mix of games, the team gained valuable experience, rotating through all positions on the court to better understand each role's responsibilities and the basics of both attacking and defensive play. Here's a summary of our matches and some key takeaways from this exciting first season.

Throughout the season, players rotated through all positions, giving everyone an understanding of both attacking and defensive roles. This helped each player develop essential skills, adapt to different responsibilities, and appreciate how each position contributes to the team's overall play. They practised effective communication, learnt the importance of working as a team, and focused on the principles of spacing and passing.

While match outcomes varied, the emphasis was on fun, skill development, and building a solid foundation in netball fundamentals. Each player should feel proud of their growth and teamwork on the court. The team's positive attitude, willingness to try new positions, and commitment to learning made for an enjoyable and rewarding season.

As the players continue to develop their skills and confidence, they will be prepared for more competitive games in the seasons to come. With continued focus on enjoyment, teamwork, and communication, the U9s are set for more growth and even greater success as next season's U10s.

CSD

Sport - Football





Football – 1st & 2nd XI

Abbeygate College (away) W 1-2.

A great start to the season, despite a late line-up change due to injury. We began somewhat tentatively, taking about ten minutes to settle into our rhythm before starting to dominate possession. Around 20 minutes in, Ellesmere took the lead following a corner kick, with good pressure from Sodjestan. Unfortunately, we were down to 10 men for about ten minutes after Sodjestan suffered a painful kick to his ankle. The boys reorganised, playing some excellent football and keeping the score at 0-1 before Sodjestan returned to the pitch.

At half-time, only minor adjustments were needed as Ellesmere continued to dominate, creating several strong chances. With about 15 minutes left, captain Sacha Connesson-Robic received the ball at the halfway line, weaving past two Abbeygate players before unleashing an unstoppable shot to put us 2-0 ahead. Five minutes later, an uncharacteristic defensive mistake allowed Abbeygate to pull a goal back. Ellesmere withstood the late pressure, creating chances of our own before the final whistle marked a well-deserved win. Honourable mentions go to the defence, Archie Floate in midfield, and Adrian Cuesta, a late addition to the squad who performed admirably.

Wrekin (away) L 4-2

Following a strong win at Abbeygate, we left Wrekin disappointed. Though technically the better team, we lacked the physicality to win key 50/50 battles, and Wrekin capitalised on this. After conceding midway through the first half, we managed to gain a foothold and, after some good passages of play, scored a deserved equaliser. We began the second half strongly, but Wrekin went 2-1 up against the run of play and added another after a ricochet in the box. Ellesmere pulled a goal back from a corner, flicked in by Alex Sharpe. With one goal separating the sides, hopes for an equaliser remained, but a Wrekin breakaway saw them score again. The team fought hard until the end but ultimately ran out of time to turn things around.

Wolverhampton (home) W 3-2

A hard-fought win. Ellesmere were technically superior, though Wolverhampton posed a constant threat. Both teams created chances in the first half, but strong defensive work kept it goalless. Early in the second half, we earned a penalty after excellent dribbling from Tony Hou, and substitute Sen Muya coolly dispatched it to put us 1-0 up. Shortly after, Wolverhampton equalised on a quick break, and soon added a second from a corner after some confusion. Showing resilience, Ellesmere responded as Archie Floate scored a fine header from a Muya corner. Not content with a draw, Ellesmere pressed on, and with only minutes remaining, Henry Hayden-Lee won the ball and passed to Muya, who set up Alex Sharpe to calmly finish, sealing a 3-2 victory.

Sandbach (home) W 3-1

This match required hard work for the victory. Ellesmere began well, matching Sandbach's intensity, and as the half wore on, we earned the right to play, although several offside calls hampered progress. The score remained 0-0 at half-time. In the second half, a patient approach saw us go 1-0 up from a fine strike by Alex Sharpe. Shortly after, Sandbach was down to 10 men, and Ellesmere doubled their lead as Muya slotted home. Although Sandbach pulled one back with a header, Ellesmere maintained composure, and Marcus Collins secured the win with a back-post finish. This was the most satisfying performance of the term.

Denstone (home) L 0-4

In this game, every mistake seemed to be punished, and we found ourselves 0-3 down at half-time. Despite some good passages of play, the final ball was lacking, and for the first time this term, we failed to score. Other teams might have given up, but our boys fought hard until the end, continuing to play their football and trying to create chances.

After the disappointment of the last match, the team was determined to end the term on a high. Oswestry had recently beaten Denstone, so a tough match was expected. The first half saw good passing football from both sides, ending 0-0. Oswestry were stronger at the start of the second half and scored a fantastic long-range effort. Ellesmere played back into the game and equalised when Alex Sharpe rounded the keeper after a marginal offside call. In worsening conditions, the team held firm as Oswestry began to tire. Late in the game, we won a free kick, followed by a corner, from which Tony Hou scored with the final touch. His teammates celebrated as the referee blew the whistle, capping off a fantastic end to a memorable football term.

It was a pleasure to work with this close-knit group who never gave up, worked hard, and supported each other throughout. As several players move on from Ellesmere, I hope the Year 13s continue pursuing their football goals, while a strong cohort of Year 12s remain to set the standards next year.

SJP

Oswestry (home) W 2-1



Football – U14

The U14 football season began with a home game against Abbeygate College. After taking a 1-0 lead, Ellesmere conceded an equaliser due to a defensive misunderstanding, and Abbeygate quickly added a second within two minutes of play resuming. Solid passing created chances in the final third, and a strong break saw Jesse Whale brought down by the goalkeeper; he converted from the penalty spot to level the score. With everything to play for at half-time, the game remained competitive.

Playing downhill in the second half, Ellesmere repeatedly outflanked their opposition, adding five more goals, including a long-range chip over the keeper's head by Skye Thomas and a neatly placed shot between a defender's legs by Alex Poole. In the closing minutes, Abbeygate claimed a consolation goal with a well-finished effort, their attacker skilfully taking the ball around the Ellesmere goalkeeper to score. Final score: 7-3.

The first away game of the season saw Ellesmere face Wrekin College on a windy day. Jesse Whale was brought down in the opening minute, and he scored from the spot to put Ellesmere ahead. However, playing a high defensive line allowed the opposition to break through and equalise within ten minutes. The first half was scrappy, with both sides struggling to play through midfield, but during a goalmouth scramble, Alex Poole managed a useful touch into the net to regain the lead. Wrekin responded, catching the defence flat-footed, and after a good initial save from keeper Raymond Leese, the scores were level at half-time.

With Ollie Greening taking a midfield role in the second half, the team found more shape. With the wind now behind them, Ellesmere quickly scored two goals through Grayson Raybould, the second of which came from an excellent team move that switched the play across the field before being slotted home. Ten minutes from the end, Ellesmere aimed to control the game, with most play taking place in the opposition's half. However, Wrekin mounted a final break, and Ralph Cornwell's challenge in pursuit of an attacker was deemed too strong, resulting in a penalty and narrowing the score to 4-3. In the closing moments, Ellesmere pressed forward and won a penalty, which captain Harry Walker converted, sealing the game. Final score: 5-3.

The term's final game took the team to Sandbach on a cold day, with several players making their debuts. The first half was evenly contested, but the home side scored from a scramble in the six-yard box, then doubled their lead just before the break. A third goal came as the Ellesmere keeper's initial save deflected under the crossbar. Jesse Whale's pace won Ellesmere a penalty, but the keeper saved the shot. Ellesmere's lone goal came from a corner, with Alex Hu scoring from close range. Sandbach added a fourth goal just before the end, though the game was closer than the 4-1 scoreline suggests.

DWC



Football – U13

The Ellesmere Boys' U13 football team had an eventful and competitive season, marked by hard-fought matches, standout performances, and a show of resilience across various fixtures. The season began with a balanced mix of results, including victories, tough losses, and some closely contested draws, reflecting the team's growth and potential throughout the term.

The season kicked off with a gritty away performance against Abbey Gate College. Despite being on the road, the team managed a 1-1 draw in a closely contested match. After a month's break due to bad weather, the team returned with a commanding 6-1 victory against Birchfield School. Building on the previous win, the team continued their strong form in a home rematch against Birchfield School, winning 4-0. These back-to-back wins reflected a clear upward trajectory and confidence within the squad.

The winning streak came to an abrupt end with a tough 0-4 defeat at home to Sandbach School. Despite the scoreline, the team displayed moments of strong play, but Sandbach's clinical finishing and organised defence proved decisive.

The team showed resilience in a thrilling 6-3 home win against St Martins, a fast-paced match with both teams exchanging goals. Ellesmere pulled away in the second half with a series of decisive strikes, underscoring the team's fighting spirit and attacking capabilities when given space to play.

Unfortunately, Consistency proved elusive in a 0-5 home loss to Lakelands Academy, where early mistakes allowed the opponents to take control. Despite the setback, the team stayed focused and determined to finish the season on a positive note. In the final match, the team earned a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Oswestry School. The defence held strong, keeping a clean sheet in a game that saw few clear-cut chances.

The standout victory came on 28th February with a 6-1 away win over Birchfield School, showcasing the team's top form and potential. Their ability to rebound from setbacks, such as the Sandbach defeat, highlighted their resilience. The 6-3 win over St Martins demonstrated their determination to recover and respond to challenges. Defensive growth was evident with clean sheets against Birchfield (4-0) and Oswestry (0-0), reflecting continued improvement.

The 2024 season provided valuable learning experiences for the U13 squad. While there were challenges, the players consistently displayed determination, skill, and resilience. Their attacking strength shone through in several matches, though the season also underscored areas for improvement, particularly consistency.

Looking forward, the team will undoubtedly use this season as a foundation for future success. These experiences have set the stage for even greater achievements in the coming years.

JED



Football – U12

The U12 season began with an away game at Abbey Gate, where a convincing 10-0 win was especially pleasing, considering we'd only had one long training session to organise positions and understand who would play where.

Following this, we participated in a 6-a-side tournament at Oswestry School. Conditions weren't ideal, as early morning snow and frost made playing difficult. While a long-ball strategy might have been more effective, credit to the boys for sticking to a passing game and continuing to play through. We won one match, lost one, and drew one, but this wasn't enough to progress further. Next, we faced The Marches on a very wet and muddy outfield, making it challenging to get out of our half. Their team was a bit more physical and streetwise, and a few mistakes led to our first loss of the season, with a 7-3 scoreline. Unfortunately, worsening weather led to a few match cancellations.

A well-deserved 5-1 win against St Martins followed, though the scoreline suggests it was easier than it was. Both sides played good football, and we capitalised on our chances, while our goalie Ollie made several excellent saves to keep them at bay.

