

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

The Ellesmerian 2025

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LIFE:READY

Academic | Sports | Arts | Leadership | Global

What defines a successful school? Is it the academic results that students have achieved when they leave? Is it the sporting cups, House Points or Colours that they accrue? It is indeed all of these but also a lot more besides. What defines and differentiates Ellesmere College is the success of our students at all levels and how we prepare them for life after College – to be truly 'Life:Ready'.

Our ethos – that every student is, and should be treated as an individual - runs through everything we do and is the focus of our Five Key Principles that work in synergy and which we base our educational philosophy on in the areas of:
Academic | Sport | The Arts | Leadership | Global

These principles drive our learning, co-curricular and pastoral programmes to enable each student to flourish, grow and be successful on both their academic and personal platforms as they take their journey through the College, and beyond. We challenge them at all levels to be the best they can be, successfully developing the individual, supporting their skills development for life and allowing them to learn through the broad range of opportunities we offer.

We are Ellesmere: We are Life:Ready.

Academic
- Student Centred Learning
- A Level, BTEC & International Baccalaureate (IB)
- WAoS Flexible Study Programmes
- Support for Learning (SfL) Provision
- National & International University Destinations

Sport
- World Academy of Sport (WAoS)
- Athlete Friendly Education Centre (AFEC)
- World Class Facilities
- 6 Sporting Academies
- Professional Pathways to Success

The Arts
- Artsmark Platinum Award
- International Choir Success
- Community Theatre Provision
- 5 Choirs and Community Sinfonia
- Conservatoire and University Destinations

Leadership
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF) & Expeditions
- Institute of Leadership & Management
- Enrichment Programme – EPQ, ESB
- Careers Partnership Programme

Global
- Model United Nations (MUN)
- Monduli Green Charity – Tanzania
- SAT USA University Preparation
- International Baccalaureate Qualification
- University Destinations Worldwide

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Captains of School

Head Boy: C. M. Mahoney
Head Girl: S. A. McNamara

College Prefects

S. E. Balakrishnan
C. C. Beuer
O. Crossen
A. Farr
F. Davies
J. P. Gannicott
B. E. E. Gardner Mc-Taggart
E. C. R. Garratt
D. Golabek
I. L. Gray
M. R. Hartinger
V. Holanova
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The Headmaster's Speech
Speech Day 2025



Headmaster Mrs Vicky Pritt-Roberts

Good morning, ladies, gentlemen, and students. Firstly, may I thank our Custos for his kind words. It has been an honour to be the first female Headmaster although in sad circumstances and at a difficult time for independent education. This has been a team effort, and I accept your kind words on behalf of all staff.

It is clear to me that our Captains of School have embraced all that life at Ellesmere has to offer and made a valued contribution to keeping our community vibrant. Education is about curiosity, learning, acquiring skills, researching, studying, and of course, proving that you have learnt by sitting examinations. However, a place of learning is so much more than that – it is where young people (and the rest of us) come together with common interests, goals, make mistakes, learn from them, build resilience and hopefully emotional regulation. A place of learning prepares people for life, and the world. It is an ecosystem, a rich and diverse one where our cultural experiences enrich our interactions, it is an environment full of opportunities, ones that when taken up see young people flourish.

I share with you today just some of the highlights that our learners have engaged with, the opportunities they have taken to flourish. You won't believe me when I say that I have attempted to be brief, there is much to report.

We are the first UK Boarding school to partner up with the Ukraine Together project with PIPL Lyceum Lviv. As part of this collaboration, students have taken part in a joint Public Speaking Event, shared their insight on the sporting life of the College, established pen pal connections with students in Ukraine and conducted an online interview with students attending the Lyceum for a report in the school newspaper. This marvellous collaboration work will continue despite the complexity of the context.

Our Sixth Form Geographers were able to engage in a residential trip to Iceland at the end of last term. Ideal for those studying geography with so much to examine and they were lucky enough to witness the Northern Lights. An educational trip to Madrid was offered to year 8, 9 and 10 with a focus on cultural understanding and communication skills. This was an excellent opportunity for learning outside of the classroom and for students to apply their language skills acquired through their Spanish lessons. Our musicians embarked on a trip to Amsterdam, more of that later.

Combining Art and Language interests our senior students engaged in a cross-curricular educational visit to the National Gallery in London where the Art and Spanish sixth form students saw the works of Velasco, a 19th century Mexican landscape artist. Our Politics and Economics students also visited London to attend Parliament and a range of Economic/ Political lectures.

The annual battlefields trip organised by the History department was supported as ever, by the inimitable Mr Wood, retired Head of History, and Sixth Form, as a first-rate tour guide. His in-depth knowledge providing a rich source of information for students and staff.



Head Boy and Head Girl

We continue our commitment to the Model United Nations programme by competing in external competitions at Queen's School, Cheadle Hulme and Shrewsbury School. Following which the MUN team (with a little help from staff) organised an internal 'mock' Model United Nations debate this term involving all Year 9.

One of our students, Natt Kritchanarat, had the honour of being invited to attend as a youth delegate at the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) which took place at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The same student has been selected to be one of the "Honourable Mention" recipients of the Cambridge Re:think Essay Competition 2025. This placed her in the top 10% shortlisted from over 13,000 submissions. She has been invited to the Award Ceremony and Dinner at the University of Cambridge at the end of this month.



Natt at Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

House Debating has taken place with teams comprised of a Year 10 and Year 12 students following the British Parliamentary debating rules, not something we see in use in Parliament, but good manners prevailed in the Ellesmere version.

Our mathematicians once again demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in the UKMT Mathematical Challenges across all levels. In the Junior Maths Challenge 8 students earned Silver certificates and 9 were awarded Bronze. In the Intermediate Challenge for Years 9 to 11, 23 students achieved certificates: 2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 17 Bronze. And in the Senior Challenge 18 earned certificates; 5 Gold, 4 Silver, and 9 Bronze awards.

All our Year 10 Biologists took part in this year's Biology Challenge. Nationally over 42,000 students took part and to achieve any kind of certificate is an outstanding achievement. Three students achieved gold certificates putting them in the top 5% of those who took part.

As always, Ellesmere Arts can be relied upon to provide a range of opportunities for our pupils to engage with, Art, Drama, Dance, Music

The Senior School Competitive House Play Competition, a firm feature in the calendar, saw Houses take on four episodes of the American sitcom 'Friends'. Senior school students performed the well-known characters handling the comedic timing, canned laughter and punchlines of this well-known series. Students worked hard on performing, directing, creating set, costumes as well as lighting and sound design. All contributing to a very successful House Play Competition.

This year's senior school production was The Addams Family. This saw a talented cast bring the devilish and familiar characters of Morticia, Gomez, Wednesday, Pugsley, Fester and Lurch to life. From the creation of the highly impressive set to the quirky costumes and highly entertaining double act moments, audiences were treated to entertaining renditions of the well-known score as well as fierce fencing, ghoulish ghost dancing and the delivery of a fantastically quick-witted script.

For the Lower School Competitive House Play Competition Year 7 and 8 took on the challenge of bringing to life the beautiful stories of Julia Donaldson. The audience were treated to sensitive renditions of the well-known tales; 'The Gruffalo', 'Room on the Broom' and 'Stick Man'. Pupils worked hard to bring these much-loved characters to life with originality and enthusiasm.

The Lower School Production saw over fifty students from Years 7 and 8 seize this opportunity as they took on roles of wild woodland characters and the farmers in this year's Lower School production of Roald Dahl's tale of Fantastic Mr Fox. With a cast that filled the stage and more taking on responsibilities backstage or assisting with costume and props, our lower school pupils epitomised the meaning of teamwork.

The dedication of our parents' society must be noted here. Not only did they provide the refreshments they also enthusiastically dressed as Morticia for the Addam Family interval or joyfully wore animal ears when handing out ice creams in the Fantastic Mr Fox interval – such dedication and support is much appreciated. I must record my thanks for the donation of a wonderful collage of the College which you will soon see on permanent display.



Lower School House Play

A core part of our Arts offer is the opportunity to take the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) speech and Drama examinations. Over 45 examinations taken this academic year, 88% achieving distinction. LAMDA students have also experienced success at this year's Chester Speech and Drama Festival.

It was a delight to see our Junior Dance club hold their inaugural Dance evening entitled 'Ignite'. Pupils in Lower and Middle School worked hard on preparing thought provoking and inspiring performance pieces. The audience saw an array of genres including street, lyrical, contemporary, Jazz and musical theatre. Dancers performed as solos, duos, trios and group pieces and impressed the audience with their enthusiasm, professionalism and skills.



IGNITE Dance Show

Students have enjoyed live performance throughout the year from experiencing the Arts Award Pantomime, West End productions of Mean Girls and Stranger Things: The First Shadow as well as a very moving performance of Dear Evan Hansen. Students also enjoyed a highly creative Drama workshop led by practitioners from The New York and Los Angeles based American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) College of Performing Arts which focused on characterisation and performance skills.

Our termly musical endeavours continue to delight with concerts each term. The beautiful Carols by Candlelight services, the annual House Singing competition, and a fine performance by so many of our musicians at the Oswestry Music Festival with a first place in 23 classes.

A highlight of the calendar was the Chamber Choir performing at Symphony Hall in the Barnardo's National Choir Finals. Many of our students took Associated Board Royal School of Music (ABRSM) exams with excellent outcomes.

At the end of Lent term, the music department took 52 students to Amsterdam. The choir performed an afternoon concert to an appreciative audience at the English Reformed Church and performed a Sunday Eucharist at Westerkerk, Amsterdam. The busy music calendar ended the year with a



Raising the Roof Winter Concert

spectacular senior school Gala concert in May and an equally enjoyable Lower School Concert in June.

As you will be aware, we have launched the Music School Appeal, an ambitious project aimed at renovating one of the original college buildings to provide a first-class music facility. There have been concerts, a Winter Ball organised by our Parents Society, Lower School Bazaar, an evening quiz event, and a musical afternoon tea. The College is also reaching out to our global family for support for this exciting project across our Old Ellesmerian network.

The Chapel is a central focus of Ellesmere life both in term time with our regular pattern of services and beautiful Carols by Candlelight services but also out of term time as services for Christmas Eve, Easter Day and Mothering Sunday take place. There were five communions in October and three baptisms: one in October and two took place this morning.

On the sports fields our pupils continue to engage enthusiastically in a range of sports guided by our Games teachers and coaching staff although I will start with an indoor challenge and note our thanks to Mr Atherton for his work in ensuring our pupils are provided with excellent opportunities to pursue Chess to a higher level. We hosted ten teams for the National Junior Chess Qualifiers last term. All players were able to enjoy their first experience at competitive chess which is becoming increasingly popular and an area of growth at the College.



National Junior Chess Qualifiers at Ellesmere College

Moving onto outdoor sports, Ellesmere College has once again been named as one of the Top 100 schools for cricket in the country by the world's leading cricket magazine, The Cricketer. Ellesmere College was selected from hundreds of applicants to make the final list against an extensive list of criteria that each school had to meet. All entries are forensically examined against an exhaustive set of internal and external criteria.

Four players were honoured with County Awards, one of which was selected for the Lancashire Thunder Academy. Two more are on the Northwest Thunder EPP Programme, partnering with Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria. Two Ellesmereians were the highest run scorers for their Shropshire age group scoring notable centuries and are involved in the Shropshire/ Worcestershire County Cricket Club programme. There are several boys and girls trialling this winter with Cheshire, Shropshire and North Wales.



Netball First Team

Cup successes were the U15 Girls who won the English Cricket Board (ECB) U15 Area County Finals and represented Shropshire in the regional finals. They were runners up in the Midland Final narrowly missing out on the National Finals at Lords Cricket Ground. They also progressed to the last 8 U15 National hardball competition.

The Equestrian team continues to represent Ellesmere College very successfully, once again dominating the Regional Schools' Show-Jumping Qualifier competition and qualifying multiple teams and individuals for the National Championships. Our riders include very experienced senior members and a burgeoning, enthusiastic squad from Lower School.

Golf goes from strength to strength with the Ellesmere Team coming 5th in the Independent Schools Golf Association UK Tournament, placing Ellesmere 3rd in the Independent School Golf rankings. At the same tournament, held at Slaly Hall Golf Club in Northumberland, one of our Sixth formers, Charlie Boys, won the National Schools Singles Finals, becoming the UK champion with a phenomenal performance.

Girls Hockey ended the season as winners of the prestigious Wrekin 7s tournament, second place in the U18 County Championship, and qualified as runners-up for the Midlands Finals in Nottingham, just missing out on a semi-final place. Their regular evening matches played against local club sides continues to build strong ties with the wider hockey community. 14 students across age groups represented the county, highlighting the depth of talent within the school. Boys' hockey continues to grow, and all age ranges have the opportunity play hockey and compete with local schools.

In netball our U11 team qualified for the Primary School County Finals. They also showed real spirit as runners-up in the very successful Netball Festival we hosted here at the College in May. Our U14s and U15s continued that momentum, becoming North Shropshire Champions – a brilliant achievement. This success was mirrored by our 1st team, who secured some impressive wins throughout the year. The senior girls' netball and hockey squads are planning a senior tour to South Africa in 2026.

We were very pleased to host a keen team of footballers from Ellesmere Muscat who joined us for a visit in the Michaelmas Term. They enjoyed taking part in a stadium tour at Etihad Stadium, attending a match in Wolverhampton to watch Manchester City play Wolves and participate in various training sessions with the football academy and a scout assessment day. Our Academy also visited Bolton Wanderers for stadium tour and training session with academy coaches.

The 2024–25 season was another outstanding year for rugby at Ellesmere College. The Under 15s and Under 16s both enjoyed impressive domestic campaigns, combining strong league performances with exciting cup runs. The 1st XV completed an unbeaten domestic season—a remarkable feat that speaks volumes about their consistency, teamwork and resilience. Their dominance extended into cup competition as well, reaching the last eight nationally in a fiercely contested tournament, underlining their status as one of the top school teams in the country.

Ellesmere's reputation as a development hub continues to grow, with regular representation in professional academies including Gloucester, North Wales and Sale Sharks. This pathway to elite rugby was further cemented with the selection of Theo



Harvey Leonard with Director of Rugby Mr Murphy

MacAndrew who was invited to train with England Under 17s and Harvey Leonard as an age-grade international for Ireland, where he made his debut against Italy—a proud moment and a fitting highlight to an exceptional season.

The 1st VII had a successful sevens season which saw them win the Plate competition at the North of England Sevens and winners of the Kings Worcester Sevens.

In Shooting the Ellesmere College Rifle Club remains a popular activity. Once again, we hosted the West Midland's and Northwest Pistol Championships. The College had a team who went on represent us in the British Shooting schools National Pistol Final. Youth team finished 5th and Senior 6th in GB. One of our talented shooters Annie Williams, holds the current British Open Junior Women's Air Pistol Championship



Chapel rehearsal ahead of Amsterdam Music Tour

It has been a successful and significant year for the Swimming Academy, starting off with achieving Swim England club affiliation in September. We have had student-athletes selected to represent Wales, England and Guernsey Junior teams. There has been medal success on county, regional and national stages throughout the year, along with swimmers qualifying and racing at World Championship trials. We look forward to an exciting summer of racing at various national and international competitions, where we are excited to see what the Ellesmere College Swimming Academy can achieve to close out the 24-25 swimming season which continues through this month.

Our strong position in the Tennis world is maintained as our seniors reached the finals of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Senior Students Boys Champions played at Nottingham National Tennis Centre and crowned Midlands champions after a hard-fought tennis competition which saw them beat opposition from across the region. This placed the boys as one of the four national champions across the UK regions. The girls team almost mirrored this achievement narrowly losing in the LTA Senior Girls final, finishing in the top eight in the UK. 18 players represented their county teams this year in all age groups from under 9s to under 18s. 3 players have been offered places in American Universities with tennis scholarships.

All three Sections of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army, RAF and Navy have had a successful year. Easter Camp took cadets and staff to Dundonnell climbing some iconic peaks and they will be off again on summer camp shortly. Throughout the year each of the sections have provided pupils with outdoor training, opportunities to acquire new skills and challenges to test themselves, building confidence, teamwork and resilience. Expeditions for each section took place this week with a range of excellent achievements, and most importantly very positive feedback on the cadets from staff who took them.

We remain the largest school provider in the county of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Collectively all award participants in College have contributed 3224 volunteering hours. 51 pupils will complete their Bronze Award by the end of term and 27 continued from Bronze last year onto the silver award, completing their final expedition in summer term with impressive commitment.

The prestigious Gold Award continues to thrive with 21 students engaging in either the canoeing or walking expedition as their final test this term. 18 pupils (Year 13 and some OEs) have completed their Gold Award this year, some of whom have already been to either St James' Palace or Buckingham Palace to receive this prestigious award which recognises their efforts on several fronts: we have had young people volunteer time in College or further afield in Nursing Homes and seen a variety develop skills from driving to acapella choir singing and computer programming: a very Ellesmerian level of diversity and excellence.

Our Lower school activities programme provides enrichment in academic, arts, and outdoor education with the Arts Carousel, Inspirational people exhibition, World Book Day events, House competitions in debating, House play, quiz, singing, chess, poetry, maths challenge, STEM challenges, volcano competition as just some of the activities and opportunities through the year along with the chance to engage in learning Mandarin phrases and enjoying Chinese New Year celebration courtesy of Mrs Ding. The range of activities and opportunities in Lower School are essential in laying the foundations that are built on in senior school, providing the climate for individuals to flourish.

It is the time of year when we must say goodbye to staff as they move onto a new chapter. There are quite a few this year, and as is the tradition. we start with the most recent to join us.



MUN Conference at ShrewsMUN



Muscat Students visit Ellesmere

Kathryn Forrester

Mrs Forrester started with the College February 2024 to March 2024 as a supply teacher having decided to step back from a long period of time as a Head of Department of Maths in Ysgol Clywedog. She moved to part time work and joined us for a full year from September. She has a range of expertise one of which is as a registrar and is licenced to conduct civil wedding ceremonies, as well as having been brave enough to be a driving instructor. Mrs Forrester now moves on to work part-time at Ysgol Dinas Bran in Llangollen.

Adam Price

Mr Adam Price worked at the College on a pert time basis from November 2022 to July 2023 and despite being immersed in a major house renovation he was willing to rejoin us in November 2024 to take on some business teaching alongside some learning support work. I am pleased to report the renovation work is making good progress but not complete and he will be devoting himself to getting that across the finish line in the coming months.

Eliza Badham-Moore joined us in March 2024 on our usual one-year programme for young theatre technicians to gain experience by working as our Arts Centre Manager. Those of you with attention to detail will note that as a one-year programme it would be anticipated to end in March 2025. However, we convinced Eliza to stay with us longer. The time has come where she is off to pastures new and, as one expects in the theatre world, she is embarking on several projects with theatre companies. Her expertise has been key to the success of our productions whilst providing training opportunities to our pupil stage tech crew.

Gaynor Llewellyn-Jenkin

Mrs Llewelyn-Jenkins came on a two-term placement in January 2024 to as a Trainee Teacher of English. An opportunity came up at the start of this academic year for a temporary post as an Early Career Teacher and Mrs Llewellyn-Jenkins formally joined us. She has enthusiastically engaged in a range of activities and with a firm passion for performance she has been a stalwart of all things musical and theatrical which will, no doubt, continue as she takes up her new role at her next school.

Jamie Williams

Mr Williams joined us in September 2022 to teach Computer Science and took on a tutor's role in Lower School. A keen musician he was seen as much in the Arts Centre accompanying a performance, or on the stage playing in a band for House singing, or at the parents' society Winters Ball, as he could be found in front of a computer. He has been an enthusiastic contributor to Lower School plays, involved in our Arts Award programme, participated in many trips with school including a London Theatre trip and assisted in Lower School Forest school activities. He leaves us to take up a post at St. Martin's School.

Clare Pearce

Mrs Clare Pearce joined our KS2 teaching team in October 2021 teaching all the year groups in this section and more recently predominately with Year 6. Mrs Pearce is PE trained and coaches netball in Lower School. Another enthusiast for all things theatre related she has been a valuable contributor to the musical theatre work in Lower School.



Oswestry Music Festival

She has directed choreography for Lower School plays and worked with pupils on singing for plays. She could be relied upon to support the choir in various concerts and in the Oswestry Music Festival. Her life is intertwined with sport, drama and musical theatre and as she moves onto another school, I am confident those passions will continue.

Stephen Prescott

Mr Prescott left us at half term to take up a Head of MFL post in the Wirral. He took on a range of posts whilst at Ellesmere. Joining us in September 2014 as a teacher of Spanish and French across all year groups, and to GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate. He was a tutor in St. Patrick's, then moved onto becoming Housemaster of St. Cuthbert's in September 2016. He decided to step away from that work in July 2022 and moved to Lower School, becoming Assistant Head of Lower School in December 2023. He was always willing to support a range of expeditions including Duke of Edinburgh and participated in two educational visits to Madrid in May 2016 and 2018. An enthusiastic sportsman with a passion for football, coaching the first team for 11 years. He also assisted the U14 cricket in 2015 and 2016 and U14 rugby 2014 – 2016.

David Gregory
Since 2011 Mr David Gregory has diligently provided coaching for the Ellesmere College Rifle Club. He intended to retire last year, his loyalty to the club is such that he extended that by a year to support new staff coming in. His calm, patient and gentle manner has encouraged so many young shooters over the years. He and his wife look forward to him definitely retiring at the end of this term.

Tom Rylands joined us in September 2009 as our Head Shooting Coach. He was already an accomplished sportsman as he was off on a tour to South Africa with the England Rifle Team the same year. He was a seasoned fellow having gone on his first shooting tour abroad back in 1984. Tom Rylands started shooting full bore at university, shot for Cheshire since 1982 and gained his first GB cap in 1988. He toured with GB to South Africa (4 times), Australia (twice), Canada (3 times) and the USA. He captained England on tour to South Africa in 2009 and took the England team to Canada in 2019, and the Commonwealth Shooting Federation European Division Championship 2022.

Tom was the National Chief Coach for Army Cadet Shooting and worked tirelessly to promote all Cadet shooting activities. He was instrumental in encouraging schools to compete in the Bisley Schools meeting, the most prestigious independent schools shooting competition. He attended his first Bisley in 1978, and he was particularly proud to take Ellesmere College to compete over several years and to finally see them win the renowned Ashburton Shield in 2015. That holds fond personally memories for me as my son was a member of that team. Tom has sadly had to leave us due to ill health, and we wish him all the best as he works towards recovery.

Rod Jones
Rod Jones started out at the College as a cricket coach in January 2008 (although he was doing private coaching before that, so the connection goes back further) He quickly became a reliable contributor to other sports, notably football and assisted with expeditions. He has been an integral part of the growth of cricket for both girls and boys.

His experience as initially a player in the Shropshire and Birmingham League and as a coach of the Shropshire County Cricket Club has benefitted numerous cricketers. Over the years many boys and girls have progressed onto playing for County, their national side, professional academies and some have been offered professional contacts. A number have played cricket in Australia. His contacts throughout the County as a coach, Chairman of Shropshire Cricket Board Coaches Association and particularly his numerous roles at Whitchurch Cricket Club facilitated many cricketers coming to the school.

During his time at Ellesmere, Rod has coached cricket in India and was honoured by the Shropshire Cricket Coaches Association for Outstanding Services to Coach Development. Although he has decided to step back from working at the College, he is continuing to offer private coaching to us so we will still see him albeit less than we did.

Mike McCarthy
Mr McCarthy joined Ellesmere in September 2008 as Director of Operations. During that time, he has overseen a range of projects including the installation of the Tennis Barn, refurbishment of the swimming pool, repurposing of St. John's and multiple boarding house upgrades and storm damage projects. Mike was instrumental in the set up and running of the Art Exhibition for many years and helped create a well renowned and much valued event. Likewise, the mural in the dining hall was a further logistical challenge he had to deliver on, once it was agreed that Ellesmere would be its new home! An active sportsman Mike enjoyed the staff 5-a-side football and as a keen golfer Mike has won the staff tournament in 2010 and 2013 and won the Open Championship no fewer than 8 times. He can be found on the golf course most evenings. A gentleman who shuns the limelight, being more comfortable working behind the scenes to keep the wheels in motion. As he turns the page to the next chapter, we can be certain that golf will remain a major feature.

Bill Hutchings
Mr Hutchings joined us to take up the post of Head of Lower School in September 2006. He decided to step back from that in 2010, continuing to teach lower school, principally Maths, Games and IT. He was asked to take on some of the Key stage 2 swimming lessons (or in his words he 'got roped in') ten years ago and that remained on his timetable ever since until he left. He has taught most year groups in Lower School and in the past seven years he has been tutor to Year 6 and class teacher across an even wider range of subjects. He also taught maths to Years 7 and 8. Although he made the change to part-time a few years ago his contribution to the College never diminished. He has engaged with boarding as the 'Number 3' (Assistant Housemaster) in St John's House, and then in St Hilda's, a combined experience of over seven years. Bill has made an excellent contribution to our sports programme, estimating that he has probably refereed over 100 matches (principally Rugby, but some Football) and coached a Rugby side for 15 years. An impressive record. His quick wit, gentle humour, and dedication to the art of education will be missed.

Joanne Rogers
Mrs Rogers (then Davies) Joined us in January 2004 as a maths teacher and over the years developed an expertise in supporting learners who found maths a challenge and her timetable included learning support for maths. A member of the Lower School Tutor team and a keen supporter of all things Drama related. Mrs Rogers left us at the beginning of this academic year to take early retirement.

Elaine Phillips
Mrs Phillips has a long and successful career as a primary teacher with a specialist interest in learning support. She joined Ellesmere College in 2004 in the Support for Learning department. She moved across to Lower School Key Stage two and later took on the role of Key Stage Two Manager,

overseeing the schemes of work, designing a curriculum that has helped nurture and extend our pupils academically. She has also developed an extra-curricular programme for Key Stage 2 offering our younger pupils a rich and diverse range of opportunity.

All who have benefitted from being taught by her or working alongside her concur that she is a dedicated teacher. Her planning and preparation are exemplary, her attention to the individual learning needs of her pupils has helped so many to reach their potential. Her enthusiasm for the benefits of outside the class learning has been demonstrated by the countless Christmas plays she has produced, the many educational trips she has gone on, and her active support for the clubs and activities. She has been a cornerstone of Lower School, it will be strange not to see her marshalling the younger troops at the start of the day in September. We wish her a most enjoyable retirement.

Ivor Evans

Mr Ivor Evans joined us in January 2002 teaching Brass music instrumental lessons. He has been a much-valued member of the peripatetic music team, and guided many students over the years in developing their musical expertise. He achieves the highest level of attendance at his lessons and has always worked in a meticulous way that is an example to others. Ivor is an exceptional brass player who specialism is the French Horn. He has formed and leads a band in Telford and looks forward to continuing with this moving forward. When asked what else he plans to do in retirement he quickly shared that he doesn't play golf and has no plans to – happy to see what opportunities emerge, no doubt he will follow where the music takes him.

Cliff Davies

Mr Cliff Davies joined the College in 1999, we note that falls on the last century and he is rightly acknowledged as the longest serving member leaving us this year. Arriving at the College as a teacher of Art, he came with experience of being an artist in a commercial setting and provided excellent mentoring to aspiring artists that have made their way through the doors of the Art School.

During his 26 years He has taken on many roles. As Head of Woodard for 14 years, Director of Activities for 4 Years, an excellent sixth form tutor in St Bede's. He has been a valued contributor to many Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, I suspect he has lost count of how many. He has taught Archery for many years and set up the Lower School cycling proficiency course, which remains a core part of our Lower School activity programme today. He has had a lifelong passion for cycling and followed a few tours himself. In addition to all this Cliff ran the induction programme for newly qualified teachers for over twenty years and managed the placement programme for trainee teachers.

His passion for education is obvious as soon as you engage with him in discussing teaching and learning. His calm, reflective, thoughtful demeanour has been much appreciated by all who work with him. He could be relied upon for a considered viewpoint in any discussion, a problem solver with attention to detail, and a gentle sense of humour that would lift a tired head. He is retiring from teaching but will continue with his Art and have time to pursue his interests and love of the outdoors. His steadfastness, care and attention to pupils and colleagues, has had a powerful impact on all who have had the pleasure to work with him. We wish him all the best.

I am sure you will wish to join me in saying thank you to all the staff leaving us as we show our appreciation in the usual manner.

I have shared with you the range of opportunities that our young learners have embraced this past year. A school is more than a place to go to each day, I spoke of it as an ecosystem and I am reminded of a talk given by Sir Ken Robinson, who was a major figure in the world of education. In one of his talks, he referenced a valley in California, well-known for being the lowest, driest and hottest place in America. It can get up to 49 degrees Celsius and because of the searing temperatures very little grows there, a place where the blessing of rain is rare.

In the winter of 2004, it rained in this valley. Seven inches of rain fell over a very short period. And in the spring that followed, there was a phenomenon. The whole floor of the valley was carpeted in flowers for a while. It wasn't a barren terrain, it lay dormant, waiting for the conditions to be right. The opportunities provided in a school such as ours is like that rain, and our young people are the seeds of possibility waiting to flourish.

As a smaller ecosystem within society, our purpose is to grow young minds. We teach subject matter, provide access to the Arts and Sports, we put time into outdoor activities, we run debating, offer Model United Nations experience, organise school trips to many different places both in the U.K. and across the globe.

Whilst governments, and those running the economy, are deciding the here and now, with all the ways their decisions impact on us, we have a bigger job. We are preparing the future and when I look around this hall, at all the young faces to my side, in front and behind me, I can put the concerns of today to one side. I look at our young people, at the opportunities they embrace, and I know that the future is bright.

SVPR

Head Boy and Head Girl Speeches



Staff, Parents, Students and Custos,

As we gather to honour the Year 13 leavers, it's a moment for reflection on our shared experiences at Ellesmere—filled with great memories and invaluable lessons.

It is truly an honour to stand before you today to reflect on how my experiences at Ellesmere have shaped me, not just as a student, but as a young man.

Arriving here from South Africa, my brother and I were uncertain about what to expect. However, being part of a diverse international community at Ellesmere eased our transition, as many students were navigating similar experiences. Ellesmere fosters a nurturing environment, both in and out of the classroom. It goes without saying that the staff at Ellesmere are amazing people, they will always greet you with a smile and ask how you are, whether it's Mrs Pritt-Roberts walking to her office or the grounds staff keeping the pitches in pristine condition. They may not realise it, but to a student who has just arrived here, that friendliness goes a long way to put us at ease.

The impact that the Saints' Houses have on the students not only in the Sixth Form but also in the Middle School is crucial to students in the school in having a sense of belonging, the Houses offer a place for students to be themselves with our Housemasters and lovely House mothers in my time here, they have been Rebecca and Karen who were always available to talk to in times of need, the same goes in saying for the Housemasters. Mr Garratt, my Housemaster, and history teacher. Sir, your calm and diplomatic approach helped me navigate my role as Head Boy and you guided me through many situations that were not only school related but also personal. Sir always provided a clear perspective on a situation that I faced, not only did you make my role as Head Boy slightly easier at times, but you also taught me lessons that I will take with me through life. Thank you, Sir.

To my tutor Mr Horton, Sir, you were a constant source of support and encouragement. Always ensuring that I kept up to date with my academics as well as helping me balance out my Head Boy duties with my sport and class timetable. Apart from that you also decided to lead our form along with Miss Hughes and Mr Digby along the Sandstone trail after we had all had a little bit to much fun at a party, I will forever remember that. Thank you so much Sir for everything that you have done for me.

One of the staff outside of House who I feel had a big impact on me is Mr Underhill, you were one of the first faces I encountered in Year 11. Your teaching made me think that I could take English as an A Level!! Sir, you are a remarkable individual whose presence inspires those around you. As the only male in my A level English class, thank you for having my back when the girls ganged up on me, however, you never failed to mention my age. Sir, you made my time at Ellesmere truly enjoyable by always being someone I could talk to about anything, for this I am grateful.

May I just remind you one last time - South Africa is the world's best rugby team.

Initially, my time at Ellesmere was set to be short-lived, as I planned to leave after my GCSEs. However, thanks to Mr Murphy, Mr Haycock, and the late Mr Wignall, who advocated for Caeleb and I to stay - I would not be standing here today if it weren't for them.

Reflecting on my time here, the rugby field has been a significant part of my journey, allowing me to forge friendships and create lasting memories being able to play in the first team for three years was a great honour. One highlight in particular was when the 1st rugby team beat Kirkham at home - I was able to

organise for the whole school to come down and cheer on the boys, this was a moment that fostered a sense of camaraderie reminiscent of the vibrant school spirit that I have missed back in South Africa.

Beyond the sports field - Ellesmere has given me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and particate in cultural events such as House Plays. Over the three years I have taken part in different roles for Meynell, particular highlights were singing 'Africa' with some very creative choreography or this year where I was a human table.

Serving as Head Boy has been an incredible honour. I am grateful to my Prefect Team for their support and collaboration. A special word of thanks to my fellow South African and Head Girl, Shayna. It has been such a pleasure to lead alongside you the past year, you are incredibly creative, always coming up with amazing themes for our Prefect Dinners but also how determined you are as a person has been inspiring. You did a very good job in keeping people in check though she is small, her spirit is not! I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing what the future holds for you.

It would be remis of me to not make special mention to my parents, thank you mum and dad for the sacrifices you have made for Caeleb, Reese, and I to give us a better future here in the UK. The examples that you are and the standards that you have set as parents will forever be a credit for who I am today. I know the sacrifices that have been made to keep us at Ellesmere, and it is deeply appreciated. Mum, your love and support has shaped me profoundly. Dad I am so grateful for the morals that you have instilled in me and the lessons you have taught me they have been invaluable. The manner in which you conduct yourself and the way you treat the people around you motivate me to be the best version of myself, you are truly inspiring - to not only me but everyone you interact with.

I would like to thank Mrs Pritt-Roberts, Dr Chatterjee, and Dr Gareh for their guidance in this role. I wish Mr Shaw all the best as he comes in to lead a truly exceptional school. Congratulations and good luck to next year's Heads of School, Harry, and Eve, along with their new Prefect Team.

To my Year 13 peers, it has been a pleasure getting to know you. I wish you all the greatest success in whatever you pursue. Ultimately my thanks go to Jesus Christ my lord and saviour, without his grace I would not here today.

I would like to close with my favourite scripter, "Be strong courageous do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the lord your God is with you wherever you go"

Thank you!

Conor Mahony



Good morning teachers, parents, students, custos and guests. It is an honor to stand here today to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year at Ellesmere College. When I was first given this role, I hoped I'd be able to give something back to a school that has given me so much. Not only through countless opportunities, but also a community that has supporting me over the past four years.

During this year, one of the main goals Connor and I had, was to find ways to increase the support for the extracurricular activities, in sports and culture. We were able to start off the year strongly by having almost the whole Senior School come down to support our first team rugby in their Kirkham match, which they successfully won. While the team did play incredibly well, the support from the sidelines kept them going. Reminding us of what true Ellesmerian spirit looks like.

With that Ellesmerian spirit comes our annual House competitions. House plays brought the best (and sometimes most dramatic) sides out of us, House cross-country was filled with excitement and competitiveness, and House singing, what a night. For those of you who missed it, it is one of the most anticipated events, with our theme this year being Elvis. All the Houses prepared their songs and hymns to compete. And it ended in a diplomatic, yet controversial, tie between Woodard and Wakeman-Lambart. Somehow, everyone left convinced their House had won. As a final result, Woodard has won the Academic Cup for the 5th year in a row. So, well done Woodard, it was well deserved.

Beyond these competitive events comes the Christmas Carols. A magical evening where the chapel is lit by candlelight to sing Christmas hymns. The choir plays an imperative role in this event, through their dedication and countless rehearsals, the Christmas season comes to life. So, thank you choir and Mr Coupe. Along with this festive time is our Christmas dinner and lunches, where the Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form all have the opportunity to wear colourful paper crowns and share their terrible Christmas cracker jokes.

Of course, we had our share of unexpected moments. The snow days will always be a favourite memory, especially since Ellesmere is one of the very few schools that allows snowball fights, along with a few rules...

Our Lower School has brought such vibrant energy to Ellesmere this year. I hope you all enjoyed the Easter Activity Day, the magician, the crafts, and even the surprise visit from the Easter Bunny himself. It's been so lovely watching you grow in confidence and curiosity, and I hope you know how lucky you are to begin your journey here.

As always, summer term is filled with exams for the school, yet one of the highlights is that everyone always finds a moment to watch one of the cricket matches outside on a hot summer's day. With the sun comes the countdown to the summer holidays and a reflection on how far we have all come.

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Pritt-Roberts. Over this past year, your constant support and guidance has been tremendously helpful, I am not only grateful for all the insight you have given me for this past year, but also for the future.

Dr. Chatterjee, thank you for always keeping the prefect team and I on the right track, even when things felt a little bit chaotic. Your clarity and steady presence have been a great help.

I also want to say a heartfelt thank you to Dr Gareh. Throughout the year, you have been a constant source of encouragement and reassurance. Your door was always open, whether I needed advice or just a quick chat. I'm so grateful for your patience, kindness, and unwavering support in me. Between you and Dr Chatterjee, I think we discovered that my mind truly never runs out of ideas…which I'm not sure was always a good thing for either of you!

To St. Hildas, thank you for being my home away from home. Mr and Mrs Dilks, and my tutors Mrs Kirk and Mrs Empson, your support has been deeply valued throughout this journey.

To Sandra, Vic, and Val, thank you for always being there with open doors and open hearts, ready for a quick chat when it was most needed.

And to all the other teachers who go above and beyond daily. Thank you. What makes Ellesmere such a wonderful place to be isn't the schoolwork or the sports. It is the people around that show how much they care.

To this year's Prefect Team and Captains, we have come a long way and we have all learnt a lot. Thank you for all your support for not just Connor and I, but for supporting each other.

And to my parents, mum and dad. I do not think a thank you in this speech could describe how grateful I am for you, and everything you do for me. Your love, support and guidance has truly shaped the person I am today. This year has been challenging in many ways, but your patience and encouragement have helped me through every obstacle. Whether it was those late-night phone calls offering advice or just letting me talk when I needed to, you have been my greatest source of strength. I'm so grateful for everything you've done, often behind the scenes, to help me keep going and believe in myself. And to Kieran, Erin, and James, thank you for always being there, whether for a quick laugh or a helping hand. Your support has meant so much to me throughout this year and having you by my side has made all the difference.

