

# Ellesmere news



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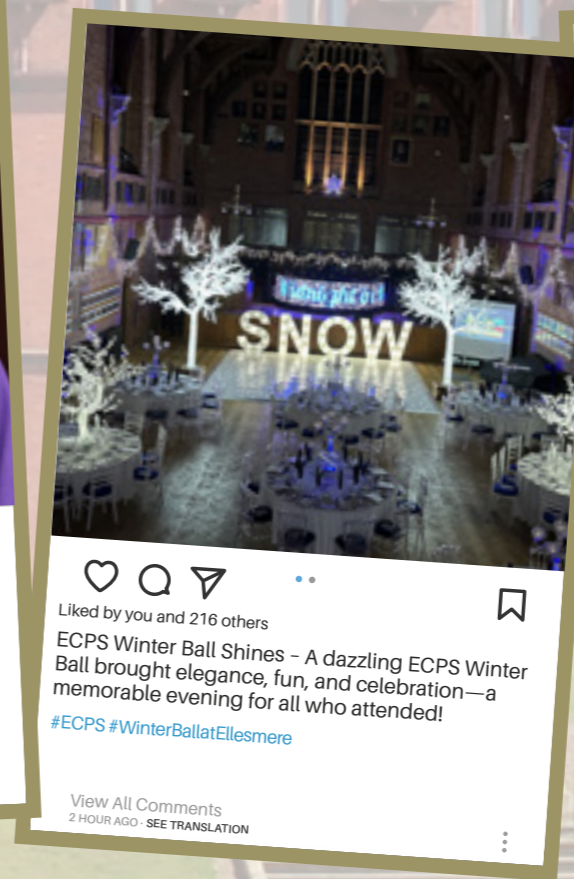


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# In the News...

What everyone has been talking about...



# Future Ready: Ellesmere Career Conference

Our annual Careers Conference was a fantastic success this year, with over 50 engaging businesses and organisations in attendance, many represented by Old Ellesmerians.

It was wonderful to see so many Year 11 and Sixth Form students, along with their parents, attending the event. It provided a great opportunity for everyone to explore career paths, gain valuable insights and connect with professionals from a wide range of industries. Thank you to all of the educators, businesses, and internship providers who joined us to support our students in becoming more informed and prepared for their future.



# Sixth Form Christmas Dinner



# IB at Ellesmere: A Journey of Learning, Growth, and Opportunity



A cohort of 14 Lower Sixth students hailing from the UK, the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany recently embarked on their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Ellesmere College. The course is recognised as the 'gold standard' examination system at Sixth Form level that encourages active, compassionate and independent learning and is widely respected by universities around the world because of the variety of skills it fosters.

IB Coordinator Christina Westwood said: "The IB Diploma Programme offers a broad, balanced curriculum. It also encourages a commitment to creativity, action and service, which our students demonstrate in abundance through their extracurricular activities, as well the completion of an in-depth piece of research by way of the Extended Essay. Globally, over 3,000 renowned schools offer the Diploma Programme, with more than 180,000 candidates entered each year. Ellesmere College has been running the programme since 2006 and the consistent demonstration of above world-average results demonstrates our students' commitment to an intellectually challenging curriculum, as well as their readiness for the challenges of the global workplace."

Let's hear what some of our IB students are saying about their experience at Ellesmere College:

Leopold enjoys the variety of sports, including golf, gym, and shooting, while thriving in the supportive boarding community.

Laurin, a Tennis Academy member, challenges himself academically and finds studying in a second language easier and more enjoyable than expected.

Felix appreciates the chance to explore new subjects like Economics and enjoys the camaraderie of rugby and boarding life.

Emilia came to improve her English and experience a new way of life, enjoying collaborative learning and new activities like House plays and cricket.

Their experiences highlight the diverse and enriching opportunities available at Ellesmere College!



# Sixth Form Students Embark on Exciting Educational Trips

Last term, our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to take part in a variety of enriching trips, expanding their knowledge beyond the classroom.