We faced a tough match next against a very skilful Sandbach team. With several players missing, we had the opportunity to give match time to others who hadn't yet played. Credit goes to our back four and goalkeeper for keeping them out during the first half. However, after consistent pressure, a well-placed shot into the top corner broke the deadlock. Despite the eventual 5-0 result, the College boys held their heads high and never gave in.

Against Lakelands, a few absences meant it was always going to be an uphill struggle, but it allowed others to step up and showcase their abilities. Although Lakelands proved to be the stronger side, we can still appreciate the experience gained, even in a 4-0 defeat.

The term ended on a high note with a comfortable 12-0 win over Oswestry.

Reflecting on the term, there is much to be satisfied with. Throughout all the games, we focused on playing out from the back and working through the midfield rather than relying on long-ball tactics. Although long-ball play can be effective and is something we can incorporate more strategically in the future, the boys did well to stick to a more controlled style. This approach offers a good foundation to build on next term.



Football – U11

With not all schools able to field a B team, our Under 11Bs played five fixtures throughout the Lent Term. Recording three wins, one draw, and one loss, it was a successful season with strong performances from Elliot and Alexander, who held the midfield together. Oscar, James, and Tom provided much of the firepower, scoring the bulk of the goals between them. Our toughest match was against Packwood Haugh early in the season, where we recorded a 3-0 loss. However, later in the season, with much practice and a lot of determination throughout the match, our boys were able to turn that loss around into a 2-2 draw. A very good finish to the season.

The U11As recorded an impressive six wins throughout the season. Without an 'out-and-out' goalkeeper, we rotated the team so that everyone had a shot in goal. Charlie, Frank, and Leo did a stellar job of holding the defensive line in each match, which allowed Tomas and Josh to use their skill and vision to run the team's midfield and attack. Seb provided the injection of pace, and along with the addition of new student Oscar, these two boys scored most of our goals. Woodside were definitely the strongest opposition we played, and the boys faced them excellently, recording only a 2-0 loss.

U11A Results

Woodside Primary 2 v Ellesmere College 0
 Oswestry School 2 v Ellesmere College 4
 Ellesmere 1 v Packwood Haugh 2
 Ellesmere 6 v St Marys, Overton 0
 Ellesmere College 0 v Woodside 2
 Ellesmere College 5 v Oswestry 2
 Ellesmere College 5 v Welshampton 1
 Ellesmere College 7 v Criftons 1
 Ellesmere College 3 v Baschurch 2

U11B Results

Oswestry School 2 v Ellesmere College 5
 Ellesmere College 0 v Packwood Haugh 3
 Ellesmere College 2 v Woodside 0
 Ellesmere College 5 v Oswestry 2
 Packwood Haugh 2 v Ellesmere College 2

A very good season of football for our U11s. Some of the boys have indicated that they will join the Football Academy, which can only improve our footballing future. I am sure the U12 team next year will have a very successful season.



Sport - Cricket



Cricket – 1st XI

The 2024 cricket season for Ellesmere College's 1st XI team was defined by resilience, rebuilding, and competitive spirit, despite facing significant challenges. Led by Captain Morgan Yorke, the team overcame challenges including poor weather, exams, and strong competition. Despite heavy Easter rains flooding pitches nationwide, the season began thanks to the dedication of our grounds staff.

National Cup: Ellesmere vs. Newcastle-Under-Lyme

Ellesmere opened the National Cup with a hard-fought 3-wicket win. Charlie Boys excelled with bat and ball, while Captain Morgan Yorke's crucial 39 ensured victory despite tough conditions.

Ellesmere vs. Wrekin College

Ellesmere faced a 7-wicket defeat against Wrekin, as disciplined bowling and batting from the opposition proved too strong.

Ellesmere vs. King's School Chester

A confident King's School Chester secured an 8-wicket win, highlighting challenges in Ellesmere's rebuilding efforts.

Ellesmere vs. MCC

In the annual MCC match, Archie Ramsey's 2 for 32 stood out in a hard-fought loss, showcasing growth against seasoned opposition.

Ellesmere vs. Shropshire Gents

The season ended in a thrilling tie with Shropshire Gents. George Owen's 45 and Morgan Yorke's 5 for 39 epitomised the team's resilience and spirit throughout the season.

Reflections on the Season

While the results may not have always gone our way, this season was about more than just wins and losses. It was a season of rebuilding, where the team showed remarkable character and commitment in the face of adversity. The challenges we faced—from the weather disruptions at the start of the season to the inevitable impact of exams—were met head-on, and the team can be proud of the way they competed in every match. There were several standout individual performances throughout the season. Captain Morgan Yorke led by example both with the bat and ball, and his leadership on the field was crucial in keeping the team motivated. Charlie Boys' all-round abilities shone through, particularly in the early part of the season, while George Owen also made significant contributions when it mattered most.

The team's competitive spirit, even in the face of tough opposition, is something to be celebrated. We pride ourselves on always fielding a team that will compete, and this season was no different. The experience gained this year will undoubtedly serve the players well in the future, and there is much to look forward to as we continue to build towards greater success. As we look ahead to next season, the foundations are in place for this young squad to grow and improve. With the continued support of the school, the coaching staff, and the grounds team, Ellesmere College's cricketer future remains bright.

JJB



Cricket – Girls'1st XI

The Girls 1st XI Cricket Team enjoyed a memorable season, showcasing skill, resilience, and camaraderie on the field. Competing in the School Sport Magazine U18 T20 Cup Competition, the players demonstrated excellent teamwork, strong individual performances, and steady improvement through each round. This season laid a strong foundation for future success, with plenty of highlights to celebrate and key areas identified for continued development.

Ellesmere vs. Cheadle Hulme: Won by 6 Wickets

Cheadle Hulme scored 88 for 9 in 20 overs, which Ellesmere chased down with 89 for 4 in 8.1 overs. S.Thomas top-scored with 43, while F. Sandiford took 2 wickets, showcasing a strong all-round performance.

Ellesmere vs. Bedstone: Won by 107 Runs

Ellesmere posted 190 for 4, with Captain E. Jones (51*) and S.Thomas (86*) shining. Bedstone managed 83 for 9, with Jones taking 3 wickets and T.Windsor 2. A dominant display in batting and bowling.

Ellesmere vs. Repton: Lost by 96 Runs

Repton set a challenging 204 for 4, and Ellesmere replied with 108 for 9. S.Thomas (44) and E.Jones (26) led the batting, but extras proved costly. A tough match offered valuable lessons.

The season saw some remarkable batting displays, with standout performances by S.Thomas and Captain E. Jones. Thomas's 86 not out against Bedstone was a season highlight, and Jones's composed 51 underscored her leadership on and off the field. The team's bowlers displayed great promise, consistently taking wickets and applying pressure. However, an area for improvement is the accuracy of straight bowling to minimise extras—a focus for future training sessions. A defining feature of this season was the fantastic camaraderie within the squad. The players supported each other through wins and challenges, creating a strong team spirit that will be invaluable in the seasons to come.

A promising foundation has been laid for the Girls 1st XI Cricket Team, who have shown they are capable of competing at a high level. The team's combination of talent, resilience, and teamwork points to a bright future. With continued focus on accuracy in bowling and strategic play in both batting and fielding, this squad is well-positioned for further success in future competitions.

Congratulations to all players for a fantastic season filled with growth and memorable achievements.

CSD



Cricket – Boys' U15

A rather short season this year due to the weather; however, the Ellesmere U15 team began in good spirits, playing host to a team from Wolverhampton Grammar. Batting first, the home team posted a strong 129 for 3 in their twenty overs, with Arthur Bate, Archie Ramsay, and Henry Roberts scoring well. In the field, Ellesmere looked sharp and bowled tightly, restricting the reply to 90 for 9, with Holly Cooke picking up three wickets at a low cost to give Ellesmere the win.

Next was a home match against King's Chester, in which Ellesmere set a total of 118; the star batsman was Oliver Dyson, who ended with 55 not out. The opposition lagged behind the run rate for most of their innings, but a big over just before the end brought them back into contention. Some alert fielding and disciplined bowling were required, and Ellesmere delivered: Ralph Cornwell and Archie Ramsay kept a tight line, pressuring the opponents into a series of run-outs. Ellesmere secured the win by a single run.

Three days later, the side travelled to Wrekin College for a Cup game, where they, unfortunately, encountered a couple of players in excellent form, one of whom lifted his first ball for an enormous six with a whip-crack shot high over midwicket. Under such circumstances, maintaining composure is vital, and to their credit, the Ellesmere players never lost focus, bowling with discipline and fielding with accuracy and energy. There were nerve-wracking catches by Henry Roberts and Tom Males. Chasing a total of 190, the Ellesmere side never quite kept up with the required rate, though credit must go to Oliver Dyson and Skye Thomas, who batted well. In the end, we finished 71 runs short.

And that was it—the underwhelming summer had the final word after half term. Well done to the team for showing great effort this year, and let's hope for better weather next time.

DWC



Cricket – Girls' U15 A

The season started off slowly due to the weather so many of our pre-season matches were cancelled. The girls trained well with lots of new girls wanting to try hard ball cricket for the first time so the bad weather meant that these girls had some net sessions working on their bowling and batting skills.

The season began with our first game in the National Schools U15 T20 competition against Moreton Hall. Moreton Hall batted first, scoring 83 – 8 off their 20 overs. Ellesmere raced away to 86 – 1 off just 8.1 overs. A good start as Florence Sweeney scored 23 and Skye Thomas finished on 47 Not Out. Florence had a good day bowling too by getting 2 wickets with her first two balls. A great all team performance for their first game.

The next round of the cup saw us play Wakefield at home. Not knowing much about the school, it was clear they were going to give us a competitive game. Luckily, we got through their top order and kept them to 105 for 7 wickets. Ellesmere batted well and positively and once again Skye Thomas was our lead scoring 69 Not Out and us winning by 8 wickets.

In the 4th Round we played Scarborough College who we got all out for 91 runs. It was great to see the young talent of Georgia Oakes who got figures of 4 – 30 and Tilly Windsor with an impressive 3 – 12 to help the team secure a win to get us into the last 4 schools in the North. We raced to 95 – 1 in our batting with yet another 40 Not Out from Skye Thomas.

Before the quarter final game, we were able to have a friendly match against Oswestry School. It was a chance for us to work on the skills with the new players in this age group. We went on to win by 122 runs.

We finally faced Repton College on a beautiful sunny day just before the end of term. Playing on their second pitch in great surroundings was an exciting prospect. We made it hard work for them and got a few quick wickets to dismiss their openers but they showed their resilience to finish on 127 – 6. We went into bat, knowing we were capable of reaching this target. We started off well with Skye scoring quickly but an unlucky LBW decision was given and from there our heads dropped and we were all out for 47 runs. A great experience and an amazing run in this cup but it just wasn't our day.

