Ellesmere News

Ellesmere College Newsletter | MICHAELMAS 2025



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In the News....



Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to introduce our new Head Boy, Harry, and Head Girl, Eve. They will lead the Prefect Team and work closely with our new Head, Mr Jonathan Shaw, to support, represent and inspire pupils across the school. We wish them every success in their roles.



Regional Chess Success

Ellesmere College honoured to host the Regional Chess Qualifier this term, Ellesmere's A-Team finishing 2nd and securing qualification. The team demonstrated focus, strategic skill, and determination, showcasing the strength of our chess programme.



Ethics Convention

Year 9 pupils showcased research, debate skills, and public speaking at the annual Ethics Convention. Visitors were impressed by their professionalism, critical thinking, and thoughtful discussions. Congratulations to Bobby, selected as this year's overall winner.

Senior Team Maths Challenge

Our team of Natt, Jan, George, and Vlada represented Ellesmere at Manchester, competing against 17 top regional teams. They displayed excellent problem-solving, teamwork, and composure under pressure, making it an inspiring academic experience.





Politics Trip to Westminster

Sixth Form Politics students attended the Polecon Conference and visited Westminster Hall, gaining insight into political debates. They met MP Helen Morgan and Old Ellesmerian Toby, learning about career paths their studies can lead to.



Shooting Triumphs

Annie won gold at the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships Regional Qualifier, securing a place at the National Final. She also represented British Shooting at the Junior International, finishing 5th, and has now joined the Welsh Potential Performance Pathway. Well done Annie!



LAMDA Achievements

Pupils from Lower School and Middle School excelled in recent LAMDA exams, impressing examiners with confidence, creativity, and expression. Students earned a mix of Merits and Distinctions, reflecting their dedication and talent in Acting and Musical Theatre.

Equestrian Championships

Ellesmere riders competed across multiple classes, including over 35 teams and 185 individuals. Pupils displayed outstanding skill, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship, representing the College with pride and supporting each other throughout the competition.





Fresh Start with Holroyd Howe

With the new school year, Holroyd Howe joins Ellesmere as our catering partner. Their vibrant menu offers nutritious meals, exciting variety, and tasty treats, ensuring all students enjoy a healthy, colourful dining experience.

Oliver's Tetrathlon Success

Oliver had an exceptional summer in tetrathlon, securing national podium finishes across the UK and Ireland. Highlights include 2nd in UK Senior Boys, 1st in mixed team, 3rd in Ireland, and the prestigious 2025 Tetrathlon Horsemanship Award.



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Headmaster's Message...

Since arriving in September, it has been a privilege to be welcomed so warmly into the Ellesmere community. One of my earliest impressions was the deep sense of pride shared by pupils, staff, families, and alumni. This pride is rooted in a strong sense of community, and I am continually impressed by the friendliness and courtesy evident in the corridors and classrooms.



As a school with a global outlook, Ellesmere benefits enormously from the International Baccalaureate and from the opportunity for pupils to learn alongside peers from around the world. The international character of the College enriches our educational environment, and it is a joy to see pupils from different cultures integrating so naturally both within and beyond the classroom.



Ellesmerians show exceptional commitment to their sport, to their wider activities, and their academic study. In an October assembly, I introduced the Japanese concept of ikigai, often translated as "the happiness of always being busy" or "the reason you get out of bed in the morning." The Japanese government defined ikigai as something that "brings value and joy to life," whether friendships, work, hobbies, or passions. They believe it rests on three pillars: having a purpose for each day, nurturing friendships and doing things you love.



The "Last Night of the Proms" concert in October was a vivid reminder of ikigai. The joy among performers and audience members – drawn from both the school and local community – was unmistakable. For many pupils, music will be a part of their ikigai. The Michaelmas pupil survey reflected the wide range of activities that bring our pupils joy: sport, drama, art, academic subjects, the CCF, and many other pursuits.

As I write early on a Monday morning, I can see the lights of the pool on in the distance for the first 5.30am swimming training session of the week; the swimmers certainly have a reason 'to get out of bed in the morning'. The standout sports achievement of the year so far was undoubtedly the Girls' U16 tennis team who were runners up in the National Finals in Nottingham. The boys' rugby teams have enjoyed successful seasons, with the 1st XV reaching the semi-finals of the National Plate Competition and are one win away from Twickenham. The girls' hockey teams should also be proud, with the 1st XI winning the majority of their fixtures and narrowly missing out on reaching













the National Finals, despite not losing a match in the regional finals.

Congratulations are also due to our shooting team for winning the Regional Championships, to our golfers who won the ISGA Northern Cup, our chess team who qualified for the Regional Knockout stage, and our equestrian team for both individual and team success at the National Schools Equestrian Championships.

