

Dear Parents

Since arriving at Ellesmere in September, I have been impressed by the character of our pupils. Their friendliness and good manners in welcoming me were apparent from the start. However, it has been the dedication and determination of Ellesmerians in all aspects of school life, week in, week out, that has struck me most.

The Nike slogan 'Just Do It' exhorts us to get started, to turn up, to take the plunge, regardless of conditions and obstacles. It is aimed at encouraging the athlete to get out of bed on a cold, dark, rainy morning to go for a run, a swim or similar. It can equally apply to every aspect of school life, and it is something that I encounter everyday amongst our pupils. On Wednesday, I was mightily impressed with the Year 8 pupils in PE who were out in the freezing cold, running the cross-country course in very good spirits. Equally, it was lovely to hear feedback from our Head of Chemistry about the dedication of the Year 12 A Level and IB Chemists who are preparing for the Chemistry Olympiad during their lunchtimes. And finally, well done to the Year 10 'Green Team' who have completed the planting of new saplings on the golf course after several weeks of hard work.

In three very different areas of school life, pupils are both demonstrating and developing character with their 'Just Do It' approach. Well done to all those involved.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw
Head

Highlights of the week

Chess: The Chess team's victory in their highly competitive Regional Round 1 match against Notre Dame Catholic College.

Music: Well done to Tabby for Grade 8 ABRSM Flute result with Merit. A fantastic achievement representing years of dedication and practice.

Exams: Maybe not a highlight but well done to all Year 11s and Year 13s for completing the first week of their mock exams. Lots of lovely feedback from house staff about the positive attitudes of the pupils and the supportive atmosphere amongst the boarders. The new style GCSE and A Level speaking exams also went extremely smoothly.

Girls' Netball: Great results in the fixtures against Moreton Hall and Adcote.

U18 Boys' Hockey: Qualifying for the Midlands Finals at the Nottingham Hockey Centre, defeating Thomas Telford (5-0), Shrewsbury School (4-0) and Wrekin College (2-1). Their only loss was a narrow defeat to Haberdashers' Adams (0-1).

U12 Footballers: Reaching the semi-finals of the North Shropshire 8-a-side tournament, defeating local rivals enroute, before losing to the eventual winners.