Thank you, girls, for an amazing term for Girls' cricket. The future for Girls' Cricket at the College looks bright.

HLD



Cricket – Girls' U15 B

The U15 B Team girls' cricket team had an inspiring and successful season, characterized by significant growth, remarkable performances, and strong team spirit. Throughout the season, the team learned from each game, emerging stronger and more cohesive as a unit.

Match Highlights

Opening Match vs. Moreton Hall

Result: Win

The season started on a high note with a convincing victory.

Second Match vs. Oswestry School

Result: Win

The team performed admirably, with key contributions from both bat and ball that showcased their development and competitive spirit.

Cricket Festival at Moreton Hall

Result: Second Place

It was a beautiful summer's day filled with good food, sportsmanship, and excellent cricket. The girls came second overall, losing to Oswestry women's team in the final. However, the Ellesmere girls gained valuable fielding tips from the experienced side.

NSSAA Tournament

Result: Second and Third Place

The College was able to enter two teams into the tournament. This tournament focused on improving match strategy, particularly in fielding. Regular practice sessions contributed to the team's overall improvement, and the emphasis on teamwork and communication was evident in their on-field performances.

Final Match vs. Moreton Hall

Result: Win

The final match of the season was a thrilling contest until the very end. Outstanding batting and strategic fielding led to a memorable victory, closing the season on a high note.

Conclusion

The U15 B Team girls' cricket season was a journey of growth, learning, and success. The players' commitment, enjoyable training sessions, and teamwork led to a memorable and successful season.

BMD



Cricket – Boys' U14

The season opened with a game against Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, and the Ellesmere players began well with the bat, putting up a total of 137 runs with strong contributions from Ralph Cornwell and Henry Roberts. The visitors rose to the challenge, keeping pace with the required rate until they ultimately nicked the game on the last ball with one wicket remaining!

Next, Ellesmere played against a regional North Wales side, where the team did well to restrict the visitors to 160 for 9 wickets. In response, half-centuries from Oliver Dyson and James Skillicorn proved enough to secure a win by seven wickets.

Ellesmere then hosted a U14 team from Wrekin College, with several players trying out cricket for the first time. Batting first, Ellesmere compiled a total of 89 runs in their twenty overs, with Captain Ralph Cornwell contributing a solid and selfless 49 not out. In the field, the Ellesmere bowlers kept things tight, and the debutants fielded well. Ralph Cornwell took three wickets with his pacey bowling, but the visitors managed to reach the target with nine balls to spare.

Despite wet weather in June, the team managed a game in the County Cup, away to Shrewsbury. Batting first, the home side posted a challenging total of 169 runs for just two wickets, a target the Ellesmere players were unable to meet, falling 58 runs short. Thus, the season concluded for another year.

DWC



Cricket – Girls' U13

1st March 2024

The U13 Girls team triumphed in the ECB indoor competition at Moreton Hall, winning all their matches. A strong team effort saw them defeat Thomas Adams (86-48), Packwood (95-73), and Moreton (78-48), with standout performances from Eve, Morgan, Annabelle, Lois, and Esther. Ellesmere advances to the finals at Wrekin.

11th March 2024

The U13 girls won a hard-fought match against Moreton, securing a 15-run victory. Key performances included bowling from Esther, Morgan, and Pippa, and solid batting from Eliza, Esther, and Morgan.

NSSAA Tournament

vs Adcote: Won by 12 Runs

Eliza's incredible first over took 3 wickets, supported by strong bowling from Lois and Scarlett. Steady batting from Esther, Eliza, Flo, and Scarlett secured the win despite some nerves.

vs Thomas Adams: Won by 60 Runs

A confident performance saw Ellesmere score 257 without losing a wicket, with standout batting from Poppy, Scarlett, Eve, and Flo. Eliza, Esther, Morgan, Eve, and Pippa took 5 wickets in total.

vs Oswestry: Won by 22 Runs

Morgan, Annie, Poppy, and Scarlett claimed 8 wickets. Scarlett and Poppy held their nerve in the final overs to win the game and secure the North Shropshire title.

School Games County Tournament at Beacon Cricket Club

Ellesmere won all matches:

- **vs Oldbury Wells:** 84-27, with 8 wickets taken, including 2 by Eliza and 3 by Lois.
- **vs Ludlow:** 58-2 vs 18-2.
- **vs Priory:** 50-27, taking 3 wickets.
- **vs Charlton:** 53-43, losing 2 wickets.

Ellesmere won the Shropshire County title with excellent team spirit.

Ellesmere v Moreton

Ellesmere won with 257-4 against Moreton's 231-6.

Wrekin Cricket Festival U13 Girls

- **vs Moreton Hall:** Georgia took 2 early wickets as Ellesmere bowled out Moreton for 17 and won by the 4th over.
- **vs Denstone:** Ellesmere won by 30 runs, setting a target of 51.
- **vs Oswestry:** Ellesmere finished with 37, losing to Oswestry's 50 and placing second in the group. Ellesmere then advanced to the 3rd/4th place play-off.

In the play-off against King's Chester, Georgia and Eliza took three early wickets, and with solid bowling from Scarlett and Morgan, King's finished on 23-4. Ellesmere chased confidently, winning with one wicket lost, securing 3rd place out of 8 teams.

A superb cricket season for the U13 girls, with fantastic improvements due to the girls' commitment to training and competing.



Cricket – Boys' U13

A satisfactory season, giving most pupils the opportunity to play and experience competitive cricket.

The opening match against Oswestry was comprehensive, with a win by 8 wickets. Harry Harrison retired on 23, and Jake Hughes chased down 90 runs within 14 overs.

Next, a depleted team lost to a very strong Wolverhampton Grammar School, who posted 162 for the loss of 5 wickets. In reply, we could only muster 55 all out. However, this gave the College a chance to play some newer players.

The game against Queen Mary's was a close-run affair as we managed to defend a well-below-par score of 53, bowling the opposition out for 50—a very tense game, to say the least.

Following that was King's School Chester, where a strong all-round bowling performance reduced them to 46 all out, with Ellesmere knocking off the runs with 6 wickets down.

One of our main competitive fixtures was against North Wales, on a fine sunny day, where our opposition experienced our wonderful facilities. North Wales batted first and amassed a competitive 143 for the loss of 6 wickets. In reply, we were made to work hard for our runs. Their excellent bowling and fielding saw Ellesmere fall short with 98 all out.

Our last game against Wrekin College saw Ellesmere sign off with a comfortable win. We posted 143 for 8 wickets, and in reply, Wrekin could only reach 93 for 6 wickets.

Overall, it was a very rewarding season, with everyone having a chance to bat, bowl, and field.

RJ



Cricket – Girls' U12

The U12 Girls' Softball Pairs Cricket team has had an outstanding season, demonstrating both individual and collective growth in their skills and tactical understanding of the game. The girls approached each match with enthusiasm, competitiveness, and an impressive willingness to learn. The season included some closely contested games, important lessons in fielding, and strong displays of batting and teamwork.

In the first match of the season, played on the astroturf due to inclement weather, all players took turns bowling and wicket-keeping, gaining valuable experience. While some tough lessons were learned—especially about the importance of tight fielding and backing up to prevent extra runs—the team rallied well when it was their turn to bat. They seized every opportunity for quick singles and scored some excellent fours. Although Ellesmere couldn't quite close the gap, this match set the stage for a promising season, with the team showing determination and competitive spirit throughout.

Early lessons in the importance of tight fielding and backing up were well learned, with the team showing marked improvement as the season progressed. By the final matches, their fielding efforts were more coordinated, effectively preventing unnecessary runs. The team's awareness of batting strategy also developed considerably over the season. Players grew more adept at recognising when to push for quick singles versus when to stay in place, as well as aiming to hit into open spaces in the field. This strategic awareness contributed to well-earned victories.

Overall, it has been a season of growth, learning, and accomplishment for the team. The players' positive attitude, willingness to learn, and teamwork have made for a rewarding and enjoyable season. With this foundation, the team is well-prepared to build on their successes as next season's U13 Team.

CSD



Cricket – Girls' U11

The Ellesmere College U11 Girls' cricket team has had an outstanding season, showcasing their growing talent, teamwork, and determination on the field. Over the course of the term, the team has demonstrated significant progress in their cricketing skills, resulting in a series of memorable victories and a runner-up finish in the Wrekin U11 tournament.

One of the highlights of the season was the team's impressive performance in two matches against Moreton Hall School. In their first encounter, Ellesmere secured a commanding victory, winning by 35 runs. The team's all-round strength was evident, with standout batting performances and disciplined bowling that stifled Moreton Hall's chase. This victory set the tone for the rest of the season.

In their second match against Moreton Hall, Ellesmere once again emerged victorious, this time by 7 wickets. A superb bowling display limited Moreton Hall to a manageable total, which Ellesmere chased down with confidence. The team's batters played with composure and maturity, cementing another well-earned win.

The Ellesmere U11 Girls also participated in the Wrekin U11 tournament, where they competed brilliantly against experienced teams.

They started the tournament strongly, defeating the Wrekin B side, Moreton Hall, and the Old Hall B team with commanding performances. The team's hard work in training was evident in their sharp fielding, aggressive bowling, and clever shot selection with the bat.

In the final, Ellesmere faced a formidable Old Hall A side. Despite a valiant effort, they were defeated, finishing as runners-up in the tournament. This achievement was particularly impressive given the age difference, as they were competing against U13 teams.

Throughout the term, the Ellesmere U11 Girls have made remarkable progress in their cricketing abilities. Their improved technique, tactical awareness, and teamwork were on full display in every match. The team's spirit and camaraderie, both on and off the field, have been a driving force behind their success this season. With such strong foundations, the future looks incredibly bright for this talented group of cricketers.

Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and dedication this season. We look forward to more success in the future.

ST



Cricket – Boys' U11

This cricket season, our pupils demonstrated remarkable resilience and teamwork as they tackled a series of matches and tournaments. Their journey began with friendly games against Oswestry and Prestfelde, where they honed their skills, learned from each other, and strengthened their bond as a team. Each friendly match highlighted the importance of practice and patience, preparing them for the more challenging games ahead.

The first major tournament of the season was the Denstone Festival. The Ellesmerians performed exceptionally well, advancing through the group stages with determination and focus. Their hard work and perseverance were evident on the field, as they faced each team with confidence. However, their journey came to an end when they were narrowly defeated by the host team. While they were disappointed, they held their heads high, showing great sportsmanship and learning from the experience. This setback became a valuable lesson in resilience, reminding them that even the best teams face challenges.

