



Ellesmere

Co-ed 7-18 Day and Boarding

Middle School

Years 9 – 11

Welcome to Middle School at Ellesmere



Mr Jonathan Shaw
Head



Mrs Siobhan Phillips
Head of Middle School

Scan the QR code
to book your visit today!



Discover Middle School at Ellesmere: A Place to Grow, Explore and Thrive

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family can make. At Ellesmere, we understand that Middle School marks a pivotal stage in a child's educational journey, where curiosity deepens, independence grows, and lifelong passions begin to take shape.

Starting Middle School is an exciting journey filled with new opportunities, challenges, and discoveries. At Ellesmere, we believe these formative years are not just about academic growth, but also about building character, confidence, and lifelong friendships.

This booklet offers a window into life at Ellesmere's Middle School, where academic excellence is balanced with personal development, creativity and care. Whether you're exploring options for Year 9 and beyond or considering a fresh start, we invite you to discover how our nurturing environment, broad curriculum and vibrant community can you support your child to flourish.

Inside, you'll find helpful information about our curriculum, daily routines, enrichment activities, and the support systems we have in place to ensure every student thrives.

From the moment pupils' step through our doors, they are welcomed into a culture of encouragement, ambition and belonging. Our dedicated staff work closely with families to ensure every child feels seen, supported and inspired to reach their full potential.

Under the leadership of our Head, Jonathan Shaw, Ellesmere continues to build on its strong foundations-offering a forward-thinking education that prepares pupils not just for the next stage, but for life beyond the classroom.

We hope this booklet helps you envision the exciting possibilities that await at Ellesmere and we look forward to welcoming you to our school.



Programmes of Study

The Ellesmere curriculum begins with a broad range of subjects, which is then used as a basis on which to build gradual specialisation. The subjects offered reflect the National Curriculum, but the School takes advantage of its independence to develop opportunities beyond the National Curriculum confines.

Individual tutorials review development and Period Grades provide a snapshot of progress. Formal reports are sent to parents at stages throughout the academic year. Striving towards a high academic standard is a priority.

Each pupil is assigned to a personal tutor who, together with his or her Housemaster or Housemistress and with support from the Head of Middle School and Senior Deputy Head, monitors academic progress.

There are parent-teacher meetings at important phases and parents, of course, are welcome to contact school to discuss academic work at any time.



Year 9 Journey

At Ellesmere, Year 9 marks the beginning of a more personalised academic journey. It is the first stage where pupils begin to shape their future by making informed choices that align with their interests and aspirations.

While all students continue to follow a strong core of compulsory subjects, they are also given the opportunity to select from a range of additional subjects. This early element of choice allows pupils to explore areas of interest in greater depth and gain valuable exposure to content that forms the foundation of future GCSE study.

This early opportunity to explore specialist subjects helps pupils build confidence, deepen understanding, and make informed decisions

about their future GCSE options. While we are not strictly bound by the National Curriculum, our approach aligns closely with its principles, ensuring a broad and balanced education for every pupil.

By engaging with these subjects now, pupils can develop a deeper understanding, build confidence, and assess their compatibility with potential GCSE pathways. This thoughtful approach ensures that, by the time formal GCSE decisions are made, students are well-informed and ready to take the next step with clarity and purpose.

Year 9 at Ellesmere is not just a transition – it's a launchpad for academic growth and discovery.



Subject Choices

Core Compulsory Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

Careers and personal finance are delivered with the Personal, Health and Social Education scheme, referred to as HSA.

Option Subject

- Art
- Design Technology
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Music
- French
- Latin
- Media Studies
- P.E. (Academic)
- Spanish
- Learning Support
- English as an additional language



Year 10 Journey

As pupils move through Middle School and into Year 10, they have already begun to discover the subjects that spark their curiosity and shape their future learning.

At GCSE, pupils study a core set of subjects – **English, Mathematics, and Science (at least 2 from Biology, Chemistry and Physics)** whilst also selecting from a wide range of additional subjects that reflect their interests and strengths.

It is hoped that a Modern Foreign Language will be studied and that, in many cases, a form of Technology and/or Art will be taken.



At least one Humanities subject is a sound choice on educational grounds. All pupils will follow a non-examinable course in Physical Education whilst PHSE and Careers education is provided as a taught programme with bespoke resources. Parents are informed termly of the topics that will be covered.