One of the greatest things about this school is the sheer range of opportunities it offers. Whether it's through music, sport, art, or academics, Ellesmere is a place where you can discover what you enjoy. And when you find that passion, there is always someone here ready to help you pursue it. If I could give one piece of advice to every pupil here, it would be this: say yes. Say yes to the things that scare you, challenge you, and excite you. You never know where they'll take you, and Ellesmere is the perfect place to start.

Looking ahead, I know I'm not the only one stepping into the unknown. But everything I've learnt here: resilience, leadership, kindness, and courage, has prepared me for whatever comes next. Ellesmere doesn't just prepare you for exams, it prepares you for life.

And finally, to Connor, our Head Boy, thank you for your help and support this year. It has been a privilege to work beside you. I know your leadership and commitment will continue to follow you into the future. I hope that both Connor and I have left a little bit of our South African spirit with Ellesmere.

To our new School Captains, Eve and Harry, congratulations. I wish you both the very best of luck as you take on the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead. I'm confident that with your leadership, the school will continue to thrive and achieve great things.

It has been the greatest honour to serve as your Captain of School. Wishing you all a wonderful summer break and to all the Year 13s, you have all left your lasting mark on the school. One day, the photos of us in the corridors will look old and distant, and the students walking past will see '2025' and think of it as a lifetime ago. But to us, it feels like just the other day. These past years are only just the beginning of the rest of your lives. As Walt Disney said, "all dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." So, make sure to dream big.

Thank you.

Shayna McNamara

Prize Winners for 2025

Special Prizes

Meg Griffiths	James Merrick Cup for Academic Achievement
Joshua Norris	The Evans Cup for ICT (Donated by Mr Nicolson in 2006, grandfather of OE's Rachel and Daniel Evans) Services to the Choir, and The Endeavour and Achievement Award
Lee Hickson	Drama and The Marilyn Amako Cup for Vocal Excellence (Donated by family of Marilyn Amako teacher for EAL and Japanese at Ellesmere 2001 to 2010).
Chris Astbury	The Richardson Cup for Services to Drama (Donated by Richardson family 2013) The Claire Griffith Cup for Charity & Philanthropy (Awarded to a senior student who raises funds and awareness for a charity during their school years, with dedication and passion to their cause.)
Annabel Bullivant	Instrumental Music
Peter Brown	Baulcott Organ Prize
Tabitha Kimber	Garnett Prize for Creative Music
Sophia Janahi	Marsh Cup for Musician of the Year Keith Smith Historical Essay
Tibby Galliers	Lovel Prize for English Literature
Alix Nicholas	Excellence in Media Production
Frederick Prust	GCSE Media Production
Thomas Lamerton	The Hollway Technology Award
Evan Garratt	Jebson Shield for History
James Gannicott	Mark Willis Science Prize Awarded to the highest average mark across two sciences at advanced level. The Ollier Prize for MFL (Donated by Maureen Ollier retired teacher 2009)
Josh Mackintosh	Colin Russell Prize for Endeavour in Biology
Oscar Crossen	The Sandra Lloyd Cup for Chemistry (In memory of Lab Technician 2011)
Moritz Hartinger	Physics Endeavour Prize & The Brendan Wignall Cup for Excellence in Original Thinking
Alberto Rescigno	The Woodard Midland Division Talbot Prize for Mathematics
Harry Hepburn	The Orr Prize for Outstanding Sociological Perception
Stephanie Edwards	The Old Ellesmerian President's Cup (OE spirit contribution to School)
Isobel Gray & Myles Webster	Gledhill O.E. Prize for Leadership, Initiative and Excellence
Cosima Beuer	Contribution to the International Life of the College
Ciaran Dunne & Vlad Vukčević	The Woodard Board Prize (Donated by Woodard Corporation and awarded for notable contribution to the Christian Ethos of the college)
Felicity Davies	Sportswoman of the Year
George Owen	Sportsman of the Year & BTEC Diploma Sport: Academic Commitment
Charlie Boys	Excellence in a single Sport: Sportsperson of the Year IGSA UK National Golf Champion 2025, England Development Squad
Connor Mahoney	Headteacher's Prize: Head Boy
Shayna McNamara	Headteacher's Prize: Head Girl

The Common Room
President's Report



The Michaelmas term of 2024 was a significant milestone in the career of Mr Clewlow as the father of the Common Room marked his one hundredth term at the college – A remarkable achievement. Mr Clewlow has taught Chemistry at the college for thirty three years and says he has no intention of slowing down yet! Over the course of his time here he has made a great contribution to the life of the school by serving as a house master in three different boarding houses as well as running the CCF Army contingent for the majority of that time. We are all deeply thankful for the contribution he has made.

In sporting news, the annual football match was held between the Staff and prefect at the end of the summer term. A thoroughly enjoyable game ended with a 5-4 scoreline in favour of the teachers. Goal scorers included Mr Dilks, Mr Horton and Mr Atherton. Thank you to everyone who took part and we look forward to continuing the fixture next year. The social tennis goes from strength to strength with this year's Reffel Open winners being Jon Morgan and Laura Oakes. Let's see if they can successfully defend their title next year!

James Dilks
President of Common Room



Kathryn Forrester

Mrs Forrester started with the College February 2024 to March 2024 as a supply teacher having decided to step back from a long period of time as a Head of Department of Maths in Ysgol Clywedog. She moved to part time work and joined us for a full year from September. She has a range of expertise one of which is as a registrar and is licenced to conduct civil wedding ceremonies, as well as having been brave enough to be a driving instructor. Mrs Forrester now moves on to work part-time at Ysgol Dinas Bran in Llangollen.



Adam Price

Mr Adam Price worked at the College on a pert time basis from November 2022 to July 2023 and despite being immersed in a major house renovation he was willing to rejoin us in November 2024 to take on some business teaching alongside some learning support work. I am pleased to report the renovation work is making good progress but not complete and he will be devoting himself to getting that across the finish line in the coming months.



Eliza Badham-Moore

Eliza Badham-Moore joined us in March 2024 on our usual one-year programme for young theatre technicians to gain experience by working as our Arts Centre Manager. Those of you with attention to detail will note that as a one-year programme it would be anticipated to end in March 2025. However, we convinced Eliza to stay with us longer. The time has come where she is off to pastures new and, as one expects in the theatre world, she is embarking on several projects with theatre companies. Her expertise has been key to the success of our productions whilst providing training opportunities to our pupil stage tech crew.



Gaynor Llewellyn-Jenkin

Mrs Llewelyn-Jenkins came on a two-term placement in January 2024 to as a Trainee Teacher of English. An opportunity came up at the start of this academic year for a temporary post as an Early Career Teacher and Mrs Llewellyn-Jenkins formally joined us. She has enthusiastically engaged in a range of activities and with a firm passion for performance she has been a stalwart of all things musical and theatrical which will, no doubt, continue as she takes up her new role at her next school.



Jamie Williams

Mr Williams joined us in September 2022 to teach Computer Science and took on a tutor's role in Lower School. A keen musician he was seen as much in the Arts Centre accompanying a performance, or on the stage playing in a band for House singing, or at the parents' society Winters Ball, as he could be found in front of a computer. He has been an enthusiastic contributor to Lower School plays, involved in our Arts Award programme, participated in many trips with school including a London Theatre trip and assisted in Lower School Forest school activities. He leaves us to take up a post at St. Martin's School.



Clare Pearce

Mrs Clare Pearce joined our KS2 teaching team in October 2021 teaching all the year groups in this section and more recently predominately with Year 6. Mrs Pearce is PE trained and coaches netball in lower school. Another enthusiast for all things theatre related she has been a valuable contributor to the musical theatre work in Lower School. She has directed choreography for Lower School plays and worked with pupils on singing for plays. She could be relied upon to support the choir in various concerts and in the Oswestry Music Festival. Her life is intertwined with sport, drama and musical theatre and as she moves onto another school, I am confident those passions will continue.



Stephen Prescott

Mr Prescott left us at half term to take up a Head of MFL post in the Wirral. He took on a range of posts whilst at Ellesmere. Joining us in September 2014 as a teacher of Spanish and French across all year groups, and to GCSE, A Level and the International Baccalaureate. He was a tutor in St. Patrick's, then moved onto becoming Housemaster of St. Cuthbert's in September 2016. He decided to step away from that work in July 2022 and moved to Lower School, becoming Assistant Head of Lower School in December 2023. He was always willing to support a range of expeditions including Duke of Edinburgh and participated in two educational visits to Madrid in May 2016 and 2018. An enthusiastic sportsman with a passion for football, coaching the first team for 11 years. He also assisted the U14 cricket in 2015 and 2016 and U14 rugby 2014 – 2016.



Tom Rylands

Tom Rylands joined us in September 2009 as our Head Shooting Coach. He was already an accomplished sportsman as he was off on a tour to South Africa with the England Rifle Team the same year. He was a seasoned fellow having gone on his first shooting tour abroad back in 1984. Tom Rylands started shooting full bore at university, shot for Cheshire since 1982 and gained his first GB cap in 1988. He toured with GB to South Africa (4 times), Australia (twice), Canada (3 times) and the USA. He captained England on tour to South Africa in 2009 and took the England team to Canada in 2019, and the Commonwealth Shooting Federation European Division Championship 2022.

Tom was the National Chief Coach for Army Cadet Shooting and worked tirelessly to promote all Cadet shooting activities. He was instrumental in encouraging schools to compete in the Bisley Schools meeting, the most prestigious independent schools shooting competition. He attended his first Bisley in 1978, and he was particularly proud to take Ellesmere College to compete over several years and to finally see them win the renowned Ashburton Shield in 2015. That holds fond personally memories for me as my son was a member of that team. Tom has sadly had to leave us due to ill health, and we wish him all the best as he works towards recovery.



Rod Jones

Rod Jones started out at the College as a cricket coach in January 2008 (although he was doing private coaching before that, so the connection goes back further) He quickly became a reliable contributor to other sports, notably football and assisted with expeditions. He has been an integral part of the growth of cricket for both girls and boys.
His experience as initially a player in the Shropshire and Birmingham League and as a coach of the Shropshire County Cricket Club has benefitted numerous cricketers. Over the years many boys and girls have progressed onto playing for County, their national side, professional academies and some have been offered professional contacts. A number have played cricket in Australia. His contacts throughout the County as a coach, Chairman of Shropshire Cricket Board Coaches Association and particularly his numerous roles at Whitchurch Cricket Club facilitated many cricketers coming to the school.

During his time at Ellesmere, Rod has coached cricket in India and was honoured by the Shropshire Cricket Coaches Association for Outstanding Services to Coach Development. Although he has decided to step back from working at the College, he is continuing to offer private coaching to us so we will still see him albeit less than we did.



Bill Hutchings

Mr Hutchings joined us to take up the post of Head of Lower School in September 2006. He decided to step back from that in 2010, continuing to teach lower school, principally Maths, Games and IT. He was asked to take on some of the Key stage 2 swimming lessons (or in his words he 'got roped in') ten years ago and that remained on his timetable ever since until he left. He has taught most year groups in Lower school and in the past seven years he has been tutor to Year 6 and class teacher across an even wider range of subjects. He also taught maths to Years 7 and 8. Although he made the change to part-time a few years ago his contribution to the College never diminished. He has engaged with boarding as the 'Number 3' (Assistant Housemaster) in St John's House, and then in St Hilda's, a combined experience of over seven years. Bill has made an excellent contribution to our sports programme, estimating that he has probably refereed over 100 matches (principally Rugby, but some Football) and coached a Rugby side for 15 years. An impressive record. His quick wit, gentle humour, and dedication to the art of education will be missed.



Elaine Phillips

Mrs Phillips has a long and successful career as a primary teacher with a specialist interest in learning support. She joined Ellesmere College in 2004 in the Support for Learning department. She moved across to Lower School Key Stage two and later took on the role of Key Stage Two Manager, overseeing the schemes of work, designing a curriculum that has helped nurture and extend our pupils academically. She has also developed an extra-curricular programme for Key Stage 2 offering our younger pupils a rich and diverse range of opportunity.

All who have benefitted from being taught by her or working alongside her concur that she is a dedicated teacher. Her planning and preparation are exemplary, her attention to the individual learning needs of her pupils has helped so many to reach their potential. Her enthusiasm for the benefits of outside the class learning has been demonstrated by the countless Christmas plays she has produced, the many educational trips she has gone on, and her active support for the clubs and activities. She has been a cornerstone of Lower School, it will be strange not to see her marshalling the younger troops at the start of the day in September. We wish her a most enjoyable retirement.



Cliff Davies

Mr Cliff Davies joined the College in 1999, we note that falls on the last century and he is rightly acknowledged as the longest serving member leaving us this year. Arriving at the College as a teacher of Art, he came with experience of being an artist in a commercial setting and provided excellent mentoring to aspiring artists that have made their way through the doors of the Art School.

During his 26 years He has taken on many roles. As Head of Woodard for 14 years, Director of Activities for 4 Years, an excellent sixth form tutor in St Bede's. He has been a valued contributor to many Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, I suspect he has lost count of how many. He has taught Archery for many years and set up the Lower School cycling proficiency course, which remains a core part of our Lower School activity programme today. He has had a lifelong passion for cycling and followed a few tours himself. In addition to all this Cliff ran the induction programme for newly qualified teachers for over twenty years and managed the placement programme for trainee teachers.

His passion for education is obvious as soon as you engage with him in discussing teaching and learning. His calm, reflective, thoughtful demeanour has been much appreciated by all who work with him. He could be relied upon for a considered viewpoint in any discussion, a problem solver with attention to detail, and a gentle sense of humour that would lift a tired head. He is retiring from teaching but will continue with his Art and have time to pursue his interests and love of the outdoors. His steadfastness, care and attention to pupils and colleagues, has had a powerful impact on all who have had the pleasure to work with him. We wish him all the best.



Mrs Dilks, C. Mrs Schubert, R. Miss Forrester, K. Mrs Owen, S. Mrs Evans, J. Mr Williams, J. Mr Quentin, A. Mrs Coxey-Evans, R. Mrs Pearce, C. Miss Killen, L. Mrs Kirk, J. Mrs Furlong-Hart, V. Miss Hughes, N. Dr Hansford, R. Mrs Westwood, C. Mrs Gareh, S. Mrs Welti, N. Mrs Reynolds, M. Mrs Walker-Smith, D. Mrs Phillips, S. Miss Darrant, A. Mrs Morgan, S. Mr Owen, G. Mr Swann-Horler, D. Mr Luckas, H. Mrs Curzon, K. Mr Atherton, M. Ms Rogers, S. Mr Clewlow, M. Mr Prescott, S. Mr Price, A. Mr Jones, R. Mrs Underhill, J. Mrs Hutchon, S. Mr Armstrong, N. Mr Haycock, J. Mr Davies, C. Mr Digby, M. Mr Coupe, A. Mr Fisher, S. Mr Horrocks, C. Mr Taylor, S. Mr Crawford, D. Mr Garratt, C. Mr Horton, M. Mr Macintosh, R. Mrs Edwards, L. Mrs Llewellyn-Jenkins, G. Mr Phillips, G. Mr Morgan, J. Mr Baggaley, J. Mr Murphy, A. Mr Underhill, J. Mr Welti, S. Mr Needham, M. Mrs Davenport, H. Mrs Hibbott, J. Dr Gareh, T. Dr Marsh, J. Mr Dilks, J. Mrs Griffiths, E. Rev Gration, P Mrs Pritt-Roberts, V. Dr Chatterjee, R. Mrs Fisher, Z. Mr Cowley, J. Miss Davies, B. Mr Nicholson, J.

Common Room
2024 2025



Chapel Notes

Michaelmas Term

In Senior School the Michaelmas term chapel booklets, were titled A Further Six Services from Mark's Gospel. In the tradition of the earliest church and in line with the practice in much of the evangelical Protestant church today St Oswald's chapel has been on a journey, lectio continua, through the book Gospel of St Mark. Unlike our usual pattern of short thematically linked readings a lectio continua approach means reading, and thinking, through a book of the bible in its entirety – starting one chapel service where the last left off. This approach helps us to come under the authority of the Holy Scriptures, letting them set the agenda rather coming to them with questions which we feel are important – both approaches are valid and important.

I had thought, at the beginning of 2023, that we would dedicate a single year to St Mark's gospel but A Further Six Service is Volume 4 in the series which it became clear would take us into a third year, and an eventual eight volumes, finishing in 2026!

The Lower School started the year looking at the theme of creation in the Bible. Creation is not a simple topic but a rich vein of biblical theology so we used the lens of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to look at six passages of scripture which explore God's involvement with his creation.

Harvest was marked, in both the Senior and the Lower School, with a Eucharist. Donations were sent to the Warm Clothes and Food Sharing Project in Ellesmere.

Remembrance Sunday was well attended again, the sermon explored how true peace can be engaged by reflecting on the vision of the New Jerusalem in Revelation chapter twenty-one.

In the second half of term the Senior School moved on to look at how the readings in the upcoming carol services explore the question, "Why Christmas?" The Lower School also looked at carol service readings and learned about the titles that Jesus is given: Prince of Peace, Servant, Light, Son & Joshua. As usual the end of this term was a highlight for many, the candlelit carol services transformed the chapel with high-quality music and readings.

Early in Michaelmas term we admitted Reuben, James, Helena, Ewan, Leo and William to Holy Communion. We were overjoyed to celebrate with William as he was incorporated into the mystical Body of Christ by Holy Baptism.

Visiting preachers this term included the pastors of the Cellar Church Ellesmere, and Revd Paul Darlington of Holy Trinity Oswestry, we were blessed by their clear and insightful teaching.

Lent Term

Senior School Chapel at the beginning of Lent Term returned to the Gospel of Mark with a series of services exploring Jesus' teaching on discipleship and the Kingdom of God. Chapel service titles were: Rabbi, it is good that we are here, I believe help my unbelief, Anyone who wants



to be first must be the very last and the servant of all, because you belong to the Messiah, receive the kingdom of God like a little child, and all things are possible with God.

As usual Epiphany chalk was blessed in Lower School Chapel and used to bless Saints Houses and the Lower School building. We use the inscription 20 + C + + M + B + 25, CMB is 'in the heart' of the year and stands for Christ Bless this House or the initials of the three wise men - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. In this way we pray that out school would be a place where people journey to and encounter Christ in their studies, as the wise men did.

Lower School Chapels in the first half of the term explored the symbolism of the Wise Men story in more detail. We looked at the chalk, the frankincense, the gold, the myrrh, and the star.

In the second half of Lent Term, we held our annual Mothering Sunday Service preceded by tea, cakes, and musical entertainment from some Senior students. The Lower School Choir accompanied and supported the congregation, and we enjoyed having the Small Furry Animals join us again.



Lower School began the season by burying the Alleluia! We convened in St Oswalds chapel in the usual way and then the House Captains processed to the Lady Chapel to 'bury' some large letters spelling Alleluia beneath the altar linens (this is appropriate because these linens represent the burial wrappings of Jesus). In Lent we give up Alleluia so that we will enjoy its use even more at Easter.

In the Lower School we finish the term with an abbreviated recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: this service involves said, sung and silent prayer mixed with meditation on scenes from the life of Jesus. To ensure that we don't end the term on a low note, and with a dramatic flourish, the first account of the resurrection is read from outside the chapel after the service seems to have finished. We prepare for this service by examining one scene from Jesus's last days in detail each week: the Garden of Gethsemane, Flogging, the Crown of Thorns, Jesus carrying the Cross, the Crucifixion.

The Senior School spent time examining the nature of SIN, an ideal way to mark the season of Lent which is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. We discovered that SIN is less about breaking rules and more about failing to take up opportunities. We considered the following opportunities: struggle, humble acceptance, fruitfulness, reconciliation, and attentiveness.

We close Lent Term with two of the most important services of the school year (adapted to a school context and timeframe), the Rites of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday which we celebrate on the last two days of term. The former rites involve ritual foot-washing, and we use this as a time to acknowledge the unseen work of many members of our community by washing the feet of ladies from the laundry, the sewing room and the arts centre manager, among others. Good Friday involves 'veneration of the cross,' in a few years perhaps we will be ready for kissing the feet of the crucifix but this year we contented ourselves with a moment's silent prayer before the cross: the response to this opportunity was encouraging. The preacher at these two important services was Mthr Pat Hawkins, the Vicar of St Mary's Ellesmere – we are grateful for her insightful reflections on these great mysteries.

Other visiting preachers this term included Revd Linda Cox (Rural Dean), and Pete and Joseph from GLOD Christian Summer Camps.
Lent term saw the introduction of a new service to the chapel repertoire: The Chaplain was able to purchase a monstrance so that the Pizza and Prayer Group could celebrate Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A short reflective service consisting of singing, silence and a blessing given with the Body of Christ (reserved from the Eucharist).

Trinity Term

Once again, the first half of the term was dedicated to the Gospel of Mark, we worked our way through the antepenultimate six services in this series. In these six sessions we saw the narrative move and begin to suggest how things will end. Jesus turns his attention away from how his disciples should live to who, in fact, he truly is and what his mission in the world involves. The cross is beginning to loom into view.

The Lowe School, more appropriately for this Easter season, were looking at the people whom Jesus encountered in his resurrected body: Mary Magdalene, the Eleven, Peter, Thomas, & John. We learned valuable lessons about friendship, trust, forgiveness, and doubt. The Easter season ended with the Bisop of Oswestry joining the Lower School for their celebration of the Ascension, +Paul spoke powerfully about how Jesus is closer to us now (in heaven) than he could have been if he had stayed on earth with his friends – we can meet him in the church especially in the Eucharist, reminded us. The Senior School had to content themselves with a sermon from the Chaplain.

Both sections of the school considered the ways the Holy Spirit empowers us for living like Jesus in the last part of the year before joining together for a Whole School Eucharist of the Holy Spirit just before we dissolved for expeditions. This was a joyful occasion where two different styles of service met, it is always an occasion looked forward to, and enjoyed by the entire student body.

As usual Last Chapel and Commemoration was a moving occasion, with more than a few of our leavers holding back tears during the final blessing. I will particularly miss the very able assistance of The Captains of School, my Chapel Prefect Vlado Vukcevic, and Ciaran Dunne whose keen eye for detail and organisational skills have been in the best tradition of College Sacristans. In the Lower School, Eve Scales was exemplary, and I hope to see her acting as MC again soon, this time at a Senior School Eucharist.

PJG



Competitive Houses
MEYNELL

Housemaster: Miss N. Hughes

House Tutors: Miss N. Hughes, Mr N. Armstrong, Mrs S. Phillips, Mr M. Horton, Mr C. Horrocks, Mrs D. Walker-Smith, Miss A. Darrant, Miss B. Davies, Mrs S. Hutchon, Mrs J. Evans, Mr H. Luckas, Mr M. Digby, and Mrs L. Edwards

Captains of House: C. Sanderson and F. Foltyn

What a fantastic first year I've had as Head of Meynell House! It's been an unforgettable journey, filled with energy, spirit and achievement. I couldn't be prouder of the way our House has come together.

We started strong in the Michaelmas term where the Sixth Form It's a Knockout event was a blast, with new and returning Ellesmerians coming together to show great team spirit and competition ready for the year ahead. A culture of freedom and safety to step out of comfort zones without judgement was built as our Leadership Team performed their 'Leadership Challenges' for the rest of the House in the first few weeks of term. We saw Head Boy Connor Mahoney perform a controlled Lineout lift, Jed Matthews performing a magic trick and as requested, myself alongside other Meynell Teaching Staff producing a music video!



Each one brought plenty of laughs and applause and showcased the spirit of fun and teamwork within the House. This was followed by our students brining the popular sitcom Friends to life with our production of the episode "The Woman from Poughkeepsie" as our House Play. The cast gave everything to the performance, and it was a joy to watch. The students threw themselves into the production with great enthusiasm – some quite literally as Isabella Moore had the audience in stitches with her perfectly executed fake fall that will no doubt be remembered for years to come. We walked away with the 'Laughter Awards', 'Best Supporting Act' and an Honourable Mention for the set movers and (not so) behind the scenes crew! The performance was packed with laughs, energy and moments we'll never forget – especially for Lily Harris who I'm sure is still finding ketchup in her hair!

Lent Term brought us even closer together during House Singing. I was moved to tears as the students sang Burning Love and The Day Thou Gavest in Unison – I couldn't help but feel immense pride. Many of our pupils were participating in the event for the first time but they embraced the spirit of it wholeheartedly. We have set the bar high for next year and I have no doubt that we will give it even more passion and energy when we perform again. I know I'm not the only one who is already looking forward to it! The House Photography was another great highlight for Meynell in the Lent Term as we excelled, winning several categories in both themes; "Passing Knowledge Through Generations" and based on the quote "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship". We saw success with both junior entry winners from Kiri Kilgannon and Daniel Polau and a senior entry winner from Ollie Loud. The entries were heartfelt and creative, from students sailing, gardening, fixing tractors and building bridges with various generations of their family.

In the Summer Term, the momentum continued, and we finished strong. We won both Junior and Senior House Netball competitions – a tremendous achievement that showed our resilience and team spirit. Shortly followed by our Mixed House Volleyball team who also emerged victorious, showcasing the diversity and talent of our House. In our final Academic House competition of the year, we found success in the House Debating were our team of Jan Mielczarek, Kiri Kilgannon and Wayne Kugedera put in a lot of effort and argued their points maturely

to secure us the first place win! The enthusiasm throughout the year and final push for House Points in lessons at the end meant that we finished overall with second place in the Academic House Cup!

I want to say a huge thank you to our Year 13 Leadership Team, in particular our Captains of House, Freddy Foltyn and Cath Sanderson, for their guidance and dedication throughout the year. Their leadership has left a lasting legacy for the Mighty Meynell, and they will be missed. Thank you for all your hard work and for setting such a high standard for those who follow in your footsteps, we wish you and the rest of our Year 13 leavers the best of luck in the future.

Looking ahead, I'm excited for another year of fun, growth and hard work. I know we'll continue to achieve great things together and I can't wait to see where we go from here, especially with the fresh enthusiasm of our future leadership team and Captains-to-be, Lily Harris and Kyle Murdoch.

To My Meynell House: I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished this year, and I look forward to working even harder, striving for more success and above all, continuing to enjoy every moment.

Here's to the Mighty Meynell!

NSH



And Meynell Stood With Pride

When September came, I stepped through the gate,
Unfamiliar with houses that compete and create.

A system unknown, I watched and I learned,
In that first autumn term, curiosity burned.

With time I embraced what houses could be,
A spark was ignited, a new side of me.

Since then I've strived to play every part,
With Meynell's red colour etched deep in my heart.

Time and again, I've stood by its name,
With passion and pride in each house-driven game.

From quizzes to sports, I gave it my all,
Whether planned or last-minute, I answered the call.

Like that moment of song, when courage took flight,
I stepped from the shadows into spotlight.

A part of the choir, nerves pushed aside
We sang with conviction, and Meynell stood with pride.

Through each passing challenge, my loyalty grew,
To the house I call home, strong, steadfast, and true.

And as a new year draws ever near,
I promise my service, my voice, and my cheer.

For Meynell's the finest — that much is clear,
And I'll fight for its glory, year after year.

So count on my spirit, my effort, my might,
To help us reach victory, shining and bright.

-Jake Pettigrew 2025















Wong, C.H. Webster, W.R. Diaz-Ambrona Lopez-Monis, A. Miguel de la Cueva, I. Galliers, E.N. Wong, N.H. Hui, L.M. Williams, B. Stiller, C. Keil, E.E. Holzgartner, M. Every, E.
Holzgartner, A. Janse, C.L. Harris, I.F. Benson, B.R.O. Rauert, J.T. Males, E. Kugedera, T.W. Kugedera, M. Stockton, J.O. Kilgannon, K.H. Lehnert, A.M. Qian, J. Brown, P.L.
Ford, F.G. Galliers, H.J. Harris, L.S. Matthews, J. Mackintosh, J.G. Thomas, A. Massey, C.J. Abou Seeda, H.A.H.A. Hutchon, A.P.I. Ford, E. Hewitt, O.H. Skillicorn, J.F. Lamerton, T.D. Oakes, G.I.
Robinson, S.L. Barnes, W.T.P. Allcock, K.J. Jones, L.M. Males, T. Klu, G.K. Burn, A.W. Stevens, J.A. Murdoch, K.A. Preusse, P.L.F. Elsner Von Der Malsburg, J.H. Fisher, N. Ward, W. Dettmar, L. Taylor, M.B.
Moore, I.L.R. Mahoney, C.R. You, M.H. Johnson, N.D. Loud, O.A. Harrison, O.C. Sweeney, F.E.M. Taylor, H.J. Loe, A.W. Deblaye, F.L.G. Szulc, S.T. You, M. Fell, G.T. Dathe, A.I.
Hu, Z.A. Bullen, F.H.D. Brandl, L.K.R. Wheatley Jones, K.H. Prysor, S.L. Stubbs, T.L. Lansdale, H. Roberts, T.H.K. Pettigrew, J.K. Popplewell, A. Mielczarek, J. Trevor-Barnston, W.C. Walker, H.B. Crompton, A. Davidson-Jackson, K.A.
Mr C.S.Horrocks Collins, M.P. Sharpe, A.J. Wong, Y. Gray, I.L. Nicholas, A.H. Gannicott, J.P. Mahoney, C.M. Pytches, E.N. Gardner-Mctaggart, B.E.E. Holland, T. Song, G. Perovic, S. Moll, T.M.
Mr M.Digby Mr H.A.Luckas Mr M.T.Horton Mrs L.L.Edwards Miss B.M.Davies Foltyn, F.C. Miss N.S.Hughes Sanderson, C.M. Mrs S.Hutchon Mrs S.Phillip Mrs D.Walker-Smith Mrs J.K.Evans Mr N.R.Armstrong

Meynell House
2024 2025



Competitive Houses
TALBOT

Housemaster: Mrs Z. J. Fisher

House Tutors: Mrs A. Savage, Mrs C. Empson, Mrs C. Dilks, Mrs C. Westwood, Mrs L. Killen, Mr M. Atherton, Mrs R. Waddams, Mr R. Macintosh, Mrs S. Owen, Mr J. Dilks, Mr J. Morgan, Mr G. Owen and Mrs N. Welti

Captains of House: T. Dyson and H. Stuart

It is always an enormous privilege to reflect on a school year in Talbot House, and 2024–25 has been no exception. Each year brings its own rhythm of challenge and triumph, but what endures is the unmistakable character of Talbot: A House full of individuals who are community-focused, resilient, and optimistic, always prepared to "have a go" and to push themselves towards success. To lead such a group of young people is to be reminded daily of the power of team spirit, the value of encouragement, and the pride that comes from shared endeavour.

Leadership and Spirit

At the heart of Talbot's achievements this year has been the outstanding leadership of our House Captains, Thomas Dyson and Holly Stuart. Their energy, drive and commitment to Talbot have been infectious. Whether conducting rehearsals, leading sports teams, or motivating peers during competitions, Tom and Holly have embodied the values we aspire to: courage, creativity, and an unshakable belief in the talents of others. Both have been tireless in their service, working with spirit and passion to ensure that Talbot shone in every arena.

What has impressed me most is their ability to blend seriousness of purpose with genuine warmth. Their presence has made every House event feel welcoming, and their encouragement has enabled others to step forward with confidence. Leadership in a school context is rarely straightforward, but Tom and Holly's example has left a legacy of positivity and ambition for those who will follow.

House Play: Friends

The annual House Play is always a highlight of the Michaelmas Term, and this year Talbot transported us into the familiar world of the American sitcom Friends. Bringing such well-loved characters to life required courage, comic timing, and above all teamwork—and our cast did not disappoint.

The atmosphere backstage and on stage was one of camaraderie and sheer enjoyment. The prize list spoke volumes: Best Chandler went to Angus Paton, whose sharp delivery and mannerisms captured the spirit of the character perfectly; Best Joey was awarded to Harry Hepburn, whose comic presence had the audience in fits of laughter; while the House itself was recognised with awards for Best Programme and Best Opening Credits, testament to the creativity and professionalism of the entire production team. Special mention also goes to India Hibbott, runner-up for Best Monica, and the cast as a whole for winning the prize for The Slickest Performance.

Behind every great performance is quiet dedication, and I must single out Chris Astbury for his tireless behind-the-scenes support, not just for Talbot but for all House productions. His expertise and generosity ensure that our students can shine under the lights, and we are deeply grateful.



House Quiz

Intellectual competition has long been a Talbot strength, and this year's House Quiz was no exception. In a fiercely contested battle of knowledge, our team—Harry Hepburn, Archie Fearnall, Natt Kritchanarat, and Immy Spencer Blow—combined their specialist expertise to secure a decisive victory. Each brought their own area of strength, from history to science, popular culture to literature, and together they showcased the best of collaborative thinking. The pride with which they represented Talbot cannot be overstated: this was a win achieved through preparation, mutual respect, and a calm focus under pressure.

House Singing

Few events embody the collective spirit of Talbot more than House Singing, and this year's Elvis Presley theme gave us the perfect opportunity to celebrate in style. Under the baton of Tom and Holly, rehearsals were lively and inclusive, with participation across year groups.

Our chosen unison piece, "The Wonder of You", was delivered with heart and joy, filling the hall with sound and earning warm applause. For the part-song, we chose "Return to Sender", a challenging arrangement brought to life by the creativity of siblings Ellie and Tabby Kimber, who prepared harmonies that showcased the range and talent within the House.

Particular mention must be made of the soloists and featured performers: Douglas Dean, Tom Dyson, Harry Hepburn, Louisa Llewellyn Jenkins, Ellie Kimber, Tabby Kimber, Isabella Pyne, Angus Paton, Holly Stuart, Lidia Utikalova and Vlado Vukcevic. Their courage and musicality lifted the performance, but what resonated most was the collective sound of Talbot voices raised together. Elvis himself would surely have approved.



Chapel Service

The Talbot Chapel Service remains a moment of reflection and unity in the year. A talented group of students—Tom Dyson, Cedric Dreyer, Tabitha Kimber, Natt Kritchanarat, Angus Paton, Isabella Pyne, Meg Pritchard, Immy Spencer-Blow, Alys Shirley Smith, Holly Stuart and Vlado Vukcevic—worked together to craft and deliver a thoughtful and inspiring service.

The sermon was written with care, reflecting on themes of gratitude, community, and perseverance, and each reader, prayer-leader and altar server carried their role with dignity. For many, standing before peers in Chapel is a daunting prospect, yet the Talbot team approached the task with courage and maturity, demonstrating once again that service to others is at the heart of House life.

Creative Endeavours

Creativity has flourished in Talbot this year, with strong participation in both the Blackout Poetry and Photography Competitions. Entries revealed imagination and flair, as well as the willingness to try new forms of expression. These competitions remind us that House pride is not confined to stage or pitch; it is equally about artistic voice and perspective.

Meanwhile, the Debating Competition heats are underway at the time of writing, with our team of Louisa Llewellyn Jenkins, Lidia Utikalova, Isabella Pyne and Jack Fearne already showing themselves to be articulate and persuasive. It is also fitting to note that Natt Kritchanarat is leading the competition for all Houses—an outstanding honour that reflects both personal dedication and Talbot's culture of excellence in oracy.

Sporting Triumphs

If the arts and academics showcase Talbot's creativity and intellect, then the sports field reveals our determination, stamina, and joy in physical challenge.

This year has been one of exceptional success. Talbot retained the Cross-Country Cup, a feat that speaks volumes about the grit and endurance of our runners. In hockey, we were victorious in both the Junior and Senior House competitions, with the Senior team captained superbly by Cerys Shirley Smith. The sense of pride in those victories was palpable: talent combined with tactical skill and unshakeable teamwork.

Our Junior Football team, coached by Ellis Ashton, lifted the trophy after a campaign of hard work and discipline. Talbot also secured wins in Junior Cricket and Junior Rugby, proving that our depth of sporting ability runs across multiple disciplines. These triumphs are important not just for the silverware they bring but for the way they galvanise the entire House, younger pupils inspired by the successes of their older peers and all bound together by shared pride.

It should also be remembered that House Sport is about inclusion as well as victory. This year's House Volleyball event epitomised that ethos. Players of all levels took to the court, cheered on by peers, and the sheer enjoyment was as notable as the rallies themselves. Similarly, the game of Rounders at the House Barbecue on the Terraces provided laughter, light competition, and the reminder of how fortunate we are to live and learn in such a beautiful setting.

The Spirit of Talbot

When I look back over the year, what strikes me most is not simply the list of victories, though they are impressive in themselves, but the manner in which they were achieved. Talbot students have consistently supported one another, stepping forward to try new things, celebrating each other's successes, and lifting spirits when the going was tough.

It is this collective ethos—a blend of resilience, joy, and inclusivity—that defines Talbot. Whether standing on stage in front of a packed audience, sprinting across the Cross-Country course, singing in Chapel, or working quietly on creative projects, Talbot students have approached each challenge with positivity and courage.

I am proud, too, of the way our House has embraced participation. Victory is sweet, but every rehearsal attended, every lap run in training, every poem written or debate prepared contributes to the strength of Talbot as a whole. That willingness to contribute, to "have a go" regardless of experience, is what makes us unique.

Looking Ahead

As the academic year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the efforts of every member of Talbot. From our Captains Tom and Holly, whose leadership has been inspirational, to the youngest pupils who took part in their first House competition, each has contributed to a tapestry of achievement.

Our House is made up of individuals with diverse talents and passions, yet what unites us is a common spirit: the belief that together we are stronger, that joy is found in effort shared, and that success comes not only from winning but from encouraging one another to do our best.

The future of Talbot is bright. With a new Head of House (Mr James Dilks) and new Year 13 leaders preparing to take on responsibility, and younger students inspired by the example set this year, I am confident that the momentum will continue. Whatever the challenges ahead, I know that the students of Talbot will meet them with optimism, resilience, and determination.

It has been my privilege to witness their growth, their courage, and their camaraderie. To be Head of Talbot House is to be reminded daily of what young people can achieve when they come together with energy and purpose.

Prest D'Accomplir!

