

Ellesmere

EDUCATION IS A PREPARATION FOR LIVING ADULT LIFE SUCCESSFULLY, CONSIDERATELY AND WITH A SENSE OF PERSONAL FULFILMENT

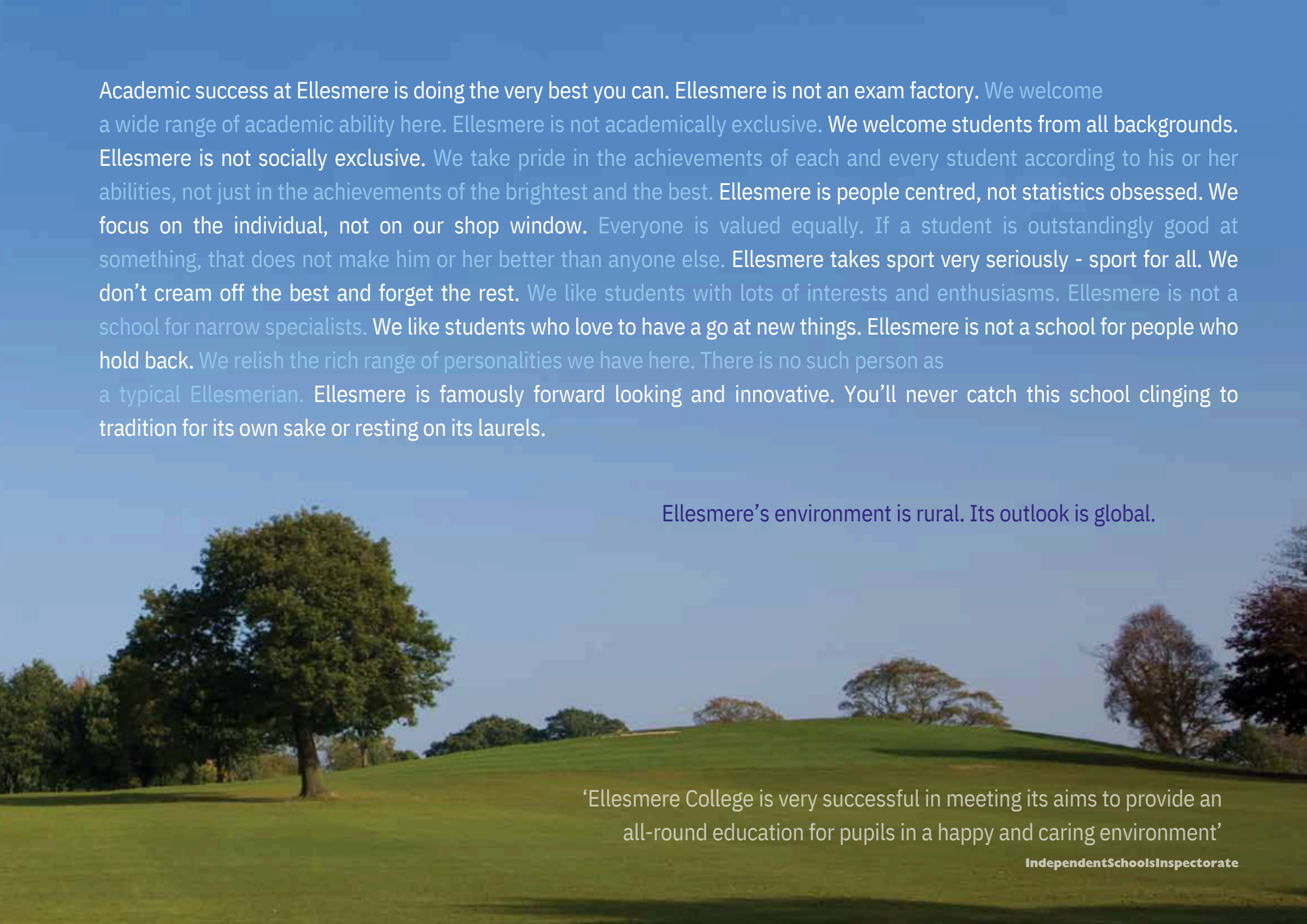


Jonathan Shaw
Head Teacher

Ellesmere

You are looking for a school which reflects your beliefs and values. Before I tell you what we do, how we do it and why, let me tell you what Ellesmere is, and what Ellesmere is not.

