

Dear Parents

Last weekend saw the finale of the Oswestry Music Festival and served as a reminder of the strength and spirit of the music at Ellesmere. Whilst the Ellesmere musicians did exceptionally well in the competition itself, I was equally heartened to hear how our musicians cheered on all competitors, not just their fellow Ellesmerians. Choral music is the jewel in the crown of the music department with both the Chapel and Chamber Choirs achieving joint first place with each other! If there was a medal table for the music festival, we would have been at the top. Our choir is performing again in the School Chapel on Saturday evening as part of the St John Passion Concert.

Whilst academic study is the core business of school life, music brings joy, confidence and a sense of community that enriches every pupil's experience. Life would be very dull without our creative heartbeat. Well done to all musicians who took part and thank you for the richness you add to so many aspects of school life.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw  
**Head**

### Highlights of the week

**Oswestry Music Festival:** Outstanding success at the Oswestry Musical Festival with 22 1st Places, 13 2nd Places and 15 3rd Places. Over 100 Ellesmerians took part and particular congratulations to Kit as winner of the Grand Final and the Junior Town Council Cup – the award for the overall winner of the 15 & under final. Well done also to Zoe for a fantastic performance in the 12 & under final for the Young Performer of the Year Award.



**Gold DofE:** Congratulations to Fin who becomes the 13th Year 13 of the Gold DofE Canoe group to complete their entire Gold DofE Award before they leave College. For 13 pupils to complete this prestigious award before the end of their time at school is a tremendous achievement.

**Equestrian selection:** Congratulations to Annabelle (Y9) who has been selected to represent Wales at the Royal Windsor Horse Show at Windsor Castle in May. Annabelle has also represented the Ellesmere Equestrian Team in Show Jumping.

**Senior Tennis Teams:** Both the boys' and the girls' teams played in the LTA Senior Students Final at the Nottingham Tennis Centre on Thursday. The boys were runners up, beating Rugby School but losing to Bromsgrove in the final. The girls went one better, beating both Bromsgrove and King's High, Warwick to be crowned Midlands Champions and one of the four National Champions.

**Golf v Birkdale:** The senior golf team travelled to Sheffield to defeat Birkdale School 2 matches to 1 to qualify for the Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) Final. We are currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in the ISGA rankings.

**Sporting success:** Our teams enjoyed an outstanding week of sporting success, with emphatic wins across multiple disciplines including a superb 16–6 badminton victory over Oswestry, a successful swimming meet in Sheffield where many swam PBs and won medals and tournament success. In mixed hockey the team beat Wrekin, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton Grammar and King's Worcester to reach the final where they drew 2-2 against v Abbotsholme, losing narrowly on penalty flicks. The girls U13 indoor cricket team are now County Champions and will represent Shropshire in the Regional Finals at Edgbaston. The 1st XI football team secured a dominant 8–2 win against Shrewsbury College and the senior girls netball teams had two very close games against King's Chester, winning one and losing the other.