ZJF















Poole, A.R. Kritchanarat, N. Sabe Guix, J. Raybould, G.T. Shirley Smith, C.A. Salmoiraghi, M.E. Algar-Pattinson, F.R. Magalhaes McKown, M.B. Mellor, K. Kimber, T.R.
Trondsen, A.B. Pyne, I.E. Kimber, E.M. Cox, L.D. Smith, M.R. Algar-Pattinson, A.M. Pritchard, M. Hibbott, I.C. Gallagher, T. Sutton, P.L. Llewellyn-Jenkins, L.W.
Shirley Smith, R.A. Tsitsishvili, E. Carter, F. Dilks, A. Supsakorn, T. Johnson, P.M. Graham-Palmer, J.W.R. O'Brien, J. Utikalova, L.L. Gurung, B. Watts, O.I. Marski, P.L.
Paton, A.M. Fearnall, S.W. Ball, B.D. Dymond, J.W. Lucas, Z.R. Barber, J.A.R. Dong, B. Fearne, J.F. Mak, S.L. Pedreira Rodriguez, J. Capewell, S.M. Mall, J.N. Owen, R.J.
Crawford, J.A. Giesen, P.L. Gough Tilley, T. Latham, S.R. Kocyte, N. Albersmann, P.H.M. Barton, T.I.R. Ashton, E. Bates, H. Dyson, O. Thelwell, D. Martos Manrique, N. Hernandez Guerrero, D. Earl, O.
Evans, J. Hobbs, J.B. Herzog, D.T. Boys, C. Dean, D.G. Hoyland, J.A. Dreyer, C.T. Cuckson, C. Teich, F.F. Ockendon, J.H. Hepburn, H.J. Burston, J. Kocys, J.
Cornwell, R. Boonprasopthanachot, P. Graham, H.F.I.S. Edwards, H.M.A. Fearnall, A.W. Farr, A. Vukcevic, V. Owen, G. Balakrishnan, S.E. O'Donnell, S.P. Povey, M.J. Mathers, J.J. Walton, H. Harrison, H.A.J.
Mr R.J.Macintosh Mr M.J.Atherton Mrs S.Owen Mr G.Owen Mrs G.Llewellyn-Jenkins Stuart, H.A. Mrs Z.J.Fisher Dyson, T.J. Mrs C.Westwood Miss E.A.Killen Mrs C.S.Dilks Mrs N.J.Welti Mr J.E.Dilks

Talbot House
2024 2025



Competitive Houses
WAKEMAN-LAMBART

Housemaster: Mr. D. W. Crawford

House Tutors: Mr M.P. Clewlow, Mr J.H. Cowley, Mrs K. Curzon, Mrs H.L. Davenport, Mrs V. Furlong-Hart, Dr M.T. Gareh, Mrs S.H. Gareh, Mrs J. A. Kirk, Dr J.L. Marsh, Mr M. Needham, Mr G.W. Phillips.

Captains of House: Felicity Davies and Myles Webster

Another September; another fresh start. This time, Myles and Felicity were taking the helm as Wakeman-Lambart set out to show the College what they could do. The first challenge came in the form of indoor cricket: the Senior Boys put together a comparatively inexperienced team but gave it their all, falling short in the semi-final, while the Junior Boys with regular cricketers Henry Roberts and Jake Hughes made it into the final confidently, at which point they came up against a strong Talbot team and fell short.

The girls' teams were more successful: both were successful in their divisions, with the Senior Final coming down to the very last ball. With three runs required off the last delivery, Evie Adams powered the ball hard and straight for a four and a win against the odds.

The House Plays this year were based around episodes of the sitcom Friends: our episode had a Thanksgiving theme and a dispute between Joey and Chandler. Oscar Crossen showed great comic acting, even when he had to spend a large part of the proceedings in a large box! His performance justifiably earned him recognition in the award ceremony after all the plays had finished; Nathaniel Clewlow was also honoured and Sophia Janahi won the award for Best Director.

The rugby competition was not ours to claim this year and, for once, not the hockey either. The Blackout Poetry competition produced a solid crop of entries and overall, we finished the term in good shape.

Into Lent Term: the Cross Country saw runners in the customary yellow war paint and it was a relatively successful day, with placings for Millie Wells and Alberto Rescigno in the Senior Division and the Junior Division coming down to a challenge between Shoma Kimura and Will Goodwin. As always, the House Captains led from the front with Felicity and Myles building House Spirit before the off.

On to the House Singing: dreaded by all until the day itself, when the fervour spreads and everyone wants to be the best. This year we were paying our respects to the King of Rock and Roll – Elvis himself – with the unison song Jailhouse Rock. Courtesy of an unnamed online retailer we found a convict costume for Myles, with the added bonus of an ankle chain of black paper and a 32-kilogram kettlebell to fix to it (that he wasn't expecting!). Dressed as a prison warder, Felicity kept the House (and Myles) in order.

A very pleasing and enthusiastic performance from everyone put us ahead going into the Part song, where we changed the mood with a rendition of Suspicious Minds, a song just as old as the Housemaster.



Despite a few inexperienced singers, the Part Song group produced a lovely sound and handled tempo changes well. In the final placings, a dead heat, with Wakeman-Lambart enviably getting the final nod on the night.

The competitions continued with a Photography Challenge and another good turnout of entries was submitted by the House; themes were 'Generations', showing how learning and culture could be shared, and a quote from Louisa May Alcott – 'I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship'. The judges were impressed with the entries of Tilly Windsor, Ellie Winn, Anna Polonska and Felicity Davies, all of whom were commended.

Intellectual battle was joined as our team took on the challenge of the House Quiz: Nathaniel Clewlow proved to be the man to beat in the semi-final, with Moritz Hartinger providing excellent support as between them they took down picture rounds on European Castles and John Dalton's chemical symbols. In the final against Talbot, however, a picture round on Football Club badges fell beautifully for our opponents and this proved to be the decisive difference between the teams. Nonetheless, well done.

The House Dinner was a success, with many of the Sixth Form looking elegant in black tie or evening dress and the Middle School smart in their suits. Football and Netball House matches ended the term: the long dominance of Wakeman-Lambart in the netball was finally ended, while the football teams fielded large squads and rotated players to ensure all were involved. While results did not go our way, we fought hard and our Juniors only conceded a single goal.

Into the Summer Term, and exam considerations were a priority, but there was still time for a lively House Volleyball competition – held outdoors this year to prevent the ball getting stuck in the roof! It was mainly a valedictory event for our more Senior House members, but creating memories and camaraderie is surely what the House system is all about. The House Debating was revived, and it gave the chance for people to learn a new skill. My thanks to Amelie Goodwin, Billy Batt, Mahdiyar Mostafavi Nezhad and Krish Kamisetty for stepping out of their comfort zones – we finished a decent joint second.

Being the smallest House by numbers this term meant that we found it hard to keep up with House Points, and so it wasn't our year, but this should not detract from all the good stuff that was done. My thanks to all the House Tutors, and particularly to Myles and Felicity, who have achieved legendary status as House Captains.

The mantle passes to Evie Adams and Victor Joulie, who will be Captains for the forthcoming year; I wish them (and us all) the very best of luck!

DWC















Pearson, M.R. Peloquin, Z. Edwards, S.J.C. Furlong Hart, D.V. Castejon Sanchez, I. Edwards, A.J. Kimura, S. Jones, W.H. Goodwin, A.G. Kaewthong, N. O'Grady, G. Ebben, L.A.
Furlong Hart, A.D. Tanner, D.Z. Sotelo De La Riva, I. Kamisetty, K.D. Nolan, S. Uras-Garvin, M. Griffiths, M.E. Batt, W.B. Rius Escudero, P. Mukotekwa, A-N. Keil, A.L.I.R. Schofield, O.J. Kinsey, O.D.
Baroja Hernandez, R. Orme, H. Gaskell, A. Janahi, S.F. Powell, S.A. Pieroth, E.M. Glinos, S.A. Pearson, O.J. Jehan-Rautenbach, T-M. Bullivant, A.M. Polonska, A. Richardson-Rutter, A. Adams, E. Windsor, M.O.C.
Dawson, H.M. Liu, X. Gaskell, F. Stock, A. Mason, E.R. Norris, J.H. Prust, F. Winn, E.G.M. Kaewthong, T. Babanejad, A. Clewlow, N.P.J. Edwards, O.G. Li, S.
Hughes, J.C. Joulie, C.R.G. Goodwin, W.G. Acher Rogers, O. Rescigno, A. Karlakki, A. Mostafavi Nezhad, S.M. Avery, L.G. Kassow, J. Green, M.A. Malafosse, A. Henneberry, L. Peloquin, M. Fox-Kirkham, R.
Mendel, C.L. Nicholas, C.W. Cook, F. Schuler, T.N. Moran, W. Williams, A. Holanova, V. Wynn, T.H. Joulie, V. Webster, L. Reindler, P.P. Dunne, C.D-A. Jackson, H.J.E.
Roberts, H.M. Sandiford, G.E. Liang, J. He, J. Dandy, A.J. Wells, M.G. Beuer, C.C. Hartinger, M.R. Crossen, O. Jones, J. Holton, J. Richardson-Rutter, E. Williamson, E.G.O. Meuer, M.X.
Mrs J.A.Kirk Mrs V. Furlong Hart Mr J.H.Cowley Mrs K.Curzon Mr M.P.Clewlow Webster, M. Mr D.W.Crawford Davies, F. Dr M.T.Gareh Dr J.L.Marsh Mrs H.L.Davenport Mrs S.H.Gareh Mr G.W.Phillips

Wakeman 2024 **Lambart 2025**



Competitive Houses

WOODARD

Housemaster: Dr R. J. Hansford

House Tutors: Mr J. J. Baggaley, Mr A. P. Coupe, Mr C. Davies, Mr C. Garratt, Mr J. N. Haycock, Mr A. J. Murphy, Mr J. W. Nicholson, Mr A. D. Quentin, Mrs M. Reynolds, Mr E. J. Richards, Mrs R. L. Schubert, Mr D. Swan-Horler, Mrs J. M. Underhill, Mr J. S. Underhill.

Captains of House: M. Bakker and H. Leonard

As is usual for the start of the academic year, some of last year's Lower Sixth were promoted to prominent positions within the House. Madelief Bakker became the Captain for the Girls and Harvey Leonard the Captain for the Boys. Both were supported by the Vice Captains; Shayna McNamara, Sophie Mason and Lee Hickson for the girls and Darius Golabek, Josh Williams, and Sean Harris for the boys. This formidable team not only made the year run smoothly but also made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience. However, with 4 Academic Cup wins in a row under Woodard's belt there was heavy weight of responsibility on their heads as usual to continue the Woodard spirit.

The term got underway with the return of the House Plays. This year's theme was Friends. Woodard was given the 'Joey's girlfriend. Woodard produced a performance that would have not gone a miss on the TV. There were notable performances from Lee as Rachel, Isobel Philbin as Pheobe, and Holly Coupe as Monica, Guy Mason as Ross, Harvey Leonard as Joey, Kit Baillon as Gunther, and Josh Williams for Rachel's boyfriend. Lee perfected Rachel's accent, Isobel's comedic timing and guitar playing were excellent and Holly's portrayal of Monica was spot on. As a result, they all took home first place for those characters. Unsurprisingly, Woodard also came runners up also in the Best Director Category, the Opening Credits, the Laughter Award, and the Technical Award (Monty Cripps) which were all well deserved.

Although not a sport associated with the Michaelmas term, which is why it is probably indoors, we had the House Indoor Cricket. This event was well attended, not only by those wanting to take part, but also by the number of the House that turned up in support. We had some amazing results with the Senior Boys winning their competition and both the Senior and Junior Girls taking second place in both theirs. At the end of the Michaelmas term the usual festival of hockey for the girls returned. In the hockey, the girls showed their usual grit and determination against some difficult opponents. The Senior team just lost by a whisker to come in second place. The Junior girls also played brilliantly but against strong opposition, came in third. Sadly, this the House Rugby didn't happen, to the disappointment, especially of the Senior Boys, most of whom are in the First XV team. However, we look forward to the event returning next year.

The first of the academic competitions was the Blackout Poetry Competition. This sees pupils take a piece of literature and create their own poetry from it by blacking out the words they don't want to use. As is becoming a tradition Woodard put in the most entries and were also commended for the high quality of those entries, compared to the other Houses. As such we placed highly across the board. In the Juniors, Harry Swann-Horler won the Junior competition, with Morgan Garratt placing in the runner up position. Isobel Philbin also gained a highly commended for her entry. In the Senior competition Evan Garratt won first place, with Seren Garratt, Lucy Chadwick, Caspar Geisen, Johanna Boesl and Klara Zankl all gaining a highly commended.

By the end of Michaelmas term Woodard were in second place in the Academic cup competition behind Wakeman Lambart.

One of the main sporting events in Lent term is the House Cross Country that sees the whole House compete in the annual run around the school. It is one of my favourite sporting events of the year and it kicked off with Harvey doing a great warm up with the whole House before the event started. Woodard pupils wore their purple tribal war paint with pride as ever. Luckily the day wasn't as cold as normal, and the sun came out which made pupils almost believe it was summer, which was when the event took place last year. We had some great results this year. Anna Underhill (Year 9) and Harvey Leonard (Year 13), both took first place in the Year 9 Girls and Sixth Form Boys races respectively. Niklas Halver (Year 13) came in second for the Sixth Form Boys and Erika Nojic (Year13) for the Sixth Form Girls. Archie Ramsay and Maisie

Beattie both took third place in the Year 11 Boys' and Girls' races. Overall Woodard won the Cross-Country Cup and came runners up in the Merit Cup (which is awarded to the House with the most participants). It wasn't a bad afternoon's work.

House Football and Netball rounded up the sporting events of the Lent term. In the netball both Senior teams came runners up, after a hard-fought battle against Meynell, who won the Senior event. The Juniors also played valiantly, but this year we didn't place in the event. The boys also put up a tremendous show in the House Football, and as they vowed to do, the Senior boys won the competition overall with the Juniors placing third.

In terms of the academic competitions in the Lent term, pupils entered the Photography Competition on masse from Woodard. This year's themes were Portraiture (generations) and Literature (a quote from Little Women). As usual Woodard entered the most photos gaining lots of academic points. Unlike in previous years, there was not a set Junior or Senior theme. Despite lots of great entries we only had one highly commended entry from Justin Griffiths in the generations category, however, we got lots of much needed House points due to the sheer volume of entries we had.

A highlight of the year, House Singing, took place in the Lent term. This year's theme was Elvis. There are 3 parts to House Singing the unison song and the hymn, which the whole House participates in and then the part song, which involves the more experienced singers who are often part of the chapel or chamber choir. The pupils are only given a few weeks to learn the songs and produce a polished performance, which no mean feat I can assure you. Woodard decided that for their unison song they'd tackle 'Blue Suede Shoes' which we changed to 'Purple Suede Shoes', which we felt was more in keeping with Woodard House colour. The hymn, which is chosen for us, was 'Guide me o thy Great Redeemer'. The whole House did an amazing job, but the standout performance of the night was the pitch perfect, acapella, 8 harmony version of 'Can't Help Falling in Love with You'. It was truly spellbinding. Woodard won both the hymn and unsurprisingly the part song and came in second for the unison. Overall, we came in a controversial joint first with Wakeman Lambart on the night. It was our best result to date, and the pupils are even more determined than ever to come back and have a comprehensive win overall next year.

The end of the lent term saw the annual House Dinner. I was delighted to see the support of so many guests. Many parents and ex Woodard pupils, past and present turned up to the event. It was successful evening due to the support of not only our guests but the pupils and House staff, as well as the stars of the evening Maddie and Harvey, both delivering great speeches. Their passion for the House and all things purple was in evidence throughout. A huge thanks must be given to all who attended, and I hope to see you next year.

The House Quiz also took place in the summer term. Our team comprised of 2 Sixth Formers; Evan Garratt (Year 13), Darius Golabek (Year 13) and 2 Middle School pupils Kitt Baillon (Year 11) and George Gration (Year 11). As in previous years we took on Talbot in the semi-final and we were bombarded with questions from the ultimate quizmaster Mr Crawford. After nearly forty minutes of intense questioning, including a nerve racking in the spotlight round and some excellent answering from the Woodard team, especially from Evan, Talbot beat us to go into the final.

House Debating finished off the academic competitions for the year. The team comprised of one Sixth Former and one Middle School pupil.



In round one Harry Underhill (Year 12) and Isobel Philbin (Year 10) took on the other Houses as the proposition on the topic of 'This House would reduce the post-Study work visa duration for international students in the UK'. At the end of the evening Woodard were victorious and Harry and Isobel ecstatic. In the second round Henry Copelin (Year 12) took the place of Harry and joined Isobel to debate for the opposition on 'This House supports using genetically engineered bacteria to combat the global plastic waste crisis'. This time sadly, Woodard's winning ways didn't come to the fore, and in the end, we placed third overall.

The final highlight of the House year was another win of the Academic Cup; the fifth year running. Throughout the year Wakeman Lambart had just been in the lead, with Meynell closely catching up from behind, but in true Woodard style we rallied when it was needed most. This meant that Woodard has won the Academic Cup the most and is the only House, so far, to have won the cup 5 years in a row, which is an exceptional feat. Obviously, we will be going for another historic win next year, to make it six!

I continue to be immensely proud of the pupils in Woodard, as my ethos has always been for pupils to take the opportunity to have a go at things that they have never done before. I have continued to see Woodard pupils taking on new things, with rugby players continuing to enter writing competitions and academic scholar's playing rugby and netball. I hope we can build on the resilience to take on anything and continue to build our sense of family over the coming years. Many thanks to the Year 13s and 11s and those that are leaving us at the end of this year, the support and effort that you have put into House activities through your time with Woodard have made it another truly enjoyable and memorable year. Finally, we also have to say goodbye to Mr Davies, a stalwart of Woodard, having once been the Housemaster for 14 years, and from whom I took over my tenancy. Those were big shoes to fill, I can tell you. He has been the ultimate supporter of Woodard, turning up to every event, chapel, and rehearsal and has always been a guiding presence. We wish you all the best for your next exciting chapter and you will be greatly missed. I hope that all of you come back and visit and support the House whenever you have a free moment. As we move on to a new year, let's hope we can build on this year's success and keep showing the other Houses what we are made of. I will end as I always do by saying may our blood continue to run proudly purple. Woodard as always you are simply the best.

RJH











Wardle, G.W.Y. Cripps, M.J. Noss, E.A. Cone, B.A.J.A. Zankl, K. Coe, P.A. Garratt, M.B.R. Johnson, O.W.O. Appleby, B.T.E. Beattie, M. Williams, A.M. Rein-Hagen, M.G. Swann-Horler, H.E. Pocock, L.E. Hickson, L.S.R. Esponera Lozano, C. Valdes Araguas, D. Underhill, A. Gration, E. Cooke, H.F. New, I.B. Leatherbarrow, C.E. Philbin, I. Leonard, M. Halver, N. Eschmann, C.M. Draco, N.J. Cosgrove, H.M. Appleby, F.E.H. Osterloh, L. Cooke, D.J. Williams, J. Cosgrove, J. Hughes, H.W.A. Lee, Y.L. Lay, M.D. Griffiths, J. Haining, T. Pocock, F.L. Boesl, J.M. Moore, H.J. Higgins, W.C.S.L. Wyke, H.R. Bate, A.D. Wolf, S.W. Ruettgers, L. Round, A.A.H. Moore, H.J.P. Dushchenko, D. Baillon, K. Chadwick, L.A. Garratt, S.E.H. Mason, G.S. Coupe, H.I. Appleby, A.J.L. Ramsay, A.N. MacAndrew, T.S. Nojic, E. Finken, L.M. Gration, G. Hentschke, P.J.A. Heasmer Jones, R.H. Hickish, O.M. Leipold, K.J. Erhard, M-L. Nojic, I. Logan, D.C. Dwyer, J. Fletcher, C.D. Copelin, H. Giesen, C-J. Underhill, H. Nunez Barranco Del Rio, P. Haji Rahman, T. Appleby, H.J.A. Nicholson, E. Baggaley, D.C. Haydn-Lee, H.M. Leese, R. Coe, A-G. Floate, A. Higgins, O.T.Y.L. Williams, F.J. Mrs M.D.Reynolds Leonard, A.W. Baggaley, F. Harris, S.R. McNamara, S.A. Garratt, E.C.R. Raw, J.L. Golabek, D. Mason, S.I. Hansen, L.M.P. Chen, D. Swinnerton, T. Draco, O.T. Mr A.P.Coupe Mr J.J.Baggaley Mr D.Swann-Horler Mr J.W.W.Nicholson Mr J.N.Haycock Mr C.R.Davies Bakker, M.S. Dr R.J.Hansford Leonard, H.A. Mr A.D.Quentin Mrs J.M.Underhill Mr J.S.Underhill Mr C.Garratt Mr A.J.Murphy

Woodard House
2024 2025

Lower School

> “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement – Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”
>
> Helen Keller

Yet another busy year has passed and we take time, again, to reflect on the life of Lower School.

Ms Rogers continues to lead our Academic Enrichment Programme for the Lower School. As part of our end-of-year celebrations, awards were presented to pupils who showed consistent involvement in academic activities throughout the year.

During the Michaelmas term, Lower School pupils took part in a variety of exciting trips and activities. One highlight was the Year 7 residential at PGL near Baschurch—a fantastic ‘team bonding’ experience. Pupils stayed for two nights and enjoyed a wide range of indoor and outdoor pursuits, helping them build friendships and confidence early in the year. Later in the term, the festive season brought more enjoyment. Lower School pupils attended a lively pantomime at the theatre, took part in the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, and participated in the carol service. Year 7 and 8 pupils were busy during their Wednesday activity sessions, taking part in House Debating, House Plays, and a rotating carousel of enrichment activities. At the same time, our Key Stage 2 pupils were working hard in preparation for their end-of-term production.

The Ellesmere College Parents’ Society also hosted a Christmas Disco for Key Stage 2, which was filled with festive fun and, of course, plenty of noise!

On the final day of term, we celebrated with our traditional Lower School Christmas lunch—complete with Christmas jumpers and plenty of cheer.



Lower School House News

This year we have enjoyed a wide variety of fun events and friendly Inter-House competition!

Michaelmas

Debates

First stop on the House Event tour was the House Debates in Michaelmas. Even though it was early in the year, our competitors made their houses proud as they battled it out debating this year’s topics. Everyone spoke-up and tried their best to persuade the rest. Thanks to Mr Crawford, our adjudicator.

Brownlow (Proposing) v Heywood (Opposing)
“AI is the solution to everything”
Phillips (Proposing) v Brownlow (Opposing)
“Those who do not know history are destined to repeat it”
Heywood (Proposing) v Phillips (Opposing)
“Sports events should not be attended live anymore but watched via technology”

Winners: Phillips

House Plays

Every year, Year 7 and 8 students at Lower School don costumes and make-up, make props and write lines to help perform our plays to an enthusiastic KS 2 audience. Our aim is to entertain and impress the judge with our theatrical, musical and technical talents as we act, direct, write and produce our stories with a Christmas theme. This year we were tasked with choosing and presenting our versions of well-known Julia Donaldson books. There were lots of laughs silly dances and of course rhymes!

Brownlow – Room on the Broom
Heywood – Stick Man
Phillips – Gruffalo

Winners: Brownlow – who can forget the broom laden with creatures!

Summer

House Quiz

Mr Crawford was back again by popular demand. This time we were in the Arts Centre and our brains were tested to the limit with a wide range of general knowledge questions. There were picture and music rounds too. After a slow start, it was a race to the finish as the points suddenly began stacking up in quick succession. A super performance by

all nine of our quick-fire competitors, but in the end, it was Phillips that won the day. Well done all.

Winners: Phillips

House Singing

Chapel was the venue for this year's House Singing. The sound from all three Houses filled the space and put smiles on everyone's faces. Our judge, Mr Coupe had the unenviable task of deciding between the groups as they sang their hearts out in a hymn and a musical song each. Houses tried a variety of techniques, modulations, and actions to catch Mrs Coupe's attention. We were all agreed that this was a particularly good year for House Singing.

Brownlow – Shine Jesus Shine & Radio GaGa
Heywood – He's Got the Whole World in His Hands & Doh Ray Me
Phillips – Lord the Light of the World & Bohemian Rapsody

Winners: Phillips
Special mention for the hymn: Heywood
A stellar year for Phillips – Well done!

Special Events

Raising the Roof Bazaar

Mr Coupe wondered if we would like to have lots of fun, be creative and help with the Music School Appeal – so of course we said – yes! Over the weeks beforehand we thought up ideas for stalls where we could challenge others to play our games, take our quizzes and try our challenges. Then we got to work making all that we needed. We swapped money for special music tokens and set everything up ready for our first customers. It was busy, loud and lots of fun. We really enjoyed stopping off in the Gingerbread man Café to drink hot chocolate and decorate gingerbread men. Then it was off again to make bracelets, buy raffle tickets and try to pin the tail on the donkey. Thanks Mr Coupe. Please can we do it all again next year?

After the storms of December, the Lent term seemed calmer, and we were fortunate to have good weather for the annual Cross Country event. I would like to commend all those who took part—whether or not it was their favourite activity, every pupil gave their best, and I was incredibly proud of their effort and determination.

Our pupils' musical talents shone throughout the term. The Lower School choir, singers, and instrumentalists performed exceptionally well at the Oswestry Festival and should be very proud of their achievements. Throughout the year, we have also enjoyed Music Teas and concerts, where pupils have had the opportunity to showcase their dedication and passion for music.





During the Lent term, Key Stage 3 were given the opportunity for to get involved in the production of Fantastic Mr Fox – and it certainly was fantastic! Well done to all those involved.

LOWER SCHOOL PRODUCTION

FANTASTIC MR FOX

CAST LIST

THE WISE OLD OWL	FLORENCE HUGHES & CHARLIE LOWE
FARMER BOGGIS	NED WEAVER
FARMER BEAN	GETHIN LLEWELLYN JENKINS & JACK HUGHES
FARMER BUNCE	THEO SWANN-HORLER
FIRST CHILD	VV ALKUREISHI
SECOND CHILD	ARIELLA THELWELL
THIRD CHILD	GRACE McKERCHER
SMALL FOX 1	ARTHUR COOKE
SMALL FOX 2	GRACE HORROCKS
SMALL FOX 3	BONNIE TANNER
SMALL FOX 4	RORY GALLAGHER
MRS FOX	SIM MEHMED
MR FOX	JAYDEN JOSEPH
Mr BADGER	ETHAN HARRISON
MRS BADGER	DORIS FLAHERTY
SMALL BADGER	WOLF WAHLBERG
SMALL BADGER 1	REECE LINGE
SMALL BADGER 2	ANIA JONES & GRACE MCKERCHER
RAT	KIT FISHER & TATE RAYBOULD
MRS BEAN	ELLIE DEVLIN
MABEL	GRACE MCKERCHER
Mr MOLE	TOM FORD
MRS MOLE	HOLLY THOMAS
SMALL MOLE 1	LEO SALMOIRAGHI
SMALL MOLE 2	WILL NEW

MR RABBIT	WILL DONAGHY
MRS RABBITT	MARTHA COPE
SMALL RABBIT 1	ELBE RAMSAY-SMITH
SMALL RABBIT 2	CHLOE HART
SMALL RABBIT 3	FREDDIE MCGOWAN
SMALL RABBIT 4	RAEYA KHOSLA
MR WEASEL	SAM SHONE
MRS WEASEL	KADY BALDWIN & CHLOE HART
SMALL WEASEL 1	OSCAR LEA
SMALL WEASEL 2	VV ALKUREISHI
SMALL WEASEL 3	ARIELLA THELWELL
CREATIVE TEAM – THEATRE TECH	
PROPS	ROLA ABOU SEEDA
BACKSTAGE	CHRIS DILKS
LIGHTING/SOUND	JASPER KIMBER
LIGHTING/SOUND	EDDIE HARRIS
LIGHTING/SOUND	ALEXANDER OAKES



Trips Abroad

This year also offered exciting opportunities for international travel. The choir embarked on a memorable trip to Amsterdam, while pupils studying Spanish enjoyed a cultural and linguistic immersion in Madrid. I received excellent feedback from both visits, and it was wonderful to see such strong interest and participation. Travelling and sharing new experiences with peers is not only enriching but also a valuable opportunity for personal growth and development.

The Summer Term is always a busy one, with assessments and ESB examinations taking place across the Lower School. Year 8 enjoyed a well-earned social trip to the bowling alley in Shrewsbury, where they relished the friendly competition, fast food, and amusements.
Miss Darrant has organised two STEM Challenge Days this year, with the final one held in June. Pupils worked collaboratively in teams to complete a brief within a set time frame—an excellent opportunity to apply creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

We were fortunate to have good weather throughout the term, and expeditions for all year groups ran smoothly. On the final Thursday of term, Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the annual Swimming Gala in the morning, while Key Stage 3 enjoyed a carousel of activities leading up to Sports Day on Parry's Field in the afternoon. A special thank you to Mr Simon Taylor for organising the Swimming Gala, and to Mr Christopher Horrocks for co-ordinating Sports Day. This year also featured an entertaining addition—the much-anticipated 'Dads' Race'—which brought plenty of fun and laughter. Well done to all who took part!

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Sadie Norris and Helena Hepburn, who are stepping down from the Ellesmere College Parents' Society as their children move on to university. Their dedication, support, and tireless efforts in helping to organise Lower School events have been truly appreciated, and they will be greatly missed.

We also say thanks and goodbye to Mr Hutchings, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Pearce, and Mr Williams. We wish them all the very best—whether they are moving on to exciting new roles or looking forward to a more relaxed pace of life. Each of them has made a significant contribution to the school, and particularly to the Lower School, for which we are sincerely grateful.

Florence Hughes was Head Girl this year accompanied by William Donaghy, as Head Boy. I thank them both for their hard work and during our end of term assembly they both gave speeches:

Florence Hughes:
Just after I got selected as Head Girl of Lower School last year, the first thing my Godfather Richard said to me was 'with great power comes great responsibility,' and this took me by surprise as it sounded like a quote from a Nobel Peace Prize winner. The surprise didn't last that long as we realised it was a quote from Spiderman, but there is more truth to that quote than people think, but it never meant I stopped having fun.

I remember when I was on my taster, and I had Amelia as my buddy and one of the boys was drawing Among-Us characters at the back of the classroom and after a full day here I knew Ellesmere was the place for me. I think back to when I started Ellesmere in Year 6 with Mr Hutchings as my form tutor. Everyone in my class will remember maths sheets and how there was one with match sticks that barely anyone could do. I also remember Mr Fisher's percussion group performing at Oswestry Youth Music Festival and I was lucky enough to watch their debut performance, they did win the class but sadly they did not perform again. All my memories at Lower School have been positive including all the ones



made at PGL where someone in my dorm ate my Pringles and another person fell off their bunk bed. Everyone will agree that the giant swing was the best but by far the scariest. I also loved my life lessons with friends throughout the years, where I was told that 'sea lions have shells' and 'Malaria is a trend' and just a week ago, they somehow managed to convince our whole science class that the smallest star to exist was named the 'Dinky Winky Star' and was the same size as Jupiter. Even though Lower School was a lot of fun we still learned so much and it has been the best start to my education.



Lower School will always be a place I can look back on with fond and funny memories and all the teachers have been amazing and have taught me many things. Lower School gives you so many opportunities so make sure you make the most of it. Lower School is a great place and has helped me so much in many ways.

As my time in Lower School comes to an end, and we all prepare to move up to the next stage in our learning, the one thing we will all always have in common is the great friend-ships and memories that were made in Lower School. Thank you to Will Donaghy for being such a great person to work with I'm going to miss our door duties on a Monday morning's and seeing who could get to the light switch first, in chapel. Thank you to Eve for being an amazing Chapel Prefect and I loved all the Sunday chapels together (including the one with the butterfly). Also, thanks to Ellie and Kit for being such talented Music Captains and VV and Ehaan for being such a fun Deputy Head, I must say we have all had a lot of fun together this year (especially in chapel). Lastly, thank you to Mrs Morgan for giving me this unfor-gettable opportunity to be Head Girl. Good luck to the next Head Boy and Head Girl, make sure you make the most of this opportunity as it goes by very quickly, and I hope you have as many good memories as I have.

William Donaghy:

I stand before you today to reflect on my time in Lower School and to say goodbye. It's quite crazy. How quickly this year went, and now my time as Head Boy is over as I transition to Middle School as a soon-to-be Year 9 student.

When I first came into Lower School as a nine-year-old, you could probably guess how petri-fied I was. All my friends were at my old primary school, and I couldn't imagine anything different. Parking just outside the door and seeing a river of children enter really made eve-rything seem so real. I nervously jumped out of the car and walked towards the front door. All this build-up of fear and questions beginning with 'What if?' instantly shattered when the Headmistress at the time, Mrs Owen, smiled and greeted me. Her gesture quickly made me relax, and I instantly knew that Ellesmere was the right choice. As I walked into Mrs Phillips' room, I was amazed at how small our class was compared to the 40 students at my previous school. I sat down and was pleased to find out that we had no lessons for the entire morning. Instead, we did some colouring and played a few games.

Over Year 5, I loved how practical the lessons were and how frequently we went out onto the playground for them. A year later, Mr Fisher was my form tutor. He always made sure we understood all the work and was a very caring teacher. I remember on St David's Day; we spent the entire day eating Welsh cakes he made for us and painting daffodils. He liked to put us out of our comfort zone, so that year he entered the whole class into the Oswestry Music Festival for a group percussion performance. We were really surprised to hear that we won. However, we were the only competitors for that category.

Moving on to Year 7, Mrs Rogers was so enthusiastic about us. Even though she taught al-most everyone RS and organised all academic enrichment for Lower School, she always made sure we were okay — and if there was a problem, she got it sorted. I especially re-member that whenever we had some free time, we'd bring out the LEGO and build some-thing around a specific theme, which would later be judged by a different teacher.

This year, I took on the responsibility of becoming a Prefect, and with that came duties. Whether it was trying to manoeuvre the thurible in a Eucharist or struggling to attach the kindness tree onto the glass window, I like to think I have tried my hardest. I have had such a wonderful time in Year 8, and I would like to express my gratitude to a few people for making it possible. I would like to thank the Prefect Team — VV, Ehaan, Eve, and the Head Girl, Florence — whom I will miss working with on all the different jobs we carried out. I also want to thank the staff: all my previous form tutors, the cleaners, cooks, groundsmen, the Reverend, and most importantly, Mrs Morgan.

It has been such a joyous time being Head Boy, and I have made so many different memo-ries from this experience. Most of these are simple — or maybe some are embarrassing — but they, along with many others, have shaped my time this year. I am truly thankful to Mrs Morgan for giving me his wonderful opportunity, and I hope that the next Head Boy will love this role just as much as I did.

I thank all pupils, parents and staff for their support and enthusiasm throughout the aca-demic year and now look forward to the new academic year in Lower School.

SEM




85
BROWNLOW
25
HEYWOOD
185
PHILLIPS









Davenport, F.J. Gaskell, H. Flaherty, D.S. Hart, C. Rafferty, F.J. Pearce, R.P. Weaver, C.I. Davenport, M.S. Dawes, A.H. Bebbington, D.B. Oakes, T.M. Dawes, Z.P. Dawes, J.T. O'Grady, J. Francis, B.W. Goodwin, A.M. Small, H.E. Donaghy, J.R.N. Stockton, C. Whiston, W.F. Sharaf, T.M. Leung, S. Baker, P.A.M. Gretton, R.I. Thomas, H.A. McGowan, E.J. Beattie, O.J. Koleva, I. Nyakudya, E.J. Ramsay-Smith, E.O. Wahlberg, A.J. Chester, L.F. Cheshire, L.J. Cope, M.W. Harrison, E.O. Winney, O. Llewellyn-Jenkins, G.S. Balakrishnan, T.E. Winn, H.A.M. Forrestill, O.J. Latham, E.R. Hutchon, H.R. Bedwell, Z. Poole, A.M. Salmoiraghi, L.F. Blackwood, A.R. Horton, T. Jones, A.C. Gaskell, A. Forrestill, A.R. Ford, T. Weaver, W.N. Horrocks, P. Morgan, L.W. Spencer-Blow, F.J. Evans, J. Fearnall, H. Leonard, A.R. Carlsson Dalton, M.P. Lowe, G.D. McKerchar, G.L. Gallagher, E.B. Mehmed, S.S. Coupe, F.J. Simmons, R.C.M. Rafferty, I.S. Wahlberg, W.J. Fearnall, F. Ruscoe-Edwards, C. Dilks, C.G. Lowe, C.T. Billington, R.C. Latham, F.L. Fell, H.O. Gallagher, R.F. Lea, O.G. Dunlop, R.J. Devlin, E-M. Oakes, A.T. Lay, E.J.M. Swann-Horler, T.L. Johnson, S.P.L. Horrocks, G. Cadwaladr, O.T. Sandiford, F.M. Scales, E. Cornwell, S.V. Khosla, R.L. Philbin, J. Richards, T.W.H. Fearnall, W.F. Thelwell, A. Forrest, H. Evans, H. Shone, S. Every, C. Joseph, J. Higgins, S.E.W.L. Raybould, T.M. Webb, N. Tanner, B.J. Baldwin, K.A. Kimber, J.F. Newell, J.J. Madeley Roe, F.J. Wilks, J.D. Reeves, E.W. Hughes, J.D. New, W.L.S. Walker, O.B. Griffiths, G. Fisher, K. Sharaf, E.W. Alkureishi, G.J.A. Albertini, A. Linge, R.O. Harris, E.G. Abou Seeda, R.A.H.A. Igwe, O.J. Leath, O.T. Cook, A.W. Whittaker, E.T. Fr Phillip Mrs A.Arrowsmith Mr R.S.Fisher Mr D.J.Morgan Mr S.J.Prescott Donaghy, W.R.J. Mrs S.E.Morgan Hughes, F.L.E. Mrs J.M.Hibbott Ms S.Rogers Miss L.Arrowsmith Mrs C.E.Pearce Mrs R.Coxey-Evans Lkbaich, R.A. Philbin, L. Shortt, P.D. Taylor, E.J. Haydon, F.S. Tomkins, J.D. Cope, G.R. Peloquin, Z.J. Oakes, H. Glover, O.A.

Lower School 2024 2025

Middle School

> A good education is a foundation for a better future
>
> Elisabeth Warren

The start of the academic year was characteristically lively, with pupils—especially those joining Middle School for the first time—adapting quickly to new routines and the higher academic expectations of Years 9 to 11. The enthusiasm and energy with which they settled into school life set a positive tone for the months ahead, helping to establish both academic focus and a strong sense of community.

The opening half of the Michaelmas term was marked by the build-up to our expeditions, always a highlight of the year. These excursions form a cornerstone of our educational approach, offering pupils the chance to apply their skills in practical and often challenging contexts. This year's programme included activities for all the groups that make up our Thursday afternoons: CCF, Arts Award, Eco Team the Leadership Course, and the ever-demanding Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Pupils demonstrated both capability and resilience, with camping in October proving, as always, a memorable test of determination. These expeditions not only developed practical skills, such as navigation, teamwork, and problem-solving, but also encouraged reflection and independence, qualities that are fundamental to our educational philosophy.



Even amidst academic engagements, the sense of a tight-knit community resonated strongly. The tradition of Christmas Lunch endured, fostering camaraderie and shared festivities among both staff and students.

