

Dear Parents

With world leaders congregating in Davos for the World Economic Forum, we are reminded again of both the importance of collaboration in tackling global issues and the importance of oracy. It is the ability of many of these leaders to speak eloquently in English, when it is not their native tongue, that is particularly impressive.

Whilst Mr Clewlow's Chemistry lesson may seem a far cry from events in Davos, there are parallels! It was a privilege this week to listen to his IB class presenting in pairs on Chemical bonding. In his class, seven different nationalities were represented. Whilst I must admit that I didn't fully grasp the finer details of molecular structure, I left the lesson in awe of the ability of 16 and 17 year-olds to not only present confidently on challenging aspects of Chemistry, but for some to do so in their second or third language. Their ability to both speak eloquently and listen intelligently is a reminder of the privilege of studying in a culturally and linguistically diverse community. The lesson served to reinforce my belief in the value of the International Baccalaureate (IB) at Ellesmere - we are very fortunate to be one of a few schools in the UK that offer this internationally recognised qualification. Even for those students who have opted to study A Levels and BTECs, the presence of the IB and the international element benefits us all.

If any of Mr Clewlow's Chemistry class ever find themselves at the World Economic Forum in Davos in the future, they will be well prepared.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw  
**Head**

### Highlights of the week

**Music: Beat the Blues:** Monday night saw 11 bands play to a packed hall in the Arts Centre, with music ranging from Led Zeppelin, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Guns N' Roses to Britney Spears. It was a fabulous evening's entertainment with bands of all ages playing, some gaining stage experience for the very first time. We also welcomed in students, bands and their supporters from other schools, providing them with a hub for live music making. £630 was raised for Shropshire Mental Health Support and the evening certainly brought a sense of positivity and celebration on a damp and dark January evening.

**Year 11 and Year 13s:** Well done to everyone for their hard work and resilience in completing mock exams. We appreciate that many of you worked exceptionally hard for these exams.

#### Sixth Form:

- Six Lower Sixth pupils completed the Mental Health First Aid Awareness course this week.
- Mr Murphy talked to Year 12 on managing exam stress and the maintenance of good mental health, as well as the example of our ancient ancestors (eat, sleep, move).
- A visiting speaker spoke about the impact of drugs on Mental Health.

**Health Awareness:** Sister Eiry & Mr Baggaley's assembly for years 9, 10 and 12 in the Arts Centre was on behalf of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) in memory of Matthew Dewhirst, Ellesmerian, who would have been 31 this month.

**Green team and Eco group:** They visited the TGG recycling centre outside Ellesmere to learn how they reuse/recycle builders' waste. The visit included a trailer ride to learn about the different stone and sand they quarry, grade and sell.

**Cricket:** The Under 11s mixed team took part in the North Shropshire Kwik Cricket tournament with local primary schools. A fun morning was had by all.