Academic success at Ellesmere is doing the very best you can. Ellesmere is not an exam factory. We welcome a wide range of academic ability here. Ellesmere is not academically exclusive. We welcome students from all backgrounds. Ellesmere is not socially exclusive. We take pride in the achievements of each and every student according to his or her abilities, not just in the achievements of the brightest and the best. Ellesmere is people centred, not statistics obsessed. We focus on the individual, not on our shop window. Everyone is valued equally. If a student is outstandingly good at something, that does not make him or her better than anyone else. Ellesmere takes sport very seriously - sport for all. We don't cream off the best and forget the rest. We like students with lots of interests and enthusiasms. Ellesmere is not a school for narrow specialists. We like students who love to have a go at new things. Ellesmere is not a school for people who hold back. We relish the rich range of personalities we have here. There is no such person as a typical Ellesmerian. Ellesmere is famously forward looking and innovative. You'll never catch this school clinging to tradition for its own sake or resting on its laurels.



Ellesmere's environment is rural. Its outlook is global.

'Ellesmere College is very successful in meeting its aims to provide an all-round education for pupils in a happy and caring environment'

IndependentSchoolsInspectorate



‘Pupils of all ages are confident and engage regularly in open and unpretentious conversation with their peers and with adults. The quality of pastoral care is also excellent.’

Independent Schools Inspectorate

Community





Ellesmere is a school built on sound, shared values, and it is from these values that the notable happiness of our community derives.
We never stop working on this.







AN ELLESMERE EDUCATION IS A PREPARATION FOR LIVING ADULT LIFE SUCCESSFULLY, CONSIDERATELY AND WITH A SENSE OF PERSONAL FULFILMENT. ELLESMERE COLLEGE VALUES INDIVIDUALS.

Creating the conditions in which all our students can be successful is a very exact science. Success is fuelled by optimism, a disposition to believe that, with enterprise and hard work, our best shots will be rewarded.

How do we foster such a spirit? We do it by working hard to make every student feel safe, understood and valued.

Knowing what you do about schools, you understand that individuality can thrive only in the most rigorously administered and attentive community. Our students are at a stage in their growing up when they can make life difficult for themselves and for others, so it is crucially necessary for us to spot a problem early and nip it in the bud. Our students are also at a stage when they unexpectedly reveal a talent no one ever knew they had.

Again, we need to be there for them at once, to urge them on and celebrate achievement. There are vital lessons to be learned from both failure and success.

We have systems and structures and staffing levels, of course. We have monitoring and reporting and appraisal. Information is rapidly shared. And we listen. Students have their say in the school council. Parents tell us we respond promptly to their concerns. Ofsted inspectors like the way we do things.

Above all, we have a powerful culture of kindness and friendship. We have values which are preached in Chapel and pervade everything that happens here. Everyone is valued equally; day students treated exactly the same as boarders.

Ellesmere is a member of the Woodard Schools, a community of 19 independent schools in the UK.

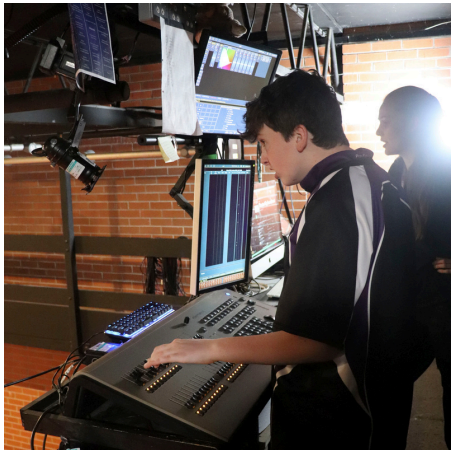


Academic

Life in the classroom at Ellesmere is seriously challenging - but never crushing.







The world of work calls for more than just good exam results, it calls for qualities of character and personality. At Ellesmere College we develop all of these too.

But best-possible grades are an essential passport to success - and hard work is an essential cultivator of character. Here, as at any school, getting it right in the classroom matters most.

Some students at Ellesmere are extremely clever. That does not make them better people and we do not focus on them at the expense of everybody else. We expect all students, however bright, to measure themselves only against the best work of which they are capable, and we celebrate the success of every person who tries their hardest - whatever their grades.

Our philosophy is that everyone learns differently and that every learning style is a special gift, never a special need. We also know that students develop at different rates and at different times.

This is why our enhanced curriculum includes the International Baccalaureate (potentially the equivalent of 6 A levels) alongside conventional A levels.