Our collective spirit was also evident in the regular assemblies, a valued opportunity for Middle School to come together as a community. Pupils took the lead in presenting on a wide range of topics, sharing interests and passions with their peers. These occasions were both informative and inspiring, enabling students to develop the confidence to address an audience—an essential skill that stretches even the most able. One particularly memorable assembly focused on space exploration, captivating the audience with the wonders of the universe and sparking curiosity about scientific discovery and human ingenuity.

Assemblies also allowed us to celebrate the academic achievements of our pupils. Recognising and rewarding hard work remains central to the ethos of Middle School, and it was a privilege to present certificates alongside Mrs Curzon, Assistant Head of Middle School, to those pupils who had shown dedication and endeavour in their studies. These moments of recognition help reinforce the value of perseverance, motivation, and personal achievement, inspiring both recipients and their peers.

Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHE) also played a vital role in the life of Middle School. As the only time pupils are taught in their tutor groups, PSHE provides a valuable forum for discussion and reflection. Topics this year ranged from mental health and environmental concerns to the development of effective study skills. As ever, the annual online safety course provided a timely reminder of the importance of digital literacy, ensuring our pupils are equipped to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. Discussions in PSHE frequently encouraged students to consider ethical dilemmas and societal issues, helping them develop empathy and informed perspectives.

Outside the classroom, pupils rose to the challenge of House Debating. Following the British parliamentary style, all four competitive Houses took part in two lively rounds, with pupils switching roles between debates to build versatility and confidence. Year 9 pupils also participated in a Model United Nations morning, debating the pressing global issue of food security. Both events showcased the ability of our students to think critically, argue persuasively, and engage with the wider world, reflecting not only intellectual skill but also teamwork, diplomacy, and adaptability. Trips offered invaluable opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom. The annual History trip to France and Belgium gave pupils the chance to walk the First World War battlefields and visit key sites, helping to contextualise the human experience of conflict and sacrifice. Similarly, the Spanish trip provided a rich cultural immersion, enabling pupils to practise their language skills, experience life in another country, and develop a deeper appreciation of Spanish history, art, and daily life.



Both trips reinforced the importance of experiential learning, showing how travel and first-hand observation can enhance understanding in ways that classroom study alone cannot.

Year 10 enjoyed particular successes this year. Every pupil undertook the English-Speaking Board qualification, with 100% achieving merit, merit plus, or distinction. More than a quarter of the year group achieved distinction, the highest grade possible—a result of which they can be immensely proud. They also excelled in STEM challenges, where they were tasked with designing and building ball launchers in a demanding project that tested their problem-solving, engineering, and teamwork skills. These projects encouraged creativity and innovation, giving pupils practical experience in applying scientific principles to real-world problems.

Music and Drama continue to thrive as a cornerstone of Middle School life. The Senior School production of The Addams Family was a resounding success, delighting audiences and giving pupils the opportunity to shine on stage and behind the scenes. Our younger performers also impressed: Year 9 pupils achieved gold with high distinction in the duologue category at the Chester Festival of Speech and Drama, performing an extract from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Successes continued at the Oswestry Music Festival, where students won numerous prizes across a wide range of categories, demonstrating the breadth of their talent and commitment. Such achievements underline the importance of creativity, confidence, and performance skills in the development of well-rounded pupils.

Sport has, as ever, been a strong feature of life in Middle School, with students representing the school across a wide range of disciplines and enjoying another very successful year. Sport continues to develop teamwork, resilience, and healthy competition, and contributes significantly to the strong sense of community within Middle School.

The Summer Expos brought the year to a fitting close, with a rich variety of activities across the different groups that make up Middle School. The Arts Award cohort organised and performed in a showcase of creative talent on the terraces, where their passion for music and performance shone through, from vocals to instruments. Meanwhile, the Navy contingent headed to Southport for kayaking, developing teamwork and confidence on the water, while the RAF group enjoyed hands-on experiences and outdoor adventures. Pupils in the Football Academy benefited from a training session with Bolton Wanderers' first team, an experience that inspired and motivated all involved. These Expos perfectly encapsulate the ethos of Middle School: celebrating achievement, creativity, and personal growth in a supportive and stimulating environment.

This year has been one of growth, achievement, and community spirit. Middle School pupils have risen to every challenge with determination and energy. As we look ahead to next year, we do so with confidence that life in Middle School will continue to flourish, offering pupils experiences that nurture academic, creative, and personal development, and fostering a vibrant and inspiring community.

SP





Sixth Form

> Still waiting for the moment quadratic equations become useful in real life.
>
> Anonymous or maybe PES

After the usual start of term events and settling in, life in the Sixth Form was very much business as usual for what seemed like the first time in many years. The 'Careers Fair' in October was well attended and eight more pupils from the Lower Sixth completed the Mental Health First Aid Awareness course swelling the numbers involved in supporting MHESS.

New this year was the introduction of timetabled Health and Social Awareness lessons (HSA) which replaced PSHE and also incorporates the required elements of RSE. These lessons are on the Wellio platform and provide an opportunity to reflect on the huge range of topics that are increasingly important to be aware of to be able to navigate in the society of today.

We had a visit from the Yipiyap team advertising the Gap year opportunities that they offer just before the end of term and this was followed by the Christmas lunch and carol services. A very enjoyable end to a busy term.

The Lent Term began with the usual focus on mock exams for the Upper Sixth and a very successful PSHE morning for the Lower Sixth covering substance abuse and mental health and also well-being and managing stress.

The Summer Term began with the IB pupils starting straightaway with exams so they had a month of intense pressure and then were able to relax and either enjoy the facilities of the school or spend some time visiting friends and family. The A level exams swiftly followed and BTEC modules were also successfully completed this term for all.

Rounding off another busy year, at the end of the term, the Sanatorium Sisters again arranged an even bigger and better 'Health Fair' for the Lower Sixth and this was newly labelled a 'Wellfest'. The positive feedback was again much appreciated by all involved in its organisation and I hope that this has now proved to be a valuable permanent event in the year's calendar.

This year had its challenges as always but together we all worked hard to keep moving forward and remain kind and supportive to each other and I wish all our leavers every success in life and hope that they will find the time to come back in the future so we can look back on their time at Ellesmere and remember together.

MTG




Captains of School
Captains of School
Captains of School








UCFB




Captain
1991 R.M. BRUCE-PAYNE
1992 M.E. GILLISON
1993 J.W. DOWNES
1994 A.C. SMITH
1995 O.J. PUGHE
1996 C.M. LAMPUTT
A.D. QUENTIN
1997 J.R. POWELL
P.J. WILLIAMSON
1998 S.F. MOORE
D.H. PINCHES
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011







Furlong Hart, D.V. Magalhaes McKown, M.B. Pyne, I.E. Moore, I.L.R. Babanejad, A. Liu, X. Capewell, S.M. Dettmar, L. Johnson, P.M. Melashvili, N. Gough Tilley, T. Mackintosh, J.G. Williams, J. Utikalova, L.L. Galliers, E.N. Zankl, K. Rein-Hagen, M.G. Kritchanarat, N. Hui, L.M. Edwards, S.J.C. Taylor, M.B. Haining, T. Matthews, J. Williamson, E.G.O. Holton, J. Lee, Y.L. Nojic, I. Moll, T.M. Finken, L.M. Albersmann, P.H.M. Liang, J. Nojic, E. Richardson-Rutter, E. Stock, A. Cooke, D.J. Shirley Smith, C.A. Goodwin, A.G. Boesl, J.M. Coe, P.A. Paton, A.M. Dong, B. Murdoch, K.A. Loud, O.A. Ruettgers, L. Higgins, O.T.Y.L. Underhill, H. Rescigno, A. Mahoney, C.R. Kassow, J. Kocyte, N. Evans, J. Ashton, E. Dandy, A.J. Wolf, S.W. Kaewthong, T. Harris, L.S. Stiller, C. Norris, J.H. He, J. Martos Manrique, N. Mathers, J.J. Prysor, S.L. Holland, T. Harrison, O.C. Leipold, K.J. Jackson, H.J.E. Herzog, D.T. O'Donnell, S.P. Green, M.A. Collins, M.P. Moore, H.J.P. Giesen, P.L. Meuer, M.X. Appleby, A.J.L. Kugedera, M. Davidson-Jackson, K.A. Preusse, P.L.F. Floate, A. Mostafavi Nezhad, S.M. Coe, A-G. Taylor, H.J. Gardner-Mctaggart, B.E.E. Nicholas, A.H. Holanova, V. Mason, S.I. Gray, I.L. Reindler, P.P. Boonprasopthanhachot, P. Bullen, F.H.D. Sharpe, A.J. Fletcher, C.D. Elsner Von Der Malsburg, J.H. MacAndrew, T.S. Loe, A.W. Brandl, L.K.R. Hobbs, J.B. Burston, J. Perovic, S. Wells, M.G. Sanderson, C.M. Balakrishnan, S.E. Owen, G. Raw, J.L. Crossen, O. Swinnerton, T. Hoyland, J.A. Haydn-Lee, H.M. Nunez Barranco Del Rio, P. Acher Rogers, O. You, M. Harris, S.R. Haji Rahman, T. Giesen, C-J. Hepburn, H.J. Trevor-Barnston, W.C. Williams, A. Pytches, E.N. Davies, F. Gannicott, J.P. Vukcevic, V. Garratt, E.C.R. Dreyer, C.T. Schuler, T.N. Mielczarek, J. Appleby, H.J.A. Copelin, H. Povey, M.J. Karlakki, A. Boys, C. Joulie, V. Teich, F.F. Cuckson, C. Baggaley, F. Stuart, H.A. Foltyn, F.C. Dyson, T.J. Leonard, H.A. Webster, M. Bakker, M.S. Hansen, L.M.P. Pettigrew, J.K. Popplewell, A. Wynn, T.H. Draco, O.T. Dunne, C.D-A. Qian, J. Nolan, S. Appleby, F.E.H. Keil, E.E. Keil, A.L.I.R. Adams, E. Carter, F. Gaskell, A. Janahi, S.F. Lamerton, T.D. Hickson, L.S.R. Kimber, E.M. Shirley Smith, R.A. Tsitsishvili, E. Osterloh, L. Halver, N. Pocock, F.L. Wong, N.H. Wong, C.H. Mr J.W.W.Nicholson Golabek, D. Mr J.Underhill Beuer, C.C. Mrs J.Underhill Mahoney, C.M. Dr M.T.Gareh McNamara, S.A. Mr C.Garratt Hartinger, M.R. Mrs C.S.Dilks Farr, A. Mr J.E.Dilks

Sixth Form
2024 2025

University Destinations

University Applicant Results 2025

Name	University	Course
Francesca Appleby	Bangor University	Psychology (Foundation Year)
Henry Appleby	Harper Adams University	Agriculture (+ Foundation year) (with placement)
Madelief Bakker	Leiden University, Amsterdam	International Relations
Shinil Balakrishnan	University of Liverpool	Finance and Data Analytics
Cosima Beuer	University of Amsterdam	Economics and Business Economics
Charlie Boys		Golf Profession
Frederick Bullen	Edge Hill University	Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
Jack Burston	University of Birmingham	Geology and Physical Geography
Saskia Capewell	Liverpool John Moores University	Business with Digital Marketing
Verity Carden	Leeds Conservatoire	Vocal Studies
Frederika Carter	Oxford Brookes University	Marketing and Events Management
Archie-George Coe	Lancaster University	History and International Relations
Marcus Collins	Loughborough University	Economics (with placement year)
Isobel Cripps	Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Oscar Crossen		Degree Apprenticeship in Rural Land Management
Felicity Davies	Queen's University Belfast	Politics
Liv Dettmar	Def - King's College London	English Law and German Law
Oliver Draco	University of Salford	Business Management with Foundation Year
Ciaran Dunne	Def - Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
Thomas Dyson	Harper Adams University	Agriculture with Farm Business Management
Stephanie Edwards	University of Worcester	Nursing (Children's)
Anna Farr	Loughborough University	Criminology
Archie Floate	USA	Football (Chemistry/Environmental Science)
Frederick Foltyn	ISM Munich, Germany	International Business Management
Darcy Furlong Hart	Liverpool John Moores University	Law with Foundation Year
Elizabeth Galliers	GAP YEAR	
James Gannicott	University of New South Wales, Australia	Economics
Bonnie Gardner-Mctaggart	The University of Edinburgh	German and English Literature
Evan Garratt	Durham University	International Relations
Paul Leonard Giesen	GAP YEAR	
Dariusz Golabek	GAP YEAR	
Thomas Gough Tilley	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
Isobel Gray	University of Leeds	Business Management
Marcus Green	Central Film School London	Practical Filmmaking with Integrated Foundation Year
Tamim Haji Rahman	University of Brighton	Mechanical Engineering (with a Foundation Year)
Sean Harris	University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering with a Foundation Year
Moritz Hartinger	GAP YEAR	
Henry Haydn-Lee	Lancaster University	Politics and International Relations
Harry Hepburn	University of Southampton	Modern Languages
Leanne Hickson	Edge Hill University	Musical Theatre
James Hobbs	Bangor University	Product Design
Viktoria Holanova	GAP YEAR	
James Hoyland	Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management
Harry Jackson	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Business and Management (Entrepreneurship)
Sophia Janahi	University of Manchester	Politics and French
Adam Karlakki	University of Surrey	Economics with Foundation Year

Name	University	Course
James Kinsey	Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Neda Kocyte	Junior College, USA	
Munashe Kugedera	Bournemouth University	Software Engineering
Thomas Lamerton	University of Bath	Aerospace Engineering
Harvey Leonard	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Business and Management (Entrepreneurship)
Joshua Mackintosh	Def- Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Management
Connor Mahoney	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Business and Management
Sophie Mason	St Mary's University, Twickenham	Sport Rehabilitation
Jake Mathers	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Performance Analysis
Jed Matthews	Def- Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Shayna McNamara	De f- Cardiff University	Communication, Media and Culture and International Relations
Henry Leglu-Moore	Aberystwyth University	Business and Management (with integrated foundation year)
Alix Nicholas	University of Bath	Politics and International Relations
Erika Nojic	Spain	
Iskra Nojic	Spain	
Sophia Nolan	GAP YEAR	
Joshua Norris	University of Southampton	Computer Science
Sean O'Donnell	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Management
George Owen	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
Simon Perovic	European Universities	
Matthew Povey	GAP YEAR	Golf (US)
Phillipp Preusse	GAP YEAR	
Edward Pytches	University of Birmingham	International Relations and Development
Jiahui Qian	Birmingham City University	Fine Art
James Raw	Harper Adams University	Agriculture with Farm Business Management (with Placement)
Philipp Reindler	IE University Madrid	Business Management
Mari Giselle Rein-Hagen	University of Southern California, USA	Neuroscience
Alberto Rescigno	Durham University	Computer Science and Mathematics
Catherine Sanderson	University of Nottingham	Medicinal and Biological Chemistry with an Assessed Year in Industry
Alexander Sharpe	Durham University	Economics
Tom Smith	Swansea University	Civil Engineering with a Foundation Year
Holly Stuart	Leeds Beckett University	Business Management with Marketing
Thomas Swinnerton	Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management (with Foundation Year)
Harry Taylor	University of Reading	Construction Management and Surveying
William Trevor-Barnston	Glion Uni, Switzerland	Business Hospitality Management
Ellene Tsitsishvili	University of Connecticut, USA	Political Science
Ewan Tulloch	University of Bath	Accounting and Finance
Vladimir Vukcevic	GAP YEAR	
Myles Webster	Oxford Brookes University	Media, Journalism and Publishing
Millie Wells	Loughborough University	Sport and Exercise Science
Alexander Williams	Leeds Beckett University	Architecture
Joshua Williams	GAP YEAR	
Ching Hei Wong	University of Birmingham	Chemical Engineering
Mingwen You	Cardiff University	Urban Planning and Development with a Professional Placement Year



The Combined Cadet Force
NAVY Section

The Navy section of the Combined Cadet Force at Ellesmere College has enjoyed a rewarding year, combining adventurous training with sailing skill development and leadership opportunities. Cadets have embraced a wide range of activities designed to foster teamwork, resilience, and a deeper understanding of the Royal Navy.

The Michaelmas Term began with regular sailing sessions at Whitemere, where cadets honed their dinghy sailing skills in a safe but at times challenging environment. It was a pleasure to see the cadets improving their technical proficiency on the water and developing in confidence. As the term progressed, the focus shifted to theoretical and practical learning about the Royal Navy. Cadets explored naval roles, responsibilities, ranks, and seamanship, laying a strong foundation for their future development within the section. Leadership and teamwork were central themes, with cadets participating in structured team tasks that required problem-solving, communication, and cooperation.

A highlight of the term was the opportunity for one cadet to attend the Navy Cadet Regatta at Southport during the October half-term. This national event brought together cadets from across the country and provided an excellent platform to showcase sailing skills, engage in friendly competition.

Inspiring visits and events also enriched the cadet experience. Early in the New Year, Captain Suzy Conway RN visited the College and delivered a fascinating talk about her career in the Royal Navy. Her insights into the diverse roles she has held and the challenges she has overcome offered cadets a real-world perspective on naval life and the opportunities available to those who pursue a career in the armed forces.

The October Expo was another memorable occasion, combining fieldcraft and team-building exercises with cultural and recreational experiences. Cadets visited the RAF Museum at Cosford, gaining a broader understanding of military aviation history, and spent time at the National Memorial Arboretum, reflecting on the service and sacrifice of those in the armed forces. The Expo also included a day of Airsoft activities, which proved popular and effective in reinforcing tactical awareness and teamwork under pressure.

Following the Easter break, sailing resumed with renewed enthusiasm. These sessions served as excellent preparation for the Summer Expo, held at Waterside Lodge in Southport. This multi-day event focused on sailing and water sports, offering cadets the chance to apply their skills in a new setting out of the school environment. The Expo was a fitting culmination to the year's training, combining fun, challenge, and camaraderie in equal measure.



Throughout the year, the Navy section has continued to uphold the values of the CCF—discipline, service, and leadership—while providing cadets with meaningful experiences both on and off the water. The blend of practical training, educational visits, and adventurous activities has ensured that cadets not only develop as individuals but also contribute positively to the wider CCF community at Ellesmere College.

KC









The Combined Cadet Force
RAF Section

The Royal Air Force section of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has enjoyed an exceptionally busy and rewarding year, filled with diverse activities that have challenged, inspired, and developed our cadets. From outdoor adventures and leadership training to flying and marksmanship, every term has offered unique opportunities for growth and achievement.

The Michaelmas term began with a focus on outdoor adventure, as several cadets prepared for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions — always a highlight of the CCF year and an excellent opportunity for personal development. We also welcomed a new intake of recruits, who began working through the First Class syllabus. Their training covered a broad range of topics, including the history of the Royal Air Force, an introduction to the CCF, Airmanship 1, the history of flight, basic radio communication, first aid, and drill. The enthusiasm and teamwork shown by the new cadets were outstanding, and our senior cadets took great pride in guiding and instructing them.

As the term progressed, attention turned to marksmanship, with cadets undergoing rigorous training to qualify for their Trained Shot badges. The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the flying at RAF Cosford, where cadets experienced the thrill of taking to the skies and putting their classroom learning into practice. The Michaelmas Expo was another memorable event, featuring a visit to RAF Cosford and its museum, where cadets explored the history of flight and British military aviation. They also took part in leadership activities and joined the Navy section for an exciting day of Airsoft — a firm favourite that always brings out some friendly inter-section rivalry.

The Lent term saw cadets progress into the Leading Cadet syllabus, delving deeper into aviation through subjects such as Airmanship 2, Principles of Flight, and Basic Navigation. Aviation remained central to their training, with cadets taking part in Part-Task Trainer (PTT) flying sessions — several achieving their well-earned Blue Wings badges. RAF instructors also delivered leadership sessions and command task training, helping cadets further develop their confidence and decision-making skills.

As the Summer term began, we said farewell to some Senior cadets heading off for study leave but maintained a full programme of activities. Training focused on improving drill, uniform standards, and weapons handling in preparation for summer exercises. Leadership development remained a priority, with cadets honing their communication and planning skills through the SMEAC approach to Command Tasks.

The Summer Expo was an incredible culmination to the year's efforts. Our cadets began with a visit to Sleap Airfield, where we were warmly hosted by Old Ellesmerian and former RAF cadet Mr Bruce Buglass, now Airfield Manager. Cadets toured the facilities, explored the RAF museum and hangars, and enjoyed a short flight over Shropshire — a fantastic start to the expedition. The following day took us to RAF Shawbury, where cadets



experienced base operations first-hand and were treated to a flight in a Juno helicopter. The final day saw the section return to RAF Cosford to put their weapons handling skills into practice on the range. Cadets fired the L98 A2 rifle to a very high standard — so much so that even the full-time RAF test sergeants were impressed! The cadets were a real credit to both the RAF section and the College throughout the expedition.

As we look back on an action-packed and successful year, we also prepare to say farewell to Test Sergeant Taylor, whose leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication have been an inspiration to all. He has provided countless opportunities and memorable experiences for our cadets, and he will be greatly missed. We extend our heartfelt thanks to him and wish him every success in the future.

Finally, sincere thanks go to Mr Bruce Buglass for his continued hospitality at Sleap Airfield, and to Mr Higgins and Mr Cone for their invaluable assistance and support at RAF Shawbury, helping to deliver such an outstanding experience for our cadets.

Flt Lt J Haycock









The Combined Cadet Force
Army Section

The start of the academic year was, as always, a busy one as all the cadets went straight into getting ready for their October expeditions. Year 9 were all involved in a two-day overnight expedition which would qualify all of them for their 1* Expedition module and the majority for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Expedition training. The two groups would go on to complete their expeditions successfully. Year 10 started their Skill at Arms training with Major Quentin and Sgt Marsh making sure that they would be ready to pass their Weapon Handling test and fire the rifle on expeditions. A and B Company would do their expedition at Altcar, a training area which was new to all of us, but it proved to be very successful. Our thanks to all the staff at Altcar who helped us so much. The cadets took part in a wide-ranging training programme which covered a significant amount of the 1* and 2* Fieldcraft and Tactics parts of the syllabus. The year 11 cadets were particularly impressive, and several were promoted to the rank of Cadet Corporal in recognition of their efforts as section commanders and 2i/cs. The Contingent's Colours were paraded by the senior cadets of the three services on Remembrance Sunday. The Army Section continued its working through the Army Cadet Syllabus with many achieving their appropriate Star Levels. At the end of the Easter term several of them attended the fabulous Easter Camp at Dundonnell which is reported on elsewhere.

At the start of the Summer Term the Contingent paraded to thank our senior NCOs as they stood down to prepare for their final examinations. The Contingent Commander presented them with engraved CCF medallions and their CCF Colours. Felicity D was awarded Best Army Cadet and Myles W was awarded The Blake Hartley Trophy for Best Cadet. Summer Expeditions saw the Year 9s complete their D of E Bronze Expedition and two days on Nesscliffe Training Area where they completed their Basic Fieldcraft to complete their Basic training. A and B Company completed a 48-hour exercise also on Nesscliffe. All the cadets were outstanding and performed to a remarkably high standard. Platoon HQ was made up solely of Year 11 cadets with many junior NCO roles being filled with Year 10s. We returned to Altcar three days later for Central Camp with the majority of A and B Coy attending along with three enthusiastic Year 9s. The young people were an absolute credit to the College and enjoyed a day on the ranges as well as clay pigeon shooting and archery. RAF Woodvale kindly hosted the party one evening. The cadets took part in TIBUA and CQBR training on the sand dunes which was exceptional. They also enjoyed a day of AT at the water park at Liverpool Dock and finished with the Competition Day Lucy C was awarded the Wootton Cup at the final parade. My thanks to all my colleagues for their help, hard work and support in providing so many opportunities for so many Ellesmerians.

Lt Col M P Clewlow, Contingent Commander




Combined Cadet Forc
(CCF)
Leavers' presentation 2




College
Combined Cadet Force
(CCF)
Leavers' presenta n 2025





The Combined Cadet Force

Easter Camp 2025

This year's Easter Camp was the 50th since my predecessor Col John Scorer took the first party of Ellesmerians off to climb mountains in Scotland. It certainly lived up to expectations. We returned to Dundonnell on the banks of Little Loch Broom with twelve cadets. All but one was new to the experience and eleven of them were Year 10 cadets. Unfortunately, Dave, our usual chef, was unable to attend Camp and so a last-minute replacement, Henry, came with us and the Contingent Commander stepped into the role of sous chef. As we travelled further north it became apparent that this was going to be Easter Camp but not as we knew it! The hills looked magnificent, bathed in glorious sunshine and under wall-to-wall blue skies.

The stores van was full of ice axes, crampons, avalanche probes and much more but much of it would remain unused – there was simply no snow at all! After the initial surprise and a little disappointment had worn off, the prospect of a week of perfect spring weather with no midges became very exciting. The first morning saw the cadets head off with a much-reduced list of kit. Whereas this training day would usually have been spent learning winter skills this time the instructors headed into the sunshine out for a shake-out day with the cadets. One group completed the ascent of Cul Mor whilst Huw Gilbert OE took his cadets to Am Faochagach where he managed somehow to find a patch of snow about the size of a five-a-side pitch – just big enough for an ice axe arrest! It proved to be the only snow of the whole trip! As tradition dictated the group returned from the hills to the first of several superb afternoon teas.

The extraordinary weather allowed the group to achieve some remarkable milestones. Day two saw us tackle the mighty An Teallach, an absolute icon amongst the Scottish peaks. Two of the three groups completed the entire ridge, a feat on many mountaineers' bucket list. There were lots of happy faces, if somewhat sunburnt, scoffing strawberries and scones around the table that afternoon. The plan for Day 3 was the ascent of the equally iconic Stac Pollaidh but this was scuppered by another first for all of us. As we approached the spectacular Corbett (a hill between 2500 and 3000ft) we saw smoke rising and fire engines attempting to bring a heath fire under control. Stac Pollaidh would have to wait. The morning was spent instead swimming in the sea, on the beach and scrambling – another first for this trip! The next three days were due to spent on the expedition phase of the week and so the cadets planned and shopped for their food in Ullapool that afternoon. Expedition rucksacks were packed, and tents issued along with all the other equipment needed for two nights under canvas. The group walked into Glencanisp Forest where they made camp for the night. The next day they climbed the fabulous Suilven, another peak on many wish lists. The cadets walked out to Lochinver and back for the Camp Dinner. Chef Henry produced a fabulous meal, and the cadets were presented with their unique Camp badges. Our youngest cadet gave the traditional speech of thanks and proposed the loyal toast, and Tilly W was presented with The Axe as Best Cadet on Camp.



The challenge of Easter Camp was and remains a unique opportunity and the cadets responded superbly. They were exceptional on and off the mountain and a genuine pleasure to be with throughout. This year was very different than any of the 49 previous Camps but gave unique opportunities to conquer some fabulous peaks. It was a memorable trip.

Lt Col M P Clewlow, Contingent Commander









The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Bronze Award

Our intrepid Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze participants took on their final assessed expedition this summer. Over two days and one night, pupils were completely self-sufficient, navigating independently, preparing their own meals, and setting up camp in the great outdoors.

The expedition route was no walk in the park! The first leg saw pupils trek from Llandegla to Llangollen along the stunning Offa's Dyke path, followed by a circular hike around the Llantysilio mountains. Each day involved around 15km of challenging terrain, and the intense heat on day one added an extra test of stamina and perseverance.

Some groups encountered tricky navigation through the Llandegla Forest, but with determination and teamwork, they pushed through. Spirits remained high, water bottles were kept full, and all groups arrived at Abbey Farm campsite, where they efficiently pitched their tents and began to unwind. A refreshing dip in the nearby stream and toasted marshmallows made for a well-earned evening treat.

The following morning, fuelled by a quick breakfast and a strong sense of purpose, pupils packed up camp and set off on the second leg of their expedition. Their improved navigation skills—sharpened since their October training—were evident as they tackled the route with growing confidence.

Despite the heat, every group completed the final day with grit and good humour. The assessors were impressed by the pupils' teamwork, resilience, and positive attitudes. Most importantly, nearly every participant successfully passed their Bronze expedition—earning a comfortable rest in their own beds that night!

Congratulations to all involved for an outstanding achievement and a memorable summer adventure!

GWP







Silver Award

As last year, the silver Duke of Edinburgh ran outside of normal expo times. Expo training took place once per half term, and included a range of skills including, cooking, team building, putting up a tent, how to be safe out in the wilds. For their volunteering, skills and physical sections pupils did a range of activities, including tennis, shooting, hockey, learning the piano and helping with the park runs and the St. John Ambulance. These activities are all done independently by the participants, both in and out of school.

Both expos, like last year, took place in the summer term. The first, which included a campcraft and navigation training day, happened in and around the Long Mynd and Church Stretton. Helping with the navigation was Mr. Baggaley, Mr. Dilks, Mrs Furlong-Hart, and myself. Mr Digby was following behind as the much-needed back up in support vehicle. My group, however, did go off piste, down sheep tracks and routes that weren't on the map. Most of this was blamed on one member of the group Bertie Heasmer-Jones who assured everyone he knew where they were, but then disappeared, like a sheep dog and then reappeared on a completely different path. Although we walked 5K more than we should, Freddie must have walked at least 10K more. The group eventually returned to camp in the fading light of the day, still in high spirits. As last year the fine weather was short-lived, and as is becoming tradition on expos we had a thunderstorm and torrential rain overnight. The weather did improve, and the pupils walked and navigated well, ending with a well-deserved ice cream in the Carding Mill valley car park.

The assessed expo took place in Snowdonia. The day started eventfully, with minibuses not starting, pupils being sick and the rugby team having to push a minibus out of Stan's garage. Eventually everyone started their walk off in a layby at the foot of Tryfan, the sun was shining and the vistas amazing. Mr Taylor came with this year as an assessor in training, along with Mr Digby, Mrs Furlong-Hart, and me. The pupils walked to the head of the Llyn Cowlyd Reservoir, which was as windy as ever and then back



into Capel Curig. Although the pupils couldn't complete the route as a couple of burly security guards, not a sight you normally see in the wilds of Snowdonia, prevented them. We later found out that this was because they were filming the TV show the House of Dragon on the route. This did lead to lots of the pupils, and Mr Taylor, practicing their sword fighting with umbrellas and tent pegs in a hope that they could get an extras role when we passed by the next day.

As we are now allowed to bus pupils, we stayed both nights in a campsite just on the outside of Betwys y coed, which was relatively midge free and had free, warm showers. The second day started back at Capel Curig, the bouncers were still there, but the film crews were nowhere in sight. Sadly, the sword fighting practice didn't see them taking on a starring role in the filming. Pupils did however, head towards Plas y Brennan and took in some stunning views of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) and

finally back into Betwys y coed. The final day saw pupils leave the campsite and walk through the woods up towards Llanrwst and then back down to the Ugly House. It took in Llyns and history along the way, including a disused lead mine. Pupils were up, literally, at the crack of dawn as last year, with the first group were off and out by 7.00 in the morning and all had gone by 8.30. Unlike last year, all groups navigated well, and none ended up in a parallel dimension as the year before. Which was a relief. They all successfully passed their expedition, which was well deserved.

RJH



Gold Award

This year saw an experienced group of twelve Year 12 sign up for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. With priority given to those who have completed a Silver Expedition (and with our new requirement to book a Residential by January 2024), we again had an engaged and mature group – serious about wanting to complete the whole of the Gold D of E Award which still represents a significant and valued challenge.

Towards the end of September, work began on preparing for the upcoming October Expeditions where the Year 12 group would undertake the necessary three-day intensive canoe training to equip themselves with the skills needed to manage the canoes, stay safe on the water, and rescue each other. We looked at basic canoe craft and kit requirements in college and we were again supported by our in-House Nursing Team with First Aid Sessions focusing on CPR and other crucial skills.

The three days in October allowed the group to have an intensive three-day course of canoe skills but due to flooding on the River Severn, we adapted to the canal near Welshpool and the local Whitemere. It was good to see water competence and general resilience emerge over the three days. Whilst canals may well seem relatively safe, working to manoeuvre in windy, wet conditions is challenging as is the portaging involved in negotiating locks. A chance encounter with another group meant that they had chance to borrow a 'canal raft' and enjoy that for a while.

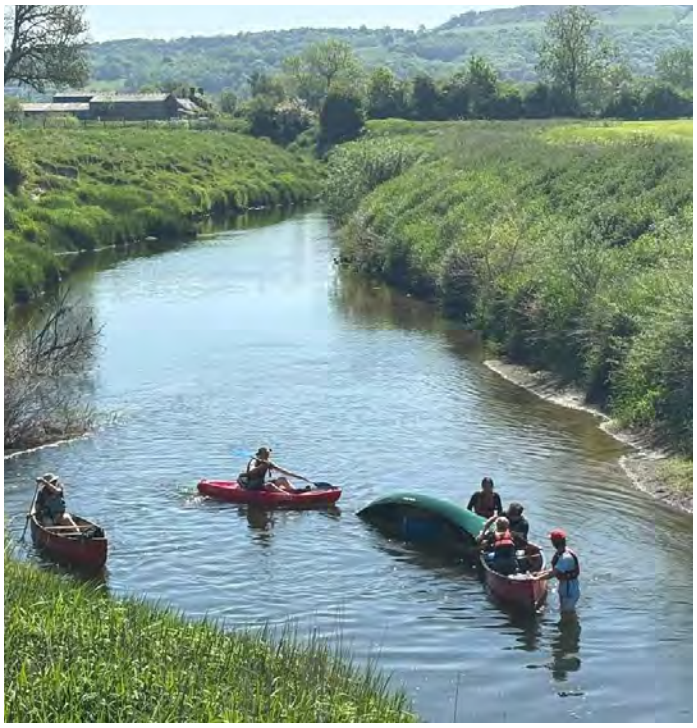
All the group persevered with their hour-long weekly commitments to: 'Volunteering' (either sports coaching or supporting reading in Lower School); 'Skills' (a diverse range from learning to fly to Italian style cooking) and 'Physical' – mainly Netball, Hockey, and Rugby. All twelve had booked their Residential by January which means that they will all very likely go on to complete the entire award. The Residential involves five days away with people who don't know, working on new skills or volunteering and some of the group have – at time of writing – already got this signed off.

In May they took on a two-night, two-day Practice Expedition from Llandrinio to Shrewsbury where the group performed very well – learning river rescue techniques; how to pack canoes for expeditions – all in a heat wave and with very low river levels. The learning curve was steep – but by the second day the group were showing signs of being able, ready, and competent at working on their own.

For the Assessed Expedition, the group journeyed over four days from Hay on Wye to Monmouth in the first week of July. This is always a significant challenge and one that tested resolve, group work and determination. Once the section from Byecross to Tresseck had been completed – a mammoth 45k section – the group had broken the back of the trip and finished near Monmouth in record time. The four-day heatwave made this even more testing, and it was very rewarding to see them finish – still smiling and satisfied that they had managed this iconic river trip: they had earnt their sausage rolls and doughnuts. They have been one of the strongest groups in the 13 years we have run this trip – testament to their resolve to take the award seriously.

My thanks in particular to Ms Killen but also to Mr Baggaley and Mr Dilks for their help and support across the year. I look forward to seeing the group again in their Year 13 to help them finish the final sections to complete the full award.

JSU













The Arts



Drama

Senior School Competitive House Plays – 'Friends'

This year's Senior Competitive House Play Competition took a comedic turn, with all four Competitive Houses staging much-loved episodes from the iconic American sitcom Friends.

Woodard House performed the hilarious episode "Joey's New Girlfriend", earning Ellie Awards for Best Performance as Rachel, Phoebe, and Monica.

Wakeman & Lambart House presented their rendition of "The One with Chandler in a Box", winning Ellie Awards for Best Performance as Ross, Slickest Performance, and Best Director.

Meynell House thoroughly enjoyed preparing their performance of "The One with the Girl from Poughkeepsie", receiving Ellie Awards for Best Supporting Role along with several runner-up awards.

Talbot House performed "The One with All the Wedding Dresses", securing Ellie Awards for Best Performances as Chandler and Joey, as well as Best Programme.

The competition takes place early in the new term, giving all senior students—both those new to Ellesmere and those already well established—an opportunity to take part in a creative and immersive experience. It allows students to interact, get to know one another, and engage not only in on-stage performance but also in the many roles involved in backstage support, including stage and set management, costumes, props, lighting, and sound design. Students are also tasked with designing and creating their own promotional posters and programmes for their plays.

The transferable skills gained through this competition are invaluable and provide a meaningful learning experience for many. Whether it involves building self-esteem and confidence, stepping outside their comfort zone, performing on stage, or managing rehearsals and backstage movement, the opportunity to participate in House Plays is consistently rewarding. It is an experience fondly remembered—and often talked about—long after students have left Ellesmere.

Theatre visits

Theatre visits this year have been varied and exciting. Our Lower School students enjoyed a lively trip to Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury to watch the much-anticipated annual pantomime. Middle and Senior School students were also given the opportunity to experience professional theatre in London's West End, attending Mean Girls at the iconic Savoy Theatre, as well as a truly unique staged production of Stranger Things: The First Shadow, inspired by the Netflix series. The show proved fascinating, with captivating special effects that left a lasting impression.

Students also visited the Storyhouse Theatre in Chester to see a deeply moving performance of Dear Evan Hansen, and also travelled to The Lowry Theatre in Salford for a vibrant and exhilarating staging of Rambert's dance production Peaky Blinders.

Lower School Competitive House Plays – Stories of Julia Donaldson

This year's Lower School Competitive House Plays saw the houses of Brownlow, Heywood, and Phillips bring to life the beautiful and imaginative stories of Julia Donaldson. With Stick Man, The Gruffalo, and Room on the Broom as their chosen inspirations, students transformed the familiar tales into vibrant stage productions filled with energy, humour, and creativity. Each house embraced the challenge with remarkable excitement and enthusiasm, creating performances that were not only entertaining but also showcased impressive teamwork and dedication.

Competition was keenly felt throughout the process, as students worked hard to earn points in categories such as Best Dance Moves, Best Character Interpretation, and Best Costumes and Use of Props. Rehearsals often saw lively debates about choreography, character choices, and staging ideas, showing just how invested each group was in bringing their vision to life. The craftsmanship behind the handmade costumes, set pieces, and props demonstrated a thoughtful understanding of the stories and added a charming authenticity to every production.
The event brought together the entire Year 7 and Year 8 cohorts, with every student contributing to their house's performance either on stage or as part of the creative team. Their collective efforts resulted in three wonderfully engaging shows, delivered to an enthusiastic and supportive audience. The performances not only celebrated the joy of storytelling but also offered students the opportunity to develop confidence, communication skills, and a sense of shared achievement.