Our academic programme is designed to support each pupil in achieving their personal best. We take great care to ensure that subject choices remain flexible, keeping future career pathways open and allowing pupils to discover where their passions lie.



Subject Choices



At Ellesmere, we offer a broad and balanced range of GCSE subjects designed to inspire, challenge, and prepare students for the next stage of their academic journey.

Here's a glimpse of what's to come:

(Scan the QR Code and watch a video by the Head of Department about these subjects)

Core Subjects

- **English Language & Literature:** Explore stories, ideas, and communication-developing skills in reading, writing, and speaking.
- **Mathematics:** Learn to solve problems, think logically, and apply maths to everyday life.
- **Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics):** investigate the world around you through experiments and scientific thinking.

Optional Subjects

- **Art & Design:** Express yourself through drawing, painting, and creative projects.
- **Business Studies:** Discover how companies work and what it takes to run a successful business.
- **Computer Science:** Learn how computers think, and even write your own code.
- **Design & Technology:** Create and build using design skills and practical tools.

- **Drama:** Perform, collaborate, and explore the world of theatre and storytelling.
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL):** designed for international students to support their language qualification.
- **Geography:** Study the planet, people, and places-from volcanoes to cities.
- **History:** Travel through time to understand key events and how they shape our world.
- **Languages (French, Spanish):** Learn to speak and understand other languages and cultures.
- **Latin:** Explore ancient languages and the fascinating world of Rome and Greece.
- **Media Studies:** Understand how TV, film, and social media influence our lives.
- **Music:** Play, compose, and enjoy music from different styles and traditions.
- **Physical Education (PE):** Stay active, learn new sports, and understand how your body works.
- **Religious Studies:** Explore beliefs, values, and big questions about life .
- **BTEC Engineering:** A hands-on course for those interested in how things work and are made.
- **Support for Learning (Sfl):** Extra help for pupils who benefit from tailored academic support.

Year 11 IGCSE/GCSE (One Year International Programme)

The Ellesmere Year 11 International programme is a one-year course that prepares students from outside of the UK for Sixth Form studies (both IB and A Level) in an English language medium programme.

We focus on improving spoken and written English, with the opportunity to take certain core subjects at IGCSE/GCSE before moving on to the Sixth Form the following year.

Students study and take external IGCSE/GCSE exams in the summer term.

The course includes five to six IGCSE/GCSE subjects which are taught in greater depth.

Subjects include: One or two sciences (specialising in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics) English Language first language, Mathematics, a humanities subject and a language, either first and native language such as German, or if already competent in a second language such as French, Spanish or Latin.

All will also study English Language and for a student with a high level of English on joining us there is the opportunity to take the IGCSE/GCSE in English Literature in addition, this will be discussed with the individual once they have completed the first term of study.

A minimum standard of 4.5 IELTS is required. Students are placed in classes with English students based on ability.