The second tournament took place at Wrekin College. Here, our pupils encountered tough competition, losing two matches but managing to secure a hard-fought victory in one. Despite the losses, they showed incredible grit, never giving up and constantly encouraging each other. Their determination and ability to bounce back, even after tough games, exemplified true perseverance. Each player contributed to the team effort, and together they grew stronger with every game.

In conclusion, this season was about much more than just wins and losses. Our boys learned that success is built on resilience, hard work, and the courage to keep going, even when faced with challenges. They displayed fantastic growth, both as players and as individuals, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Well done, team!

RJ



Cricket – Girls' U9

This season, the U9 Girls' Softball Pairs Cricket Team made fantastic strides in both skills and teamwork, showing growth in every game. Each player's dedication to learning the game's fundamentals was evident, from improved communication and strategic batting to enhanced bowling and wicket-keeping skills.

The team put in a solid performance against Moreton Hall, winning by 23 runs. The players showcased their teamwork and fielding skills, setting the tone for a promising season. In a close match, the team showed grit and determination, edging out Prestfelde by 5 runs. Communication between batters improved, with players beginning to recognise strategic moments to score singles.

A challenging rematch with Moreton Hall saw the team facing a strong opponent. Despite the loss, players took away valuable lessons in maintaining composure and focusing on technique under pressure.

In a memorable final match on a damp day, the team came together to show everything they had learned throughout the season. Improved communication between batters helped them decide when to take chances and score extra singles, while their fielding and wicket-keeping were sharper than ever. Batters also began to recognise and aim for open spaces, maximising scoring opportunities. This well-rounded performance culminated in a rewarding 25-run victory.

CSD





Sport - Equestrian



Our squad of riders has proved themselves to be tough competition in Schools' team jumping events this year, with some outstanding individual performances too. The support and encouragement among team members, from both Senior and Lower School, have made for enjoyable, rewarding, and successful days out at competitions.

The year got off to an excellent start at the NSEA Championships qualifier at Southview Arena in September. Ellesmere College teams won both the 90cm and 1m Show Jumping classes, with our 80cm team placed 4th. The level of skill and experience among our core team members secured the team's success. There were also superb individual performances in these large classes, with placings for each of our youngest riders and outstanding performances by Beau Williams, who came 1st individually in the 1m and 1.10m classes. It was a well-deserved outcome, with every one of our riders qualifying for either the NSEA Championships or Plate Championships in October.

Ellesmere continued to dominate in the Championships, winning the 90cm class and the 80cm Plate Class. Once again, the riders' teamwork and support were evident, along with a high level of riding skill; it was an exciting and memorable day for all!

Successes continued throughout the year, with team and individual riders qualifying for the Hickstead Championships in May and an early qualification for the NSEA Championships next October.

In Tetrathlon, an event comprised of swimming, pistol shooting, running, and riding cross-country, Oliver Loud made his debut representing the UK during three weeks of international tetrathlon competitions over the summer.

Despite being the youngest member of the UK boys' team, Oliver was impressive, scoring a hat trick by winning the 10m pistol shooting discipline at all three competitions. His UK team achieved 2nd place at two of the competitions, and Oliver secured an individual position of 9th place internationally and 3rd best UK competitor, meaning that he is now hopeful of selection for the next international competition in Australia in 2026.

Without the support and significant time our parents willingly give, the school's equestrian successes would not be possible. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude, particularly to Mrs Jamie Spencer-Blow, who does such an excellent job of organising teams and entering competitions.

KC



Sport - Tennis





U9 – U11 Tennis

The U9-U11 team played two fixtures against Adcote and Moreton Hall Schools. The girls and boys displayed enthusiasm, fighting spirit, and determination in both attack and defence, making for an impressive and enjoyable watch.

The first game played against Adcote School, took place indoors using sponge balls. Each player experienced a competitive tennis match and thoroughly enjoyed it. At the end, it was decided not to spoil the fun with scores, so the match was announced as a draw. The positive feedback encouraged us to play in the same format against Moreton Hall, ensuring everyone was a winner.

U12 Tennis

The U12 team was scheduled to have three matches against Oswestry School, Moreton Hall, and Adcote. However, the Adcote fixture was unfortunately cancelled due to heavy rain. Their first match was against Moreton Hall on a lovely day, with the girls winning by 14 games to 13. The second match, against Oswestry School, saw the girls win in straight sets, dropping only three games.

U13 Tennis

The U13 team also originally had three matches scheduled against Oswestry, Moreton Hall, and Adcote, but the Adcote fixture was cancelled due to poor weather. Ellesmere girls were exceptionally strong this season and went unbeaten. Their first game was an away match against a very strong Moreton Hall team. It was expected to be tough, but the Ellesmere squad played some outstanding tennis and ended up winning the fixture. The next game was a home match against Oswestry, where the girls performed brilliantly, winning a close match 3-1.

U14 Tennis

Both boys and girls had two fixtures, one against Shrewsbury School and the other against Oswestry School. The first fixture against Shrewsbury played at home, saw the boys produce some exceptional tennis, resulting in a win. Although the girls played well, they lacked experience and lost; however, they commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the match. In the second fixture against Oswestry School, both boys and girls achieved an easy win.

U15 Tennis

The U15 team faced two challenging opponents this season. The first match was against Shrewsbury School and was a close affair; however, it ultimately didn't go in our favour, despite some excellent shots and consistent play from the Ellesmere girls and boys. The second match was a home game against Oswestry School. For the girls, this was a tough fixture as Oswestry fielded two of the best players in the county. Despite their efforts and best tennis, our girls lost. The boys, however, had a much easier fixture and won comfortably.

U18 Tennis

The senior girls' team preferred a less competitive fixture and asked if they could play some social tennis for fun. Fortunately, the Moreton Hall girls had the same idea, resulting in a relaxed and non-competitive match. Afterwards, when asked about the score, the girls said they hadn't kept track but thoroughly enjoyed the game. This experience highlighted the importance of fun in sports, and it was a wonderful reminder that enjoyment should always be a part of the game!

EG



Reffell Open

This year's Reffell Open was particularly special. There was a lovely mix of parents, staff, pupils, Old Ellesmerians, and those from the local community. The Reffell Open pairs the keen with the skilled, the hopeful with, well, the hopeless. The tournament manages to combine the three ingredients that David Reffell would be proud of: fun, friendship, and competition.

The evening began with the presentation of the Harry Cup. This is awarded each year to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the true spirit of tennis. This year's winner, Gillian Cuckson, joined social tennis in September. She soon demonstrated great tennis ability and always played with a smile on her face. More importantly, she, in a subtle way, brought the organisation of social tennis into the 21st century. With our newly formed WhatsApp group, the weekly posts made my job so much easier. Gillian was actually in Sardinia on the night, but we had a video call, and Mrs Pitt Roberts presented the trophy to Rachel Hemingway Deane, Gillian's substitute.

As a poet once wrote:

She's so serene
She really is
Our WhatsApp queen.

The tournament involved twelve pairs, split into two groups. Each pair played the other five in their group. The top four went on to the knock-out stages later in the evening.

It was great to see defending champions Steve Mullock and Tabitha Leonard return to defend their titles. Despite being a busy student, Tabitha was hitting the ball harder than ever! In the same group, Shelley, her mother, and academy player Moritz Hartinger were making good progress, as was social tennis favourite Liz Cooke with Freddie Foltyn. Liz's trademark "dance on ice" helped as she and Freddie dominated the North side of the draw. Liz, who started the year as a rank outsider, was looking serious. Another lovely pairing of Chris Horrocks and Amy Evans, together for a second consecutive year, were doing well, but Chris was slightly hampered by a shoulder injury. Amy's mother, Lesley, and hockey supremo Simon Taylor were doing less well but picking up games. Meanwhile, Harry and Rebecca Orr, playing for the first time, were finding it a challenge. Rebecca had specially flown in from Florence via a training camp in Germany. Maybe she shouldn't have signed up for the Boris Becker Academy!

In the South draw, the Chelsea Watson-John Cowley partnership was purring along, as was the ever-smiling Sarah Haynes, trying to coax Dr Chatterjee into the form that had seen him crowned champion twice, but perhaps his best years are behind him. Bennett Schumann and Sharon Owen, meanwhile, were moving through the gears.

However, the surprise package of the evening was Jim Dilks. Previously viewed as a player who struggled during Monday night's weekly social tennis events, Dilks started to find a quality of performance that few would have expected. It might have helped that his partner was the graceful Aditi Chezian, fresh from her first year at Cambridge, who had lost none of her amazing power. But as the song says, "it takes two," and Aditi soon realised she could rely on her partner to cope with almost anything thrown at him. Other pairs had different tactics. Rachel Hemingway Deane came with all sorts of underhand strategies. First, she brought everyone doughnuts, although most of these were snaffled up by the two scorers, Amelie and Maya! She also brought her boyfriend to intimidate any opponents, although he was far too nice, and finally, she paired up with social tennis poet laureate Steve Matthews—a sort of Laurel and Hardy couple that briefly threatened to upset the bookies' favourites.

Chelsea Watson's mother, Marie, was on hand to mix the all-important Pimms, now a staple part of Reffell tradition.

The semi-finals saw Aditi and Dilks finally end the progress of Freddie Foltyn and Liz Cooke, while Bennett Schumann saw off everyone's favourite pair, Chelsea and Cowley.

In the final, Bennett and Aditi returned hot shot for hot shot in a breathtaking display. Aditi and Dilks brought home the trophy.

At about 9 pm, with most of us nicely tired out and full of chips and Pimms, Mrs Pitt Roberts presented the winners with the brand-new trophy.

Thanks to Chris Horrocks for supporting the event and organising the trophy, to Marie, long-suffering mum Watson, for her Pimms-making (basically her only role in life), to Amelie and Maya for scoring so well and keeping the tournament running smoothly, to Bobby and Clare for the collection of chips, and to Rebecca for not only Hoovering afterward but for partnering her old dad.

See you Friday, July 4th, 2025!

HO







Sport - Badminton



Badminton

This year, our badminton team, led by captains Ceci Li and Lukasz Bacewicz, had an excellent season. Both Ceci and Lukasz have been outstanding leaders, and we cannot thank them enough for all their hard work this year. Their ability to lead by example and create a positive atmosphere among the players are just two qualities that have truly stood out. Their leadership has been exemplary, and both the coaching staff and the other players are very grateful to them. Our girls' and boys' teams, made up of seven players each, competed against Shrewsbury School, Oswestry School, and Wrekin College throughout the year.

Despite experiencing success against Wrekin College (away) and Oswestry (home), the team at Shrewsbury School remains undefeated. It must be noted that, despite some losses both at home and away, team morale remained strong, and new friendships were formed within the team and with students from rival schools.