Overall, the Lower School Competitive House Plays once again proved to be a highlight of the academic year—an uplifting celebration of imagination, collaboration, and the enduring magic of Julia Donaldson's much-loved stories.



Chester Speech & Drama Festival 2025

A number of our LAMDA students proudly represented Ellesmere at this year's annual Chester Speech & Drama Festival, showcasing their hard work, talent, and passion for performance. The festival, which attracts young performers from across the region, provides an excellent platform for students to test their skills, gain confidence, and receive valuable feedback from professional adjudicators.

Our students achieved great success across both Solo Drama and Duologue categories, demonstrating not only technical ability but also maturity in character interpretation and stage presence. A particular highlight of the festival was the outstanding achievement of two Year 9 students, who won the Under 15 Duologue category with Distinction. Their gripping performance of an extract from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein impressed the judges with its emotional depth, commitment, and strong partnership on stage. Their result is a testament to the hours of rehearsals and the dedication they brought to their work.

In preparation for the competition, students spent the term developing their solo pieces, duologues, and Musical Theatre performances during their LAMDA lessons. They refined vocal technique, explored character development, and strengthened their interpretative skills under the guidance of their tutors. By the time the festival took place in March, the students were well prepared and eager to perform, showcasing confidence and enthusiasm in every class they entered.

We are incredibly proud of all students who participated. Their professionalism, creativity, and courage to perform in a competitive setting reflect the high standards of the performing arts at Ellesmere. Their success is richly deserved, and we look forward to seeing their talents continue to flourish in future festivals and examinations.





Senior School Production 2025 – The Addams Family

A huge congratulations to our exceptionally talented students for their brilliant performances of this years Senior School Production of The Addams Family! From the eerie atmosphere to the spectacular acting, powerful singing, and imaginative set design, The Addams Family brought spooky fun, laughter, and sheer theatrical magic to the stage.



The commitment shown throughout rehearsals truly shone through in every moment of the production—whether it was the sharp comedic timing, the beautifully choreographed musical numbers, or the wonderfully creepy charm that The Addams Family is known for. The audience were treated to a show filled with energy, professionalism, and creativity well beyond expectations.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the entire cast and crew for their dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm. Equally, special appreciation must be given to the staff who supported the production—directors, musical leaders, technical teams, costume designers, set builders, and everyone working behind the scenes who made this performance possible. Their collaborative efforts created an unforgettable experience for performers and audience alike.

What a fantastic show, and what a wonderful celebration of talent across our school community. We couldn't be prouder—well done, everyone!

AMDA Performing Arts College Workshop

AMDA Performing Arts College – Los Angeles and New York
A Masterclass with Eugenio – An Inspiring Workshop!

Arts Award students were treated to an extraordinary learning experience led by Eugenio Contenti, an internationally recognised Director, Choreographer, Writer, and Educator whose work spans New York, Italy, and stages around the world.

Eugenio, whose career includes Broadway-calibre productions across the United States, Mexico, Spain, and Italy, delivered a dynamic and immersive workshop that left a lasting impression on everyone involved. His infectious energy, professional insight, and deep passion for the performing arts created an atmosphere where students felt encouraged to challenge themselves, explore new techniques, and think creatively about their craft.

Throughout the session, students engaged in a range of practical activities focused on acting, theatre, and dance. From exploring character development to refining movement and expression, Eugenio guided them through exercises designed to ignite imagination and build confidence. His personalised feedback and thoughtful encouragement made the workshop not only educational but truly inspiring.

As part of the afternoon, Eugenio also introduced students to AMDA College of the Performing Arts, based in Los Angeles and New York. He shared a glimpse into the world-class training and global opportunities available to young performers who aspire to take their craft to the next level. For many of our students, this sparked excitement about future possibilities within the performing arts industry.

The workshop was an unforgettable opportunity for our Arts Award cohort to learn from an accomplished industry professional. We are incredibly grateful to Eugenio for sharing his time, expertise, and creativity with us—and we look forward to building on the inspiration he left behind as we plan further workshops with AMDA Performing Arts College.





Lower School Dance Show 'Ignite'

Our Junior Dance Club proudly presented their inaugural dance evening, aptly titled Ignite. Students from Years 3 to 10 came together to showcase a diverse range of thought-provoking and inspiring performance pieces, each crafted through weeks of hard work, creativity, and collaboration. From expressive contemporary routines to high-energy group numbers, every performance reflected the passion and enthusiasm that the dancers brought to their rehearsals.

The atmosphere on the night was electric, with an audience of parents, friends, and staff filling the theatre with warm encouragement. Performers lit up the stage with confidence, emotion, and artistry, clearly relishing the opportunity to bring their ideas to life. Their dedication and concentration were palpable throughout the evening, and it was wonderful to see students of different ages supporting one another and celebrating each other's achievements.

Ignite not only highlighted the talent within our school community but also demonstrated the growing strength of dance at Ellesmere. The success of the event marks a promising beginning for what we hope will become a cherished annual tradition. We look forward to watching the Dance Club continue to flourish and to seeing even more students embrace the joy of performance in the next academic year.

Lower School Production 2025 – Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

Over 50 students from Years 7 and 8 took on the vibrant roles of wild woodland creatures and selfish, greedy farmers in this year's Lower School production of Roald Dahl's much-loved tale Fantastic Mr Fox. The energy and enthusiasm of the cast were evident from the moment the curtain rose, with pupils bringing to life Dahl's mischievous humour and fast-paced storytelling. With a cast that filled the stage from wing to wing, every pupil—whether backstage, on stage, or supporting with costumes, props, lighting, or sound—played an invaluable part. Their commitment throughout weeks of rehearsals truly epitomised the meaning of teamwork.

The production not only showcased the pupils' acting and musical talents but also highlighted their creativity, resilience, and ability to work collaboratively under pressure. Teachers involved in the show noted how students developed confidence, communication skills, and a strong collective spirit, helping one another learn lines, practise choreography, and perfect scene changes. Moments of laughter and camaraderie during rehearsals made the journey as memorable as the final performance itself.

And of course, who could forget the brilliant closing dance number to What Did the Fox Say?? The entire audience erupted in applause as the full cast filled the stage for a playful, high-energy finale that had everyone smiling—and a few even dancing along in their seats.

A special thank-you must go to the Parent Teachers' Society for their ongoing support throughout all of this year's productions. Whether providing refreshments while dressed as Morticia, donning animal ears when handing out ice creams, or offering help behind the scenes, their enthusiasm, creativity, and generosity were felt by performers and audience members alike. Their contributions added to the atmosphere of fun and celebration that makes these events so memorable.

The success of Fantastic Mr Fox is a testament to the hard work, spirit, and imagination of the Lower School community. It was a joyful reminder of what can be achieved when students, staff, and families come together—proof once again that teamwork truly makes the magic happen on stage.

RLS




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Music

Barnardo's National Choir Finals

These take place at Symphony Hall on Tuesday 4th March – Ellesmere College Chamber Choir are one of fourteen choirs in the senior class this year. Amongst the adjudicators is Karen Gibson, Director of The Kingdom Choir who provided the music for Prince Harry's wedding. I have written the following as our blurb in the programme:

Ellesmere College Chamber Choir are delighted to be here today. The choir were formed by Ellesmere's Director of Music, Anthony Coupe, to expand on the College's proud choral tradition. We perform a varied repertoire from sacred cathedral music to contemporary arrangements. Community performances and charity work lie at the heart of many of our performances and it is a pleasure to be supporting Barnardo's today. 'Poor Wayfaring Stranger' tells of a difficult journey made bearable by the belief in reaching a new place of abundance and peace. 'My Spirit Sang All Day' is an ecstatic declaration of the joy wrought by love. We hope that you enjoy this music as much as we enjoy performing it.

Oswestry Youth Music Festival

We love being part of this 5-day festival, which is one of the largest youth music festivals in the country. This year over 100 College musicians aged from 8 -18 will be singing, playing and performing in ensembles and choirs, and for some this will mark their first performance in front of an audience. Our students have the opportunity of gaining valuable performance experience, receiving expert feedback and the chance to listen to performers from other schools.



Beating the Blues

Youth Rock Bands from across Shropshire came together on Monday 20th January to bring light and joy to 'the most depressing day of the year'. Hosted by Ellesmere College, the Beating the Blues Concert raised £540 for Shropshire Mental Health Support.

Anthony Coupe, Director of Music at Ellesmere College said: 'This is a really exciting moment for Shropshire. So many young people from the age of 8 to 18 are engaging with and performing rock music in a way that I have not seen in the last 20 years in this area. Some bands are writing their own material, and this concert allowed the groups a valuable opportunity to listen to one another and gain valuable stage experience. Who knows, we may be seeing some of the first



performances from the next Adele or Coldplay. I would like to say a huge thank you to Will Oram, Emma Bunn, Johnny Fitch, and Sophie King, teachers who are inspiring and helping to develop tomorrow's musicians here in Shropshire.'

The evening featured 12 bands, with students from The Corbett, Marches, Oswestry School and Ellesmere College. It is a joy to see young people engaging in such a creative and collaborative way. Long may it continue!

Midwinter Concert

Ellesmere College was filled with music for the Midwinter Concert on 1st February welcoming Porthywaen Silver Band (under the direction of Stephen Pritchard-Jones) to perform alongside our College Choral Society, Choirs, musicians and singers. This wonderful concert reached a climax with a joint performance of 'Sweet Caroline'. There was also a moving tribute to Brendan Wignall, former Headmaster of Ellesmere College, with the Chapel Choir singing 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' by John Rutter. The evening raised £1270 for Age UK North Shropshire Supporters Association. Anne Wignall who has represented the charity for years said: 'Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a great success. So many people have come up to me and said that it was the best concert yet!'

House Singing

Each year, Ellesmere holds a House Singing Competition for its 4 Competitive Houses. The event has a theme – this year it was the music of Elvis. All students from Years 9 – 13 take part performing a Unison Song, a Part Song (in harmony) and 2 verses from a Hymn. Last night's competition resulted in a tie between Woodard and Wakeman-Lambart. Woodard came 1st in the Hymn with Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer and 1st in the Part-Song with 'Can't Help Falling in Love'. Wakeman-Lambart came 1st in the Unison Song with 'Jailhouse Rock'. Although Wakeman-Lambart were awarded the trophy last night, both Houses did equally well and as such they will be awarded a Joint 1st Position in this year's competition.

A selection of our teachers performed 4 Elvis Songs while the adjudicators were deliberating. A fantastic night was had by all and I am pleased to report that the students of Ellesmere College are in fine voice!

Songlist:

TALBOT (House)
Unison: The Wonder of You
Talbot: Love Divine
Part: Return to Sender

WAKEMAN-LAMBART
Unison: Jailhouse Rock
Hymn: Abide With Me
Part: Suspicious Minds

WOODARD
Unison: Purple (Suede) Shoes
Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer
Part song: Can't Help Falling in Love

MEYNELL
Unison: Burning Love
Hymn: The Day Thou Gavest
Part: In the Ghetto

Celestial Music

The Celestial Music concert brought together the College Choral Society, Orchestra, and the Ellesmere Sinfonia for a stunning performance of Schubert's Mass in G. We were delighted to be joined by two Old Ellesmerians – Rhian-Carys Jones (currently studying for her master's at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama) and Lewis Readon (currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music) – who performed as our soloists.

The second half of the concert featured our Chapel and Chamber Choirs, presenting music from their upcoming tour to Amsterdam. Proceeds from the evening went towards the Music School Appeal.



Music Tour to Amsterdam

In April, 52 students from Ellesmere College embarked on a memorable music tour to Amsterdam. They performed at the Westerkerk, Oudekerk, and English Reformed Church, gaining invaluable confidence and experience while immersing themselves in the city's rich cultural heritage.

The tour also included spontaneous flashmobs in museums and other iconic locations, making it a truly unforgettable experience for everyone involved.





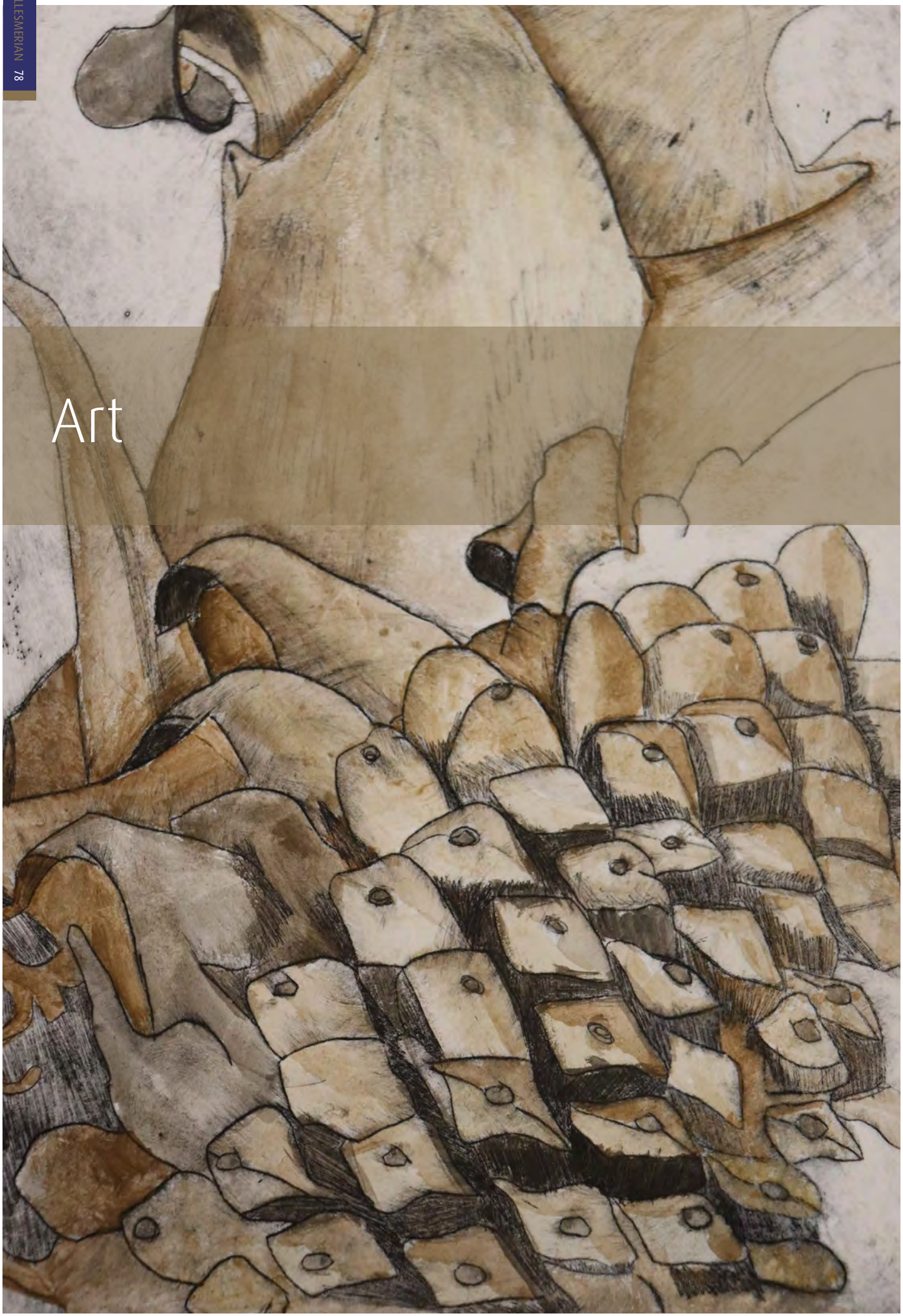




ABRSM Results 24-25

NAME	INSTRUMENT	GRADE	RESULT
Kit Fisher	Singing	4	Merit
Ellie Kimber	Singing	5	Merit
Jack Wilks	Violin	4	Pass
William Donaghy	Piano	4	Pass
Sophia Janahi	Singing	ARSM	Distinction
Isabella Moore	Singing	6	Distinction
Leo Salmoiraghi	Cello	2	Merit
Alex Hu	Violin	5	Merit
Alberto Rescigno	Piano	8	Pass
Alex Hu	Piano	3	Distinction
Tobias Stubbs	Baritone	3	Pass
Francesca Haydon	B Flat Cornet	3	Merit
Harry Winn	B Flat Cornet	2	Pass
Eva Ford	Singing	5	Merit
Isabella New	Singing	5	Merit
Lucy Chadwick	Singing	5	Merit
Tilly Leonard	Singing	5	Merit





Art

A Level Art

Alex Williams



Cora Qian





Verity Carden





GCSE Art

Yankee Wong



Lyra Cox





Holly Cooke





Loui Henneberry



Tim Supsakorn



Anna Polanska



Tabitha Kimber



Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, the focus has been to let students have ownership on their own projects all the way from Year 5 to Year 13. We have pushed students to develop their independence in the subject through teaching of core skills within the workshop environment and through graphical communication skills to help create and visualise their ideas. Projects this year have ranged from making resin cast coasters in Year 8, copper pipe-based side lights in Year 9 to Year 6 students using prior knowledge to help them to create a bridge out of minimal materials to hold the most weight. At GCSE students have continued to develop through the Edexcel programmes designing educational toys for children; and, through the OCR Engineering course where students have been required to design desk tidies and disassemble speakers to understand how they have been manufactured. A special mention to Tilly Windsor in Year 10 who has received a Distinction* in her first lot of coursework submitted in the course. The A Level cohort this year have kept me and Mr Haycock on our toes this year with multiple projects using coding to help develop and realise their projects. The Year 13s have shown great resilience this year with their projects and have been able to produce fantastic final outcomes ranging from Games tables and Resin Cast desks to producing a temperature regulated horse mister aimed to help cool horses core body temperature in transit; and a garden water butt and storage unit, which waters plants based on moisture levels in the soil. The cohort have been a pleasure to work with this year both at GCSE and A Level and we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

MTH















Ellesmere in the News



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!

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, 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.

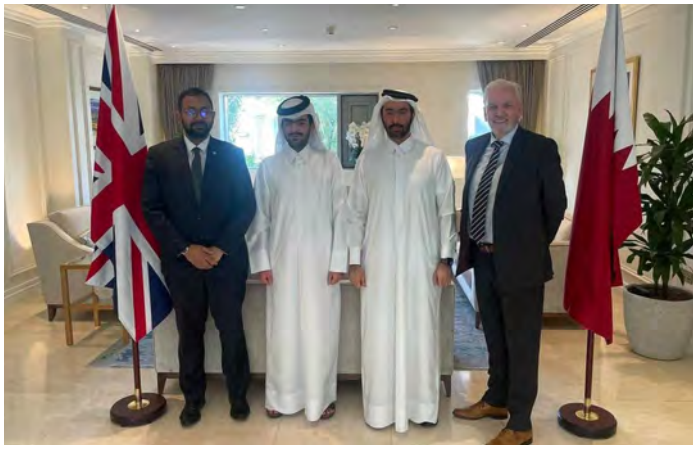
"Retaining our place in the top 100 schools guide is a testament to everyone's efforts at the school as we continue to strive to offer the best opportunities possible for our young cricketers."



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."

Ellesmere College announces new partnership school in Doha



Ellesmere College International is proud to announce a new partnership with the Education Avenue Group to open Ellesmere College Doha in September 2025.

Supported by British Ambassador Neerav Patel and his team, this exciting collaboration will bring Ellesmere's holistic, high-quality education to Qatar, offering innovative programmes in a world-class learning environment.

This marks a major step forward in expanding Ellesmere's global reach and building lasting international educational ties.

We look forward to welcoming our first students in Doha in September2025!

Celebrating Outstanding ESB Success!

Congratulations to all our Year 10 students for their fantastic ESB results! Every student achieved Merit, Merit Plus, or Distinction in their Grade 5 English Speaking Board exams, with over a quarter earning Distinction — the highest grade.



Equally impressive, 100% of our Year 12 students earned Merit or above in their Grade 8 ESB qualifications, with 83% achieving Distinction. This achievement means every Year 12 student has secured at least 27 UCAS points through their dedication and communication skills.

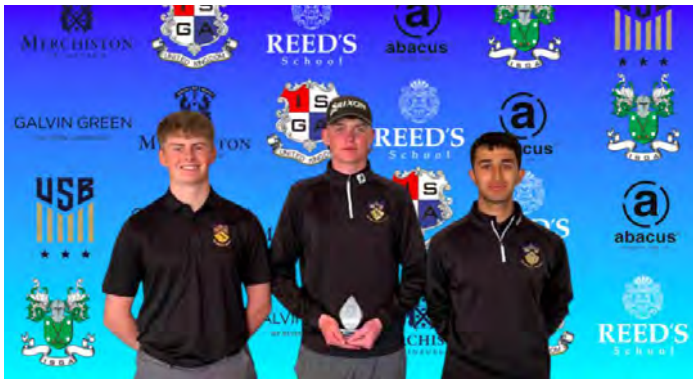
A huge thank-you to our English Team for their exceptional support — a true team effort!

Ellesmere College Golf – From Rising Stars to National Success

Charlie, recent winner of the Independent School Golf Association Tournament (ISGA), is setting his sights on a professional career. Introduced to golf at age four, Charlie has flourished at Ellesmere under the guidance of PGA Advanced Pro Rob Ashbrook and now trains regularly with England's team. Named Shropshire and Herefordshire Junior Captain for 2025, he plans to compete across Europe before turning professional.

Alongside Charlie, our School Golf Team—including Shinil and Matthew—finished an impressive 5th overall in a highly competitive national team event. Their strong performances have propelled Ellesmere to 3rd place in the UK Independent School Golf rankings, reflecting the academy's dedication to nurturing talent through elite coaching, perseverance, and teamwork.

We are proud of all our golfers for their achievements on and off the course, exemplifying the excellence and spirit of Ellesmere College.



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!

Health Fair 2025: Empowering Our Community

Students and staff came together for a lively Health Fair filled with expert talks and hands-on activities on safety, mental health, nutrition, and fitness.



West Mercia Police shared vital tips on staying safe on nights out, while Jane Trowbridge, High Sheriff of Shropshire, inspired with her "Students Helping Students" initiative.

Thanks to all who made the event meaningful and memorable!

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 Student Attends UN Conference in Thailand

Ellesmere College Year 12 student Natt Kritchanarat, 16, recently joined the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok as a youth delegate.

She met UN experts, showcased her research on chemical engineering and microplastics, and attended workshops on global sustainability.

"This experience pushed me out of my comfort zone and showed me how science and policy must work together to achieve real change," said Natt.



Originally from Thailand, Natt has excelled academically since joining Ellesmere in 2021 and is now studying Physics, Chemistry and Further Maths at A level.

Inaugural Under-11 Netball Festival at Ellesmere

On 3rd May, Ellesmere proudly hosted its first Under-11 Netball Festival, welcoming eight teams for a day full of fun, competition, and teamwork. Former Ellesmere student and Manchester Thunder player Ella Maltby inspired participants with a shooting drill and skills session, making the day even more special.

Congratulations to ND Lightning for winning the tournament and Ellesmere Ravens for a strong second place.

Thanks to all players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters for making the festival a fantastic success. We can't wait to do it again next year!



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, Acting 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'.

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 Snowdon 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.

Ukraine Together: Global Connections

Four Newspaper Club students interviewed peers from Ukraine about life and hobbies, and are now writing articles to share their stories.

Meanwhile, three Year 12 students spoke on important topics in a Ukraine Together public speaking event, demonstrating empathy and global awareness.

Well done to all for representing Ellesmere with confidence!



Ellesmere Students Shine Through Duke of Edinburgh Award

Ellesmere College students have dedicated over 2,500 hours to community service through the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme, giving the school the highest participation rate in Shropshire.

DofE manager Jenna Underhill highlights how students gain valuable skills like teamwork, navigation, and leadership, often overcoming new challenges to build confidence and independence.

Their volunteering efforts—ranging from litter picking to fundraising and Combined Cadet Force duties—were celebrated during DofE Volunteers' Week, with an estimated community value of over £16,000.

All Year 9 students begin the Bronze Award, progressing through Silver and Gold in later years as part of Ellesmere's extracurricular programme.

Ruth Marvel OBE, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, praised the students' commitment, noting how volunteering transforms lives and communities.



Careers 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.





Sport - Rugby



Rugby - 1st XV

The 2024–25 rugby season for Ellesmere College's 1st XV began with a strong sense of purpose and camaraderie, setting the tone for one of the most successful campaigns in recent years. The season's foundations were laid during the annual pre-season training camp in Cardiff, where the players focused on technical skills and developed the values and culture, they hoped would define their year. This shared vision served them well as they embarked on a season filled with impressive performances and unforgettable moments.

Ellesmere's season started perfectly with a dominant 55–0 victory against Cheadle Hulme School in the first round of the National Cup. The team displayed attacking flair and solid defence, setting the stage for a successful campaign. Their confidence grew with a domestic friendly against Scarisbrick Hall. Despite the opposition's physical presence, Ellesmere's pace and skill were overwhelming, and they emerged 55–5 victors, showcasing clinical attacking play and unyielding defence.

In the second round of the National Cup, Ellesmere faced St Ambrose School, a tough opponent in recent years. The match was a hard-fought battle, with both teams exchanging tries. Ellesmere at times struggled to clear their lines and invited pressure, but their resilience shone through, and they secured a 24–17 victory. It was a huge mental hurdle overcome and earned them a place in the third round.

The third-round clash saw Ellesmere travel to Kings Macclesfield School, where they produced a defensive masterclass. With strong game management and territorial control, Ellesmere dominated possession and territory. Their attacking play was clinical when opportunities arose, and they secured a commanding 55–10 win. This performance highlighted the team's growth and depth.

Their momentum continued with wins in domestic fixtures against Old Swinford Hospital, Adams Grammar, and Calday Grange. But it was the fourth-round National Cup game against Kirkham Grammar School that became the highlight of the season. Ranked as the second-best school in the country the previous year, Kirkham posed a formidable challenge. The atmosphere was electric, with the entire school in attendance. Ellesmere rose to the occasion: the attack was clinical and aggressive, and the defence stood firm, stifling the visitors. Ellesmere, carried by the passionate home crowd, won 22–12, securing a place in the last 16 of the National Cup — a remarkable achievement.

The following week, Ellesmere travelled to face Wakefield Grammar School in the quarter-finals. This match proved to be a bridge too far, as they fell short in a narrow 14–12 defeat. While they squandered a few key opportunities and were hampered by penalties, they still played excellent rugby and gave everything they had.

Looking back, the 2024–25 season will be remembered as one of the most thrilling in Ellesmere College's rugby history. From the pre-season camp to the victory over Kirkham Grammar, the team demonstrated resilience, skill, and teamwork. Their achievements have set a new standard for future seasons, and the foundation they built will serve them well for years to come.

AJM



Rugby - 2nd XV

This was a challenging and unconventional season, marked by fluid squad selections and a flexible approach to fixtures. Teams were often selected to match the strength and needs of the opposition, with the U16s contributing significantly to both the 2nd and 3rd XV sides, while also competing in their own cup fixtures. Their cup results are detailed separately below.

The season opened at home against a tenacious and well-drilled Scarisbrick Hall side. Poor decision-making at times saw us punished, but there was enough quality to secure a hard-fought win.

We followed this with an away fixture against Rydal Penrhos, where we rested much of the previous team and gave game time to others. Despite playing their 1st XV, we held our own in a physical contest, showing superior guile and attacking intent to edge out the win.

Although Haberdashers' Adams cancelled the scheduled 2nd XV fixture, we used the opportunity to travel with a larger 1st XV squad, allowing several boys to step up and gain valuable experience.

Back-to-back 2nd XV fixtures followed. Against Old Swinford Hospital, we were tested in a tight contest but came out on top. The subsequent match against Wirral Grammar School showed clear progression, with a dominant performance resulting in a 68–5 victory.

Unfortunately, as the squad began to gel and hit form, fixture congestion and cup commitments disrupted our momentum. Cancellations against Caldy Grammar and Sandbach School meant we missed key opportunities to continue building the team.

The final match against St Anselm's College turned into a training game, with many players from both sides being rested ahead of National Cup matches later that week. A competitive first half gave way to a more disjointed second half as substitutions were made.

Despite the disruptions, there was plenty of high-quality rugby played. The players approached both games and training with excellent commitment. The integration of all senior players into shared training sessions helped maintain a high standard and provided consistent opportunities for development across the squads. This approach especially benefitted the U16s, who brought that experience into their cup campaign.

DJM



Rugby - U16

Round 1 – Wrekin College (Away)
Won 27–16
A tough opener against a strong local rival saw us under pressure for long spells. However, we stayed composed and executed well when in possession. Sharp decision-making and solid skills carried us to a well-earned win.

Round 2 – Haberdashers' Abraham Darby (Home)
Won 24–17
This match was a test of character and belief. The U16s had never previously beaten this opponent, and early nerves showed—compounded by injuries limiting us to just fifteen fit players. The opposition dominated the opening exchanges with physicality and pressure. However, the team adjusted tactically, opened up the game, and took the lead. Even after going down to fourteen players in the second half, they held firm with outstanding defensive resilience.

Round 3 – King Edward's School, Birmingham (Home)
Won 17–10
Another fiercely contested match, with both sides playing at a high level. Our boys showed maturity, grit, and a determination not to be beaten. Having built a reputation for resilience, they edged ahead and defended that lead with real purpose. This win earned a shot at Rugby School, but due to persistent poor weather and scheduling constraints, we were forced to concede the fixture.

Final Thoughts
Despite cancellations and logistical challenges, the season was a success in many respects. The players showed excellent commitment and adaptability. The shared senior training structure ensured that development remained at the forefront, creating real opportunities for growth and progress across all age groups.

Special thanks must go to all the players for their attitude and effort, the parents for their continued support, and the wider coaching team for their hard work throughout the season.

DJM



Rugby - U15

September brought a lot of unknown of what to expect for the season ahead, there were new additions to the team which enabled us to have more depth across the squad. Our first match of the season was against Scarisbrick Hall and St Edwards College Liverpool which turned into a round robin and a good start to the season. We managed to put St Edwards to the sword quite convincingly and some of that confidence probably forced us to try too hard against Scarisbrick Hall, a team we should have beaten but came away with a 14-14 draw; lessons learnt.

After a quick turnaround Wrekin were next in the Cup and after a few unforced errors at the start of the match, we eventually managed to get a foothold in the match and came away 28-0 winners. Another local derby came soon after in the form of Haberdashers' Adams. Our confidence from Wrekin had carried forward with strong running and good execution leading to a 35-5 win.

Our next cup match came against Sandbach School away which we knew would be a tough match and was against a team who had a size advantage against us. This did not deter us and after a strong tussle throughout the match with the lead changing hands several times, we were able to come out on top 27-19. Old Swinford Hospital were next on the horizon the following Saturday and after a strong start confidence was riding high in the team. However, a strong OSH team showed up and sent us crashing back down to earth with a 22-12 loss. We knew however this wouldn't be the last time we saw them as we knew we had drawn them again in the next round of the cup. Wirral Grammar School was our bounce back match the following weekend which enabled us to rectify and work on areas identified in the previous weeks match. The desire to bounce back was there with a strong 33-0 win. Our next match would be against OSH.

OSH made the journey up to us again in the cup straight after half term which we knew would be a tough match. There was a lot of desire to focus leading into the match wanting to make amends for earlier in the term. It turned out to be one of our best performances of the year with a strong physical display by all coming away with a 34-19 victory.

Calday Grange was our next match which unfortunately we had a lot of unavailability for through injuries. It was a match that if at full strength I feel that we could and probably should have one, but the absences proved too much, and we were on the end of a 22-0 loss. Fortunately for our next match against St Anselm's College Birkenhead injuries had recovered but a slow start hampered our progress in the match, and we were chasing the game in what was a well-matched game. St Anselm's took the spoils 24-17.

Our last and final match came against King's School Macclesfield in the cup who in the previous year had put a lot of points on the board against us, so there were some doubts from some players creeping in. We put up a strong performance but were unable to execute effectively when we had the ball. We can away with our heads held high despite a 14-0 loss.

It was a great season by the whole team who stood together and developed as a group throughout the year. There were good performances by all throughout the year but specific mention to Zac Lucas, Dougie Goodhall, Jimmy Dwyer, Freddie Gaskell, and Harry Walker.

MTH



Rugby - U14

Our season began with a spirited home performance against Haberdashers' Adams. Despite a 17–27 defeat, the boys showed glimpses of the potential that would develop as the weeks went on. That resilience and determination came to the fore in our next fixture away at Old Swinford Hospital, where a much-improved display earned us a well-deserved 24–17 victory. Momentum continued to build with an outstanding team performance at Wirral Grammar School, where a dominant 40–5 win showcased our attacking flair and defensive organisation.

Cup competitions brought further opportunities to test ourselves. A disciplined and composed effort saw us overcome Haberdashers' Abraham Darby 15–5 in the Area Cup, demonstrating the value of teamwork and patience under pressure. We followed this with another excellent display in a hard-fought 19–14 victory against Calday Grange Grammar, where character and commitment shone through from start to finish.

The National Cup fixture against a strong Warwick School side was perhaps our toughest challenge of the year. Despite a heavy 5–55 defeat, the boys never stopped working for each other, showing the discipline and respect that define Ellesmere rugby. Our final match against St Anselm's ended in a 17–31 loss, but again the team spirit and determination to compete to the final whistle were clear to see. Across the season, every player has contributed to the team's progress. We have developed as individuals and as a unit, learning valuable lessons both on and off the field. There have been moments of real quality, countless examples of resilience, and, most importantly, a huge amount of enjoyment along the way.

The future looks bright for this talented and committed group. With continued hard work and the same positive attitude, there is no doubt they will go from strength to strength in the seasons to come. We look forward to seeing this group in the coming years.

CSH & DWC



Rugby - U13

As the Michaelmas term drew to a close, the Ellesmere College U13 rugby team could reflect on a season filled with growth, grit, and glimpses of brilliance. Despite a mixed set of results, the squad demonstrated commendable resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout their campaign.

The team opened the season with a commanding 25–0 win over Scarisbrick Hall, showcasing disciplined defence and sharp attacking play. Their standout performance came against Wirral Grammar, where Ellesmere ran riot with a 65–10 victory, combining flair and physicality in a thrilling display.

Losses to Haberdasher's Adams, Old Swinford Hospital, and St Anselm's College were challenging, but each provided valuable learning opportunities. The squad showed heart and determination even when facing physically imposing opposition.

Unfortunately, two fixtures were disrupted by poor weather, denying the team further chances to test their mettle and build momentum.

Throughout the season, players grew in confidence and skill. The coaching staff were particularly impressed by the squad's commitment to training and their ability to adapt to different game scenarios. Leadership emerged from several individuals, and the camaraderie within the team was evident both on and off the pitch.

While the win-loss record may not fully reflect the team's potential, the season was a success in terms of development, character-building, and laying the foundation for future achievements. With continued dedication and teamwork, this group of young athletes is poised for a strong showing next year.

Here's to a season of progress—and to many more ahead!

JED



Rugby - U12

The Under 12 rugby team have shown great commitment and resilience throughout their season, competing in six challenging fixtures against strong opposition. They secured hard-fought draws against Scarisbrick Hall and Calday Grange Grammar School, demonstrating their determination to battle until the final whistle, while impressive victories over Haberdasher's Adams, Old Swinford Hospital and Wirral Grammar School highlighted their excellent teamwork, strong defence and creative attacking play. Their only defeat came against a well-organised St Anselm's College side, but even in that match the players displayed great character and gained valuable experience. With three wins, two draws and just one loss, the team can look back on the season with pride, knowing that their performances reflected not only their sporting ability but also their commitment, teamwork and determination, building strong foundations for future success.

MJA



Rugby - 1st VII

The Ellesmere College 1st VII enjoyed an outstanding season on the Rugby Sevens circuit, demonstrating commitment, teamwork, and resilience throughout a demanding schedule of tournaments. The squad's commitment to training and their collective determination were rewarded with some memorable performances and results.

The highlight of the season came at the North of England Schools 7s, where Ellesmere lifted the prestigious Boodle & Dunthorne Salver after a superb series of performances, culminating in a well-deserved victory over Hill House School in the final. The team also produced an excellent display at the King's School Worcester 7s, showcasing both flair and composure to claim the title with impressive wins against strong opposition including Monmouth School and Sir Thomas Rich's School.

At the Solihull School 7s, Ellesmere continued their fine form, reaching the semi-final stage before losing to a powerful Bromsgrove School side. The team's final outing at the Rosslyn Park National School 7s once again reflected their high standards, recording fine victories over Farlingaye High School and Bishop Wordsworth's School, before falling short against Durham Cathedral School in the group stages.

Throughout the season, the players displayed an outstanding work ethic, resilience, and togetherness both on and off the pitch. Their attitude and professionalism have been exemplary, and they have been an absolute credit to Ellesmere College. It has been a privilege to coach such a talented and dedicated group of young men.

AJM



Rugby - U16 VII

Wednesday, 26th February 2025
Shrewsbury U16 Sevens Tournament
The U16s made the short journey to Shrewsbury School for their first outing of the term — a warm-up tournament offering a valuable opportunity to put their hard work in training into practice.
Game 1: Adam's Grammar 0 – Ellesmere College 59
We began the afternoon in impressive fashion. Strong defensive organisation and confident, expansive attack laid the platform for a dominant performance. As Adam's Grammar grew increasingly desperate to find a breakthrough, we were clinical in turning their isolated attacks into swift counter-attacking scores.

Game 2: Old Swinford Hospital 10 – Ellesmere College 32
Another strong start saw us take an early and commanding lead. However, a sudden shift in the referee's interpretation of the laws disrupted our momentum. Forced onto the back foot, we had to quickly adapt and reorganise defensively. Despite conceding a try out wide, the team held its composure and discipline. Once we weathered that period, play returned to the earlier standard, allowing us to reassert control and close out the match confidently.

Game 3: Wrekin College 26 – Ellesmere College 33
Playing back-to-back games, fatigue began to show as we took on a determined Wrekin side with several strong players. We initially created good chances but were drawn into a physical contest, with Wrekin opening the scoring. We showed great mental resilience, regaining control and scoring twice to take the lead. A lapse in concentration allowed a soft try just before the half. However, a committed defensive effort from Ramsey prevented Wrekin from scoring again before the break.

We started the second half brightly and built a healthy lead, but repeated infringements at kick-offs — being in front of the kicker — handed Wrekin opportunities to get back into the game. They closed the gap, but even a final-play score that was not grounded couldn't deny us the win.