Other highlights include excellent outcomes in the Grade 8 English Speaking Board exams; strong results in ABRSM and Musical Theatre singing assessments; the intellectually rigorous Year 9 Ethics Convention; a busy Careers Fair; a sold-out fashion show; a Model United Nations conference; numerous educational trips; CCF camp; DofE expeditions; charity bake sales; and a full programme of House Debating, House Drama and House sport competitions – all contributing to a very busy first term.

Music and Chapel remain a constant thread throughout, with the Chapel and Chamber Choirs continuing to sing to an exceptionally high standard. The four Carol Services and the original Rainbow Connection Lower School Christmas show were a fitting way to lead us into the Christmas break. Above all, the opportunity of weekly reflection during our Chapel services provides both an anchor and a guide in the busy lives of our pupils and staff.

I look forward to the rest of the academic year with both excitement and optimism.

Jon Shaw

Head













Back to School: A New Term Begins











Open Day at Ellesmere College







On Saturday 11th October, Ellesmere College welcomed families from near and far for our much-anticipated Open Morning. Visitors explored our campus, met staff, and engaged with pupils who proudly shared their experiences of life at Ellesmere.

Guided tours, interactive classroom sessions, and lively demonstrations across music, sport, and co-curricular activities showcased the breadth of opportunities available to every student. Our pupils were at the heart of the event, highlighting the inclusive, nurturing, and ambitious environment that defines our community.

We are grateful to all who attended and hope everyone left with a clear sense of what makes Ellesmere special.





Ellesmere Together: Whole School Photo





















Teamwork makes the dream work!

Start of the term, our Sixth Formers kicked off their very first House Competition of the academic year with the much-anticipated It's a Knock Out!

Meynell, Talbot, Wakeman-Lambart and Woodard went head-to-head in three-legged football, water balloon chaos, tug of war, and a set of tricky team challenges from our Quiz Master – and Head of Wakeman-Lambart House – Mr Dale Crawford.

A fantastic afternoon of energy, teamwork and House spirit, and the perfect way to welcome our new Sixth Form starters into the Ellesmere community.

Senior House Debate

On Thursday, 9th October, our Year 11–13 students took part in an energetic Senior House Debate, tackling the motion: "This House believes the UK should re-join the European Union as a full member."

Following British Parliamentary style, students delivered insightful research, compelling arguments, and persuasive speeches. The audience, spanning Years 9–13, contributed to a lively atmosphere, making the afternoon a brilliant showcase of confidence, teamwork, and debate skills.







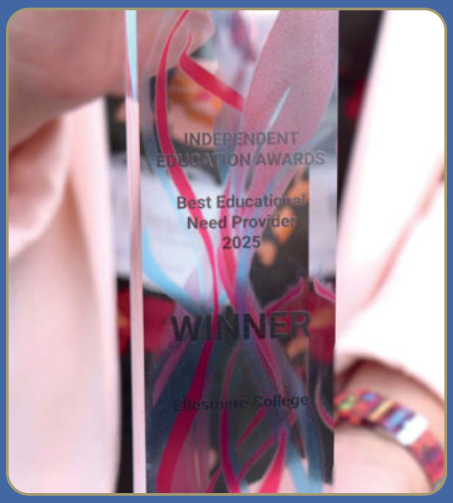




Ellesmere College is celebrating after winning the Best Educational Needs Provider award at the 2025 Independent Education Awards. The accolade recognises the school's tailored, student-centred approach to learning support, which goes beyond academic adjustments to foster confidence, independence, and metacognitive development.

Judges praised Ellesmere for its culture of inclusion and the effective use of technology and adaptive strategies to support meaningful participation across school life. Stephen Mullock, Deputy Head External Relations, said: "This prestigious award recognises the dedication of our staff in ensuring every pupil receives the support they need to reach their full potential."

Ellesmere's Dyslexia Learning Support Unit and wider provision continue to play a vital role in enabling all students to thrive academically and personally.



Ellesmere Wins National Award for Learning Support



Student Podcast Series: *Let's Get Social*

This term, our Media Studies students launched their first-ever podcast series, Let's Get Social, in the lead-up to Youth Awareness Day. The three episodes explored the impact of social media on young people's lives, combining honest conversations, ideas, and stories from our recent youth workshop.