Unfortunately, this year we will lose many of our first-team players who are moving on to start their university courses. I know they will be greatly missed, and we wish them all the very best. Next term, we look forward to the new season and welcoming Hebe Wong and Munashe Kugedera as our new captains.

First team players:

1. Lukasz Bacewicz (Capt)
2. Teddy Sun
3. Alex Williams
4. Jeremy Dong
5. Marco Wong
6. Munashe Kugedera
7. Joshua Norris
8. Ceci Li (Capt)
9. Marie Laccours
10. Hebe Wong
11. Cora Qian
12. Joyce Au-Yeung
13. Kyara Heward
14. Natt Kritchanarat

REW



Sport - Fencing





Fencing

The friendly rivalry with Shrewsbury School continued this year, with home and away matches, both victories going to Shrewsbury School. In the West Midlands Junior Championships, Jamie Donaghy came second in the Under 10 age group, losing 10-9, and Pippa Blackwood qualified to represent the West Midlands at the National Youth Championships. Several junior fencers competed in the Shropshire Championships, including Pippa, Jamie, Amelia Albertini, Sylvie Cornwell, Oscar Winney, and Jasper Kimber—all of whom won medals.

This was a fitting way to conclude my coaching work at Ellesmere. Fencing at the College began as a Modern Pentathlon project in 2012, with the College providing a free venue. Word spread and there was a demand from College students to try fencing, so it evolved into a College club. Over the years, many fencers represented the West Midlands at the National Youth Championships, and a regular home-and-away fixture (and rivalry) developed with Shrewsbury School. Fencers have also gone on to compete for their universities, and participation in fencing has greatly increased among Lower and Middle School students.

I would like to thank the fencers and parents for all their support over the years, and I must say I was overwhelmed by all the good wishes and gifts I received during my last session. The sessions were always a pleasure—never a dull moment—and I send my best wishes to all the students I worked with over the last 12 years.

DH



Sport - Basketball



Basketball

Basketball is played in thousands of schools across the country and offers a fantastic way to experience team sport, improve fitness, and develop skill levels. Ellesmere College's vision is to establish basketball as a valued sport within the school community, accessible to all levels of participation.

In the 2023/24 season, Ellesmere College had only eight players regularly available, which meant every player worked exceptionally hard throughout the matches. Some players even played entire games without any substitutions.

Throughout the year, the team played five friendly fixtures against Oswestry School, Shrewsbury College, Telford College, Concord College, and Newport Grammar School. The boys enjoyed all the matches, especially the away fixture against Concord College, where they came very close in score and had a real chance to win. The team played their hearts out in every single game, showing determination and never giving up.

EG

Sport - House Comps

Rugby

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Talbot	3	0	0	9	1
Woodard	2	1	0	6	2
Wakeman-Lambart	1	2	0	3	3
Meynell	0	3	0	0	4

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Wakeman-Lambart	3	0	0	9	1
Woodard	2	1	0	6	2
Meynell	1	2	0	3	3
Talbot	0	3	0	0	4

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Phillips	1	1	0	3	2
Heywood	1	1	0	3	3

Year 5 & 6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Phillips	1	0	1	4	2
Heywood	1	0	1	4	3

Year 3 & 4

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	1	0	1	4	1
Phillips	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	0	2	0	0	3

Girls Hockey

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Talbot	3	0	0	9	1
Wakeman-Lambart	2	1	0	6	2
Meynell	1	2	0	3	3
Woodard	0	3	0	0	4

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Wakeman-Lambart	3	0	0	9	1
Talbot	2	1	0	6	2
Woodard	1	2	0	3	3
Meynell	0	3	0	0	4

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	1	0	1	4	1
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3

*determined on goal difference

Year 5 & 6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	1	0	1	4	1
Phillips	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	0	2	0	0	3

Year 3 & 4

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Phillips	2	0	0	6	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	3

Sport - House Comps

Football

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Talbot	3	0	0	9	1
Wakeman-Lambart	2	1	0	6	2
Meynell	1	2	0	3	3
Woodard	0	3	0	0	4

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Talbot	2	0	1	7	1
Meynell	1	0	2	4	2
Wakeman-Lambart	1	0	2	4	3
Woodard	0	2	1	1	4

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3

Year 5 & 6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Phillips	1	0	1	4	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	3

Year 3 & 4

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3

Netball

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Wakeman-Lambart	3	0	0	9	1
Woodard	2	1	0	6	2
Talbot	1	2	0	3	3
Meynell	0	3	0	0	4

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Woodard	2	0	1	7	1
Meynell	1	0	2	4	2
Wakeman-Lambart	1	0	2	4	3
Talbot	0	2	1	1	4

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3

Year 3-6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	1	0	1	4	1
Phillips	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	0	2	0	0	3



Sport - House Comps

Cross Country

Middle and Senior School

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Y9 Junior	Wakeman-Lambart	Talbot	Meynell	Woodard
Y10 & 11 Inter	Talbot	Wakeman-Lambart	Woodard	Meynell
Senior	Woodard	Talbot	Wakeman-Lambart	Meynell
Overall	Talbot	Wakeman-Lambart	Woodard	Meynell
Merit Cup	Meynell	Talbot	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart

Individual Medal Winners

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Junior Boys	Cesar Malan	Alex Hu	Will Higgins
Junior Girls	Patricia Roca	Tily Windsor	Imogen Spencer Blow
Inter Boys	Archie Fearnall	Archie Dandy	Dylan Avery
Inter Girls	Isabella Spencer Blow	Olivia Watts	Ana De Franscisco
Senior Boys	Sen Muya	Jakob Van Acker	Mortiz Hartinger
Senior Girls	Anna Farr	Bea Jones	Emily Curzon



Lower School

1st Heywood
2nd Phillips
3rd Brownlow

Individual Medal Winners

Y3 & 4 Girls:

1st Francesca Coupe – Heywood
2nd Phoebe Shortt – Phillips
3rd Ari Forrestill – Brownlow

Y3 & 4 Boys:

1st Jasper Tomkins – Phillips
2nd Joe O'Grady – Phillips
3rd Reuben Pearce – Heywood

Y5 & 6 Girls:

1st Amber Leonard – Phillips
2nd Georgia Lowe – Brownlow
3rd Chloe Hart – Phillips

Y5 & 6 Boys:

1st Freddie Spencer Blow – Brownlow
2nd Ewan Gallagher – Brownlow
3rd Charlie Stockton – Heywood

Y7 Girls:

1st Eve Scales – Heywood
2nd Alberta Gaskell – Heywood
3rd Annabelle Poole – Heywood

Y7 Boys:

1st Reece Linge – Heywood
2nd Oliver Cadwaladr – Brownlow
3rd Rory Gallagher – Brownlow

Y8 Girls:

1st Georgia O'Grady – Phillips
2nd Anna Underhill – Heywood
3rd Eliza Mason – Phillips

Y8 Boys:

1st William Goodwin – Brownlow
2nd Eban Fox-Kirkham – Heywood
3rd Bertie Appleby – Heywood

Lower School Sports Day

1st: Phillips, 2nd: Brownlow, 3rd: Heywood (was worked out by averaging times and distances - so every student's effort contributed)

Year 3 & 4

Victor Ludorum - Jasper Tomkins
Victrix Ludorum - Francesca Coupe

Year 5 & 6

Victor Ludorum - Ben Francis
Victrix Ludorum - Amber Leonard

Year 7

Victor Ludorum - Reece Linge
Victrix Ludorum - Eve Scales

Year 8

Victor Ludorum - Henry Hughes
Victrix Ludorum - Eliza Mason

Lower School Swim Gala

1st: Heywood, 2nd: Phillips, 3rd: Brownlow

Sport - The Academies



Cricket

CRICKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WITH ACADEMY PATHWAY REPORT

TOP 100 SCHOOL OVER THE LAST 7 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 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.

Four players were honoured with County Awards. Oliver Dyson, Harry Harrison, Jake Hughes & Sky Thomas received representative awards for their respective age group teams.

Sky Thomas has been selected for the Lancashire Thunder Academy. The team 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. Oliver Dyson and Harry Harrison were the highest run

scorers for their Shropshire age group scoring notable centuries and are involved in the Shropshire/Worcestershire County Cricket Club EPP programme. Daisy and Holly Cooke are also linked to the North West Thunder EPP Programme, partnering with Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria and in particular Lancashire CCC.

This year the following were involved in representative cricket: Oliver Dyson, Ralph Cornwell, Skye Thomas, Daisy Cooke, Ella Jones, Harry Harrison, Henry Roberts, Rory Owen, Jake Hughes, Flo Sandiford, Gethin Griffiths, Will New, Rory Dunlop, VV Alkureishi and Fox Fearnall.

Throughout the school there are over 60 pupils who are involved in playing in local clubs.

AWARDS AND COLOURS

Senior School

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

Year 13 Senior & Middle School Full: Morgan Yorke, Ella Jones, Katie Evans, Ewan Skillicorn, Alfred Appleby, Daisy Cooke, Eve Richardson-Rutter.

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

Coaches Award: Harry Harrison and Eiza Mason.

Lower School Colours were awarded to the following:

Full: Bertie Appleby, Will Barnes, Peter Brown, Lois Ebben, Scarlatt Fearnall, Eva Ford, Austin Furlong Hart, Tabitha Gallagher, Morgan Garratt, Esther Gration, Harry Harrison, Jake Hughes, Annie Hutchon, Eliza Mason, Georgia Oakes, Rory Owen and Poppy Sutton.

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 hardball and softball fixtures with a number of the usual friendly matches for the following 25 teams: Boys - 1st XI, 2XI, U17, U15 (A & B), U14 (A&B), U13 A&B, U12 A&B, U11, U10, U9. Girls - U18 Seniors, U17, U15 A&B, U14, U13 A&B, U12, U11 and U9.

The College entered the following competitions providing an exciting, challenging, frantic girls' and boys' fixtures programme both in terms of 'development' friendlies and 'challenging' cup competitions for the school's pathway players achieving the following competition outcomes.

- National Boys U14 ESCA Competition
- ECB Boys 2015 National Competition
- ECB U15 and U13 Boys and Girls National Indoor Competition – Girls' runners-up in the Midlands.
- HMCT20 National Competition
- School Sports magazine U18 National T20 Girls
- Girls Cricket Paper U18 National Cup 100 ball – North Midlands semi-final and last 16 nationally.
- School Sports Magazine U15 National T20 Girls – last 8 nationally.
- U12 National Bunbury Cup.
- District Indoor and Outdoor Festivals (Softball)

Particular cup successes were the U15 Girls who won the ECB U15 Area County Finals and represented Shropshire in the regional finals. They were runners-up in the Midland Final narrowly missing out on the National Finals at Lords Cricket Ground. They also progressed to the last 8 U15 National hardball competition.