Game 4: St. Joseph's 5 – Ellesmere College (score stopped at 40)
We finished the day on a high. Starting with a less experienced lineup, we still managed to go into halftime three scores to one ahead. In the second half, we rotated the squad and played with pace and ambition, producing a level of play that St. Joseph's simply couldn't match.

Summary
A highly valuable learning experience and a strong team performance overall. Several referees commented positively on the quality of rugby and the excellent attitude and sportsmanship shown by the squad. It was also encouraging to hear respected local coaches urging their players to watch the Ellesmere team as an example of how to play Sevens effectively.

Although the Worcester tournament was unfortunately cancelled, three members of the U16 squad went on to represent the 1st XV, helping them win both the U18 tournament at Worcester and the prestigious Silver Salver at the North of England Sevens.

National Colts 7s – Rosslyn Park
Wednesday, 25th March
Pool Results:

- Comberton Village College – Won 43–15
- Collegiate – Lost 15–28
- Cathedral School, Llandaf – Won 19–17

In a tournament of this scale, a degree of good fortune is always needed. We performed well across all three games and finished level on points with two other sides in the group. Unfortunately, having played the weakest team first, we were unable to anticipate how vital points difference would prove.

We began confidently against Comberton Village, establishing a dominant lead before making a number of substitutions to give the full squad valuable experience. Comberton responded well to salvage pride, but the result was never in doubt.

Our second match against Collegiate proved to be the key fixture. Collegiate, having narrowly lost their first game, were highly motivated and needed a win. We started well, taking the lead, and played with good structure and purpose. However, they were physical, fast, and dangerous with ball in hand. In a tight contest between two strong sides, we had a chance to steal the win in the final play, but a dropped ball led to Collegiate scoring against the run of play.

In our final game, we showed character and resilience to bounce back, edging out a strong Llandaf side in a fiercely contested match.

Final Thoughts
Overall, both tournaments provided valuable learning experiences. The squad played with intensity, skill, and togetherness throughout, and the performances were a credit to the school. The future for Ellesmere Sevens looks promising. My thanks go to the boys, their parents, Mr Murphy, Mr Lucas and Mr Horton for all the effort given.

DJM



Sport - Hockey



Girls' Hockey – 1st XI

Summary of results		
Shrewsbury Ladies Hockey Club 2nd XI	-	Won 4 – 2
Old Ellesmerian Select	-	Won 2 – 0
Abbotsholme	-	Won 3 – 1
Wrekin College 7s Tournament	-	Winners
Shropshire County U18 Tournament at Telford and Wrekin Hockey Club	-	Runners-up
Tier 3 Midlands Finals		3rd in section
Moreton Hall	-	Won 6 – 0
Oswestry School	cancelled due to frozen pitch	
Rydal Penrhos	cancelled due to frozen pitch	
Shrewsbury Ladies Hockey Club	cancelled due to frozen pitch	

The newly formed 1st XI Girls' Hockey team began their season full of anticipation and quickly proved themselves a cohesive and determined group. Despite never having played together before, their first match – a competitive fixture against Shrewsbury Ladies 2nd XI – showcased the Team's chemistry and competitive edge. End-to-end action saw every player involved, with the 1st XI finishing 4-2 winners in a performance that combined energy, teamwork, and composure. One of the highlights of the season was the annual match against the Old Ellesmerian Select Team– a team of former 1st XI players who always present a stern test. A scoreless first half was tightly contested, with impressive saves from both goalkeepers: K.Mellor (2nd XI GK, guesting for the O.E team) and Captain, I.Moore for the 1st XI. M.Bakker finally broke the deadlock in the third quarter with a well-finished goal. E.Richardson-Rutter doubled the lead in the final quarter, and despite several further attacking efforts from both sides – including a string of excellent saves by A.Dilks (U16 Boys' GK, stepping in after K.Mellor departed for a club game) – the match ended 2-0 to the 1st XI. The fixture was a true celebration of Ellesmere hockey, rounded off perfectly with match tea in the Dining Room, where players, parents, staff, and O.Es reunited after the summer break.

In their next outing, the team faced Abbostsholme School in sweltering conditions. A slow start made it difficult to find early rhythm, but once settled, the 1st XI played flowing hockey and earned a deserved 3-1 victory through hard work and persistence. A major test came at the County U18 Tournament at Telford and Wrekin Hockey Club. With 25-minute matches and a mounting list of injuries, the team had no substitutes for the final three games. In the last match, they played the final 16 minutes a player down. Yet, the team's mental and physical resilience and tactical discipline shone through:

- v MH: Won 2-0
- v WC: Won 1-0
- v SHS: Won 3-0
- v SS: Lost 0-1 (SS scored in the final four minutes while Ellesmere played with 10)

Despite the narrow loss, Ellesmere finished as runners-up, progressing to the Tier 4 Midlands Finals – a notable achievement.

At the Midlands Finals, the team continued their excellent form in Section B:

- Won 3-0 v King Edward's Birmingham
- Won 1-0 v Malvern St. James
- Drew 1-1 v Worksop College
- Lost 0-1 v Ratcliffe
- Won 2-0 v Wolverhampton Grammar

They finished 3rd in their group with 10 points – just one behind Worksop's 11 points, narrowly missing a semi-final spot. It was a frustrating outcome given the standard of hockey played, but the players can be proud of their efforts and growth throughout the tournament.

The final fixture of the season was a commanding 6-0 home win against Moreton Hall – a performance full of confidence, attacking intent, and clinical finishing.

Unfortunately, the last three matches (against Oswestry School, Rydal Penrhos, and Shrewsbury Ladies Hockey Club) were cancelled due to frozen pitches.

Throughout the season, the Team demonstrated maturity, skill, and tremendous team spirit. From their first fixture to the final whistle of their last, they showed consistent improvement and a collective will to succeed. The squad's depth, versatility, and resilience under pressure have laid a strong foundation for future success, and there is every reason to look forward with excitement to next season.

CSD





Girls' Hockey – 2nd XI

The 2nd XI hockey girls started off the season with some new faces but a steely determination to play good hockey, enjoy themselves, and work well as a team. The first match was against a local club side, Shrewsbury 3rdXI, who were well-organised, well-drilled, and eager to show their abilities. Shrewsbury had the initial advantage as they were familiar with each other's play, while Ellesmere was still developing as a team. However, Ellesmere had the better of the latter part of the match, spending extended periods in the opposition's half. This performance boded well for the next match against Oswestry School, where Ellesmere were dominant for large portions of the game, worked well as a team, and only narrowly lost with a goal in the last minute.

The remainder of the term saw matches against much tougher competition, but Ellesmere acquitted themselves well in every game. Learning from their previous efforts, the defence was solid, and the attack and midfield grew in confidence. The matches against Bedstone College and Moreton Hall were very close, and Ellesmere was particularly unlucky to concede against Bedstone with nearly the last hit of the game. A strong performance in their final game saw the team growing in confidence; gaining the win they deserved. The team will be a stronger, more experienced unit for Michaelmas 2025.

JWN



Girls' Hockey – U15

The U15 girls hockey team have shown great spirit and determination during a busy start to the term, facing some strong opposition in their first few matches back after the break. The girls kicked off their season with a tough fixture against a well-organised NULS side. Although the scoreline didn't reflect it, Ellesmere put in a gritty and encouraging performance. Ellesmere grew in confidence and the next game the girls put together some good phases of play and showed improvement in their communication and positioning. Despite narrowly losing out, it was a performance full of energy and promise. Ellesmere continued to build momentum with a committed showing against Oswestry. In their final fixture, Ellesmere secured a well-earned draw away at Bedstone. Although the results have been mixed, the U15 girls have shown real character, improving with each game. With continued hard work in training – especially on hit-outs and sideline plays – the team is on track for a strong second half of the season. Captains Lexi and Anna have led by example, and there's a real sense of unity and determination in the squad. Exciting times ahead!

BMD



Girls' Hockey – U14

The first game of the season was against Newcastle Under Lyme School. At this stage, it can be a bit of a shock to the system, going from 7 to 11 a-side but the team took this in their stride. We dominated possession for much of the first quarter, but NULS finished the quarter with a counterattack leading to a penalty corner. Thankfully, we defended this well. NULS grew into the game but we continued to dominate, spreading the play. Both teams had several good scoring opportunities, but it took time to break the deadlock. A great ball through led to a one-on-one race to the goal; great strength and determination going forward resulted in the ball being slotted home safely. A well-deserved 1-0 victory. A great opening game, with players old and new working well together in all areas of the pitch.

In the first stage of the County Tournament, we arrived to discover one team had dropped out at the last minute so faced longer games against tough opposition, starting with Shrewsbury School. We started well but our opponents began to dominate and we couldn't break down their play. We faced a relentless barrage of attacking play which we were unable to repel. Despite having conceded 5 goals, we continued to try and capitalise on what possession we had and were unlucky not to score a consolation goal, with an attempt pinging of the post. Against Moreton, we picked ourselves up and took the lead because of much better shape and positioning. We had a brief scare when Moreton equalized but this seemed to spur us on and we ended with a comfortable 4-1 win.

In the North Shropshire tournament, we were straight out of the blocks in the game against Oswestry, scoring in the first minute and we kept pressure on throughout, dominating the game, winning 4-0. Adcote proved to be tougher to break down and packed their defence in the face of our attack. Great resilience wore them down in the first half. Adcote had a couple of attacks which were quickly snuffed out by our defence and we continued to dominate, resulting in a 2-0 win.

At the next round of the County tournament at Wrekin College we fought well, playing Shrewsbury School again. Showing great grit, we only lost 1-0 which was a great improvement on the previous round. Then we faced Wrekin. Again, players could not be faulted for their efforts, but seemed spent after fighting so hard in the opener and consequently lost 4-0.

For our final game before half term, we travelled once again to Wrekin. As a result of losing to them in the County tournament previously, we were expecting another tough game. It was an end-to-end game, but once we scored the opening goal our confidence grew. Despite coming under sustained pressure, we managed to keep a clean sheet and win the game 3-0. A great team performance.

Our next opponents were Moreton Hall. Having beaten them earlier in the season, we were confident going into the match, but wary of complacency. This confidence seemed to carry us through and we were pretty relentless when going forward. We managed to limit Moreton's attacking opportunities and dealt with whatever they threw at us, winning the game 6-0.

We concluded the season with a match against a combined U14/15 team from Rydal Penrhos. Despite conceding an early goal, the team showed great grit and determination to finish their season with a 3-2 victory.



Girls' Hockey – U13

The U13 Ellesmere Hockey team has enjoyed a spirited and rewarding season, with each match bringing growth, excitement, and a fantastic sense of team spirit. The players showed real development both individually and collectively, supported by excellent camaraderie and sportsmanship throughout.

The season began with a challenging fixture against a strong Newcastle-under-Lyme side. Despite a hard-working performance and a well-earned goal, The young Ellesmere side lost the game 3–1. It was a valuable learning experience, highlighting areas to build on and sparking the team's determination to bounce back.

The Girls responded brilliantly in their next match with a tightly contested 1–0 victory over Adcote. A solid defensive effort, composed midfield play, and a well-taken goal were the difference on the day. The game demonstrated the growing cohesion of the team and their ability to grind out a result.

Another excellent performance followed with a 1–0 win against local rivals Oswestry School. The team worked tirelessly across the pitch, with every player contributing to a disciplined and structured display. The winning goal was the result of some slick passing and great communication – a testament to the team's improving chemistry.

Ellesmere were unfortunate to come away empty-handed in a closely fought battle against Wrekin. Despite creating chances and defending well, a single goal decided the match. The narrow 1–0 loss served as motivation and a reminder of the fine margins in competitive hockey.

In the North Shropshire Schools Tournament, Ellesmere produced one of their best performances of the season with a dominant 6–0 win over Oswestry School, showcasing brilliant attacking movement and clinical finishing. The team played with freedom and confidence, thrilling to watch. In the decisive game, Ellesmere faced Adcote once again. Despite their best efforts and another strong team display, they fell to a 2–0 defeat, finishing the tournament in second place – a fantastic achievement and a clear sign of the progress made throughout the term.

The season concluded in style with an entertaining 4–2 win against Rydal Penhros School. The team played with energy and creativity, scoring some excellent goals and showing real determination in defence. It was a fitting end to a season full of teamwork, resilience, and improvement.

Throughout the season, the players demonstrated an outstanding attitude, encouraging one another and working hard for the team. The positive atmosphere within the squad was clear to see and played a big part in their success. Congratulations to all involved for a fantastic season – the future of Ellesmere Hockey is certainly bright.

ST



Girls' Hockey – U12

The U12 Team enjoyed a season of growth, determination, and commendable teamwork. Although the results on paper may not fully reflect the progress made, the Team's development throughout the term was evident in every match played. The season began with a tough 0–2 loss to NULS, but even in defeat, the team showed flashes of strong defensive organisation and commitment. This was followed by a spirited performance against Adcote School, where the players earned a hard-faught draw, showcasing moments of attacking flair and resilience. It was a deserved result that highlighted their growing confidence on the ball. A narrow 0–1 loss against Oswestry School's U13B side was perhaps the most encouraging display of courageous defending, despite the scoreline. The Team held their own against older opposition. The match against Wrekin College proved challenging, resulting in a 0–3 defeat, but again, there were positives to be taken, particularly in the midfield's work rate and communication.

A rematch with Adocte School ended in a close 0–1 loss, though the performance was arguably stronger than the earlier draw. The Team played with purpose and structure, and it was only a single lapse that separated the sides.

Unfortunately, the final two fixtures against Bedstone College and Rydal Penrhos were cancelled by the opposition, denying the Team the chance to finish on a high note. Nonetheless, the season provided valuable experience and countless learning opportunities.

Special mention must go to the goalkeepers, who delivered some outstanding performances throughout the campaign. Their bravery, sharp reflexes, and commitment between the posts kept the Team in many matches, earning admiration from teammates and coaches alike. What stood out more than any individual result was the spirit of the squad. The players grew as a unit, supporting each other on and off the pitch and demonstrating a fantastic attitude in training and games. Their teamwork, improved positional awareness, and willingness to work for each other were highlights as the season progressed.

It has been a pleasure to watch the U12s develop their skills, friendships, and love for the game. With such a strong foundation in place, the future of this Team looks very promising.

CSD



Girls' Hockey – U11

The U11 girls' hockey team had a fantastic performance in their recent matches.

In their opening match against Moreton Hall, the team displayed excellent teamwork and skill, securing a convincing 2-0 victory. The girls continued their winning streak with another impressive win against Adcote, again finishing the match with a score of 2-0.

The final match of the day saw the team face Oswestry, where they fought hard and showcased great determination, resulting in a well-earned draw of 2-2.

Overall, the girls showed remarkable sportsmanship and resilience throughout the games. Their strong performances reflect their dedication and skill development in hockey. Well done, team!

EG



Girls' Hockey – U10

The U10 girls hockey team had an exciting season filled with moments of skill, teamwork, and determination. As young athletes, they showcased their growing abilities on the field and learned valuable lessons with each match they played. Throughout the season, the team faced diverse challenges that tested their resilience and adaptability. This report reflects on their performance during the season, highlighting the key results and experiences.

In their first match against Moreton Hall, the team displayed great spirit and effort, resulting in a thrilling draw with a score of 4 to 4. The girls fought hard and celebrated their ability to hold their ground against a tough opponent. However, in the second match against Oswestry School, they encountered some difficulties and narrowly lost the game with a score of 3 to 2. Despite the disappointment, the team remained positive and focused on the next game.

The team's perseverance paid off in their third match against Adcote School, where they delivered a fantastic performance, securing a decisive victory with a score of 4 to 1. This win reinforced their confidence and showcased the progress they made throughout the season.

As the season comes to a close, the U10 girls hockey team has demonstrated remarkable growth and resilience on the field. This season has been a journey of learning, where each match has contributed to the development of their skills and teamwork. While they faced challenges and setbacks, their determination to improve and support one another has been commendable. Looking ahead, the girls should continue to build on their strengths and embrace new opportunities for growth in their hockey journey. With their passion for the game and commitment to teamwork, the future looks bright for this talented group of young athletes.

EG



Boys' Hockey – 1st XI

The Ellesmere College 1st XI enjoyed another exciting and rewarding season of hockey in 2025, full of strong performances, team spirit, and plenty of goals. From the first whistle of February to the close of term in April, the squad demonstrated technical skill, tactical awareness, and the camaraderie and good humour that make Ellesmere hockey such a pleasure to be part of.

The campaign began under the lights on a chilly Tuesday evening at home against Whitchurch Hockey Club, a fixture that always tests early-season sharpness. The team rose to the occasion superbly, combining crisp passing with attacking flair to secure a 4–2 victory — an ideal start that set the tone for the weeks ahead.

The following afternoon brought the first school fixture, against a well-organised Wrekin College side. This was a tighter affair, with both defences standing firm, but Ellesmere's persistence paid off in the second half when a well-worked short corner broke the deadlock. The 1–0 win reflected excellent discipline, teamwork, and growing maturity.
Late February saw the team travel to Newcastle-under-Lyme School for a triangular fixture against the home side's U16A team. In a lively contest, Ellesmere dominated possession and created the better chances, but a resilient defence meant the match finished 1–1. Though a draw, it felt like a positive result and a useful learning experience.
March brought sunshine and goals. The trip to Welshpool High School was an attacking masterclass, with Ellesmere sweeping to a 5–1 win. The fluid movement and clever interplay through midfield showcased growing confidence.

That confidence was on display again at Shrewsbury School, where Ellesmere produced arguably their best performance of the season. From first minute to last, they combined ruthless efficiency with unrelenting energy. The 8–3 victory was testament to fitness and a willingness to play expansive, entertaining hockey.

Attention then turned to the U18 Shropshire Hockey Finals at Ashton Road, where the stakes rise. Though results were not recorded in the official tally, the team gave an excellent account of themselves, playing with heart and determination. The experience was invaluable and will strengthen next year's campaign.

The final match of term brought a tough test against Deeside Ramblers Select, a side packed with experienced players. Ellesmere fought hard and showed real grit, but the visitors' composure proved decisive in a 1–6 defeat. Even in defeat, the team's attitude was exemplary, and there was a clear sense the group had grown over the season.

Alongside regular fixtures, the team took part in the Wolverhampton Grammar School Tournament, arriving as defending champions after two consecutive titles. Despite not managing a third straight win, the boys battled brilliantly and finished a valiant third, demonstrating competitive edge and sportsmanship.

Off the pitch, camaraderie and humour remained strong. Training sessions were competitive but good-natured, and commitment to improving never wavered. Whether under floodlights in February or in spring sunshine, the team embodied the values of effort, resilience, and respect.

In summary, the 2025 season delivered strong results, entertaining hockey, and genuine enjoyment. With impressive wins, a memorable tournament run, and plenty of goals, the 1st XI can be rightly proud. The bar has been set high, and we look forward with confidence to next season.

JJB



Sport - Netball



Netball – 1st VII

The Ellesmere College 1st Netball Team began their season in Cardiff for a pre-season weekend which set a positive foundation for the season ahead.

The 1st Team opened their competitive season against a strong Coleg Cambria side. Final Score: Ellesmere 19 – Coleg Cambria 56

In their second match of the season, Ellesmere faced Oswestry School in a tightly contested game. The match ended in an exciting 27-27 draw. All players contributed with strong individual performances, and the team showed progress and determination throughout the match. Final Score: Ellesmere 27 – Oswestry 27

After drawing 27-27 with Oswestry the previous week, the Ellesmere 1st Team entered the Oswestry School Tournament with determination. The team performed brilliantly, with their hard work in training paying off. Each player executed their role effectively, and the team worked well in units, resulting in a solid all-round performance.

Results:
vs King's School: 22–9 (Win)
vs Oswestry School: 31–12 (Win)

On a competitive Wednesday afternoon, the Ellesmere 1st Team secured a narrow but well-deserved win against Wrekin's 2nd Team. The seniors demonstrated continued growth, with all players executing their roles with confidence.
Final Score: Ellesmere 34 – Wrekin 31

Ellesmere faced NULS in a thrilling and closely fought match. The team maintained their momentum and edged out a 38-37 victory. Thanks to NULS for hosting a well-contested game.
Final Score: Ellesmere 38 – NULS 37

Ellesmere then visited Kings and worked tirelessly until the final whistle. The match provided valuable lessons.
Final Score: Ellesmere 16 – KINGS 31

Ellesmere College hosted the North Shropshire Schools U16 & U19 Netball Tournaments. The U19 (1st) Team performed exceptionally well, winning all their matches and claiming the tournament title.

Results:
vs Grove School: 12–3
vs Marches School: 15–4
vs Moreton Hall: 21–1
vs Oswestry School: 15–5
vs Thomas Adams: 27–2

BMD



Netball – 2nd VII

We began the season with a match away against Moreton Hall. It is always difficult to begin a season against a team with home advantage. Despite this, we made a positive start working hard to implement skills picked up in our initial training sessions, as a result the game was close for the first two quarters. Unfortunately, we were unable to keep pace with the Moreton scorers and ultimately lost the game 6-11.

For our next fixture, we travelled away to Oswestry school. This was another challenging match against a strong and well-disciplined team. We had some good passages of play where we maintained possession and put pressure on our opposition. There were some great contests, particularly in centre court areas where turnovers were frequent. A final losing score 7-20, did not feel like a true reflection of how close the game really was as the team had shown great spirit when battling to narrow the gap in the score line.

We then travelled away to Newcastle Under Lyme School for what we knew would be a tough proposition. Once again, we demonstrated a good deal of determination across the court. Newcastle Under Lyme dominated much of the possession but under relentless attack, we worked hard to restrict the scoring and were pleased to score double figures against such a strong side, ultimately losing 11-24. Nevertheless, we learned a great deal about how to overcome frustration on court, when losing out in close fifty-fifty situations.

Our penultimate game took us to The King's School, Chester. This game was played in a good spirit but we were unable to slow the opposition shooters sufficiently to keep them within reach. Their defensive unit was solid, restricting our opportunities in our 'd'. Despite this, we managed to score some well worked goals, losing 7-36.

For our final match of the season, we hosted Moreton Hall. Having already been beaten by them in our opening game of the season we were anxious to improve our performance. There were some great individual performances across the court leading to a strong team performance, with some less experienced players included in the team. They stepped up to the challenge, proving their worth to contribute in all areas of the court. The teams were neck and neck for most of the match and we were delighted to finish with 11-9 victory. It was a great way to finish the season with such a close game and proof of the resilience of this team.

CSD



Netball – U15

What an incredible season it has been! Our U15 A Team got off to the perfect start by winning the North Shropshire (NSSA) tournament, led brilliantly by Imogen Spencer-Blow. From there, they went from strength to strength, enjoying a string of friendly match victories and showing fantastic team spirit. Under the inspiring leadership of Hannah Orme, they also shone at the Oswestry Festival, taking a superb 2nd place, and battled hard to finish 4th in the County Trophy Tournament – an amazing achievement! Our B Team also had a wonderful season, filled with exciting matches and plenty of memorable wins. Captained with enthusiasm and determination by both Tilly Windsor and Sophia Powell, they showed just how much talent and teamwork they have, making every game a joy to watch.

Throughout the year, all of the girls played with passion, supported one another, and improved so much both individually and as a team. I couldn't be prouder of their commitment and progress – and they should feel hugely proud of themselves too. What a season to celebrate!

A huge thank you goes to the girls for their hard work, energy, and dedication, and to all the parents and supporters who cheered them on every step of the way – your encouragement made such a difference.

NSH



Netball – U14A

The U14A Netball Team enjoyed a positive and hard-working season, showing excellent progress, flexibility in positions, and strong team spirit throughout their fixtures and tournaments.

U14A v Oswestry

The team were fully focused from the first whistle. Scarlett and Megan turned over Oswestry's first centre pass, leading to the opening goal, and Ellesmere dominated the first quarter 20–2. Rotations in the second quarter allowed different combinations, yet the flow of play remained strong and the girls won it 11–3. More changes followed, with the third quarter taken 11–2 and the final quarter 12–2 thanks to composed shooting from Megan and Hattie. The 54–9 win reflected excellent adaptability and teamwork.

U14A v Shrewsbury

This was a high-quality, competitive game. Ellesmere led the first quarter 9–5 with strong shooting from Poppy and Georgia. The second quarter ended 8–8, and Ellesmere edged the third 8–7 before tired legs began to show. Shrewsbury rallied in the final quarter, and the match finished fairly as a 30–30 draw. Lois was named player of the match.

U14A v Adcote (H),

The first match of the term saw slick passing and movement, with a 14–0 lead by the end of the first quarter. Rotations allowed all players to work on different skills. Poppy and Georgia were clinical in attack, Lois impressed both at C and as GK, Flo was excellent across multiple positions, and Meg and Scarlett excelled at both ends of the court. A strong team effort earned a 33–3 win.

U14A v Wrekin

A tough fixture but full of learning opportunities. The team fought hard, staying competitive early on (6–11, then 7–8), before Wrekin pulled away in the second half. Despite the 19–45 loss, the girls never gave up. Poppy was named player of the match.

U14A v NULS

With only seven players available, Ellesmere worked tirelessly. The first quarter ended 6–6 and although NULS gained momentum, Ellesmere rallied well and won the third quarter 8–7. The match finished 24–33, with Scarlett named player of the match.

U14 NSSAA Tournament

In a pool with The Marches, The Grove and St Martin's, Ellesmere dominated throughout, winning 13–6, 28–1, and 32–0. As pool winners, they faced Lakelands in the semi-final, winning 28–5. The final was a repeat of their opening match against The Marches, with Ellesmere again victorious, 16–2. Scoring 117 goals and conceding only 14 across five matches, the girls were crowned champions—an outstanding achievement with no subs.

U14A v Shrewsbury High

Strong early play and excellent defence restricted the opposition to just nine goals in a 17–9 win. Scarlett was named player of the match for superb interceptions and rebounds.

U14A v Moreton Hall

In the final match of the season, all eight girls played superbly—even when moved from their usual positions. Excellent defensive pressure, fast centre-court work, and composed shooting secured a convincing 21–0 win. It was a fitting end to a successful and hard-worked term.

SHG



Netball – U13

The Ellesmere U13 netball team kicked off their season at the North Shropshire tournament. Despite the heavy rain, they showed great resilience and teamwork. After progressing to the playoffs, Ellesmere faced a strong SJT side and were defeated 1–7. Florence Hughes stood out with some brilliant defending. The team showed strong spirit and used the experience to grow.

Ellesmere U13 started the Lent term with a well-earned win against Adcote School. The girls showed great enthusiasm and teamwork. While there are areas to improve—such as passing accuracy and court positioning—there were many moments of excellent netball. Well, done to all involved. In their second match of the term, Ellesmere secured a close win against Oswestry. The players performed brilliantly and focused well on the basics, delivering a solid team performance. A tightly contested match saw Ellesmere draw 4-4 with Moreton Hall.

The game was competitive, with strong efforts from both teams. It was a challenging day for the U13s at the County Tournament against strong opposition, but the team showed improvement throughout and finished 7th overall. The players are beginning to gel and grow as a team. Ellesmere dominated their second match against Adcote displaying some great netball, particularly with their change of direction and well-structured passing outside the D. A strong team performance all around. Ellesmere played their final match of the season against Moreton Hall. Although the scoreline didn't reflect it, the girls played well in parts and showed promising development.

BMD



Netball – U11

On 23 January, the U11 girls' team travelled to Wrekin to play an away fixture against Old Hall. The match was played outdoors on a cold and blustery afternoon, but the conditions did not stop the team working hard and performing well together.

Ellesmere made an excellent start, taking the first centre pass and moving the ball quickly into the goal circle for Hattie to score the opening goal. Passing was generally strong despite the weather, and solid defensive work limited Old Hall to just one goal in the first quarter, which ended 2–1 to Ellesmere.

Substitutions were made in the second quarter to ensure all 12 girls had the opportunity to play, and the team continued to perform confidently. Laila added another goal as Ellesmere maintained their advantage. In the final quarter, Ellesmere pressed on and scored two further goals to secure a convincing 5–1 win.

Amber was named Player of the Match by the opposition. Hattie finished the match with four goals, while Laila scored one. The squad showed excellent sportsmanship, giving three cheers for Old Hall, led by captain Mia, before singing enthusiastically on the bus journey back to school.

This team were also North Shropshire Champions and represented the school at the U11 School Games Competition at Shrewsbury Sports Village. They rounded off their season at the U11 Ellesmere Tournament in the summer term, making it a very positive and successful season overall.

SHG



Netball – U9/10

The U10 Netball team have had a busy and enjoyable season, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork, and steady improvement in every match they played. The season began with a strong 2-0 win over Old Hall. The Team worked well together, with accurate passing and good movement around the court. It was a solid performance that set a positive tone for the term. A close 1-2 loss followed against Moreton Hall, where the girls showed resilience and never gave up, learning valuable lessons in adapting to a more physical game.

Next came a hard-fought 2-1 win against Adcote, where the Team's determination paid off. The players communicated well and began to show growing confidence in attack. That momentum carried into the match against Oswestry School, where Ellesmere dominated from start to finish with a 6-0 win. Strong defending and sharp shooting were the highlights of the game.

One of the most impressive results of the season came in the return fixture against Adcote, where the team displayed excellent teamwork and accuracy, resulting in a superb 11-3 victory. The girls played with real fluency and control, showing just how far they had come.

The younger members of the squad, also took part in the U9 Packwood Haugh Festival – a challenging day with cold, wet weather and tough opposition. Despite not recording a win, the girls worked incredibly hard, stayed positive, and supported each other throughout. Their effort and perseverance in difficult conditions were a real credit to them.

The final match of the season saw Ellesmere face a strong Moreton Hall side and, despite a 0-5 defeat, the team showed determination and continued to apply what they've learned. It was a tough end, but the girls held their heads high and kept battling until the final whistle.

Throughout the season, every player contributed to the team's progress. Their ability to learn from each game, improve their positional play, and support one another has been impressive. The girls should be proud of what they've achieved – not just in results, but in how they've developed as a team.

CSD



Sport - Football



Football – 1st & 2nd XI

Last season, the Ellesmere College 1st XI team showcased an admirable spirit marked by hard work, resilience, determination, and a commitment to learning from every opportunity on and off the field. The season provided numerous challenges that tested the team's character, yet each match was an opportunity for growth and development, culminating in a memorable campaign.

The season kicked off with a thrilling clash against Birkenhead School, ending in a hard-fought draw, with the final score 4-4. The team demonstrated exceptional resilience, coming back from setbacks to equalize multiple times. This match set the tone for the season, illustrating the importance of never giving up, regardless of the scoreline.

Next up was a challenging fixture against Sandbach School. Despite the team's best efforts, they faced a 2-0 defeat. This loss was a pivotal moment for the squad, as it highlighted areas for improvement. Instead of dwelling on the disappointment, the players took this game as a learning experience, analysing their performance with the coaching staff and working diligently to address the deficiencies noted during the match.

The team rebounded well in their following encounter at Wrekin College. This time, their hard work paid off as they secured a narrow yet crucial 2-1 victory. The players displayed determination and unity, executing their game plan effectively. It was a testament to their intense preparation and the lessons learned from previous matches, reinforcing the value of perseverance in overcoming challenges.
In their season finale against Shrewsbury School, the Ellesmere squad once again proved their mettle, battling to a thrilling 4-4 draw. This high-scoring affair encapsulated the team's never-say-die attitude, as they fought back from being behind, showcasing their skill and tenacity. Each player stepped up, demonstrating not only their individual talents but also their ability to work as a cohesive unit.
Many of the scheduled fixtures were unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather or other schools not being able to field a team.

Overall, the Ellesmere College 1st XI team faced a season of ups and downs, pushing through obstacles with hard work and a resilient mindset. The players embraced every moment as a chance to learn and develop, embodying the school's values through their commitment to excellence. A good season. Well done boys.

Mr Prescott



Football – U15

The U/15 football started in January with a tough fixture against a very organised Sir John Talbots. It took us a while to find our feet as we were down 4 nil at half time. But the second half fared much better as everyone was getting to grips with each other. In the end we lost 6-1.

This was followed by another state school the Marches, who had a number of players attached to local clubs and this showed as we went down 6-2. But the boys showed a lot of character and never gave in.

Our best game of the term was against Cheadle Hulme Oldham. This was a great game and could have gone either way. We went down 1 nil early on and the boys rallied to go 2 - 1 up at half time. They equalised halfway through the second half and the game was on a knife edge, as we had a free kick with 5 minutes to go. The Ball was floated into the box and a mad scramble ended with Harry Walker slotting it home at the back post.

We followed this with a depleted team going away to Sandbach and again the boys showed resolve to keep it down to 5 nil.

Next up was Abbey gate and going into half time 2 down, which wasn't a reflection of how we could play. A few strong words at half time were needed and the boys just showed what we could do if we play together and with a tense finish, we manage to pull off a great come back to win 3- 2.

The last two games showed that we had run out of steam going down 6 -2 defeat to Wrekin College and 4 - 2 to SJT.

But overall, the boys started to get together and play some nice football. Hopefully they'll stick together and progress into some nice footballers.

RJ



Football – U14

We had a really great bunch of lads playing football in Year 9. I was delighted with their work ethic in training and in matches and couldn't fault their attitude during the term. The lads put in some really outstanding performances on the pitch and I look forward to seeing them progress in Year 10.

We started the season with a comprehensive 9-0 victory over SJT – with a rare Will Barnes goal being overshadowed by Shoma Kimura getting on the scoresheet. Dan Thelwell opened his account for the season with a fine brace.

Due to the weather, we had to wait a couple of weeks for our next game, a 3-1 win away at Marches (Thelwell, Gurung and Swann-Horler with the goals) in a game that I will forever remember for an industrial tackle by Douglas Dean in the first few seconds of the game.

Our next game was a 6-2 victory at home against Hulme Grammar with a superb performance from Dan Thelwell, netting 5 of our goals.

We then had another wait for our next fixture but we travelled away to Birchfield and came out 8-1 winners with Thelwell getting another 5 goals and Chris Broadhead scoring against his old school.

The 26th February saw the game of the season for me. 2,0 down to a strong Lakelands team, the boys were given the hairdryer treatment at half-time (not really, we were playing into a very strong wind in the first half). We came out in the second half and managed to claw our way back into the game thanks to goals from Broadhead and Swann-Horler. With seconds to go, Jake Hughes (our keeper) launched one of the longest throws (with help from said wind) I've ever seen over their back four. Austin Furlong-Hart raced on to it and slotted home, I think through the keepers legs – queue limbs everywhere as our lads formed a mound of bodies with Austin at the bottom. Unfortunately, we conceded a late free-kick which Lakelands went on to score directly through our non-existent wall. What a game!

Our most difficult game of the season followed against a very strong and very physical Sandbach. We lost 5-2 (Thelwell with both) but we were in the game and were very competitive.

We went on to conclude the season with a 4-0 victory over Wrekin College - Thelwell with another hat-trick and Swann-Horler netting the goals and another win over SJT. This was a very strange game with some strange goals (Thelwell scored from a hoof from centre back as part of another hat-trick) – the final score was 7-5 to Ellesmere.

DSH



Football – U13

As the final whistle blew on the Lent Term, the Ellesmere College U13 football team could look back on a term of spirited competition, steady development, and memorable moments. The squad had grown in confidence and cohesion, showing great promise for the future.

The Lent Term brought a packed fixture list, with the team facing a variety of opponents across the region. From tightly contested matches to high-scoring thrillers, the players demonstrated resilience, tactical awareness, and a growing understanding of the game.

While results varied, the team consistently showed improvement in their positional play, communication, and technical execution. The coaching staff were particularly impressed by the players' willingness to learn and their commitment to training.

The squad gelled well both on and off the pitch, with players supporting each other and celebrating collective success. This camaraderie was evident in their performances and contributed to a positive team culture. The back line showed increasing composure under pressure, with several matches showcasing excellent tackling, positioning, and goalkeeping.

The midfield and forward players combined well to create scoring opportunities, with some standout goals that reflected both individual skill and team coordination. Several players made significant strides in their footballing journey, stepping into leadership roles and adapting to new positions with maturity and enthusiasm.

Though the season had its ups and downs, the overall trajectory was one of progress and promise. The team laid strong foundations for future success, and the experience gained this term will undoubtedly serve them well in the seasons ahead.

The Ellesmere College U13 football team should be proud of their efforts, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and achievements in the years to come.

Well played, team!

JED





Football – U11

The U/11 A's had a whopping 18 matches in total this term. Winning 13, drawing 2 and losing 3.

The term started off with a very close and entertaining 3-3 draw against a very impressive Prestflede Prep school. The game could of gone either way, but in the end a fair draw. Next up was a very defensive Oswestry school. We had numerous chances to wrap the game up, but we could find the net until late on in the game.

Our next game was the Ellesmere College football tournament. 5-minute halves and quick turnaround matches. We started off well with wins against The Firs, Prestflede, Birchfield, Ellesmere Primary, Madras, Criften's and Ellesmere College B. To finish the group a tight 2 all draw against a excellent Newhampton side with both teams nearly sneaking a win in the last minute of the game.

This meant we finished top of our group, so we then played St Mary's in the semi-final. A really good close game that went back and too, with St Mary's taking the lead early on with a mistake were Ellesmere tried to play out from the back. Ellesmere then went ahead through some good play down the flanks and was 3-1 when changes were made to give everyone the opportunity to play. Just before half time, St Marys struck back with a fine goal and then as they pressed hard Ellesmere conceded again to draw level, which set up a frantic last half. Ellesmere went ahead through a corner and some luck as the ball looped over the keeper., but St Marys hit back to make it 4-4, which on reflection was a fair result.

Ellesmere then through on a shot out to reach the final against West House. This too was end to end with both side missing opportunities to win the game in full time. This too went to penalties to decides who wins the trophy. Unfortunately, we lost 5-4, but they were a credit to how they played through out of the tournament.

We then played a triangular round Robin against Newhampton and Penley Madras winning both games. Our final home game was a close affair beating St Mary's 5-3, which meant our final game was a way to a very competitive and organised Woodside school. Playing on a bigger pitch and goals as we struggled to find our passing game as we went down 2 nil down within the first two minutes. We did hold out for a while but the relentless attacking play from Woodside meant we was 5-1 down at half time. Second half was better as we found some rhythm, but the final score was a fair result on their behalf losing 7 -3.

Overhaul a very pleasing term of football, playing a passing game from out of the back. I'm hopeful that the boys will continue to play like that in the future.

RJ



Football – U10

The 2024–25 season was an exciting and rewarding journey for the Ellesmere College U10 football team. It was a year full of learning, development and, above all, enjoyment. Throughout the season, the boys consistently demonstrated the core values that are at the heart of sport at Ellesmere – teamwork, respect, discipline and fun – and they should all be proud of their progress and achievements.