At the annual NHS Careers Advice Workshop hosted by RJA, students explored a range of healthcare professions, including nursing, physiotherapy, radiography, pharmacy, surgery, and medical research. A highlight of the visit was the simulation lab, where they used cutting-edge technology to assess patient risks. The lead nurse was highly impressed with how quickly our students identified key concerns.

Our Politics students took an exciting trip to London, where they attended a conference featuring speakers such as Stephen Kinnock, Michael Gove, Speaker Lindsay Hoyle, and Nigel Farage, who certainly sparked debate! The trip also included a tour of Parliament and an unforgettable evening watching Hamilton in the West End.

Meanwhile, A-level Psychology and Sociology students explored crime and society in depth, hearing powerful talks from Justin Hollins, author of The Lost Boyz - A Dark Side of Graffiti, and Marisa Merico, who shared her extraordinary journey from an Italian Mafia family to a life of change.



# Year 9 STEM Challenge

Year 9 students took on an exciting STEM challenge, designing a mechanism to move objects into slots—but with an added twist! The person controlling the mechanism was behind a curtain and could only see their actions through a camera above, relying entirely on their teammates for precision and perspective.

Everyone put in a great effort, and eight students received commendations for their outstanding individual contributions throughout the day. Well done, everyone!



# Sixth Form Take on Big Ideas at IEA Conference!

Our Sixth Form students studying Geography, Business, Economics and Politics were invited to attend a conference style event with guest speakers from the IEA (Institute of Economic Affairs).

Their topics linked directly to our A Level syllabuses and were tailored to give our students a wider understanding of their subject areas, in university style lectures. Students then had the opportunity for Q&As after the talks.

Dr Steve Davies is a historian and the Senior Education Fellow at the IEA. Previously he was Program Officer at the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University in Virginia. He joined IHS from the UK where he was Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Economic History at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Dr Christopher Snowden is the Head of Lifestyle Economics at the IEA. He has a degree in History from Lancaster University and a PhD in Economics from the University of Buckingham. He is the author of Killjoys, The Art of Suppression, The Spirit Level Delusion. His work focuses on lifestyle regulation and evidence-based policymaking.

Damian Pudner is an independent economist and visiting lecturer on Monetary Policy and Financial Stability at the University of Buckingham. He has over 25 years of experience in London's financial sector, having worked at several leading financial institutions, including UBS and Nomura and previously served as the Director of the Institute of International Monetary Research.



# Year 7 Open Morning

On Saturday 23rd November, we were delighted to welcome prospective families to our 'Spotlight on Year 7' Open Morning. It was fantastic to see so much interest in our vibrant and welcoming Lower School, and we loved showcasing the wonderful opportunities available to our students.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to our staff and students who helped make the event such a success. We look forward to seeing many of you join the Ellesmere College community in the future!





## Bake Sale Bonanza

St Aidan's boarders have been busy baking for their charity Bake Sale, which raised an incredible £415.54 for The Gift Wellness Foundation - Period Poverty UK, a charity dedicated to helping women and girls in need, including those in shelters, food banks and schools in disadvantaged areas.

A huge thank you to the amazing parents who baked and donated, and to our dedicated St Aidan's girls who made it all happen. Together, we're making a real difference!



## Lower School Bazaar: Shop, Sip & Support!

Our Lower School Bazaar was a wonderful display of creativity and teamwork, as our Year 7 & 8 students took charge of organising their own stalls, offering a variety of goods and activities. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Parents' Society set up a cosy hot chocolate stop, providing a warm treat for all.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our students, staff, and parents, the event was a great success, raising valuable funds for our Music School Appeal. A huge well done to everyone involved!



## Green Team's Commitment to Sustainability and Conservation

Last term, our Green Team took part in a range of activities, demonstrating their dedication to the environment, sustainability, and conservation.

At Fordhall Organic Farm, students volunteered by laying sheep fleece around tree saplings to help retain moisture and support their growth. They also enjoyed a farm tour, learning about the field-to-fork method of organic farming and its role in reducing food miles. Along the way, they spotted cows, pigs, and even the occasional toad!