GO







Sport - The Academies

Rugby

This year, Ellesmere continued to place its emphasis on player development as opposed to simply getting results. The number of pupils participating in rugby throughout the College remains impressive. We have always measured success by representation and further representative honours. This year was testament to this approach.

During the 2023 season, there were representative honours with boys in the under 14s and under 15s being selected for professional academy teams such as Sale and Midlands West. There were also selections for academies at Under 16 and under level. Other honours included Harvey Leonard being selected for the Irish Exiles tour to Ireland and Will Phillips securing a contract for Toulouse RFC. Several Ellesmerians have gone on to do well after their time here such as Will Owen being capped for England U19s, Josh MacAndrew representing England Students and Harvey Cuckson playing for England Under 20s in their World Cup.

In addition to these honours, 2024 saw Ellesmere embark on one of the most adventurous and memorable sports tours. Setting off from Manchester at the end of March, the team embarked on a journey that would take them across Argentina and Uruguay, experiencing rugby, culture, and unforgettable sights along the way.

The tour began with a flight to Buenos Aires, the vibrant capital of Argentina. However, there was little time to settle in, as the team crossed the iconic River Plate the following day to spend four exciting days in Uruguay. Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, offered the boys a chance to explore the city's rich history and unique culture. The highlight of the Uruguay leg of the trip was the first match of the tour, a fast-paced encounter against Carrasco Polo and Rugby Club. Both teams played with physical intensity, but Ellesmere's disciplined approach and sharp play saw them emerge comfortable winners. Post-match, the team enjoyed the renowned Uruguayan hospitality, celebrating in the wonderful clubhouse facilities of Carrasco Polo.

After Uruguay, it was back to Argentina, where the team faced St John's School, a prestigious rugby institution known for producing international players. The game was hard-fought, with both sides showing attacking flair and physicality. Points were exchanged throughout, but Ellesmere's resilience saw them come out on top, securing their second win of the tour.

A standout experience on the tour was the visit to Northern Argentina's Carrasco region. Training with a local rugby team in the sweltering 40-degree heat on the edge of the rainforest tested the boys' stamina and adaptability. The adventure continued with a day spent at the Iguazú Falls National Park, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The team was awestruck by the breathtaking scenery and had the opportunity to spot exotic wildlife such as toucans, caimans, and monkeys, making it an unforgettable day of exploration and discovery.

The final game of the tour took place back in Buenos Aires against San Carlos Rugby Club. Played in high heat, the conditions clearly favoured the home side at first, but Ellesmere's structured performance and tactical awareness allowed them to take control of the game and secure a dominant victory. It was a fitting conclusion to an incredible rugby tour.

This tour was not only a triumph on the rugby field but also an incredible cultural experience. From the bustling streets of Buenos Aires to the natural wonders of Iguazú Falls, the boys were able to see places they may never have the chance to visit again. It was a journey that forged lifelong memories, friendships, and a deeper appreciation for the power of sports to bring people together across the globe.

AJM





Sport - The Academies

Golf

The Ellesmere College Golf Academy looks to be gaining even more momentum after a successful 2023/2024 year, which saw the academy rise from fourth to third for the very first time, in the ISGA National rankings, this is the highest position the College has achieved. These rankings are taken from all the independent schools and colleges from around the United Kingdom.

Led by captain Charlie Boys, the academy started the season in March with its annual match against the Shropshire and Herefordshire under-18s boys. In a tightly fought match Ellesmere managed to pull off the win. This was followed by:

Reaching the ISGA Regional Final only to miss out narrowly against Wrekin College on their home turf.

Reaching the final at Belton Woods of the British Schools Championship, was the first time Ellesmere had reached this prestigious final.

In the ISGA HV Trophy played at the Warwickshire Golf Club in June, Jose Mittedrum won the under-15s title with an amazing 74 gross score. Charlie Boys finished 3rd in the under-18s.

Ellesmere College also went through the season with an unbeaten record in all friendly matches.

The academy has also grown in numbers again, and they travel regularly to Hill Valley Golf Club or Oswestry Golf Club for on-course practice, and meet on a Tuesday afternoon on the Ellesmere Course for short game practice. We have a greater number of Junior School students now enjoying the game so the future looks very bright.

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. Charlie Ashbrook after gaining his qualifications is now working in the golf industry as Head Greenkeeper at Hill Valley Golf Club.

Let's hope for more growth and success in 2024/2025.

AR



Sport - The Academies

Football

The Football Academy had a brilliant 23/24 campaign. The U18 squad performed extremely well and has subsequently been promoted to the SSCFA League 1 for the upcoming season. The U15s continued to develop and performed valiantly in four different competitions during the season, as well as in regular friendlies. All fixtures were recorded with Veo, allowing the squad to review performances both as a team and on an individual basis.

Furthermore, we introduced a progression and opportunities plan to assist our Academy players in developing their 'off-field' understanding of the game. This included attending local live matches and hearing from some fantastic guest speakers, including former Manchester United coach Mike Phelan. The students were also guided through creating Football CVs and individual portfolios, including highlight reels, to open up further opportunities to be scouted or to promote their achievements.

Some of the Academy players were selected among the top talent in English schools and played for the U14 Panthers at the Gothia Cup in Sweden, where they made it to the last 32 of the competition and came just one goal short of the quarter-finals. Considering the team had only played together on three occasions before this, it was an excellent achievement. Overall, it was an amazing opportunity that provided valuable life skills and an incredible experience competing overseas.

We've said farewell to the long-term Academy students in Year 13, who have completed their time at the school and created many lasting memories with their teammates. They have been a credit to the school and their families, and we wish them all the best for their future careers. Five of them were part of our 'Captains Group' and set the standard every day in training and matches – a special mention to these individuals: Sean Zou, Sacha Connesson, Joseph Lelong, Sen Muya, and Sodjanstan Battuvshin. They also helped guide our junior players through Ellesmere life and positively influenced their experience and development.

Our coaching team of Brandon Hall, Sam Launay, Lewis Taylor, Harvey Lewis, and Thomas Clarke delivered excellent sessions throughout the year to support the students' development. We're continuing to build as a coaching group and are excited for the upcoming changes in the 24/25 seasons!

We look forward to welcoming new students joining us this year and are excited to continue developing those returning students.

BH



Sport - The Academies

Swimming

The 2023/2024 season showcased our desire to continue to build and progress every year as a programme. Our ECSA student-athletes have once again grown and developed both in and out of the pool over the past academic year. As always it is fantastic to see our members combine their sporting achievements with academic success to achieve in all facets of Ellesmere College life.

New Arrivals

As always, we start this report off with a few 'welcome to the ECSA' messages, as well as a thank you to previous swimming programmes who have played a part in their journey. We are excited to see their progress in and out of the pool at the ECSA.

New ECSA members for season 2023/2024 were as follows:

Swimmer	Previous Swimming Programme
Alberto Rescigno	Royal Wolverhampton School
Olivia Watts	Warriors of Warrington SC
Jorge Galvez	Red Mar Top Ten
Reece Linge	Wrexham SC

National Talent Pathway Selections

James	– Swim Wales Elite Transition Squad
Millie	– Swim England Event Gap Programme – Backstroke
Esmee	– Swim England National Age Group Development Programme

Training Camp Triumph

In February 2024, the ECSA went on a training camp in Cyprus. The team spent 9 days at the Coral Beach Hotel. It was a superb training camp for lots of different reasons. Firstly, we held ourselves as positive ambassadors of Ellesmere College in and around the resort. The student-athletes rose to the occasion, finding the right balance between a demanding training schedule and downtime to enjoy being out of our normal Ellesmere bubble. This training camp gave us another boost of momentum as we took aim at the national qualifying window, Olympic trials and a shot at international selection.

International Success

During the season we had 2 international selections, James from Senior Performance was selected by Swim Wales to race in Geneva, Switzerland. In his 2nd Welsh call up in as many years, James took the opportunity with both hands. Travelling out with the Welsh Squad near

the end of January, this competition gave vital exposure to international level competitors and set James up for a positive long course (50m pool) season.

Oscar was selected as part of the GB European Junior team. Selections were taken from results at the Olympic Trials in April 2024 (see below for results). The European Junior Championships took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, in early July. Oscar settled in with the team over the first couple of days as his races were not scheduled until the middle of the competition. He raced in 2 individual races, first up was the 200 Backstroke on Day 3 of the competition, he finished in the top 16 in Europe to qualify for the semi-finals. Later that same day, Oscar stepped up again and finished in the top 8 across a tough field to qualify for the following evening's final. On the morning of day 4, he came 20th overall in the 400 Individual Medley, matching his personal best time. During the evening of Day 4, Oscar took to the blocks for the final of the 200 Backstroke, adjusting his race tactics, he held his own amongst the best in the continent and battled to a well-earned 8th place finish.

International selection and success are a staple here at the ECSA. Developing student-athletes achieve their dreams and aspirations both in and out of the pool.

Excellent racing by both James and Oscar.



Olympic Trials April 2024

6 ECSA members made the journey to the capital city of London for the Olympic Trials 2024. The competition ran from 2nd-7th April 2024.

It was certainly an occasion where our ECSA representatives were able to step up and produce within the arena environment. It was also an opportunity to perform to a major live and TV audience, one that our student-athletes relished and looked forward to.

Open 400 Freestyle

- Jake 4:07.20 PB (14th Junior)
- James 4:06.11 (13th Junior)

Female 100 Backstroke

- Millie 1:05.53 (22nd Junior)
- Bea 1:05.37 (19th Junior)

Open 100 Backstroke Junior Final

- Oscar 58.08 (8th)

Open 1500 Freestyle

- James 16:23.24 PB (9th Junior)

Open 400 Individual Medley Junior Final

- Oscar 4:30.75 (1st)

Open 200 Individual Medley

- Oscar 2:11.14 (18th Junior)

Female 200 Backstroke Junior Final

- Bea 2:18.77 (3rd)

Female 200 Backstroke Open B Final

- Millie 2:16.49 PB (6th) + European Junior consideration time

Open 800 Freestyle

- James 8:33.75 (6th Junior)

Female 200 Individual Medley Junior Final

- Anna 2:22.07 (7th)

Sunday 7th April – Day 6

Female 100 Breaststroke

- Anna 1:15.52 (22nd Junior)

Open 200 Freestyle

- Jake 1:56.77 (16th Junior)

Open 200 Backstroke Junior Final

Oscar 2:01.72 (1st)

That is 6 days of racing in London complete. We have had finals qualified for, best times hit, and junior international consideration times achieved. A huge well done to everyone who raced, you have done yourselves, support teams, team-mates, and the College proud.