- **Episode 1:** *Could You Go 24 Hours Without Social Media?* – Tom, Isobel, Seb, and producer Kiri discussed digital habits and the role of social media in everyday life.
- **Episode 2:** *The Harmful Side of Social Media* – Amelia, Max, and Rosalee reflected on screen time, AI, and the positives and negatives of digital connectivity.
- **Episode 3:** *The Highs of Social Media* – Nina, Kitt, and Cruz explored how social media helps them stay connected and discover new interests, while also affecting focus in daily life.

The series showcased the creativity, curiosity, and insight of our students, sparking meaningful conversations about social media and youth wellbeing.

Geography Workshop: Home from Home

Year 8 pupils took part in a thought-provoking Geography workshop this term with Equiliteach. The session, titled "Home from Home", explored the themes of Migration and Refugees, linking directly to their current studies. Pupils were fully engaged throughout the activities and gained valuable insights into these important global issues.






October Expo: Leadership in Action

During October Expo Week, our students have been developing leadership, teamwork, and practical skills through a range of exciting challenges.

Year 12 Gold DofE students have been mastering new skills and working collaboratively in preparation for their upcoming river canoe expedition. Year 11 pupils have taken on leadership challenges during their Leadership Expo, including high-adrenaline activities such as zip-lining, building confidence and resilience.

Our Army Cadets have also focused on leadership and field skills, delivering patrol reports, coordinating team tasks, and strengthening essential teamwork under realistic scenarios.

Expo Week continues to provide invaluable opportunities for students to grow as leaders while enjoying adventurous experiences.



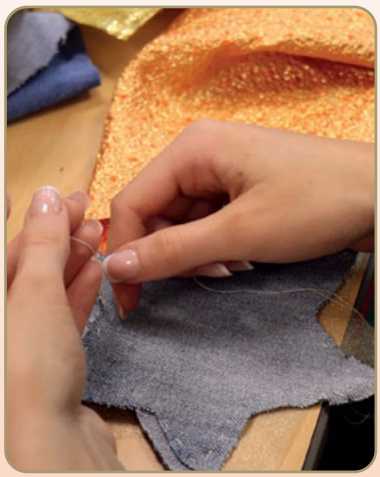





Middle School Leadership Programme

Year 11 students showcased leadership, teamwork, and creativity through two exciting projects. In the Food Competition, St Aidan's impressed the judges with a Greek-inspired menu. In an upcycling project, students transformed donated jeans into key rings, decorations, and more, to be sold at the Fashion Show & Christmas Fair to support next year's Hockey and Netball trip.

Both activities highlighted their creativity, collaboration, and commitment to making a positive impact.







Ellesmere College Careers Fair 2025









On 17th October, our annual Careers Fair was a great success, welcoming over 50 delegates, including universities, the NHS, cadet organisations, and more. It was particularly inspiring to see some Old Ellesmerians return to represent their professions and guide the next generation.

Year 11 and Sixth Form students had the opportunity to explore future pathways, gain valuable insights, and connect with professionals to help shape their next steps.

We extend our sincere thanks to all organisations and representatives who supported our students in planning their futures.

St Aidan's Christmas Bake Sale

St Aidan's Prefect Team hosted a successful Christmas-themed fundraiser in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to the House community. The event created a wonderfully festive atmosphere, with highlights including a red-carpet grotto, personalised hot chocolate and a popular bake sale enjoyed by both students and staff. We are delighted to share that £329.58 was raised. Well done to the House Captains and Prefects for organising such a joyful and spirited event and thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause.













Fashion Show & Christmas Fair

Friday, 14th November, Ellesmere College Big School hosted a festive Fashion Show & Christmas Fair, organised by the Parents' Society to support the Senior Girls' Sports Tour to South Africa. Over 200 guests enjoyed local gifts, treats, and a Christmas-themed photo booth. Our Sports Tour players worked hard behind the scenes, and the fashion show added style and sparkle to the evening. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success!













A Triumphant Evening of Music: Last Night of the Proms

On Saturday 4th October, Ellesmere College launched its musical calendar with a spectacular Last Night of the Proms-inspired concert in Big School. The evening combined classical favourites, including Pomp and Circumstance, Sea Songs, and the Hallelujah Chorus, with contemporary hits such as Coldplay's Fix You and a medley from The Greatest Showman, showcasing the remarkable talent of our students.

Performed by the Shrewsbury Light Orchestra and the College's Chapel and Chamber Choirs under the direction of Tony Coupe, the concert delighted a packed audience and raised funds for the Ellesmere Music School Appeal.

We thank all students, staff, families, and guests for making the evening such a memorable celebration of music, community, and generosity.







Lower School KS2 Christmas Play: The Rainbow Connection

It was a truly magical afternoon at Ellesmere as our KS2 pupils brought The Rainbow Connection to life on stage. The performance was filled with colour, joy and Christmas spirit, and the children performed with confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout.