Closer to home, the team spent time at The Mere, tidying up hedges and receiving a special delivery from local blacksmith Jack Sampson. The handcrafted flowers made by students during Summer Expos were placed by our Muse Fountain in memory of Dafydd, creating a beautiful and lasting tribute. Despite the hard work, students took time to appreciate nature and even watch the swans.

Their efforts extended to Chester Zoo, where they explored the importance of conservation and the role of modern zoos. It was an eye-opening experience, highlighting the crucial work being done to protect endangered species—along with plenty of opportunities to see the animals up close!

Well done to our Green Team for their incredible contributions to both local and global environmental initiatives!





## Lower School Christmas Play

Key Stage 2 brought festive magic to the Arts Centre with their enchanting Christmas play, *A Bookish Christmas*. It whisked the audience away to enchanting literary locations, including Narnia, Whoville and Hogwarts. It was an afternoon full of song, laughter and Christmas magic. A huge well done to all our talented pupils and staff who made this unforgettable show possible!



## Project Panto: A Festive Cinderella Spectacle!



Our Arts Award students brought the magic of pantomime to Ellesmere with their own version of Cinderella! From scriptwriting and marketing to set design, costume creation, and lighting, they took full creative control, ensuring every aspect of the production was student-led.

The production showcased a diverse range of creative talents, with students excelling in Music, Sound, Marketing, Script Writing, Set Design, Stage Crew, Costume and Lighting Design, and Acting. Their dedication and teamwork culminated in a fantastic hour-long performance, delivered to an enthusiastic Lower School audience.

A huge well done to everyone involved for their creativity, hard work, and festive spirit—you truly made this a performance to remember!

## Lower School House Play

Lower School students took to the stage for their House Plays, delighting the audience with performances of *The Gruffalo*, *Stick Man*, and *Room on the Broom*.



## Winter Concert

Our talented students took to the stage for the *Raising the Roof* concert, a spectacular evening of music in support of our new Music School.

From our youngest performers to our most seasoned musicians, everyone delivered amazing performances, showcasing their dedication and talent.





# Ellesmere College makes top 100 in UK cricket guide for the eighth straight year

Ellesmere College has knocked opponents for six by retaining its place in the Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the UK for the eighth year running.

The College appears in the prestigious 2025 The Cricketer's Schools Guide which highlights the top 100 senior, top 50 prep/junior, top 20 all-girls schools and for the first time, the top 25 state schools nationally.

The Cricketer is the world's number one and oldest cricket magazine and a place in its eagerly anticipated schools guide is the ultimate accolade, reflecting commitment to excellence.

Judges research and produce the Schools Guide annually, covering an extensive criteria including a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

Gareth Owen, The Director of Cricket of Ellesmere College, said: "We have established an enviable record by appearing in this prestigious guide eight years in a row and we couldn't be more delighted.

"It is a strong endorsement of our commitment as a centre of cricketing excellence for students keen to develop their talents in the sport alongside their academic studies.

"It's a major achievement and a place in The Cricketer Schools Guide really is the pinnacle.

"Cricket is an integral and inclusive part of the sports provision at Ellesmere College and we are proud of our first-class facilities and high-performance coaching which, alongside academic support, is delivered as part of a year-round cricket development programme.

"We have a great cricketing tradition at the College, having developed successful links with Wales Cricket, Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire County Cricket programmes and many more.

"Retaining our place in the top 100 schools guide is a testament to everyone's efforts at the school as we continue to strive to offer the best opportunities possible for our young cricketers."

The Cricketer magazine editor Huw Turbervill said: "Here at The Cricketer, we've covered the schools' game since our inception in 1921, as part of our commitment to follow cricket at all levels.

"We're proud of this coverage and the 10th anniversary of this guide recognises the fantastic cricket programmes that exist in school curricula up and down the country."



# British Shooting Schools Rifle and Pistol Championships



Ellesmere College was proud to host the British Shooting Schools Rifle and Pistol Championships, welcoming nearly 150 students from across Britain for this exciting event.