Final totals

5 Junior finals (2x1st, 1x3rd, 2xTop 8 finish)

1 Open B final (1xTop 8 finish)

2 European Junior Consideration Times Achieved



End of Season International/National Qualification

Oscar – European Juniors, British Summers

Archie – British Summers, English Nationals

Anna – British Summers, English Nationals

James G – British Summers, English Nationals

Tyler – Welsh Nationals

Bea – British Summers, Welsh Nationals

Sami – British Summers, Welsh Nationals

James R – British Summers, Welsh Nationals

Millie – British Summers, English Nationals

Jack – Welsh Nationals

Jake N – British Summers, Welsh Nationals

Alberto – English Nationals

Esmee – British Summers, English Nationals

Olivia – English Nationals

Reece – Welsh Nationals

Annie – Scottish Nationals

Payton – English Nationals

Eliza – English Nationals

Tallulah – English Nationals

British Summer Championships and Home Nations Championships

19 ECSA student-athletes achieved qualification for the British Summer Championships and/or one of the Home Nations Championships (England, Scotland, Wales). It was a superb few weeks of racing, as always it is great to see hard work in the training pool paying off when it comes to race day.

British Summer Championships

Male 1500 Freestyle

- James 16:15.80 PB 3rd (17 years)

Female 100 Breaststroke

- Anna 1:10.58 PB 1st (17 years)

Female 200 Backstroke

- Millie 2:15.54 PB 2nd (17 years)

Male 400 Freestyle

- James 4:01.13 PB 3rd (17 years)

Female 200 Breaststroke

- Anna 2:35.56 PB 3rd (17 years)

**Goodluck Ellesmerians**

As with any season, the curtain comes down on those finishing their education at Ellesmere College. This season, we say goodbye and good luck heading to the next stage in their swimming journey

Head Coach Comment

The 23/24 season proved to be a great success. From our National Pathway selections to our first international swim camp and a European Junior Finalist within our ranks, our student-athletes have excelled and matured over the last 12 months.

The results speak for themselves, with ECSA boasting Summer National Qualifiers and Medallists, across all three squads for the second year running. This is a testament to the consistency and dedication of our student-athletes within the College, which allows student-athletes to manage sporting and academic studies holistically.

As always, at this time of year, the Coaching Team and I would like to personally wish the Ellesmerian class of 2023/24 good luck in their future. We look forward to seeing you all further progress in the pool and will see you on deck soon. We now move into the 2024/25 season with our continued vision to be the leading independent school programme in the country.

GW

Home Nations Championships

Following on from superb results at the British Summer Championships, we continued the momentum going at English, Scottish and Welsh Summer Nationals. Across the 3 competitions a total of 17 medals were won (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 6 Bronze). This was a great end to another top-quality season at Ellesmere College Swimming Academy.





Sport - The Academies



Tennis

Ellesmere College Tennis Academy

We intended that this year would be a transition between a departing high-quality group of players who have trained with us over the last 7 years and a new wave of younger players who will, over the coming years, share in their success. However, with a huge intake of international students and several young local county players, we have managed to maintain very high standards both on the training courts and in matches. All the players have improved beyond recognition, and we are set to raise the bar higher than it has ever been over the next three or four years.

Team Successes

The boys and girls Year 7, 8 teams won the County section of the LTA National Schools competition. The Year 9, 10 boys' and girls' teams went on to do the same after some hard-fought matches with Shrewsbury and Thomas Telford. All our teams will compete next term in the regional rounds, and they are all in with a chance of making it to the Regional, and possibly National finals at the end of the year.

Team players; Alfie Edwards, Harry Wyke, Oscar Hewitt, Jonty Barber, Cesar Malan, Joan Sabe, Skye Thomas, Sofie Glinos, Gwen Klu, Emily Males, V.V. Alkureishi, Poppy Baker, Florence Sandiford, Elisa Rapault, Krish Kamisetty, Jake Hughes, Ollie Cadwaladr, Morgan Lay.

Our Senior Students' girls' team reached the Finals of the LTA Year 11 – 13 competitions held at Nottingham Tennis Centre, narrowly losing in the Final to a formidable team from Warwick. This places them in the top 8 in the UK. Team players; Marisa Brasch, Erika Nojic, Iskra Nojic, Neda Kocyte.

We were regional finalists in the Aberdare Cup (Girls) and Glanville Cup (Boys). Some excellent tennis was played, with the fixtures going all the way to a shoot-out. Team players; Erika Nojic, Iskra Nojic, Egle Salkauskaite, Tamzin Pountney, Neda Kocyte, Gwen Klu, Sofie Glinos, Freddy Foltyn, Moritz Hartinger, Bennet Schumann, Nicki Reincke, Lukasz Bacewicz.



2024 LTA Rising Star Cameron Parry with coach Jamie Donaghy

Individual Achievements

Tamzin Pountney gained a full scholarship to play tennis in America at Towson University, Maryland. This is a huge achievement and comes off the back of some sterling performances for Ellesmere Tennis Academy and Shropshire County. We wish her all success as she follows in the footsteps of Jemimah Choi who is enjoying highly competitive tennis in the American system.

Cameron Parry has been recognised for his volunteering and commitment to tennis in North Wales and he was nominated for the Welsh LTA National Rising Star award which he won. He then went on to the UK awards ceremony held at Wimbledon during the championships where he was treated to a day on Centre Court watching the stars.

Sofie Glinos and Gwen Klu won through to the National Finals of the LTA 'Play your way to Wimbledon' doubles competition, where they competed on the grass courts against some of the best junior doubles players in the country. Alfie Edwards and VV Alkureishi won the County section of the same event and also played at Wimbledon in the National Under 14 Singles Finals in August. This is a wonderful opportunity for our players to perform on the same Wimbledon Championships courts their heroes have played on just a month before.

Numerous players competed in their County Championships with Sofie Glinos winning the Herefordshire under 16 Championships. Alfie Edwards at the tender age of 14 became under 14, under 16 and under 18 Shropshire County champion.

Other news...

Many of our students have taken part in other events such as the Winter and Summer Expedition Camps, the Shrewsbury Club £100k Tournament Careers Day and Family Fun Day. They also have opportunities to join the (very) social tennis evenings, often mixing in with staff and parents. Our community programme continues to flourish, reaching out to local primary schools and welcoming local clubs that need a roof over their heads in the winter months. Even in the youngest age groups, our players are performing well, with Jasper Tomkins, Joe O'Grady and Phoebe Shortt training and competing with the Shropshire County teams.

Those who receive individual private coaching have reported how much they enjoy the sessions. Thanks go to our team of coaches, Jamie, Eifion and Kyle, who have continued to deliver a first-class performance programme at Ellesmere.

Thank you and Goodbye...

We say goodbye to Boys Captain Bennet Schumann and Girls Captain Tamzin Pountney, and to many of our overseas players. We hope they continue to enjoy the game they have given so much to in their time at Ellesmere. Thank you to the coaching staff, Eifion, Kyle, Jamie and Darren for another great year at the Academy. Thanks also to all those who support us amongst the ancillary staff; the facilities are always prepared, clean and ready for use which helps the coaches to promote a positive, healthy and motivational environment.

SW



Sport - The Academies



Shooting

The British Schools Small-bore Rifle Association (BSSRA) postal leagues continues to be a cornerstone of termly rifle shooting. Winter and Spring. Shot on our eight-lane indoor 25-yard range. Beginners, who are defined as under 15 years of age, at the start of the academic year, shoot on 5 bull targets where they fire two rounds at each of the five diagrams, with the highest possible score (HPS) being 100! Those over fifteen years old shoot on 10 bull targets, the same as adult shooters, and fire one round on each of the ten diagrams, with the HPS also being 100 but they have to realign ten times rather than five!

This discipline of prone .22 Target shooting is a demanding sport. There are three aspects which when mastered produce results.

The Outer Game. The ability to Control and use a rifle well, Aligning onto the diagram, Holding, Aiming, Firing, following through and much, much more! Doing each aspect perfectly for EVERY Shot is what is demanded!

The Inner Game. The Mental approach. How to keep calm whether doing well or not. Accept and cope with Failure (a Poor shot) and regroup and carry-on maintaining concentration for every shot. Never giving up!

Learning to work with a Coach to get results. Accepting change not as criticism but as the way to success.

Ellesmere's 'A' team, firing on 10 bull targets, comprising of Christopher Astbury, Oliver Covill, Francine Gilmore, Henry Hearn and Ben Scarlet, took a credible second place in Division 3 of the Winter league. In the Spring league, Division 3, Christopher Astbury, Abi-Lou Foster, Francine Gilmore, Henry Hearn and Bea Taylor also took second place. Francine also achieved the top average score with a 95.0 for this competition and gaining recognition from the marker. Which, when one understands that only 10% of adult shooters achieve an average of 95 or better, is understandable! Over the years many Ellesmerians have been in the 'Zone' consistently achieving 95 or better and Francine has added her name to that prestigious list.

A special mention is due to one of our coaches, David Gregory, who, for 14 years, has and continues to, tirelessly prepare and manage all the BSSRA entry forms and competition cards ready to be shot. Then the chasing up of shooters to get their cards shot before the deadline! His unseen and unstinting administration efforts provides this wonderful opportunity to our shooters who enjoy seeing each round of scores as they get put up in the Clubroom. A sincere thank you.

Throughout the year, Lower School pupils get the chance to experience target shooting using Air Rifles which is extremely popular; and some excellent results have been achieved. It is a gateway to the ECRC and the Senior Club is looking forward to their arrival next year.

The coaches that enable shooting to thrive at Ellesmere College are the foundations of this successful sport. In the Summer term we learnt that Tom Rylands had been taken ill. His dedication over so many years has inspired and propelled many students to go on and be successful, not just in the field of shooting and I know that we all wish him the very best for his recovery.

Thank you to our shooting Coaches Mark Parry, Julie Chatterjee, Martin Clewlow, David Gregory and Edgar Ravenscroft (OE 11 to 15) for all they do to foster the enjoyment that shooting brings to our Ellesmerians, both current and former.

On Wednesday 22nd November 2023, Ellesmere College continued to enjoy hosting the annual West Midlands and North West Regional Air Pistol Championships.

The Senior competition saw an Ellesmere College team made up of Francine Gilmore, Christopher Astbury and Oliver Loud, who took first place. In addition to the team success, each member individually qualified for the National Pistol Finals in their own right, demonstrating the strength in depth of Ellesmere College Senior pistol shooters.

At the British Schools National Final, held on Tuesday 6th February, Francine ranked ninth with Christopher and Oliver ranked 19th and 23rd respectively out of more than 100 competitors. An impressive performance but even better was to come. In the Senior Team event, Ellesmere College took first place with eight points more than the nearest rivals. A significant accolade for all three shooters to be proud of so early on in their shooting careers.