Our campaign began with an entertaining 3–3 draw at home against Oswestry School. The match demonstrated the team's attacking potential and willingness to work for one another, setting a positive tone for the weeks ahead. The return fixture against Oswestry proved more challenging, with a 6–0 defeat away from home. However, this result highlighted the importance of resilience and discipline, and the players responded superbly in the following matches.

A closely contested 4–2 loss at home to Prestfelde showed significant improvements in our build-up play and defensive shape. This was followed by another thrilling 3–3 draw against Newhampton, a game that showcased the team's determination and fighting spirit right until the final whistle.

Our first win of the season came in an excellent 3–1 victory over Welshampton. This was a standout performance in which teamwork and discipline were clear for all to see, and every player contributed to a well-deserved result. Another exciting encounter followed against Penley Madras, ending in a 3–3 draw after some impressive attacking football and resolute defending. We rounded off our season in style with a confident 3–0 win against Criftins, a match that highlighted how much the team has grown in both confidence and ability.

Across the season, the boys have shown real improvement in their understanding of the game, their communication on the pitch, and their willingness to support one another. Most importantly, they have done all this while playing with smiles on their faces and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship towards their opponents.

Every player should be proud of the progress they have made this season. With continued hard work, enthusiasm and the same commitment to our values, this team has an exciting future ahead of them.

CSH



Sport - Cricket



Recognition and Achievements

For the ninth consecutive year, Ellesmere College has been named among the Top 100 Schools for Cricket in the UK by The Cricketer. This recognition reflects the academy's continued commitment to excellence, measured against rigorous internal and external standards.

Player Development and Representation

The academy remains dedicated to providing every pupil with opportunities to play cricket—whether for enjoyment, personal growth, or progression to county and professional levels.

County Honours

- Oliver Dyson, Harry Harrison, Jake Hughes, Gethin Griffiths and Jack Bettis all received County Representative Awards.
- Jack Bettis was selected for the Glamorgan Academy.
- Oliver Dyson and Harry Harrison were leading run scorers for their Shropshire age groups, with notable centuries, and are part of the Shropshire/Worcestershire County EPP programme.
- Daisy and Holly Cooke are actively involved in the North West Thunder EPP, working with Lancashire, Cheshire, and Cumbria, with strong links to Lancashire CCC.
- Mia Davenport has been invited to the Glamorgan CCC Early Development Programme.

Representative Cricket

A total of 16 pupils participated in representative cricket this year, with several others currently trialling with Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales.

Club Involvement

Over 70 Ellesmere pupils also play regular cricket at local clubs, demonstrating the strength of grassroots participation.

Colours and Awards

Senior School Colours were awarded to: Tom Dyson, Henry Appleby, George Owen and Sophie Mason.

Lower School Spirit of Cricket Awards (for performance, commitment, leadership, and teamwork): Gethin Griffiths. Jayden Joseph, Bobby Small, Freddie Davenport and Mia Davenport played representative cricket. Lower School Colours (Full) were awarded to 21 pupils, including Gethin Griffiths who is linked to Glamorgan CCC.

Fixtures and Competitions

The academy delivered a comprehensive fixtures programme, with 100 hardball and softball matches scheduled across 25 boys' and girls' teams, ranging from U9s to the 1st XI.

Competition Highlights

- U15 Boys County Finalists.
- All indoor teams progressed into the County Finals.
- All hardball teams progressed through the early rounds of the National and County Cups.

Participation included the ESCA National U14 competition, ECB National Cups, HMC T20, National Sports Magazine Cups and numerous district festivals.



Cricket – 1st XI

The Ellesmere College 1st XI cricket team enjoyed a season full of character, commitment, and memorable moments — even if the results did not always reflect the quality of effort shown. It was a year of transition: a side blending experienced heads with exciting young talent, learning quickly what it takes to compete at the highest school level. Through ups and downs, the team's spirit never faltered, and the promise shown by emerging players gives every reason for optimism.

The season began brightly at home with a National Cup Round 1 clash against Oswestry School. On a sunny April afternoon, Ellesmere produced a gritty and well-balanced performance, setting a competitive total before bowling and fielding with discipline. A few nervy moments aside, the boys held their nerve superbly to record a 12-run victory — a great start to the summer.

The following week brought a sterner challenge in Round 2 of the HMC T20 National Cup, away at Denstone College. Facing strong opposition, Ellesmere fought hard but were outplayed, falling to defeat by 10 wickets. It was a tough day, but valuable lessons were learned — particularly for younger bowlers.

A friendly against Newcastle-under-Lyme was washed out before a ball could be bowled. The team then travelled to Shrewsbury School, one of the strongest sides on the circuit. Despite flashes of excellent batting and some tight spells with the ball, Ellesmere couldn't keep pace and slipped to an 8-wicket defeat. Even so, the team's fielding energy and enthusiasm were notable.

June began on a brighter note. Returning home, Ellesmere produced one of their most complete performances of the season against King's School, Chester, chasing down a target with calm assurance to win by six wickets. The batting, anchored by mature partnerships, showed growing confidence, and the bowlers kept things tight.

Rain intervened again the following week against Wirral Grammar School, but the side regrouped for another encounter with Shrewsbury School, this time at home. Despite the best efforts of the attack and fine individual performances with the bat, Ellesmere fell by 35 runs in a spirited contest. The traditional MCC fixture provided a masterclass in patient batting from the visitors. Ellesmere bowled with effort, but the MCC's experience proved telling as they posted an imposing total. In reply, Ellesmere's young side showed flashes of class but ultimately fell well short. Even in defeat, it was a valuable learning opportunity, and the visitors praised the team's attitude and sportsmanship.

The season concluded in fine style against the Shropshire Gentlemen. After a long summer of mixed fortunes, Ellesmere produced a composed performance to win by seven wickets. The bowling was disciplined, the fielding sharp, and the batting confident — a reflection of how far the side had come since April.

While results were mixed, what stood out was the resilience, enthusiasm, and togetherness of the squad. Younger players stepped up impressively, gaining experience that will serve them well in future years. The seniors provided excellent leadership, setting the tone on and off the field. In short, this was a season that laid strong foundations and showed that the future for Ellesmere cricket looks bright.

JJB



Cricket – Girls'1st XI

Ellesmere College Girls' 1st XI put in a commanding performance against Moreton Hall, securing a convincing 9-wicket win. Ellesmere won the toss and elected to field first, applying early pressure with disciplined bowling. E. Richardson-Rutter delivered a tight spell, taking 1 wicket, an LBW, and bowling a maiden over. K. Mellor added to the pressure with another wicket, while H. Cooke impressed with 2 wickets and a maiden. Moreton Hall were restricted to 99 for 5 after their 20 overs. In reply, Ellesmere got off to a steady start. After the early loss of E. Richardson-Rutter for 2, F. Sweeney and H. Cooke built a superb partnership. F. Sweeney remained composed, finishing on 27 not out. H. Cooke batted with intent, scoring 45 runs, including six boundaries. Ellesmere reached 104 for 1, sealing the win with overs to spare. It was a confident and well-rounded team performance.

Following torrential rain and a thunderstorm, the second round of the T20 National Cup against Denstone College began after a delayed start while the pitch dried out. Ellesmere elected to field first and made early breakthroughs. H. Cooke produced a sharp piece of fielding to run out the Denstone No. 2, while debutant E. Mason held a superb catch off K. Mellor's bowling to dismiss their top scorer on 48. Captain D. Cooke bowled with great control, taking two wickets – one bowled and one LBW. Denstone posted 110 for 4 after their 20 overs.

In reply, Ellesmere started steadily. D. Cooke led the batting with an outstanding 46 not out, anchoring the innings. E. Richardson-Rutter contributed 10 before being caught, and H. Cooke was bowled for 7. Despite a strong effort, Ellesmere fell short, finishing on 93 for 9, losing by 17 runs. It was a closely contested match that could have gone either way. Although the result was disappointing, the Team displayed excellent spirit, support for one another, and moments of individual brilliance. A strong performance with plenty of positives to take forward.

Wrekin College won the toss and elected to field first. A steady middle-order performance kept Ellesmere's scoreboard ticking. D. Cooke impressed with 33 runs, while H. Cooke added 23. A. Richardson-Rutter led the charge in the latter stages, finishing unbeaten on 39, supported by L. Harris who remained not out on 20. Ellesmere closed on 159 for 4. In reply, Wrekin found it tough to gain momentum against a tight Ellesmere bowling unit. They could not build a partnership of substance and were restricted to 106 for 6. Debuts from S. Fearnall and L. Ebben made valuable contributions, S. Fearnall taking a wicket and L. Ebben delivering a maiden. Other wickets were shared among E. Richardson-Rutter, D. Cooke, A. Richardson-Rutter, and E. Adams, who was involved in a run-out/stumping dismissal. Ellesmere's all-round performance ensured a comfortable win, highlighting depth with both bat and ball, and securing a 53-run triumph.

Looking ahead, there is every reason to be optimistic as to what the Ellesmere Girls' 1st XI could achieve, given the potential shown this season.

CSD



Cricket – Girls' U15

We hit the ground running on only the second day of term, hosting Moreton Hall for our opening fixture of the season. The team was made up of players with varying amounts of experience, both with bat and ball. We batted first seemed to settle well into the first two overs, but then the Moreton bowlers seemed to find their range and we lost two quick wickets. We managed to rally for a few overs, but our middle order were dispatched in quick succession. Our tailenders managed to add to the total in the final overs and we finished on a score of 112-9. Moreton came in full of confidence, which we managed to dent by taking two early wickets but the next batters managed to get settled and keep the scoreboard ticking over. The 3rd wicket didn't fall until half way through their limited overs and despite taking wickets late on, Moreton just managed to keep their noses in front, scoring the winning run off the final ball. There were some great bowling performances, including one with figures of 13-3.

Two weeks after this opening game, we travelled over to Moreton and were keen to improve on our performance. We lost the toss and were put in to bat. The loss of our openers could have rippled through the team but our middle order steadied the ship and we finished our innings on 108-6. This was a total that we knew Moreton could reach, from previous experience, so taking two wickets in the first two overs was a great start to unsettle the opposition. Moreton then rallied briefly but our bowlers kept the pressure on, bowling much more consistent line and length which proved fruitful. Wickets tumbled from the ninth over and Moreton were bowled out for just 67, with two overs remaining.

Outstanding bowling figures from our attack: 13-2 off 3 overs, 8-2 off 2.3 overs and 4-2 off just 1 over!). This was a great result and demonstrated the importance of consistent bowling, tight fielding and keeping the pressure on the team chasing.

We were due to face Newcastle-Under-Lyme School and Oswestry School but unfortunately both these matches were cancelled. As a result, we arranged for two friendly matches against one of the Year 9 boys' teams. Although we did not emerge victorious in either game, we were able to hold our own and impress with both bat and ball. They were games which were played in a great spirit and the team relished the challenge of taking on their peers.

LK



Cricket – Girls' U15 Softball

Softball cricket continues to grow in popularity among girls who enjoy the excitement and team spirit of cricket, but prefer a format that doesn't involve the traditional hardball. This season, our U15 girls embraced the format with enthusiasm and determination. In their first match of the season, they won against Moreton Hall, showcasing excellent teamwork, sharp fielding, and some confident batting performances.

The girls also took part in the North Shropshire Softball Cricket Festival, hosted at home by our school. The girls also attended the annual festival at Moreton Hall where adult teams are in attendance, which is a challenge our U15 girls rose to with commendable spirit and sportsmanship. Despite the age and experience differences, they contested each game with energy and resilience, earning praise from spectators and fellow teams alike.

It has been a hugely positive season for the U15 softball cricketers, marked by growth, enjoyment, and impressive performances. We look forward to building on this momentum next year!

BMD



Cricket – Boys' U14

A superb bunch of Year 9 lads played cricket in the summer term including a couple of year 8's (Bobby Small, Gethin Davies and Oliver Walker). Lots of hard work in nets sessions which was occasionally put into practice on the cricket pitch!

We started the season with a 7-wicket defeat to Queen Mary's Grammar despite a Harry Harrison 50.

In our second fixture we secured a very rare draw (although there was another one to come later in the season too!) with King's Chester. Rory Owen scored well and Will Barnes with a fine 28 not out.

Thomas Adams visited us next and beat us by 20 runs in a very competitive game – Jake Hughes scoring well with the bat.

Just before May half-term we played SCB MCC Foundation and were victorious with 5 wickets remaining. Jake Hughes and Rory Owen retiring having made 25 runs each.

After half-term we were visited by a strong North Wales side, suffering a heavy 8 wicket defeat despite Will Barnes scoring an excellent 50 not out.

We lost a fixture or two due to the weather but managed to arrange a friendly against Thomas Telford. An excellent performance saw an Ellesmere win by 9 wickets, Harry Harrison having retired on 30 not out.

Our final match of the season was against Newcastle-Under-Lyme School. A really close game ended with a thrilling last ball draw despite Rory Owen retiring on 50 not out.

All in all, an enjoyable if a little inconsistent cricket season but much more to come from this bunch in Year 10.

DSH



Cricket – Boys' U13

Our season began with a closely contested home fixture against Queen Mary's Grammar School. Despite a strong team performance, we narrowly lost by 14 runs, a result that highlighted both our potential and the fine margins that can decide a game of cricket. Another thrilling match followed against King's School Chester, where we again came up just short, losing by only 5 runs in a match full of character and determination.

A tough challenge against a strong North Wales side saw us defeated by 100 runs, but this proved to be a valuable learning experience and motivated the team to respond positively. That response came quickly, with a convincing 8-wicket victory over Marches School, where disciplined bowling and composed batting set the tone. Momentum continued to build with a hard-fought 3-wicket win against Sir John Talbot's School, showcasing the team's resilience and growing confidence under pressure. The regular season concluded with a competitive fixture against Newcastle Under Lyme School, where we battled hard before losing by 5 wickets.

A highlight of the summer was undoubtedly the Wrekin Festival, where the boys produced their best cricket of the season. Demonstrating teamwork, discipline and a real enjoyment of the game, we recorded impressive wins against Wrekin College, Prestfelde and King's School Chester – a fitting reward for the effort and improvement shown throughout the term.

Every player has contributed to the team's progress, whether with bat, ball or in the field. More importantly, they have played the game in the right spirit – showing respect for opponents, umpires and each other while enjoying every moment together.

This is a talented group of players and certainly a team to watch in the future.

CSH



Cricket – Girls' U12

The U12 girls' softball cricket season was disrupted by the weather, with three fixtures cancelled due to persistent rain and one school unable to field a team due to illness. Despite these setbacks, the team made the most of the opportunities available, playing two competitive matches and making progress during weekly training sessions.

The fair weekday weather allowed for consistent training, developing the girls' understanding of the game. Sessions focused on the fundamentals of pairs cricket, with emphasis on bowling straight, reacting quickly in the field, and being alert and communicative when batting. The girls learned the importance of snatching single runs through sharp calling and quick decision-making, which helped boost their confidence and run rates.
In our first fixture against The King's School, Chester, the team put in a spirited performance. Batting first, Ellesmere posted 113 runs without losing a wicket. The girls showed good discipline in protecting their wickets and improved shot selection. King's responded strongly, scoring 138 runs without losing a wicket, resulting in a 25-run loss. The match provided valuable experience and highlighted areas for improvement, particularly in fielding under pressure and maintaining focus.
Our second fixture saw all Year 7 girls involved, with two Ellesmere teams playing against Adcote School. This inclusive approach allowed every player to experience match conditions.

U12 Team 1 played with great energy and determination. Adcote elected to field first, and Ellesmere capitalised, scoring 272 runs without losing a wicket. The batting was confident and well-coordinated, with excellent communication between partners. In response, Adcote managed 227 runs for three wickets. Ellesmere fielding was sharp, and the bowlers maintained good line and length, securing a convincing 45-run victory.

U12 Team 2 faced a tougher challenge. Ellesmere elected to field first, and Adcote posted 263 runs for one wicket. Ellesmere responded with 240 runs for three wickets, falling short by 23 runs. Despite the loss, the team showed resilience and teamwork, with several players demonstrating improved batting technique and awareness in the field.

Throughout the season, the girls showed enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Their understanding of the game grew week by week, and their ability to work together as a team was evident in both training and match play. The coaching staff were impressed by the girls' adaptability and their eagerness to support one another.

While the season was shorter than hoped, the progress made by the U12 girls was significant. With more match opportunities next year, we look forward to seeing this talented group continue to develop their skills and enjoy the game. Well done to all the players for their commitment, energy, and sportsmanship throughout the term.

CSD



Cricket – Boys' U12

The U12 cricket squad has enjoyed a highly positive and progressive season, marked by development, teamwork, and a genuine enjoyment of the game. From the early weeks of the summer term, it was clear that the group was eager to learn, and the improvement shown across all areas of their cricket has been outstanding.

As the season progressed, the team displayed increasing confidence with both bat and ball. Training sessions were characterised by focus and commitment, with players encouraging one another and showing real respect for the game and their teammates. This sense of teamwork translated directly onto the field, where teamwork and resilience became defining features of their performances.

The boys competed well in a number of challenging fixtures, holding their own against strong opposition and learning valuable lessons from each match. A particular highlight was their performance in the national cup competition, where they faced Adam's Grammar School. In what proved to be a highly competitive and hard-fought match, Ellesmere rose to the occasion and played with great spirit and determination. Although the result was not in their favour, the way the team carried themselves—displaying both skill and sportsmanship—was a credit to the College. Beyond results, what has stood out most this season is the enjoyment the players have taken from representing Ellesmere. Their respect for the game, for opponents, and for each other has been exemplary. The progress made individually and collectively is a strong foundation to build on, and the players should be proud of all they have achieved this year. Overall, it has been a season full of growth, camaraderie, and promise, and we look forward to seeing this group continue to flourish as they move through the College.

HJL



Cricket – Girls' U11

The U11 Girls' Softball Cricket Team enjoyed a fantastic and memorable season, marked by strong performances, great team spirit, and impressive development across the whole squad.

Throughout the term, the team consistently demonstrated their growing skill and teamwork, with a particular strength in bowling. The bowlers played a crucial role in many of the season's successes, regularly taking key wickets and applying pressure to opposing teams.

Among the season's highlights were three excellent victories:

- A 26-run win over Moreton Hall, where disciplined bowling and alert fielding kept the opposition at bay.
- A solid 22-run victory against Oswestry School, built on a strong all-round performance.
- A closely contested match against Packwood Haugh, where Ellesmere held their nerve to win by 14 runs.

When playing Oswestry School, the Ellesmere side chose to bat first and were really effective at taking the quick singles, making the most of every opportunity. There were several big hits which gained Ellesmere runs - some of them even landing in the car park. But it was in bowling and fielding where the team really excelled - being accurate with their bowling and keen and efficient in fielding.

The team's most notable achievement came at the Wrekin College Cricket Festival, where Ellesmere fought their way to the final in impressive fashion. In a thrilling and hard-fought match, the side narrowly missed out on the title, losing by just 1 run—a testament to the competitive spirit and ability of this talented group.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the season was the inclusivity and depth shown across the year group. Every student in Year 6 had the opportunity to represent the school, contributing to the team's success and gaining valuable match experience.

This season has not only brought excellent results but also laid strong foundations for the future. With a group that plays with passion, skill, and togetherness, we look forward to next season.

Well done, to all involved on a successful and enjoyable season.

ST



Cricket – Boys' U11

The Under 11 cricket team at Ellesmere College enjoyed a short but highly valuable season, one that placed as much emphasis on growth and character as it did on results. Their campaign began with a development game away at Packwood Haugh School, where the boys produced an excellent all-round display to secure a victory. This provided early encouragement and set the tone for the season. Their next fixture was a new challenge against Broughton Hall Cricket Club. Despite a defeat, the side left with a deeper understanding of the tactical aspects of the game and the importance of adapting strategies to different opponents.

Festival cricket provided the most rewarding opportunities for the team. At Denstone College, the boys were able to put their hard work from training sessions into practice. Teamwork and determination shone through as they progressed to the final of the Plate competition, only narrowly missing out to the hosts by two runs. The experience taught them both the joy of competition and the fine margins that cricket so often produces.

Their final outing took place at Wrekin School, where Ellesmere displayed some of their most fluent batting of the year. Strong partnerships and clever stroke play were backed up by accurate and disciplined bowling – a crucial quality in a festival where every delivery carried weight. The boys advanced to the semi-finals before bowing out to a talented Packwood team.

Beyond the scores and statistics, this season was about more than cricket. The boys learnt the value of resilience in defeat, humility in victory, and the importance of teamwork at all times. Perhaps most importantly, they discovered how sport can build friendships, instil respect, and develop character – lessons that will serve them far beyond the cricket field.

AJM



Cricket – Girls' U10

The U10 Cricket season was full of energy, development, and exciting matches, with both the Girls' and Mixed teams showing great progress and teamwork throughout their fixtures.

The Girls' Team kicked off the term with a narrow win against Moreton Hall. Batting first, Ellesmere scored 245 for 3, and despite Moreton Hall's strong reply, excellent fielding and bowling ensured a 3-run victory as Moreton Hall finished on 242 for 4. It was a close match that demonstrated the Team's focus and determination.

In the next game against Packwood Haugh, Ellesmere produced one of their best batting performances of the season, finishing on 257 for just one wicket. Packwood Haugh, however, played with confidence and took advantage of some missed fielding opportunities, chasing down the total with 267 for 3 to win by 10 runs. Despite the result, the Team's spirit remained high, and they showed great sportsmanship throughout. The players finished their season with an outstanding performance in the return fixture against Moreton Hall. Chasing 254 for 2, Ellesmere delivered a flawless display with the bat, reaching 276 without losing a single wicket to win by 10 wickets. Their improvement in communication, decision-making, and consistency was clear to see, and it was a fitting end to a successful season.

CSD



Sport - Equestrian





It has been a successful year for Ellesmere riders, with many keen Lower School pupils joining our ranks, enjoying the support of our experienced senior riders in the regional competitions which took place throughout the year. Our riders competed in National Schools' Equestrian Association (NSEA) competitions in Show Jumping, Arena Eventing and Dressage disciplines.

Once again Ellesmere College teams proved themselves to be consistent in producing many polished performances in highly competitive classes, resulting in many team and individual qualifications for the National Championships next year.

Our qualifying riders from last year enjoyed success in the National Championships in October with an individual win by one of our younger team members in the 70cm class and his brother making it a family affair to achieve 2nd place in the 1.10m class! There were a number of other individual placings, a Team win for the 80cm Plate riders and 7th place for the 1m Ellesmere team.

In all events the level of riding skill, team spirit and encouragement within the squad has made for rewarding and fun experiences for all those involved. Special thanks must go to our hard-working and supportive parents and the huge efforts of Team Manager, Mrs Jamie Spencer-Blow, who hands over at the end of the year to Mrs Polly Stockton.

KC



Reffell Open

The 2025 Reffell Open had a distinctive theme. Lacking the presence of Chelsea Watson and her parents, the competition seemed wide open. Who would grab this chance of immortality? Would it be defending champion Jim Dilks? Surely a smart bet. Or would it be one of the Monday night Social tennis brigade? Lady Overton, aka Rebecca Lloyd, Bobby Orr, Gillian Cuckson, Mary McCarthy, the ever-smiling Sarah Haynes, Callum, or Rachael? Or would it be one of the old stagers? Mullock, apparently effortlessly casting aside the years, or Sharon Owen, a double winner with her latest partner Christopher Horrocks? Or would it be one of the Leonard clans, cleverly swamping the draw with numerous relatives on the off chance one of them would come good? The Leonard's are something of a Reffell legend. Tabs Leonard the first ever social tennis secretary sporting tennis whites looked everything like the former champion she was. Or Harvey, nervously replacing his father as the alpha male? Or one of the many South Africans, most of whom quickly dispelled the idea that all South Africans are good at all sports, for example, the Head Girl, Shayna and her father Brent, being one of the very few pairings never to win a single game although they seemed to enjoy it. But it all seems a haze now. Maybe it was Shayna's mother's fault. In the absence of Marie Watson, she took over the Pimm's mixing job. Presumably weights and measures differ in St Martins as one player after another succumbed to the strong mixture. Indeed, many of us started to hallucinate. There seemed to be a psychedelic element to the evening. And what were all these references to 'Tabs'. Were we seeing things or did OE Laura Oakes nee Mansfield, really wear those leggings. See photo below. It now seems clear that the ageing Morgan and Laura had decided to beat the opposition by blinding them with colour! It must have been something like that after opponent after opponent failed to return the Morgan serve that was recently measured at 9 mph. How a six-foot six giant can have such a weak serve remains a Reffell mystery.

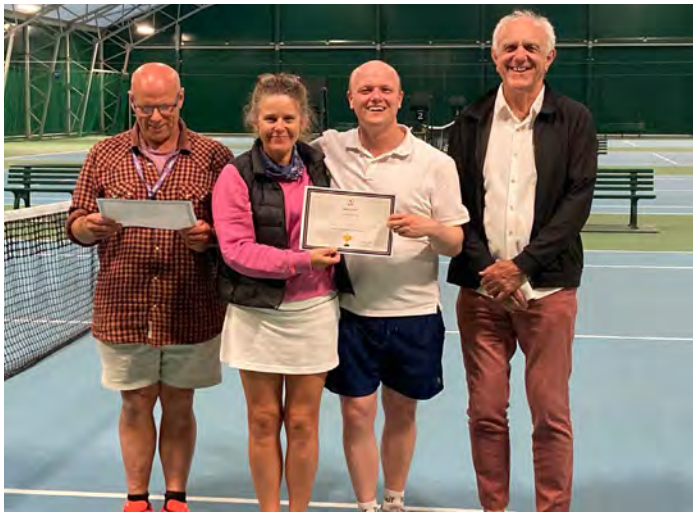
Anyway, the evening started off with the presentation of the Harry Cup. This is awarded annually to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the true spirit of tennis. This year the social tennis group voted to choose Bobby Orr. Mary McCarthy presented the trophy. Play then began. It soon became apparent that there was little between most of the pairings. The leagues were close, but the knockout saw two pairs dominate. The Sharon Owen /Christopher Horrocks partnership was very strong but they had to face Morgan and Laura in the final. With the smell of chips urging the players on, the match was at 2-2 when we came to the last game. In a tense final Jon Morgan, now incredibly a two times winner and Laura Oakes triumphed.

John Cowley presented the awards. To the best losers, Jim Dilks, Sophie Mason, Shayna and Brentand. The best dressed player was Tabitha Leonard. The best shot was also Tabitha Leonard. The best duo, Bobby and Lady Lloyd. The best player, Laura Oakes.

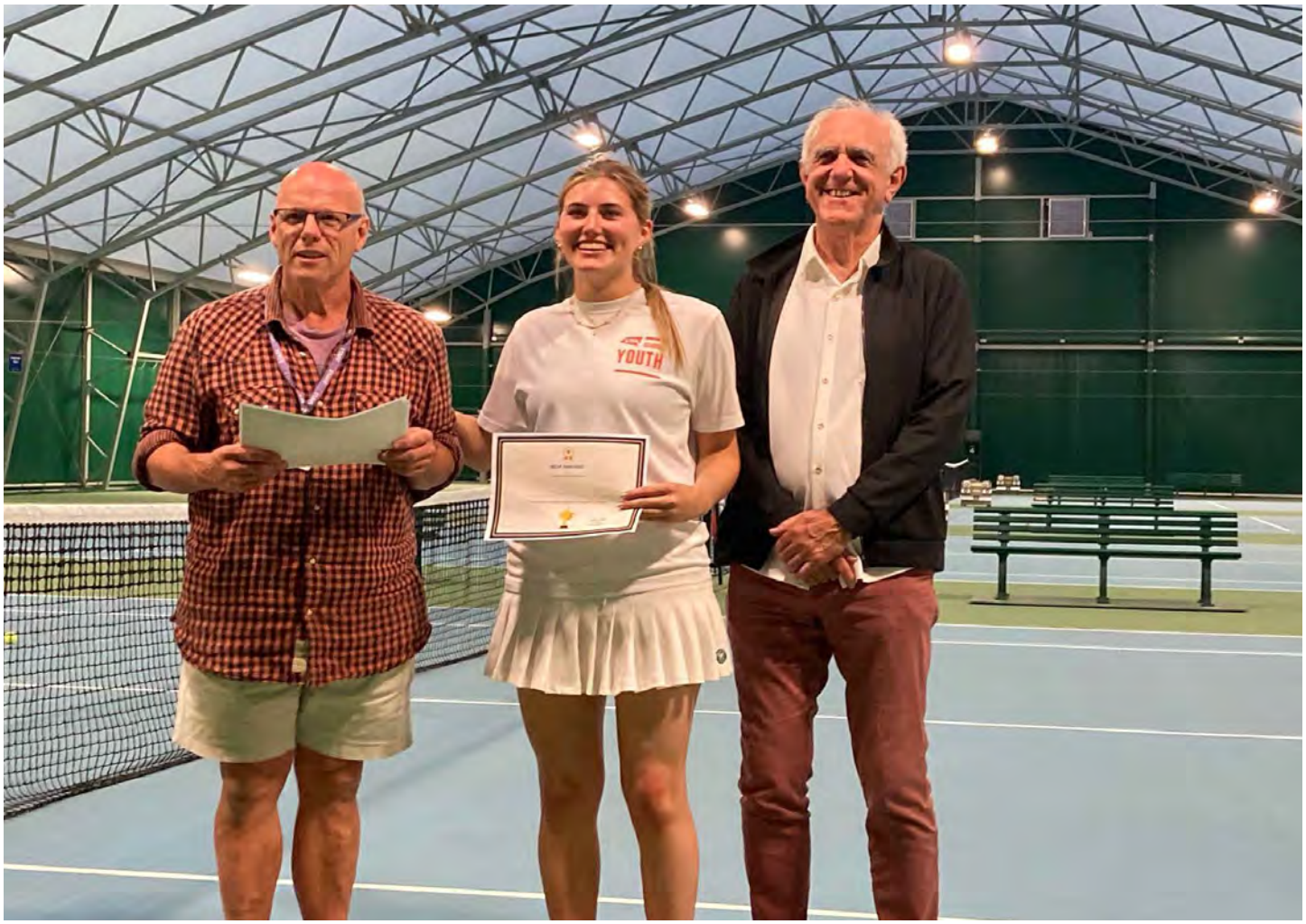
Many thanks to Steve Welti for his support of this event and social tennis throughout the year, to Christopher Horrocks for supporting the event and for all the great pairings who entered in to the true spirit of tennis. See you next year hopefully. July 3rd. Let's hope England aren't playing football that night!

HO






CONVERSE
ALL STAR


YOUTH



Sport - Badminton



Badminton

This year our badminton team, led by Captains Munashe Kugedera and Hebe Wong, had an excellent season. Both Munashe and Hebe have been the most positive role models we could have asked for, their organisation, drive and determination have been noted by all and we cannot thank them enough for all their hard work this year. They will both be greatly missed on and off the court as they move onto exiting new ventures next year.

Over the course of the season, the team competed in a total of 9 fixtures, securing 5 wins and facing 4 losses. While we didn't win every match, it's worth noting that many of the losses were narrow, often decided by just a few games, highlighting the competitiveness and determination of our players throughout the season.

The team's performance reflects significant progress and strong team spirit. Several players showed noticeable improvement and there was consistent effort and sportsmanship on display in every fixture. Unfortunately this year we lose many of our first team players who move on to complete their University courses elsewhere, I know that they will be greatly missed and we wish them all the very best.

Next term we look forward to the new season and welcoming Jeremy Dong and Natt Kritchanarat and as our new captains.

First team players:

1. Hebe Wong (Capt)
2 Cora Qian
3 Erika Nojic
4 Iskra Nojic
5 Natt Kritchanarat
6 Daniela Valdes Araguas
7 Munashe Kugedera (Capt)
8 Joshua Norris
9 Sean Harris
10 Jeremy Dong
11 Marco Wong
12 Jason He
13 Freddy Bullen

REW



Sport - Basketball



Basketball

The U18 boys' basketball team has had an eventful season filled with intense matches and valuable learning experiences. Throughout the campaign, the players displayed remarkable talent, teamwork, and determination, showcasing their potential on the court. Each game presented unique challenges, and the team's ability to navigate through victories and setbacks is a testament to their resilience and commitment. This report summarizes their performance through a series of matches, highlighting key moments and the overall journey of the team.

In their first match against TCAT, the team secured a close victory with a score of 53 to 49, setting a positive tone for the season. However, they faced a setback in the second match against Oswestry School, where they fought hard but ultimately lost by a narrow margin of 49 to 54. The team bounced back strongly in their third match against Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, clinching a crucial win with a score of 48 to 42.

The fourth match against Wrekin College posed challenges, with the team struggling offensively, resulting in a loss of 24 to 32. Despite the setback, they maintained their spirit in the fifth match against Adams Grammar School but fell short with a score of 43 to 51. The sixth match against Concord College saw the team leading for most of the game; however, a major injury and a lack of substitutes led to a narrow defeat, with a final score of 39 to 44. In their last match against Shrewsbury School, the team showcased their resilience but lost with a score of 54 to 62.

Reflecting on the season, the U18 boys' basketball team has shown incredible dedication and skill amid challenges and victories. Each game provided an opportunity for growth, helping players to develop individually and as a cohesive unit. Although the season had its share of disappointments, particularly with injuries and close losses, the commitment displayed by each player sets a solid foundation for the future. By continuing to focus on improvement, building team cohesion, and managing health effectively, this talented squad is sure to make significant strides in upcoming competitions. The experiences gained this season will serve them well as they strive for greater success in their basketball journey.

EG

Sport - House Comps

Rugby

Year 3 & 6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Phillips	2	0	0	6	1
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	2
Heywood	1	0	1	4	3







Girls Hockey

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Phillips	1	0	1	4	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	3

*determined on goal difference

Year 3 & 6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	1	0	1	4	1
Phillips	1	0	1	4	2
Brownlow	0	2	0	0	3



Sport - House Comps

Football

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Woodard	3	0	0	9	1
Talbot	2	1	0	6	2
Meynell	1	2	0	3	3
Wakeman-Lambart	0	3	0	0	4

Inter

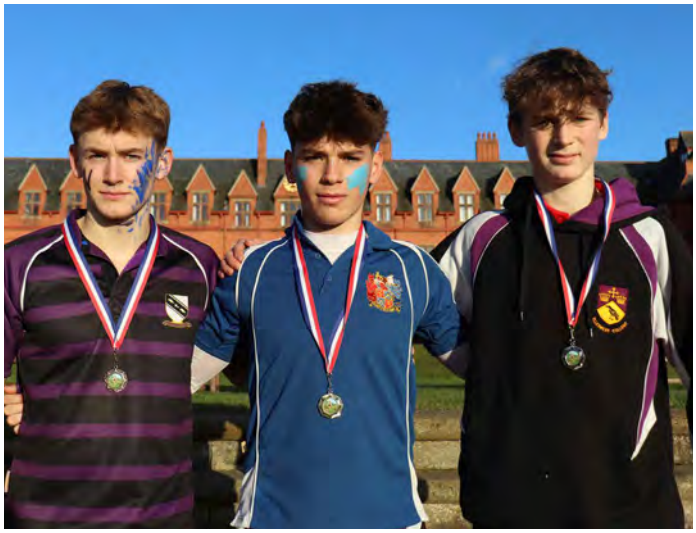
	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Talbot	2	0	1	7	1
Meynell	1	0	2	4	2
Wakeman-Lambart	1	0	2	4	3
Woodard	0	2	1	1	4

Year 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood	2	0	0	6	1
Brownlow	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3

Year 7

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow	2	0	0	6	1
Heywood	1	0	1	4	2
Phillips	1	0	1	4	3





Netball

Senior

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Meynell	3	0	0	15	1
Talbot	0	3	0	1	4
Wakeman-Lambart	1	2	0	7	3
Woodard	2	1	0	11	2

Inter

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Meynell	3	0	0	15	1
Talbot	2	1	0	11	2
Wakeman-Lambart	1	2	0	7	3
Woodard	0	2	0	2	4

Year 7 & 8

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Brownlow				8	1
Heywood				5	2
Phillips				3	3

Year 3-6

	Won	Lost	Draw	Points	Position
Heywood					1
Phillips					2
Brownlow					3





Sport - House Comps

Cross Country

Middle and Senior School

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Y9 Junior	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart	Talbot	Meynell
Y11 Inter	Wakeman-Lambart	Meynell	Woodard	Talbot
Senior	Woodard	Talbot	Meynell	Wakeman-Lambart
Overall	Woodard	Wakeman-Lambart	Talbot	Meynell
Merit Cup	Talbot	Woodard	Meynell	Wakeman-Lambart

(House with most participation)

Individual Medal Winners

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Junior Boys	Shoma Kimura	Will Goodwin	Biham Gurung
Junior Girls	Anna Underhill	Armani Tronsden	Lois Ebben
Inter Boys	Archie Fearnall	Adam Crompton	Archie Ramsay
Inter Girls	Nina Fisher	Olivia Watts	Maisie Beattie
Senior Boys	Harvey Leonard	Niklas Halver	Alberto Rescigno
Senior Girls	Cerys Shirley Smith	Millie Wells	Erika Nojic

Lower School

1st Brownlow
2nd Phillips
3rd Heywood

Individual Medal Winners

Y3 & 4 Girls:
1st Zoe Pelequin
2nd Phoebe Short
3rd Lottie Philbin

Y3 & 4 Boys:
1st Harry Oakes
2nd Otis Glover
3rd Edward Taylor

Y5 & 6 Girls:
1st Amber Leonard
2nd Hazel Small
3rd Frankie Hayden

Y5 &6 Boys:
1st Ben Francis
2nd Henry Forrest
3rd Ewan Gallagher

Y7 Girls:
1st Elbe Ramsay-Smith
2nd Cloe Hart
3rd Martha Cope

Y7 Boys:
1st Theo Swann-Horler
2nd Seb Johnson
3rd Charlie Stockton

Y8 Girls:
1st Eve Scales
2nd Alberta Gaskill
3rd Poppy Baker

Y8 Boys:
1st Reece Linge
2nd Freddie Fearnall
3rd Bobby Small

Lower School Sports Day

1st: Brownlow, 2nd: Heywood, 3rd: Phillips (was worked out by averaging times and distances - so every student's effort contributed)

Year 3 & 4
Victor Ludorum - Harry Oakes
Victrix Ludorum - Zoe Pelequin

Year 5
Victor Ludorum - Jasper Tomkins
Victrix Ludorum - Hazel Small

Year 6
Victor Ludorum - Henry Forrest
Victrix Ludorum - Alexandra Dawes

Year 7
Victor Ludorum - Sam Higgins
Victrix Ludorum - Grace McKerchar

Year 8
Victor Ludorum - Reece Linge
Victrix Ludorum - Bonnie Tanner

Lower School Sports Awards

	Year 8	Year 7	Year 6	Year 5	Year ¾
Spirit of Netball Award	Florence Hughes	Grace McKerchar	Hattie Fearnall	Hazel Small	Zoe Peloquin
Spirit of Hockey Award	Christopher Dilks	Alexander Oakes	Freddie Spencer-Blow	Hubert Gaskell	Edward Taylor
	Alberta Gaskell	Sim Mehmed	Frankie Haydon	Cesca Coupe	Phoebe Shortt
Spirit of Cricket Award	Gethin Griffiths	Jayden Joyce	Freddie Davenport	Jasper Tomkins	Otis Glover
	Girl Eve Scales	Chloe Hart	Mia Davenport	Trixie Oakes	Lottie Philbin
Spirit of Football Award	Freddie Latham	Theo Swann-Horler	Ethan Nyakudya	Gilbert Cope	Harry Oakes
Spirit of Rugby Award	Oli Walker	Sam Higgins	Xander Blackwood	Gilbert Cope	Harry Oakes





Sport - The Academies



Cricket

Recognition and Achievements

For the ninth consecutive year, Ellesmere College has been named among the Top 100 Schools for Cricket in the UK by The Cricketer. This recognition reflects the academy's continued commitment to excellence, measured against rigorous internal and external standards.