Four students represented Ellesmere College in the West Midlands and North West Regional Air Pistol Championships: Annie, Polly, Oliver, and Chris. Well done to all four competitors for their impressive performances!

In the Intermediate category, Annie secured gold with a remarkable score—over six points higher than the Senior winner—earning her a place in the National British Shooting Schools Championship Final at Cannock Chase in February 2025. She will be joined by Chris, who achieved third place in the Seniors competition.

Congratulations to all for a fantastic effort!

# Football Academy Kicks Off Expo Week at Manchester City!

**The Football Academy started Expo Week in style with an unforgettable visit to Manchester City's Etihad Stadium!**

Students enjoyed an in-depth stadium tour, exploring the players' changing rooms and stepping onto the pitch, which will soon host Manchester City's Champions League clash against Sparta Prague. The visit also included a tour of the Academy's Joie Stadium, where the first team, academy, and women's team train and play. Along the way, students gained valuable insights into the club's academy setup and the rigorous weekly schedule of young players.

A huge thank you to Manchester City for their warm hospitality and taking the time to answer all of our students' questions. It was an incredible experience for everyone involved!





## Students Shine at MUN Conferences

This term, Ellesmere College students demonstrated their debating skills at two prestigious Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, showcasing their knowledge, confidence, and diplomacy.

### Success at QMUN – Queen’s School, Chester

In November, our students took part in QMUN at Queen’s School, Chester, where the theme was ‘Interconnectedness’. Representing the delegations of India and Japan, they engaged in dynamic debates and discussions. Special congratulations to Nathaniel C and Jack F, who were awarded Best Delegate titles! We also had five Commended Delegates: Anna P, George G, Isabella P, Mahdiyar M, and Tobias S—a fantastic achievement!

### Recognition at Cheadle Hulme MUN Conference

In October, eight of our students attended the Cheadle Hulme School MUN conference, where nearly 30 schools participated. The event featured Dr Aaron Sharma Hewitt, a former Cheadle Hulme student and Brunel University Honorary Lecturer, as the keynote speaker. Ellesmere College students represented Tajikistan and Senegal, actively contributing to debates across various committees. All students performed exceptionally well, with Nathaniel C and Anna P earning recognition as Highly Commended Delegates.

A huge well done to all our MUN participants for their dedication and achievements last term! Their hard work continues to reflect Ellesmere College’s strong presence in MUN conferences.



## Ellesmere College Continues International Development



We are proud to announce our partnership with the Glory & Princeton International Schools Group which brings the addition of Ellesmere College Riyadh to our growing international portfolio.

The Glory Group has years of experience in the education sector; started in 2003 by Dr. Hamdi Abel Razek Ahmed and his wife, they now own and operate 15 schools across the region and are currently building a university in New Mansoura with eight specialist campuses.

Dr Hamdi said ‘Our partnership with Ellesmere College is an exciting addition to the Glory Group, we are delighted to be collaborating with a prestigious British school, with such a long and distinguished history, in order to bring an ‘Ellesmere education’ to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We trust that the opening of Ellesmere College Riyadh might be the first of many across the region.’

Vicky Pritt-Roberts, the Head of Ellesmere College, commented ‘Working with a partner like the Glory Group, who understand the Ellesmere philosophy, means that we can deliver academic excellence within an inclusive and nurturing community, that engages in a broad range of extracurricular activities in order to enhance personal growth. We should not forget that this growing international portfolio was the vision of our late headmaster, Brendan Wignall, who was determined to see his work in this area flourish.’

Nick Pettingale, Director of International Development at Ellesmere College said ‘Both Ellesmere and the Glory Group understand that education is about guiding students to identify and exploit their truly, remarkable abilities. Together we recognise that education is a shared responsibility between family and school and we highly value the partnership that we build between our staff and our families’.

‘Alongside Ellesmere College Muscat, our school in Riyadh has recently opened its doors for pupil registration into Kindergarten and Years One and Two. Keep a look out too, at the end of this year, for news of our school in Doha which is nearing completion’.



## Candlelit Carol Services Light Up the Festive Season

Our beautiful Candlelit Carol Services began in November, bringing the College community together in a truly special way.