Spoken and Written English

Student development at every stage

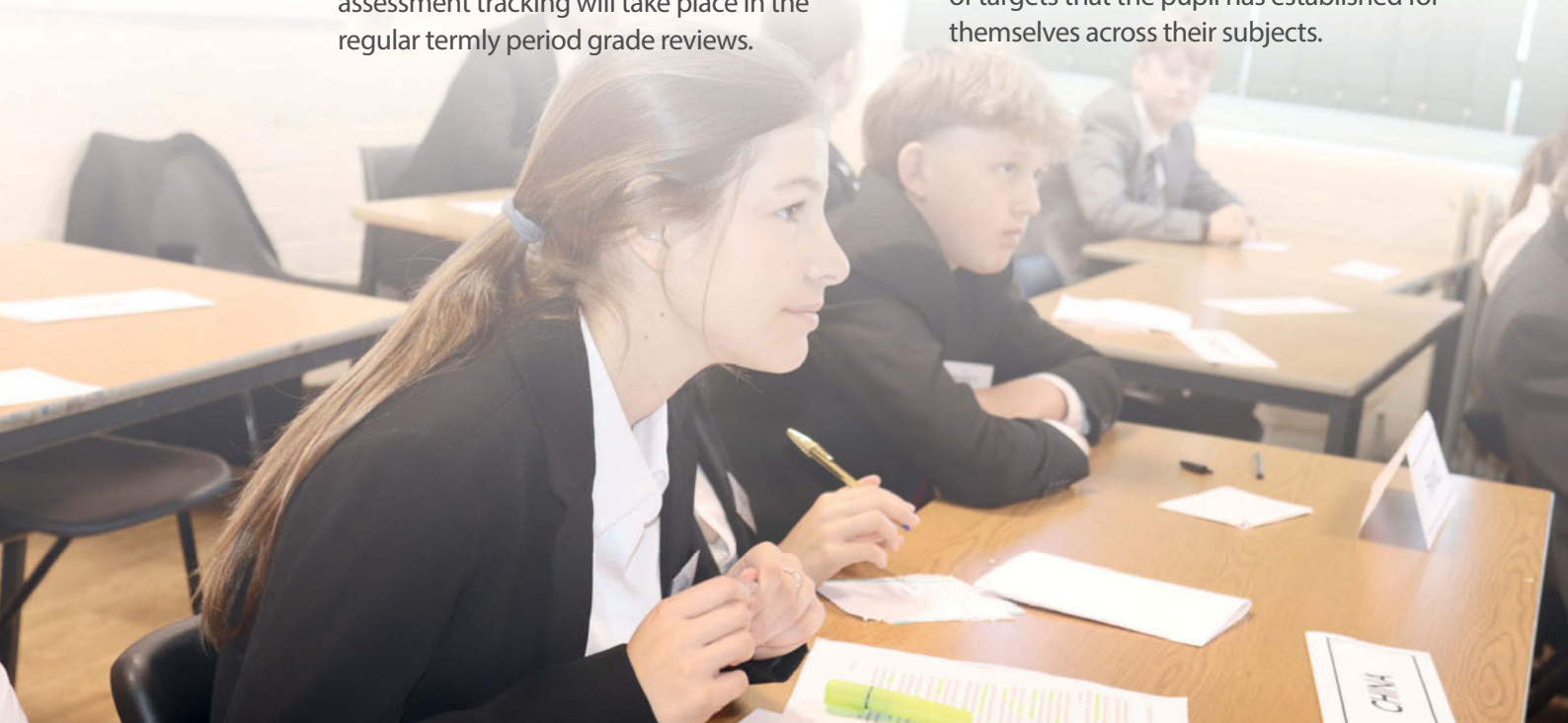
Assessment of language levels are initially made at application. The first week of the first term provides further opportunity for assessment of language levels. During this period pupils are given the time to settle in and show how they perform in classes.

After the first week, all students take a reading and writing test. All students may take extra English lessons, if necessary, (a chargeable extra). The focus is on improving spoken and written English before moving on to Sixth Form.

When students join the Sixth Form, they can feel confident and prepared for their A Level or International Baccalaureate courses. Further assessment tracking will take place in the regular termly period grade reviews.

Each pupil will be assessed by the classroom teacher in a formal way, once a term. This review and feedback allow the pupil to recognise their learning journey so far, their academic strengths and weaknesses per subject and specific areas to work on, in order to further improve each time.

As well as reviewing attainment, the period grade scores will also include a grade for effort and recognition that success with attainment is supported by focused and continuous effort. The tutor will oversee the academic performance of the student and the regular one-to-one meetings will help shape a series of targets that the pupil has established for themselves across their subjects.





Scan the QR code
to view the full
Arts brochure

Explore, Create, Perform: Middle School Clubs & Activities

The Co-curricular programme is a fundamental part of life at Ellesmere College and aims to broaden all students' life experiences through a wide range of activities, clubs, societies, sports, courses, performances and visits.

Such is the importance of these activities and the value we believe they bring in developing those key softer skills, the school week is designed to give dedicated time to these co-curricular areas.

This allows each student the opportunity to explore and follow their interests in areas of strength but also the encouragement and support to get involved and take part in areas they have not done so before; this willingness to "try" is key to maximising the opportunity and indeed the personal development that goes with the experiences side by side.

At Ellesmere, the Arts are a vibrant and integral part of Middle School life. Pupils are encouraged to explore their creativity through a wide range of opportunities in music and drama, from performing in ensembles

and choirs to taking part in exciting stage productions. Our dedicated facilities and passionate staff help nurture talent and build confidence in every student.

To discover more about the breadth of our Arts programme, scan the QR code to view the full Arts Brochure.