They worked extremely hard during rehearsals, supporting one another every step of the way, and their efforts were clearly reflected in the quality of the performance. We are immensely proud of every pupil who took part.













Ellesmere College Golf Academy Celebrates National Success

Ellesmere College Golf Academy has enjoyed an outstanding performance at the ISGA Northern School Cup, held at Oulton Hall in Leeds. The team of Punn, Ben and Brian won the team nett event, seven shots ahead of their nearest rivals, while Ben also claimed individual honours in the tournament.





This success strengthens Ellesmere's position as one of the leading golfing academies in the UK. The school now sits fourth in the ISGA Senior School Rankings, building on last year's third-place finish.

Rob Ashbrook, Head of Golf Academy, praised the students' performances, while Chris Horrocks, Director of Sport, highlighted the Academy's commitment to developing golfers of all ages and abilities. With junior programmes now offered for students from Year 5 onwards, the Academy continues to provide exceptional coaching and opportunities for young golfers.

Champions! Ellesmere Hockey Triumph at Wrekin 7s

The Ellesmere College Hockey team delivered an outstanding performance at the Wrekin 7s Tournament, reclaiming the title in style. After strong group stage wins against Oswestry (7–1), Wrekin (4–0), and Moreton Hall (1–0), the team faced Shrewsbury in a tense final. With the score tied 1–1 at full time, Ellesmere held their nerve in a dramatic penalty flick shootout, securing victory 2–1.

Congratulations to all players for a gritty and determined display!









Ellesmere College Success at British Shooting North West & West Midlands Pistol Championships






On Wednesday 19th November 2025, Ellesmere College proudly hosted the British Shooting North West and West Midlands Pistol Championships, welcoming 125 athletes from across the UK. Participants came from Dumfries to Devon and from Haverfordwest to Norfolk, highlighting the event as a key sporting occasion.

Ellesmere was represented by seven talented athletes: Ben, Charlie, Chris, Polly, Jake, Annie, and Oliver. The senior competition saw a thrilling finale as Christopher narrowly defeated Oliver in a single-shot shoot-off. Annie, in Year 11, impressed by finishing fifth overall against older competitors and will compete in the National Finals at Chase Leisure Centre on 3rd February alongside Christopher and Oliver.

Team success was equally remarkable: the Senior School Team (Christopher, Oliver, and Annie) scored 527/600, well ahead of the nearest school, while Christopher also led the West Midlands Regional Youth Squad to victory with 499/600.

Congratulations to all our athletes for their outstanding performances and for exemplifying Ellesmere College's commitment to sporting excellence.

Ellesmere Tennis Triumph: National Success!

It has been an exceptional term for Tennis at Ellesmere College. Our Year 9–11 Girls' Team won the Regional Schools Tennis Finals, qualifying for the National Finals and ranking among the Top 4 teams in the UK. Gwen, Tabitha, Amani, and Kathrina delivered outstanding performances, showing skill, resilience, and teamwork.

At the National Finals in Nottingham, the senior team won both matches on Day 1 and fought hard on Day 2, finishing 2nd overall in the UK, defeating the top teams from the North and South West. Our younger squad (Years 7–9) also impressed, finishing 3rd in their regional finals, placing them in the Top 12 nationally.

Congratulations to all our players for their dedication, determination, and exceptional achievements – the future of Ellesmere Tennis looks brighter than ever!







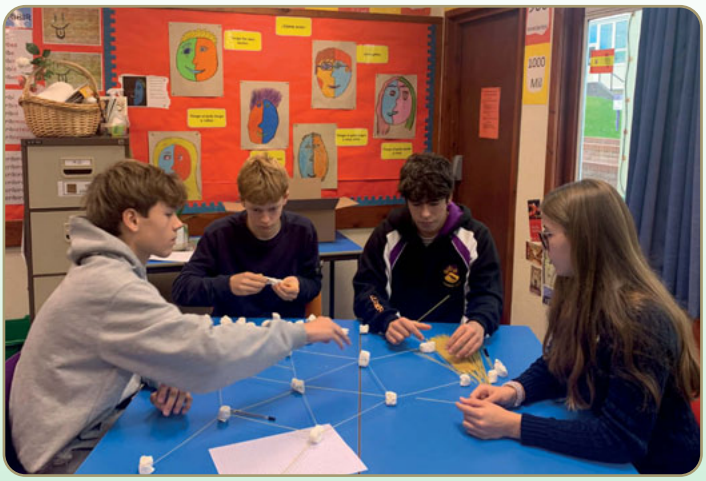
Experience Boarding Life at Ellesmere College

In October, a group of international students joined us for a four-day taster week, experiencing life as Ellesmere boarders. Boarding at Ellesmere is about more than staying on campus – it's about becoming part of a close-knit, supportive community.