Annie Williams joined the College already ranked 9th nationally for pistol shooting having been highly successful in the Intermediate Schools Pistol National Final. Annie went on to compete for the Welsh Team in her first GB Junior International - Target Shooting competition at Bisley in August. She took part in both the 25m and 10m pistol competitions, with her best performance reserved for the 10m Junior Women's competition, where she finished 10th out of 34 competitors. A name to be watching out for in the future.

Switching to British International Clay Target Shooting Federation (BICTSF) Sam Linington brought home the medals! Competing in Federation Internationale de Tir Aux Sportives de Chasse (FITASC) GB Sporting, Compak Championships, English Sporting Championship and All Round Championship, he brought home three Gold Medals. In the English Skeet championship, he achieved a Silver medal. In the Shropshire Summer League, he came second giving him a Cased medal. He also won the Plate trophy in the Junior Masters making him the top junior in Shropshire. Quite a haul!

The coaching staff wish all leaving members a lifetime of safe and happy shooting. We look forward to hearing from you over the decades to come as you progress in shooting. May be, one day, you too will come back and coach the next generation, like Edgar Ravenscroft (OE)!

ADQ



Ellesmere College Parents' Society

At the end of a very busy ECPS year and as we head into another full calendar of events, we would like to thank all those who have supported our activities to date. We are especially grateful to the parents and staff who have worked so hard behind the scenes to help make ECPS such a welcoming and friendly space for parents to share and enjoy. We extend a warm welcome to new parents and carers and hope to meet you at one (or all!) of our forthcoming events.

ECPS is an informal, inclusive non-profit social forum, focused on enhancing the experience of life at Ellesmere College. Run by and for parents and caregivers of pupils (past and present), we work in partnership with the school to help create a welcoming atmosphere, through organising social events and activities that enable parents to meet and get to know each other. Membership is life-long and automatic from the moment your child joins us at Ellesmere College and you can take part in many ways, either by dipping in and out at your convenience or by getting more involved, whatever works for you.

- Come along to our many and varied social events
- Join us for a coffee at our monthly meetings (term-time)
- Volunteer your time or expertise on a working group or at an event
- Donate a raffle prize or support a fundraising effort
- Share your ideas for potential events and activities

2023–24 was extremely busy but was also marked by immense sadness. As Co-Chairs and on behalf of everyone at ECPS, we must acknowledge the terrible loss of several highly regarded members of the school community, including that of our esteemed Headmaster Brendan Wignall. ECPS joined with the whole school family in coming together to support each other in their grief. This is a testament to the ethos of kindness and inclusivity, which is the keystone of the College philosophy and one that we wholeheartedly embrace.

Michaelmas Term

On the back of our monthly meetings, we kicked off our events in September with a great turnout of parents, armed with cakes, who gathered together to support our MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Terraces Tuck Shop. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised a fabulous £261 in the process and welcomed some faces to our group.

Later that term, a team of willing ECPS helpers grabbed their scissors and picked up their baubles to bring some creative flair and Christmas sparkle to decorating the school in readiness for Christmas. The annual Creativity Workshop filled the school with festive aromas of fir, mulled spices and mince pies to the delight of staff and students alike. The sound of carols and laughter emanating from the Old Sports Hall added to the Christmas ambiance around the school, as parents gathered to participate in a Wreath Making Workshop, run by local florist Suzy Wingett. The event is always hugely popular and resulted in an impressive array of beautiful and personal hand-made wreaths.

We rewarded ourselves with a tasty Christmas Lunch at the Sun Inn in Welshampton on the last day of term to come together and share some fun and Christmas cheer before the holidays began. We also held a mini raffle and raised £59 for Breast Cancer UK.

Lent Term

Lent Term saw the much-anticipated return of our hugely popular Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh in Big School. This was our first Burns Night Supper since the challenges of Covid and tickets sold out in less than 2 hours. Catering Manager Gerry Jones and her team dazzled us with a tasty 7-course Scottish supper, and the revelry continued until midnight, with parents, staff and friends showing off their Gay Gordons in their Celtic finery as they danced the night away. Thank you to Peter Cartwright's Five Speed Box Ceilidh Band for a superb evening.

Izzy Maclachlan and his son Rory piped in the haggis and led in the procession of guests, and the air was filled with the timeless words of Robbie Burns as Izzy addressed the haggis. The evening's whisky tasting competition was hotly contested and won by parent Tom Winney - well done Tom. The tasting raised an extra £125 to add to the proceeds of our raffle of Scottish hampers, kindly donated by members of ECPS, making a further £810 for Breast Cancer UK.

Summer Term

Summer Term was soon upon us and, to support a sense of fun in Lower School, we organised an afternoon treat of Film & Popcorn in the Arts Centre for some of the Lower School pupils to enjoy, with further activities planned for the coming school year. Our minds then quickly turned to preparations for Ladies' Lunch, our next major annual event and what is always the highlight of our social calendar.

This year's theme was focused on Health & Wellbeing and we welcomed Mindy Cowap of The M Project and MyTime for Change as our speaker. Mindy inspired us all with her account of how she took control of her health and fitness, and shared her experience and wisdom of how to age stronger, challenge ourselves and "put life into life".

The marquee became a sensory feast of flowers, herbs and the soothing sounds of nature. A glorious arbour took centre stage to provide an oasis of calm and reflection and proved perfect for the many photo opportunities throughout the day. The talented Katherine Birtles – a sustainable florist from Zinnia Floral Design - filled the arbour with British-grown plants, flowers and aromatics creating a truly stunning centrepiece. Over 160 guests enjoyed a relaxing shopping experience, browsing 17 stalls from local businesses, selling everything from jewellery, fashion and home & garden to art and photography, skincare and cosmetics, toys and gin. Everyone enjoyed canapés and drinks, before sitting down to a delicious 2-course lunch prepared and served by Charlie and her team from Get Gourmet Catering.

Each of the stallholders donated a prize for the raffle which raised £1,100 which was spent on items for the College - including lights for the Arts Centre and a replacement Table Football for Lower School - along with a £100 donation to the charity Footprints Foundation for one of their healthcare projects in Africa. We also collected a range of unwanted spectacles and sunglasses to be repurposed for them by specialist ophthalmologist team working with the charity. Special thanks to Mindy Cowap, who not only donated a large portion of her Speaker's Fee to the funds, but also donated a fabulous first prize of a large hamper from Hollies Farm. Our thanks also go to Jay's Bars who provided the bar and kindly donated £100 towards the raffle.

It has been an exceptionally emotional year, but also one that has been filled with kindness, cooperation and reflection, sharing laughter and tears along the way. None of this would have been possible without the support given by parents and all the Ellesmere College staff - we are truly grateful. We hope that everyone has enjoyed what ECPS has offered this year and look forward to welcoming everyone to another busy calendar ahead.

Please check the College website and social media for further information on ECPS and our events, or contact us by email: ecps@ellesmere.com

Helena Hepburn & Sadie Norris
Co-Chairs ECPS 23-25



Old Ellesmerians



The Ellesmerian Club

A year ago, for the *Ellesmerian* I wrote about opportunity, engagement, sharing and the strength of being together.

In a national broadsheet, I recently read an article which broadly highlighted those very strengths and that the state sector (somewhat late in the day) had come to recognise that there was nothing to stop them from setting up their own past pupil societies, besides a lack of funding, to take on the private sector and their associated “old school tie networks”.

The suggestion that the obstacle was a lack of resources made me smile, because if that is their mindset, they’ve fundamentally misunderstood the basics. It’s not about resources—it’s about an enthusiastic alumni base.

It has been particularly heartening to meet so many new “Old” Ellesmerians over the last year at the events we have held, though we should not be complacent. The Club Chairman is keen to hear of new event ideas and other areas where the OE Club can assist. It should therefore be of no surprise that I again say that engagement is key if the Old Ellesmerian Club is to flourish and to remain relevant.

The deepest shock during the year was the death of the Headmaster, Brendan Wignall. Brendan had been in post since 1996 and though he could not claim to have turned the school fully co-educational (that, along with weekly boarding and the cessation of Saturday morning lessons was on the watch of his predecessor David DuCroz), Brendan had taken the school forwards with incredible energy and enthusiasm, growing pupil numbers and improving facilities. Significant achievements were the opening of the new Lower School building, Sports Hall, Tennis Barn and extensions to Saint Oswald’s. Along with the help of the OE Club, the Astro pitch came into existence. It would be an omission for me to not mention the addition of the roof to the swimming pool, which only took 100 years to achieve.

Brendan shared a deep mutual interest in the history of the College and he was always keen to hear the latest historical discovery, though some snippets could become essays or projects in their own right. Know your history - there’s a reason for everything.

He will be remembered as a fair and decent man, and like us all, he had his own strengths and weaknesses. Nobody could say that being a Headmaster was easy! In the closing days of his Headship, the wind vane tumbled from the top of the turret in an almighty storm and came crashing down into the Quad, still attached to the lightning conductor. It was as if the ravens were leaving the Tower of London and I made him a promise as College Archivist that I would take care of our history...

In the coming year, we extend our best wishes to Mrs Pritt-Roberts as she takes on the role of Head, leading the school into the future.

Paul Russell
President of OE Club



Hockey Success -Elisa Griesbach

Some fantastic photos of Year 11 student, Elisa Griesbach, who has recently been in Germany training with the German National U16 Hockey squad.

This followed her performance within her Hamburg team in the National Hockey Championships last month. Although her team lost on penalties, to the eventual winners, Dusseldorf, Elisa's performance in those final games was noted by selectors and she was invited to attend national squad training.

A huge congratulations to Elisa!!

140 Anniversary

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.

Remembrance Day Service

Remembrance is an important moment in every year at Ellesmere. Bringing together the whole community in a collective act of remembrance allows us time to reflect on those who have given their lives fighting for their country.

The regular OE Club visit to the Battlefields results in more names being added to the College War Memorial each year and reminding us of the huge sacrifice made by members of this community.

A joint nomination made by the late Richard Thurgood and current OE Club President, Paul Russell resulted in the Choir being honoured for their service and contribution to the life of the College this year.

The choir and their Director of Music, Anthony Coupe, were delighted to receive this recognition. The Remembrance Day Service included music by Barker, Fauré and Mozart. The last post was played beautifully by Henry Hughes in Year 8 following the reading of the names of the fallen.

The service was followed by a lunch to which both the choir and their parents were invited. We are indebted to Paul Russell who has been a champion of music here at Ellesmere for many years. Whether parent, friend, family member or OE, thank you for your continued contact with and support of the College and in particular the work of the music department as we move forwards.



Visiting Lecture

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 and we can look to arrange a captive audience.





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