Expeditions through either the Combined Cadet Force or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are designed to increase each student's personal resilience, while lunchtime activities aim to kindle enthusiasm for pursuits beyond the taught curriculum.

During their time in the School, we would expect that every child will have been given the opportunity to sing, dance, act and compete, whilst also debating, learning and developing a commitment to service.

The cumulative result of these programmes are confident and interesting young people who expect themselves to play a leading role in whichever group, institution or business they join.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

At Ellesmere, education extends far beyond textbooks and timetables.

Our Thursday Afternoon Activities Programme is a vibrant part of Middle School life, offering pupils the chance to explore new interests, develop practical skills, and build confidence in a dynamic and supportive environment.

Each Thursday afternoon, pupils step away from their usual academic schedule to engage in a wide range of activities designed to broaden horizons and encourage personal growth. From creative arts and outdoor pursuits to leadership training and community service, there's something for everyone.

Thursday Afternoon Activities:

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze in Year 9 / Silver in Year 10 to 11 / Gold in Year 12 to 13
CCF includes Army / Navy / RAF sections
Green Team
Arts Award

Away from the Thursday activity, there are many other opportunities across the terms to challenge oneself and these include:

- ESB (Public Speaking Qualification)
- LAMDA
- ABRSM
- Debating
- Model United Nations
- Maths Challenge
- STEM Challenge
- Twice Yearly Expeditions
- Easter and Summer Camps
- Annual Choir Tour
- Senior School Play – Bi-annual trip to Boston (USA)
- Various academic themed trips and visits



Built into the Fabric of School Life

Sport is a contest fought on the battleground of the body, the mind and the heart. It teaches vital self-knowledge and lessons which endure a lifetime. This is what defines its value. Sport provides a unique opportunity to develop life-skills and learn life lessons that are difficult to replicate in other settings.

At Ellesmere, sport is more than just an activity, it's a vital part of our school culture and curriculum. From Year 9 onwards, pupils benefit from a structured and inclusive sports programme that promotes physical health, teamwork, resilience, and enjoyment.

Sport is timetabled into the school week, ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to participate, develop skills, and discover new interests. Whether playing competitively or recreationally, pupils are encouraged to take pride in their performance and to represent their House and school with passion and commitment.

A wide variety of sports are offered through the year, term to term and these include:

- Rugby
- Hockey
- Netball
- Football
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Archery
- Fencing
- Shooting
- *And many more!*

Pupils in Middle School will have a squad session (Tuesday 4:15pm – 5:25pm, Wednesday 2:15pm – 4pm and Friday 4:15pm – 5:25pm)

Our facilities support both individual and team development, and pupils of all abilities are encouraged to take part, try something new, and enjoy the many benefits of an active lifestyle.



Sporting Academies

Nurturing Talent, Supporting Ambition

For pupils with a passion and aptitude for sport, Ellesmere also offers a range of Sporting Academies that provide specialist coaching, performance development, and tailored support alongside academic study.

These academies are designed to help talented athletes reach their full potential, whether aiming for regional, national, or even international success. Pupils benefit from expert coaching, strength and conditioning programmes, performance analysis, and access to outstanding facilities.

Ellesmere's Sporting Academies include:

- **Tennis Academy***
- **Swimming Academy***
- **Cricket Academy**
- **Rugby Academy**
- **Football Academy***
- **Golf Academy***

*denotes the academy carries an additional charge

(Scan the QR code to see more about each academy)

Each academy is integrated into the school day and academic timetable, allowing pupils to balance their sporting ambitions with academic progress.

The focus is not only on performance, but also on character, discipline, and long-term development.

Whether aspiring to elite sport or simply looking to improve and enjoy the journey, Ellesmere's Sporting Academies offer a unique and supportive environment for young athletes to thrive.



Tennis
Academy



Swimming
Academy



Cricket
Academy



Rugby
Academy



Football
Academy



Golf
Academy

The Boarding Houses

A home from home!

The pastoral system in the Middle School is based within the Residential House system. Upon Middle School entry at Year 9, all pupils join one of the College's integrated boarding and day Houses, and are under the care of a Housemaster or Housemistress and a team of dedicated tutors attached to each House.

There are, at present, two male Middle School Houses, St Cuthbert's and St Patrick's, and one female Middle School House, St Aidan's.