Player Development and Representation

The academy remains dedicated to providing every pupil with opportunities to play cricket—whether for enjoyment, personal growth, or progression to county and professional levels.

County Honours

- Oliver Dyson, Harry Harrison, Jake Hughes, Gethin Griffiths and Jack Bettis all received County Representative Awards.
- Jack Bettis was selected for the Glamorgan Academy.
- Oliver Dyson and Harry Harrison were leading run scorers for their Shropshire age groups, with notable centuries, and are part of the Shropshire/Worcestershire County EPP programme.
- Daisy and Holly Cooke are actively involved in the North West Thunder EPP, working with Lancashire, Cheshire, and Cumbria, with strong links to Lancashire CCC.
- Mia Davenport has been invited to the Glamorgan CCC Early Development Programme.

Representative Cricket

A total of 16 pupils participated in representative cricket this year, with several others currently trialling with Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales.

Club Involvement

Over 70 Ellesmere pupils also play regular cricket at local clubs, demonstrating the strength of grassroots participation.

Colours and Awards

Senior School Colours were awarded to: Tom Dyson, Henry Appleby, George Owen and Sophie Mason.

Lower School Spirit of Cricket Awards (for performance, commitment, leadership, and teamwork): Gethin Griffiths. Jayden Joseph, Bobby Small, Freddie Davenport and Mia Davenport played representative cricket. Lower School Colours (Full) were awarded to 21 pupils, including Gethin Griffiths who is linked to Glamorgan CCC.

Fixtures and Competitions

The academy delivered a comprehensive fixtures programme, with 100 hardball and softball matches scheduled across 25 boys' and girls' teams, ranging from U9s to the 1st XI.

Competition Highlights

- U15 Boys County Finalists.
- All indoor teams progressed into the County Finals.
- All hardball teams progressed through the early rounds of the National and County Cups.

Participation included the ESCA National U14 competition, ECB National Cups, HMC T20, National Sports Magazine Cups and numerous district festivals.

House Cricket

Indoor house competitions during the Michaelmas Term provided valuable tactical preparation:

- Senior Boys: Woodard
- Senior Girls: Wakeman/Lambart
- Junior Boys: Talbot
- Junior Girls: Wakeman/Lambart

Community Engagement

Ellesmere College cricket continues to play an active role in the wider community, hosting local schools and offering access to coaching and facilities.

Director's Closing Remarks

This season has been one of exceptional activity and achievement. From grassroots participation to county and national recognition, the progress of our pupils reflects both their talent and the dedication of our coaching staff. Congratulations to all players and coaches on another successful year.

GO









Sport - The Academies

Rugby

The Ellesmere Rugby Academy is an elite training group designed to provide ambitious young rugby players with the tools, knowledge, and experiences necessary to reach their full potential within the sport. Unlike a traditional school team, the Academy does not exist to play fixtures of its own. Instead, its purpose is to act as a development hub, giving players access to a wide range of specialist resources that complement their playing commitments within Ellesmere College's competitive rugby programme. Members of the Academy benefit from structured support in strength and conditioning, game analysis, sports psychology, and player welfare, alongside the opportunity to connect with professional academies and higher levels of representation. In doing so, Ellesmere continues to distinguish itself as one of the UK's leading rugby schools, nurturing not only team achievements but also individual progression.

This year has once again been an exceptionally successful one for Ellesmere College rugby, with outstanding performances across age groups, significant representation at county, regional, and national levels, and the inspiring story of a schoolboy international. However, before celebrating these accomplishments, it is worth reflecting on how success is actually defined within the Academy.

Within sporting circles, success is often measured in the most straightforward of terms: victories on the field. League positions, cup runs, and win-loss records are frequently taken as the primary indicators of a team's effectiveness and growth. By this measure alone, Ellesmere College has had a strong year, with the 1st XV securing a place in the top ten schools in the country and the Under 16s and Under 15s both enjoying impressive cup campaigns. There was also success in the sevens with the 1st VII winning the North of England plate and the Worcester sevens competition. These results speak volumes about the quality of coaching, the commitment of players, and the strength of the rugby culture within the College.

Yet at Ellesmere, success is viewed through a much wider lens. The Academy recognises that while results are important, the true measure of its impact lies in the development of the players themselves. For this reason, success is defined not only by what is achieved on the scoreboard but also by the number of pupils who have been actively engaged in rugby, the levels they reach beyond school representation, and the opportunities that rugby creates for them both on and off the field. Every player is therefore given the opportunity to succeed, whether through their contribution to the success of a team, their progression to a professional pathway, or the way rugby helps them grow as individuals.

In terms of team performance, Ellesmere rugby has enjoyed an excellent season. The 1st XV earned recognition as one of the top ten rugby schools in the country, a remarkable achievement given the level of competition and the quality of opposition faced. The team played with discipline, tactical intelligence, and a clear sense of identity, reflecting the values instilled through the Academy's training environment. The Under 16s had a particularly strong year, progressing deep into their cup competition and showcasing a group of players with significant potential for future senior honours within the school and beyond. The Under 15s also enjoyed a memorable cup run, displaying resilience and unity that will serve as a foundation for their continued development in the years ahead. These collective successes demonstrate the depth of talent at Ellesmere and reinforce the College's reputation as a rugby institution of national standing.

Perhaps even more significant than team results has been the number of players who have advanced to higher levels of rugby representation. This year, a large number of Ellesmere pupils were selected for county sides, with many going on to represent Shropshire and the North Midlands. Such recognition not only rewards individual ability and dedication but also enhances the College's standing as a source of rugby talent. Further progression has been evident in those players who secured places within professional academies. Links with Sale Sharks, Gloucester Rugby, and RGC have provided Ellesmere athletes with invaluable exposure to professional coaching environments, advanced training facilities, and opportunities to benchmark themselves against some of the best young players in the country.

The crowning achievement of the season came in the form of international recognition. Harvey Leonard, an Ellesmere pupil who joined the College from lower school, progressed through every level of rugby within the institution before earning the opportunity to represent Ireland against Italy at schoolboy international level. Harvey's journey is a perfect example of what the Ellesmere Rugby Academy strives to achieve: long-term player development, continuous support, and the realisation of potential at the highest stage.

While competitive success and progression to higher levels are vital, the Ellesmere Rugby Academy also places significant emphasis on the personal and holistic development of its players. Rugby at Ellesmere is seen as a vehicle for cultivating essential life skills that will benefit pupils far beyond their sporting careers. The Academy's structured programmes in strength and conditioning ensure that players understand the importance of physical preparation, injury prevention, and long-term athletic development. Access to game analysis equips players with the ability to think critically, assess their own performances, and understand the tactical nuances of the sport. Regular sports psychology sessions help athletes to develop mental resilience, confidence under pressure, and strategies for coping with both success and setback.

The concept of the "Ellesmere Rugby conveyor belt" has long been central to the College's sporting philosophy. By identifying and nurturing talent from a young age, the Academy ensures that pupils progress steadily through the system, gaining new skills, experiences, and responsibilities at each stage of their development. Harvey Leonard's international honours are a clear testament to the success of this conveyor belt. Having entered Ellesmere in Lower School, he progressed through every stage of the rugby programme, benefiting from expert coaching, supportive peers, and access to professional pathways. His journey reflects not only his own dedication but also the effectiveness of

the Academy's long-term approach. This conveyor belt continues to thrive, producing players who are ready for both the demands of senior school rugby and the challenges of county, regional, academy, and international representation. It is this sustained commitment to development that sets Ellesmere apart and ensures the continued success of the programme.

The 2024–25 season has been another outstanding year for Ellesmere Rugby Academy and Ellesmere College rugby as a whole. Team achievements, including the 1st XV's position among the top ten schools in the country and strong cup runs for the Under 16s and Under 15s, underline the depth of talent and the strength of the rugby culture within the College. More importantly, however, the Academy has once again demonstrated its ability to define success in broader and more meaningful terms. The large number of players representing the College, progressing to county and regional levels, linking with professional academies, and achieving international honours reflects the Academy's central mission: to equip young hopeful rugby players with the tools to go as far as they can on their rugby journey.

The Ellesmere Rugby Academy is not simply about winning matches. It is about preparing individuals for the challenges of elite sport, instilling values that last a lifetime, and creating opportunities for players to realise their potential. With its proven conveyor belt of talent, its emphasis on holistic development, and its proud record of individual and collective achievement, Ellesmere College continues to uphold its reputation as a leading force in schoolboy rugby.

AJM







Sport - The Academies

Golf

The 2024-25 competitive season was one of outstanding achievement for the Ellesmere Golf Academy, marked by sporting excellence, relentless hard work, and a clear commitment to developing high-level skills and intelligent game play. Across national, international, and local competitions, Ellesmere golfers consistently demonstrated resilience and a hunger to compete at the highest standard, culminating in a year that firmly established the Academy as one of the leading school golf programmes in the United Kingdom.

The season began in impressive fashion on 9 September 2024, when the team travelled to Harpenden Common to compete in the ISGA UK Schools Cup. Facing strong opposition from schools across the UK, the Ellesmere team produced composed and disciplined performances to finish third in the UK in both the gross and nett competitions. This early result set the tone for the year, reflecting the players' technical development and their growing confidence in tournament environments.

Momentum continued to build later in the month when the team travelled on 22 September to The Players Club to take part in the AQ Invitational Cup, a demanding three-day world ranking event. The tournament tested not only golfing ability but also mental toughness, as inclement weather caused multiple delays and disrupted preparation routines. Despite these challenges, the Ellesmere players showed exceptional adaptability and focus, managing conditions intelligently and supporting one another throughout the event. Their efforts were rewarded with a second-place finish in the UK, an outstanding result given the strength of the field and the difficulty of the conditions.

In the ISGA Match Play Tournament, Ellesmere defeated both Wrekin College and Shrewsbury School, performances that showcased disciplined course management and a strong understanding of match play strategy. These victories secured Ellesmere's status as regional and area winners, earning qualification for the ISGA National Finals. The highlight of this campaign came through Charlie Boys, who fought with determination and composure to win his matches and ultimately be crowned UK Champion, a remarkable individual achievement and a proud moment for the Academy and Charlie.

Further success followed in the British Schools Match Play Cup, where Ellesmere again demonstrated depth and consistency. Victories over Worksop College and Shrewsbury College confirmed the team's ability to perform under pressure. In the National Finals, Ellesmere finished an impressive third overall, reinforcing their position among the elite school golf programmes in the country. Individual excellence was once again evident, with Shinil Balakrishnan winning the nett competition, a reward for disciplined scoring and intelligent decision-making across the tournament.

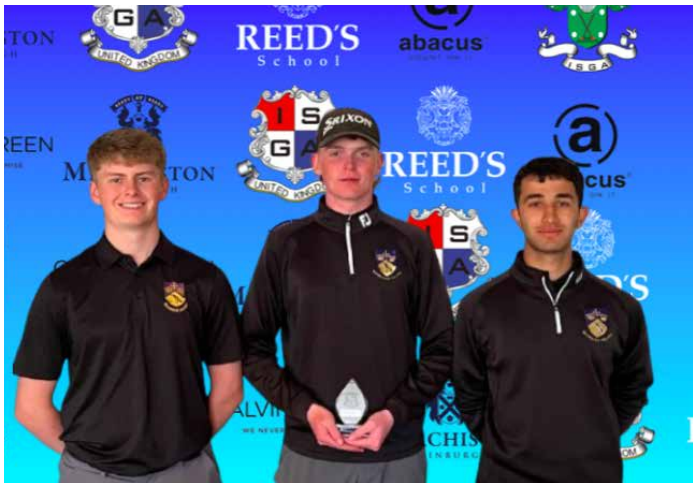
At a local level, the dominance of the Ellesmere Golf Academy was unmistakable. Competing across multiple age groups, Ellesmere teams won every age category from Under 13 through to Under 18. This achievement speaks volumes about the Academy's long-term development model, where technical fundamentals, physical preparation, and course strategy are taught progressively and consistently. Success across all age groups highlights the strength of the pathway and the effectiveness of coaching in nurturing talent from an early stage.

The season concluded with Ellesmere College finishing the year ranked third in the UK in the ISGA rankings, a fitting reward for months of dedication and high-level performance. This ranking reflects not just results, but the consistent standard of play and professionalism shown by the Academy's golfers across all competitions.

In summary, the 2024 season has been an exceptional chapter in the story of the Ellesmere Golf Academy. Through excellence, hard work, and a clear focus on developing skills and game play, the Academy has achieved outstanding results at every level. With the addition of the Lower School golf provision last year, Ellesmere College golf programme looks likely to grow and flourish and maintain its position of being a national powerhouse in this sport.

AR





Sport - The Academies

Football

The Football Academy enjoyed a first season as an 'in-house' academy within Ellesmere College, having previously been an external company. This shows the great belief the College have in the ongoing developments of Football within the school.

Firstly, we had a huge increase in Lower School Football Academy students this academic year compared to the previous. With over x3 the number of students, this group is an exciting development for us; and with a greater number of participants allows us to develop the students in more game realistic scenarios. The improvement in this U13 age group has been incredible, with many successfully trialing at local professional clubs. We have a strong belief that these students will be the next crop of long-term talent for the Academy.

The Football Academy embarked upon external visits to enhance their developments; most notably we attended a live Premier League match (Wolves vs Manchester City) as well as stadium tours of Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City's Etihad complex. Students took part in staged interviews and learned about the many roles associated with a Football Club.

This tied nicely into our program, as we prepare Football Academy students for all sorts of roles within the world of football. Their football knowledge and ability, as well as their education at the college can provide future career options not only on the pitch but behind the scenes too; business, health as well as technology are just a few examples of routes to pursue alongside their aspiring playing careers.

We had another successful season using the Veo, with all age groups able to record matches and being able to analyse and review performances. This helps students to understand their role within the team as well as individual highlights they can add to their Football CV's and portfolios. Parents will have access to this system in the next academic year and be able to watch live matches where possible.



The Football Academy also had more students than ever before attend the end-of-season overseas tournaments at the Donosti Cup and Gothia Cup. These competitions not only provide opportunities for students to showcase their skills on one of the biggest stages, it allows them to connect with likeminded athletes and create many lasting memories. We congratulate all those that have attended and competed to such a high standard.

We've also said our farewells to the long-term Academy students in Year 13 who have finished their time at the school and have made many lasting memories with their teammates. They have been a credit to the school, and to their families, and we wish them the best for their future careers. Congratulations to Marcus Collins, Henry Haydn-Lee and Philipp Reindler who made a real improvement during their time with us. An extra special mention to Archie Floate and Alex Sharpe who were part of the Football Academy since Lower School, showing great leadership and dedication to the program. All of these Year 13 students guided our younger players through Ellesmere life and positively influenced their experience and development.

We're looking forward to those new students that will be joining us this upcoming year and are excited to continue to develop those returning students!

BH





Sport - The Academies

Swimming

The 2024/2025 season quickly became a trailblazer. By late September 2024, Ellesmere College Swimming Academy achieved Swim England Affiliation status, a huge step forward for both the College and the Swimming Academy. Our student-athletes have once again displayed progression both in and out of the pool over the past academic year. As always it is fantastic to see our members combine their sporting achievements with academic success to achieve in all facets of Ellesmere College life.

New Arrivals

We start this report off with a few 'welcome to the ECSA' messages, as well as a thank you to previous swimming programmes who have played a part in their aquatic journey. We are excited to see their progress in and out of the pool at the ECSA.

New ECSA members for season 2024/2025 were as follows:

Swimmer	Previous Swimming Programme
Diego Hernandez Guerrero	Anv San Jeronimo
Guangping Song	Swansea Aquatics
Joanne Andrews	Wrexham SC

National Talent Pathway Selections

James	–	Swim Wales Elite Transition Squad
Jack	–	Swim Wales Youth Performance Squad
Millie	–	Swim England DiSE Programme Year 2
Archie	–	Swim England DiSE Programme Year 1
Esmee	–	Swim England National Youth Development Programme
Tallulah	–	Swim England National Age Group Development Programme
Reece	–	Swim Wales Performance Foundations Squad and Swim England West Midlands Regional Development Programme
Annie	–	Scottish Swimming Junior Academy Programme
Eve	–	Swim England Count Development Programme



Training Camp Triumph

In February 2025, the ECSA went on a training camp to Majorca. The team spent 10 days at the Universal Hotel Marques. There were many reasons as to why the training camp proved to be a success, firstly, we represented the Ellesmere College badge with the respect it deserves. The student-athletes managed their time exceptionally well, rising to the demands of an increased training schedule, those with upcoming exams kept on top of their revision and also down time to enjoy being outside of our normal Ellesmere environment. Lastly, this training camp provided another boost to the momentum we were building into the National Qualifying Window, British Championships and West Midlands Regional Championships.

International Representation

During the season the ECSA had 3 international selections.

James from Senior Performance was selected by Swim Wales in January to race in Lisbon, Portugal. This was his 3rd Welsh call up in 3 years, James gained vital experience racing against some of the best juniors and seniors from across the continent in his preparation for British Championships, these took place in April.

Millie from Senior Performance was selected by Swim England to represent her nation in Sweden during March 2024. Similar to James, this was vital long course (50m) exposure ahead of British Championships the month after. Millie picked up 2 medals (1 Gold & 1 Bronze) as well as 2 Top 10 placings.

Tallulah from Age Performance was selected by Guernsey to be part of their Island Games 2025 team, this multi-sport games took place in





Orkney, Scotland. It was a huge learning curve for Tallulah as this stage in her aquatic journey, she was able to mix with older, more experience athletes within the Guernsey team. Tallulah was able to achieve 3 Top 10 placings (50 Backstroke, 100 Backstroke & 200 Backstroke), as well as being part of the Gold medal winning 4x100m Freestyle relay team.

International selection and success are a staple here at the ECSA. Developing student-athletes achieve their dreams and aspirations both in and out of the pool.

Excellent swimming by James, Millie and Tallulah.

British Championships April 2025

5 ECSA team members made the journey to the capital city of London for the 2025 edition of the British Championships, the highest level of domestic competition on offer in the UK. The competition ran from 15th – 20th April 2025.

It was certainly an occasion where our ECSA representatives were able to step up and produce within the arena environment. It was also a great opportunity to perform to a major live and TV audience, one that our student-athletes relished and looked forward to.

Tuesday 15th April – Day 1

Open 400 Freestyle Junior Final	-	James 4:01.60 (8th)
Female 50 Breastroke	-	Anna 33.79 (20th Junior)

Wednesday 16th April Day 2

Open 200 Butterfly	-	Alberto 2:09.28 PB (18th Junior)
Female 100 Backstroke	-	Millie 1:05.13 (19th Junior)

Thursday 17th April – Day 3

Open 100 Backstroke	-	Jack 58.56 PB (16th Junior)
Female 200 Breaststroke	-	Anna 2:49.20 (55th Junior)
Open 1500 Freestyle Junior Final	-	James 16:14.85 PB (9th)

Friday 18th April – Day 4

Open 50 Backstroke Junior Final	-	Jack 26.77 PB (6th)
Female 200 Backstroke Junior Final	-	Millie 2:16.06 (5th)

Saturday 19th April – Day 5

Female 200 Individual Medley	-	Anna 2.22.99 (13th Junior)
Open 800 Freestyle	-	James 8:31.08 (12th Junior)

Sunday 20th April – Day 6

Open 200 Backstroke	-	Jack 2.10.76 PB (37th Junior)
Female 100 Breaststroke	-	Anna 1.14.16 (23rd Junior)

With 6 days of racing in London complete. We have best times achieved, junior finals qualified for and stepped up from heats to finals. A huge well done to everyone who raced, you have done yourselves, support teams, team-mates, and the college proud.

End of Season International/National Qualification

Archie	– British Next Gen, English Nationals
Anna	– British Next Gen, English Nationals
Tyler	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Sami	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
James	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Millie	– British Next Gen
Jack	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Alberto	– British Next Gen, English Nationals
Esmee	– English Nationals
Olivia	– English Nationals
Jake	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Guangping	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Maisie	– Scottish Nationals
Joanne	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Reece	– British Next Gen, Welsh Nationals
Annie	– Scottish Nationals
Eliza	– English Nationals
Tallulah	– Island Games (Guernsey), English Nationals

British Summer Championships and Home Nations Championships

18 ECSA student-athletes achieved qualification for the British Summer Championships and/or one of the Home Nations Championships (England, Scotland, Wales). It was an excellent few weeks of racing, as always it is great to see hard work in the training pool paying off when it comes to race day.

British Summer Championships

Female 200 Butterfly	-	Joanne 2:21.05 PB 2nd (15 years)
Female 50 Breaststroke	-	Anna 33.32 8th (17/18 years)
Female 200 Individual Medley	-	Joanne 2:24.81 PB 5th (15 years)
Female 200 Backstroke	-	Millie 2:15.61 3rd (17/18 years)
Female 400 Individual Medley	-	Joanne 5:02.73 PB 3rd (15 years)
Female 200 Breaststroke	-	Joanne 2:40.86 PB 4th (15 years)
Female 100 Butterfly	-	Joanne 1:03.83 PB 4th (15 years)

Home Nations Championships

Following on from superb results at the British Next Gen Championships, we continued the momentum going at English, Scottish and Welsh Summer Nationals. Across the 3 competitions a total of 17 medals were won (6 Gold, 7 Silver, 4 Bronze). A great end to another fantastic season at Ellesmere College Swimming Academy.

Goodluck Ellesmerians

As with any season, the curtain comes down on those finishing their education at Ellesmere College. This season, we say goodbye and good luck to the following Ellesmerians:

- Millie
- Anna
- James R
- Jack
- Alberto
- James G

Head Coach Comment

Outside of the pool, we achieved a massive landmark in our journey as Ellesmere College Swimming Academy, by becoming a Swim England affiliated programme! Thank you to all the staff, parents and student-athletes that supported in making that happen.

2024/25 was another hugely successful season. Key highlights included:
- National Pathway selections
- National Qualifiers and medals across all three squads
- Another international swim camp
- A medal at the Island Games

This is a testament to the consistency and dedication of our student-athletes, that alongside the College, are able to manage their sporting and academic commitments in unison.

As always at this time of year, the Coaching Team and I would like to personally wish the Ellesmerian class of 2024/25 good luck in their future endeavours. We look forward to seeing you all progress in and out of the pool and hope to see on the pool deck soon.

We now move onto the 2025/26 season, our second year affiliated, bigger and better than before.

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Captains of School
Captains of School
Captains of School



Sport - The Academies



Tennis

Ellesmere College Tennis Academy

The reputation of the academy is continuing to grow and once again we were fortunate to welcome players from, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Wales and of course England. We are now training students as young as 7 so the future is bright.

There have been many highlights this year with some outstanding performances on court and some amusing moments off court.

Team Successes

Once again, the teams have punched way above their weight and produced some excellent results. The boys team won the LTA Senior Students competition having beaten rivals at county and regional level. In the finals at Nottingham, they overcame a strong Bromsgrove side to become champions. The girls team also made it to the final but couldn't quite get over the line losing in a tiebreak shoot out. Players; Freddy Foltyn, Moritz Hartinger, Constantin Mendel, Alex Popplewell, Cedric Dreyer, Erika Nojic, Iskra Nojic, Amira Keil, Anne Lehnert, Neda Kocyte.

The boys B team were also on fire this year winning their regional group against some good opposition in closely fought matches. It is great that the College has such depth. Players; Laurin Reuttgers, Daniel Herzog,



Arthur Malafosse, Jake Mathers, Arthur Dathe, Julian Mall and Jan Elsner.

The Year 8 boys' and girls' teams won the county section of the LTA National Schools Championships as did the Year 10 boys' and girls' teams. All four teams will compete in the regional event over the coming term and have a chance to reach the National Finals, something the College has achieved with a team every year since 2012. Players; Gwen Klu, Amani Trondsen, VV Alkureishi, Poppy Baker, Alfie Edwards, Jonty Barber, Harry Wyke, Shoma Kimura, Jake Hughes, Krish Kamisetty, Ollie Cadwaladr.

Individual Achievements

Congratulations to the 18 players who were selected to represent their county sides from mini tennis to junior and senior county teams. The year started with Sofie Glinos winning the Herefordshire & Worcestershire U16 County Championships and Gwen Klu becoming Shropshire County Champion (Junior and Ladies). Alfie Edwards won at Under 14 and Under 16 in the Shropshire County Championships, and this year added the Under 18 title to his collection.



VV Alkureishi enjoyed her time on the Wimbledon grass courts winning the county section and playing in the National Finals of the Play your way to Wimbledon competition. Over the last couple of years, Alfie, Gwen, Sofie and VV have taken advantage of this opportunity to perform on the same courts the professionals play on at Wimbledon. Freddy Foltyn, Jonty Barber, Harry Wyke, Shoma Kimura, Gwen Klu, VV Alkureishi and Krish Kamisetty have performed at the top of their games winning level 3 and 4 competitions across a range of singles or doubles events. There have been further successes for our younger players too. Jasper Tomkins, Joe O'Grady, Harry Oakes and Phoebe Shortt have been selected for Junior County training squads with some going on to play for Shropshire in inter county events.



Expeditions

The intensity of the training sessions during our two expedition weeks paid dividends and we saw a noticeable improvement in the standard of our team players. The go- karting was competitive as usual and we look forward to expanding the programme this year to include other activities.

LTA Tournaments

The College continues to host LTA Tournaments at various levels each weekend in the Tennis Centre. Ellesmere is also host to the LTA U18 Intercounty Championships. Many of our Academy players compete using the events as an opportunity to challenge players from around the UK. It also offers a chance for the coaching team to see their pupils perform at a high level on a regular basis.

US College news

Ellesmere has been very successful in supporting players who want to access the US College system over the last few years, and this is no exception with Neda Kocyte leaving us for America after her sixth form years at Ellesmere. Tamzin Pountney and Jemimah Choi are currently out there achieving great things on the College circuit. The coaches look forward to hearing from the players as they follow their dreams.

Fond farewells

We say goodbye to our captains, Neda Kocyte, Moritz Hartinger and Freddy Foltyn. They have ensured that standards are maintained in the Academy and we wish them well as they embark on new adventures.

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Ellesmere College Parents' Society

After another incredibly busy year for the Ellesmere College Parents Society, it is now time to reflect and celebrate on all that has been achieved. It has been a privilege to walk this journey with an extraordinary team of parents, carers, staff and friends, who work together to support the College and create a fabulous calendar of activities throughout the past academic year. As a volunteer-led, self-funding society, we are especially grateful to all who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create such a welcoming and friendly space for us all to share and enjoy.

Michaelmas Term

We welcomed Michaelmas Term with our much-anticipated annual MacMillan Coffee Morning, with an impressive selection of delicious home baked cakes to tempt us all. This was followed by the lower school bake sale, causing great excitement among the younger students. As usual, the tables were full of an array of cakes and sweet treats for everyone to enjoy, raising an impressive £357.50 for this much-loved charity.

Over the past two years, we have had the pleasure of working with Shrewsbury-based collage artist Lyn Evans. Commissioned to create a bespoke piece of Ellesmere College, Lyn has crafted a beautifully intricate collage capturing the College as viewed from the terraces. This picture is also available as prints and cards, including a special Christmas card that Lyn will refresh annually. Be sure to admire this stunning picture on display as you enter the Big School hall.

Winter Ball for Music School Appeal

November saw another ECPS venture, with the relaunch of our spectacular Winter Ball, Midnight in Méribel, featuring a fundraising initiative for the Music School Appeal. The College was transformed into a winter wonderland of sparkling trees, twinkling lights and artificial snow, all wowing the senses and an interactive ski simulator, encouraged us to practice our technique before the upcoming season. We welcomed everyone in to enjoy supper and entertainment, as guests were 'transported' to our very own 'Après-Ski' party. School staff band 'Tony and the Turtles' got everyone up on their feet and a silent/live auction had guests reaching for their wallets to bid on a range of fabulous lots. Many lots were donated by members of our generous school community, ranging from holidays and VIP sporting events to music memorabilia, raising a fantastic total of £7000 for the appeal.



In the run-up to Christmas, parent volunteers helped bring a festive feel to the College, decorating Christmas trees and hanging paper snowflakes. It is always a memorable way to spend time together, this year being made more special by watching the children playing in the snow from the large window in Ante Chapel. The festivities continued apace with florist, Suzy Wingett, leading a wreath making morning, filling the school with the magical smells and sounds of Christmas.

As we reached the end of term, KS2 children put on their dancing shoes at the Lower School Christmas Disco. Our very own DJ, Mike Hughes, led the fun with music and traditional games.

We then treated ourselves to our annual Christmas Lunch, this year held at The Boathouse in Ellesmere. The proceeds of our informal raffle came to £160 and we were delighted to donate this towards the memorial garden appeal for our late Headmaster, Mr Brendan Wignall.

Lent Term

Our annual Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh banished the post New Year blues in true Scottish style, as the haunting skirls and resonant drones of the bag pipes drifted through the corridors, filling the College with their ethereal magic.



As we gathered to honour the timeless poetry of Robert Burns, Piper Izzy Maclaughlin, opened the evening with a stirring address to the haggis and the traditional Selkirk Grace, setting the tone for night steeped in Scottish charm. Supper, by Get Gourmet Catering, was a feast to remember. Once plates were cleared, kilts and tartan festooned dresses swirled across the dance floor to the lively tunes of Peter Cartwright's



Five Speed Box Band. The whiskey competition drew a crowd of eager tasters, each sip adding to the merriment. As the evening ended, guests departed with arms full of Scottish delights from our ever-popular hamper raffle.

In February, we hosted a special opening ceremony to mark the installation of a stunning stained-glass window in Cloisters, dedicated to the memory of our Headmaster, Brendan Wignall. We were honoured to welcome Anne and Catherine Wignall as our distinguished guests. The event was thoughtfully organised and generously funded by the ECPS, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this meaningful tribute.

Our Easter Creativity Workshop led us on a journey to discover our hidden talents. Under the guidance of local artist Pauline Preston, we explored the art of water colour painting, bringing our own beautiful creations to life. Meanwhile, sustainable floristry expert, Katherine Birtles sparked our imagination with floral arrangements nestled in vintage teacups, elegantly adorned with our own intricate handmade wirework decorations.

The ECPS team takes great pride in supporting school initiatives and this year we were thrilled to contribute to three exciting events at the Arts Centre: The Arts Award Pantomime, Cinderella, The Addams Family and Fantastic Mr Fox. We helped with makeup, costumes, whilst supplying ice cream and refreshments.

In line with our ongoing commitment to MHESS (Mental Health Ellesmere Support System), we were pleased to assist during MHESS Day, helping raise awareness among students. We also provided Easter Eggs for the annual Lower School Easter Egg Hunt – a delicious way to celebrate the season.

Summer Term

Year 7 enjoyed a movie afternoon and Paddington in Peru, was screened at the Arts Centre thanks to Eliza Baddham-Moore and her collaboration with Arts Alive and their Flicks in the Sticks programme.

The end of summer term saw a hive of activity organising our annual Ladies Lunch, held in the marquee on the terraces. Our theme this year focused on sustainability and biodiversity and we welcomed in daughter and father duo, Emma and David Buckley as our speakers. The marquee was filled with handmade paper flowers, bunting, plants and a spectacular central garden, designed by Katherine from Zinnia Floral Design. Flowers were mainly sourced from Bloomi'El, a local micro flower farm, and Courtyard Interiors, who also made gorgeous silk wreaths. We also hosted an exhibition of our lower school pupils 'bee-related artwork and we were stunned by the imaginative efforts and quality of the pieces; from hand felted wall hangings, intricate drawings, planted designs, ballon models to name just a few, this talented group of young people brought further joy and colour to the marquee.

Guests were served drinks and canapes as they shopped from a wide variety of stalls filled with local artisans and businesses. A delicious lunch, prepared by Get Gourmet Catering, was enjoyed as Emma and Dave Buckley gave their fascinating insight into the importance of bee's as pollinators, ably demonstrated by their 'live hive'. The Queen Bee, working hard in the live hive, was named Elsie the Ellesmere College



Queen Bee, by the 160 gathered guests and Elsie will be followed closely by students at Ellesmere College over the coming year.

Stall holders and other local business's kindly provided raffle prizes and an amazing £1,300 was raised in the raffle. This money will be used to support sustainability and biodiversity going forwards.

This has been a year full of exciting events, large and small, keeping us busy and entertained. There has been a lot of fun and laughter but the end of the academic year was marked by immense sadness at the loss of two of our members:

Nuria Gray (Vice-Chair ECPS 2023 – 2025). Nuria was a treasured member of our current society, always kind and generous, she threw herself into organising and attending events and, most often, making us all laugh.

Sharon Clarke, a highly regarded past member of the ECPS, who was instrumental in supporting the committee, both when her children were at the school and by enthusiastically attending ongoing events.
We will miss both Nuria and Sharon and we will hold their memory closely within the loving legacy of the ECPS, past and present.

As we come to the end of our two-year tenure as Co-Chairs of the ECPS, we look back on two years filled with kindness, cooperation, shared laughter and a few tears along the way. None of this would have been possible, if not for the support given by so many of you, we are eternally grateful.

We extend a very warm welcome to the incoming Chair of the ECPS, Mrs Jo Astbury. Jo is very experienced in this role, who will be ably assisted by her Co-Chair, Mrs Sarah Hughes. We look forward to a very exciting year ahead.

Please check the College website and social media for further information on ECPS and our events or contact us by email: ecps@ellesmere.com

Sadie Norris and Helena Hepburn
Co-Chairs ECPS 2023-2025











Old Ellesmerians



The Ellesmerian Club

This year, I shall start by asking a question. What does The Ellesmerian magazine mean to you? If you are a current student, parent, or member of staff, it is quite likely regarded as a mere journal. Possibly as an enhanced newsletter? Especially so, if you are reading it on a mobile phone or tablet. If you are fortunate to be reading the magazine in print form, you have in your hand not only a magnificent "coffee table" book, but a detailed historical record of the last academic year. Why is this important? Very simply, The Ellesmerian is the primary historical record for the school, and barely a day goes by when an Ellesmerian Magazine isn't consulted by the Archivist. It is our own version of the Encyclopaedia Britannica (the ultimate reference in the days before the internet when you had to physically go to a Library for information) and we have at hand every copy going back to our foundation. The Ellesmerian Magazine remains a valuable document – in many cases our only record of life in the school.

The relevance of drawing the reader's attention to this fact is simply because of circumstances we currently find ourselves living with and out with our control. With the exception of the two World Wars, the politics of the nation see little mention in The Ellesmerian to trouble the reader, and when it does, it appears with a sense of humour.

The Ellesmerian 1938, Vol L. No.241

"The projected trip to Austria (as we still like to call it in our insular way) was abandoned, as Hitler had thought of it first, and was taking an uncomfortably large party compared with our odd dozen."

Along with all private educational establishments, the Labour government which came to power in July 2024, following what can only be described as a collapse of support for the Conservative Party, carried through on its threat to remove charitable status and charge VAT on such establishments. There is no escaping the consequences that this policy will have on the sector and the current Ellesmerian should be especially grateful for the sacrifices that it takes for them to attend this establishment, located as it is, set amongst the beautiful Shropshire countryside; a countryside that is itself under attack from the exchequer. At our foundation, Ellesmere (St Oswald's School) , was founded by Nathaniel Woodard as his "Midlands school for the Lower Middle Classes… the sons of Bank clerks, farmers…" The challenge for the school authorities will be to ensure that such education remains within fiscal reach.

The end of this academic year marks the changing of the guard as Mrs Pritt-Roberts relinquishes the Headship to become Senior Deputy Head. We are grateful for her guiding hand since the passing of Headmaster, Brendan Wignall.

In September we will welcome a new Head, Jonathan Shaw, who comes to us from Kings Ely. Jonathan will be joined in Headmaster's House by his wife Katherine and his two adult children Amelia and William. The Old Ellesmerian community wish them a very warm welcome to their new home here in Shropshire.

Paul Russell
President, The Ellesmerian Club.





World Record Swimmer Hector Pardoe Returns to Ellesmere College

Olympian and world record holder Hector Pardoe, 23, has returned to Ellesmere College to reflect on his journey and inspire the next generation of swimmers.

During his visit, Hector donated a signed Team GB shirt to the school's Hall of Fame, took part in a Q&A, and spoke warmly about his time at the College, saying: "My success in swimming started at Ellesmere."

Pardoe trained at Ellesmere from age 11 to 18 before moving to France, later returning to the UK to study at Loughborough University. He competed in the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, finishing sixth in the 10k marathon in Paris, and broke the world record for the fastest swim across Lake Windermere in 2023.

He also claimed bronze at the 2024 World Championships in Doha — the first British man to win a global open water medal since 2008.

"Ellesmere gave me the structure and support to balance sport and academics," said Pardoe. "I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities I had."

Old Ellesmerian Spotlight – Lewis

We're excited to share that Lewis, a former student, has received an unconditional offer to study Vocal Studies and Opera at the prestigious Sydney Conservatorium of Music!

He'll start this amazing journey in Australia this July before returning to complete his degree in the UK.

Lewis's mum credits Ellesmere for building his confidence and shaping his career path, with special thanks to Mr Coupe and Ms Ellis for their support.

Congratulations, Lewis—we're proud of you!







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