Visitors joined lessons, explored co-curricular activities, attended careers workshops, and connected with pupils from the UK and around the world. Mr Armstrong, our Media Studies teacher, captured their journey, from classroom experiences to life in the boarding houses.

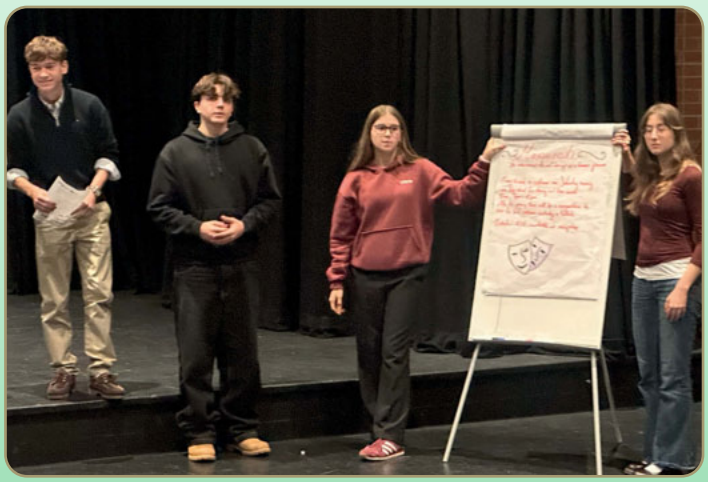
















Ellesmere College Hosts First Immersion Group from Riyadh

From 5th–11th November, Ellesmere College proudly welcomed the first group of pupils from our partner school, Ellesmere College Riyadh, for an immersion programme. This visit marked an exciting milestone in our partnership and set the tone for future exchanges.

The pupils embraced every aspect of life at Ellesmere, living in a boarding house, attending lessons across different subjects, and forming friendships with their Ellesmere buddies, who helped them settle in.

The week included exciting excursions, including Chester Zoo, Alton Towers, Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet, and the highlight – the Liverpool FC Stadium Tour at Anfield.

This visit has strengthened the bond between the two schools, and we look forward to welcoming more pupils in future immersion programmes. Our thanks go to all Ellesmere staff whose care and dedication made the visit a memorable success.









Community Carol Service 2025





Thursday, 27th November, Ellesmere College was delighted to host our annual Community Carol Service, welcoming around 400 guests from the School and wider Ellesmere community. The choirs performed beautifully, creating a warm and reflective atmosphere as we moved into the Christmas season.

We were also honoured to welcome the Town Mayor and the High Sheriff, who joined us for the service and kindly posed for a photograph with our students. Our thanks go to all who attended and contributed to a truly memorable evening for the College.





Congratulations to Old Ellesmerian Hector Pardoe

We are proud to celebrate Old Ellesmerian Hector Pardoe, named 2025 BBC Green Sport Award – Athlete of the Year. A two-time British Olympian and open water swimmer, Hector has used his sport to promote environmental awareness and cleaner waters.



Earlier this year, he became the first person to complete the Three Lakes Challenge, swimming Britain's three largest lakes back-to-back in under 24 hours, while raising awareness of water pollution through his documentary King of the Lakes, viewed over half a million times.

Well done, Hector, for this remarkable achievement and for inspiring us all to protect our planet.

Celebrating Our Old Ellesmerian Success



On 30 October, Marcus (OE 2021–2023) officially passed out of RAF College Cranwell as an Officer in the Royal Air Force and will now progress to the next stage of his journey: Flying Training.

Marcus joined Ellesmere College in 2021 for Sixth Form and quickly became a valued member of the school community. We are incredibly proud to see Marcus take this exciting step forward and join the ranks of commissioned officers. We look forward to following his future achievements and wish him every success as he embarks on this next chapter of his RAF career.

OE City Drinks in Belgravia

On Thursday, 23rd October, it was wonderful to welcome so many Old Ellesmerians to the OE City Drinks at The Antelope, London Belgravia. Guests ranged from recent 2021 graduates to OEs in their 90s, sharing stories and reconnecting across generations.

The event also provided the perfect opportunity to introduce our new Head, Mr Shaw, and Mrs Shaw, to the OE community.











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Discover Ellesmere College Open Morning

Saturday 26th September 2026
from 10am to 1pm (last tour at 12pm)

Yr 5 & 6 Explorer Day

Thursday 26th February 2026

Scan the QR code to get in touch

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