In Year 9 and 10, all pupils will have a base in the Boarding House, which will include a lockable locker and desk to work from. In Year 11, the Day Boy's will use "Study wing" and have their own shared rooms for lockers and materials as well as access to Yr 11 social rooms and work spaces.

The tutor-pupil link will normally continue throughout the three years leading to GCSE. The development of good relationships between tutor and pupil and between tutor and parents is given a high priority.



The Competitive House System

Pride, Passion, and Participation

At Ellesmere, the Competitive House System is a cherished part of Middle School life-bringing pupils together in a spirit of teamwork, friendly rivalry, and shared achievement.

Pupils are allocated on the basis of a family connection if indicated to us but otherwise to try to provide a balance of talents between the Houses in such areas as sport, drama, music, academic ability and leadership.

There are four competitive Houses:



Meynell



Talbot



Wakeman-Lambart



Woodard

Pupils remain in their Competitive House for the remainder of their time at Ellesmere.

From the moment pupils don their House shirt, they become part of something bigger: a community that celebrates effort, encourages leadership, and values every contribution.

Throughout the year, pupils compete in a wide range of academic and cocurricular events, from debating and drama to music, sport and creative challenges. Whether organising a team, leading a performance, or cheering from the side-lines, every pupil plays a role in their Competitive House's success.

The pride in representing the House is palpable. It's about more than winning; it's about belonging, supporting one another, and striving to be your best.

These experiences help build confidence, character, and lasting friendships. The Competitive House system is woven into the fabric of Middle School life, offering pupils countless opportunities to shine, collaborate, and grow.

It is a tradition that inspires passion and creates memories that last well beyond the school years.

Pastoral Support

A Foundation of Care and Guidance

At Ellesmere, we believe that a strong pastoral system is essential to a pupil's success and wellbeing. In the Middle School, every pupil is supported by a dedicated network of staff who work together to ensure that each child feels safe, valued, and confident in their school life.

Upon joining Middle School, pupils become part of one of our integrated **Boarding and Day Houses**, where they are cared for by a **Housemaster or Housemistress** and a team of experienced **tutors**. These tutors provide daily support, monitor academic progress, and are a consistent point of contact for both pupils and parents throughout the Middle School years.

The tutor-pupil relationship is central to our approach. Tutors get to know each pupil as an individual, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear when needed. This **continuity of care** helps pupils navigate the challenges of adolescence with confidence and resilience.

Our pastoral care is further enriched by the presence of the School Chaplain, who offers spiritual and emotional support, and by a wider network of staff who are committed to nurturing the whole person-not just academic achievement, but also personal growth, emotional wellbeing, and social development.

We also place great importance on **open communication** with families, ensuring that parents are active partners in their child's journey. Whether through regular updates, meetings, or informal conversations, we work together to provide the best possible care for every pupil.

At Ellesmere, pastoral support is not just a system, it's a culture of kindness, respect, and belonging.

Woodard Schools foster an experience of Anglican Worship and an understanding of Christian faith and values in a caring community.



Pastoral Network



Support for Learning

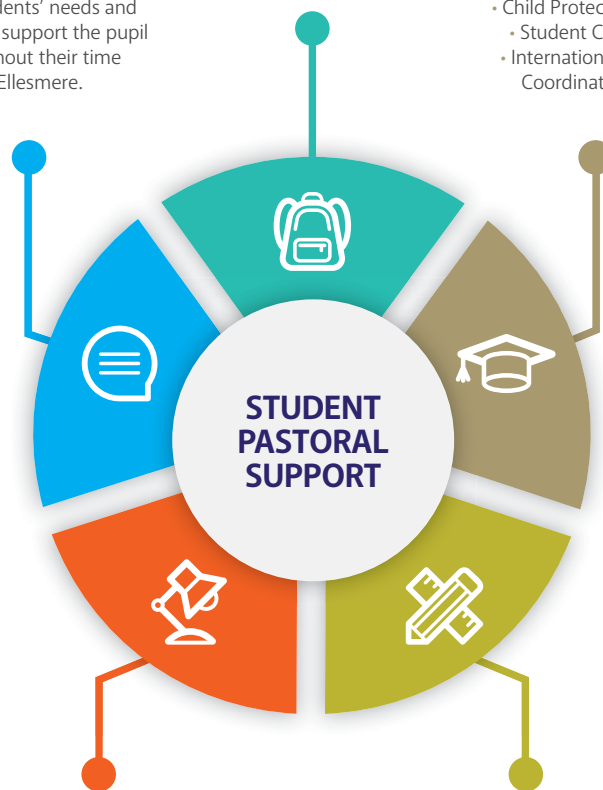
Students work with specialist support staff on an individual basis or in small groups. The sessions are geared around each students' needs and tailored to support the pupil throughout their time at Ellesmere.

