

Dear Parents

This week I have been struck by the importance of belonging, of being part of something. Last Friday's Music Gala Concert in Big School was a wonderful celebration of music from throughout the year. The performances were outstanding, but what stood out even more was the ways in which the musicians supported one another on stage, in the audience, and in the side corridor afterwards. It was a community within a community, and every pupil clearly felt they belonged. A similar sense of connection was evident in the Tennis Centre this week. The standard of play was exceptional, yet it was the interactions off court that were most impressive, with pupils of all ages mixing comfortably and encouraging each other. Again, a community within a community. They belonged. Being part of something matters.

In the broader picture, Ellesmere College, since its foundation in 1884, has belonged to the Woodard Corporation. Woodard is a family of Anglican schools educating over 30,000 pupils, united by shared aims and values. Being part of Woodard — being part of something bigger — provides a sense of security, identity, and support for which we are deeply grateful.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw

**Head of Ellesmere College**

The new date for the Colour Run in aid of the Papyrus Trust is Thursday 25 June at 4pm. Parents welcome to join in.

### Highlights of the week

**The Music Gala Concert:** A wonderful celebration of music throughout this year performed in Big School by our instrumentalists and vocalists. For many in Year 13, and for one or two in earlier years, this was their last time performing on the school stage. The quality and beauty of the performances was exceptional.

**Pink Kangaroo Maths Challenge:** congratulations to Jack, Ellie and Finn for reaching this exceptionally high level of the national Maths challenge. A particular well done on the silver and bronze certificates.

**Year 13 A level Religious Studies:** hosted Associate Professor of Religion and Gender in Theology and Religious Studies at Chester University, Dawn Llewellyn for both a dynamic conversation about "Theology, Gender and Society" and to gain an interesting insight into university level tutorials.

**A\*cademic Lecture:** We were delighted to host Lewis Hall, OE, who presented on his journey post Ellesmere in the healthcare sector, under the title "Exploring Pancreatic Cancer: Microbes, Marathons and a journey into Academic Surgery".

**Rugby:** Congratulations to the 10 Ellesmere College pupils who were part of the Whitchurch U18 Colts team that won the North Midlands Cup Final, defeating Newport 20-17, last Sunday.

**Tennis:** Both the boys' and girls' senior teams won their national cup matches against Shrewsbury School and Oakham School respectively.

**Sunday Times Parent Power:** We were delighted to be recently ranked second in Shropshire in the recent Sunday Times Parent Power Guide and 40<sup>th</sup> nationally. <https://www.thetimes.com/best-schools-league-table/secondary>