Director of Music, Mr Tony Coupe, expressed his gratitude to the support staff who work tirelessly to create these stunning events, as well as to our organist, John Bowen, Head of Lower School Music, Simon Fisher, our readers, and Chaplain Phillip Gratton. Most importantly, he extended a heartfelt thanks to our incredible singers and instrumentalists, whose dedication and passion make these performances so magical.

This year's service features a special new carol, 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace', dedicated to Kevin Whitley, our former College Organist, who remains with us in spirit.



## Ellesmere Muscat Students Experience Life at Ellesmere College

We were delighted to welcome a group of 15 students and two staff members from our partner school, Ellesmere Muscat International in Seeb, Oman, for a week-long experience at Ellesmere College. The students, aged 13 to 16, travelled nearly 5,000 miles to take part in the Football Academy, join academic lessons, and immerse themselves in life at our boarding school.

"Throughout the week, the visiting students fully embraced Ellesmere life, making new friends, training with the Football Academy, and participating in a packed programme of activities. One of the highlights for many was the opportunity to watch a professional Premier League match.

Sixteen-year-old Yousif Mahmoud Al Jufaili, originally from Montreal, Canada, described the experience as "everything he hoped it would be." He said:

"I have enjoyed getting to know different friends from Ellesmere College and experiencing their culture, how they live, and also getting to know how they study and work. One of my favourite parts was watching a professional Premier League match. This was my first time ever going to one, and it was one of the best things I have experienced when travelling with the school or family. The Ellesmere College boys have treated us very well. We felt welcomed from the first day."

Fifteen-year-olds Abdulrahman AlMahrezi and Alu AlZadjali also shared their enthusiasm, describing the trip as "extremely fun, entertaining, and enjoyable" and expressing how welcomed they felt throughout their stay.



Their itinerary included a visit to Manchester City's Etihad Stadium and Academy, an exciting match between Chester City FC and Scunthorpe United, and a thrilling Premier League game at Molineux, where Manchester City secured an injury-time victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers.

In addition to their football-focused activities, the students followed the Ellesmere College academic curriculum, stayed in our boarding houses, and visited Shrewsbury Mosque for prayers. Their football training programme included skills and drills, high-intensity fitness sessions, and a scouting programme in front of professional football scouts.

Muscat staff members also took part in the experience, working alongside our Director of Sport, Chris Horrocks, supporting college activities, and even joining a five-a-side match with Ellesmere staff and pupils.

Deputy Head External Relations, Stephen Mullock, reflected on the success of the visit:

"We are thrilled to have been able to welcome these students from our partner school in Muscat to Shropshire for the first time. The boys have been a real credit to their school and have fully involved themselves in all aspects of life at Ellesmere. Likewise, our students did a wonderful job of making our visitors feel at home."

We are incredibly proud of the way both Ellesmere and Ellesmere Muscat students embraced this opportunity, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership through more exciting programmes in the future.

# Remembrance Service at Ellesmere



# William Phillips Returns to Inspire Young Rugby Players

Old Ellesmerian William Phillips has secured a place with top French rugby club Stade Toulousain, following an extended trial over the past two years.

During his holiday, Will returned to Ellesmere College to assist Mr Murphy with a rugby training session for Year 7 & 8 students. The boys had a fantastic time learning from him, and we are incredibly proud of his achievements.

Congratulations, Will! We look forward to following your journey in French rugby.





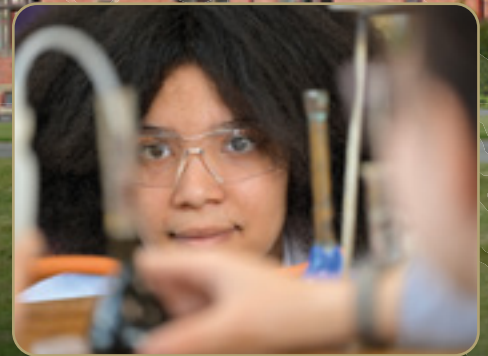
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