Student Welfare

There is equal importance given to the development of those critical ingredients in the way students approach their schooling; confidence, organisation, persistence and cooperation.

Specialist Staff

- S4L - Head of School
- Deputy Head Pastoral
- Child Protection Officer
- Student Counsellor
- International Student Coordinator - EAL



Pastoral Care

Students are able to forge vital relationships with each other and their Personal Tutor. Parents are closely involved with Ellesmere Life, through the many parental events and home communications.

Behaviour Management

Based upon a principle of care and concern for the welfare of every child. The process provides a consistent approach for teachers to assist students to develop appropriate behaviour and life skills – which are highly valued within the College and the wider community.

Weekly Timetable

The timetable below is a view of a typical student weekly schedule at Ellesmere. This will be identical to the routines and timings for the whole school. All pupils on the integration programme will follow a full academic and co-curricular programme. Activities stated are for **guidance only** and the availability of the stated activities and trips will vary term to term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	WEEKEND	Saturday	Sunday		
7:30am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast			Breakfast	Brunch	
8:30am	Reg & Chapel	Reg and House Meeting	Re and School Assembly	Reg and Tutor Tim	Reg & Chapel					
9:10am	Lesson 1 & 2	Lesson 1 & 2	Lesson 1 & 2	Lesson 1 & 2	Lesson 1 & 2			Sports Fixtures plus on-site activities		
10:20am	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break					
10:45am	Lesson 3 & 4	Lesson 3 & 4	Lesson 3 & 4	Lesson 3 & 4	Lesson 3 & 4					
12pm	Lesson 5 & 6	Lesson 5 & 6	Lesson 5 & 6	Lesson 5 & 6	Lesson 5 & 6			Trip to Chester	Boarding Trip to Theme Park	
1:10pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch					
2:15pm	Lesson 7 & 8	Lesson 7 & 8	Sports and Games	Activity Programme	Lesson 7 & 8			Shopping and Cultural Visit		
3:25pm	Lesson 9	Lesson 9			Lesson 9					
4:05pm	Lesson 10	Sports Squads			Sports Squads					
4:40pm	Tutor Time									
6pm	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal			Evening Meal	Evening Meal	
6:45pm	Prep (homework)	Prep (homework)	Prep (homework)	Prep (homework)	Prep (homework)					
8:15pm	Activity Time	Activity Time	Activity Time	Activity Time	Activity Time		Boarding Activities	Boarding Activities		
9pm	Social Time in House	Social Time in House	Social Time in House	Social Time in House	Social Time in House					
10pm	Bed	Bed	Bed	Bed	Bed		Bed	Bed		

Typical Weekly Timetable (13 to 18 years old)

* The availability and format of the external trip will vary term to term.

Next Steps & Looking Ahead!

From Middle School to Sixth Form

Middle School at Ellesmere is not just about the here and now, it's a vital stepping stone towards the exciting opportunities that await in the Sixth Form. As pupils progress through Years 9 to 11, they grow in confidence, independence, and academic maturity, preparing them for the greater freedoms and responsibilities of Sixth Form life.

Our Sixth Form offers a wide range of academic pathways, including A Levels, BTECs, and the International Baccalaureate (IB), allowing students to tailor their studies to their strengths, interests, and future ambitions. Whether aiming for university, apprenticeships, or careers in the UK or abroad, Ellesmere provides the guidance and support to help every student succeed.

The transition to Sixth Form is a natural progression for many of our Middle School pupils, who already benefit from the strong pastoral care, support and a deep knowledge of their strengths and abilities by academic staff, and co-curricular opportunities that define an Ellesmere education. By the time they reach Sixth Form, they are well-prepared to take the lead in their learning, in their Houses, and in the wider school community.

At Ellesmere, we don't just prepare pupils for exams, we prepare them for life.



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





Ellesmere

Co-ed 7-18 Day and Boarding

To find out more and to register please contact:

01691 626 510 • www.ellesmere.com

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Leading
Independent
Schools



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