This is why our student support, whether in learning, language or our Gifted and Talented programme, is nationally recognised as excellent. Staffed by specialists, extra support is there for every student whenever they need individual guidance.

This is why we are also a SAT test centre for those who want to go to a university in the USA.

We choose our teachers carefully. They have to be in tune with our values: they must value every single student equally and relish the broad range of abilities and gifts they encounter here.

‘Pupils of all ages have excellent attitudes to learning.’

Independent Schools Inspectorate







INDOOR SWIMMING POOL • £1.2 MILLION SPORTS CENTRE • STATE OF THE ART GYM • RIFLE RANGES • SQUASH COURTS • FLOOD LIT ALL-WEATHER SURFACE • TENNIS • 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE

Sport is a contest fought on the battleground of the body, the mind and the heart. It teaches vital self-knowledge as it happens and lessons which endure all life long. This is what defines its value.

Our students play their hearts out for the sheer joy of it. We want them to express themselves through skill and risk, courage and cool-headedness.

And it doesn't matter in the least how good they are. Some are simply superb. Yes, we attract the best - those who join our Academies, then go on to represent their county and their country.

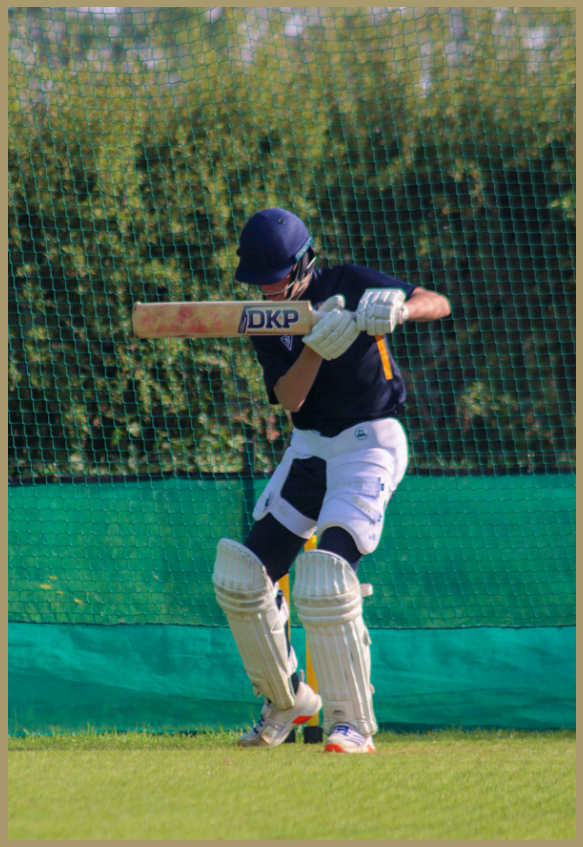
In inter-school team competitions we ride high. In the last five years Ellesmerians have achieved international recognition in rugby, swimming, sailing, canoeing, tennis and shooting.

Not everyone is brilliant at sport. Those who aren't are just as important to us as those who are. Our highly-qualified coaches never lose sight of the following vital fact: there's no point if it's no fun. They encourage everyone to play at the level at which they are comfortable and take it as far as they can.

There are no also-rans at Ellesmere.

'The emphasis on sport is a particular strength of the curriculum... promoting a healthy lifestyle and a general feeling of well-being amongst the pupils.'

Independent Schools Inspectorate







Sport



Success at Ellesmere is founded upon high quality classroom education coupled with a strong commitment to extra-curricular activities, be they artistic, sporting or outdoor pursuits.














ELLESMERE
COLLEGE
Darwin Group


Titleist







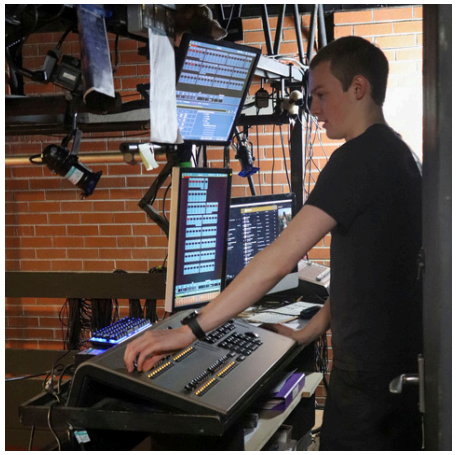
Artistic

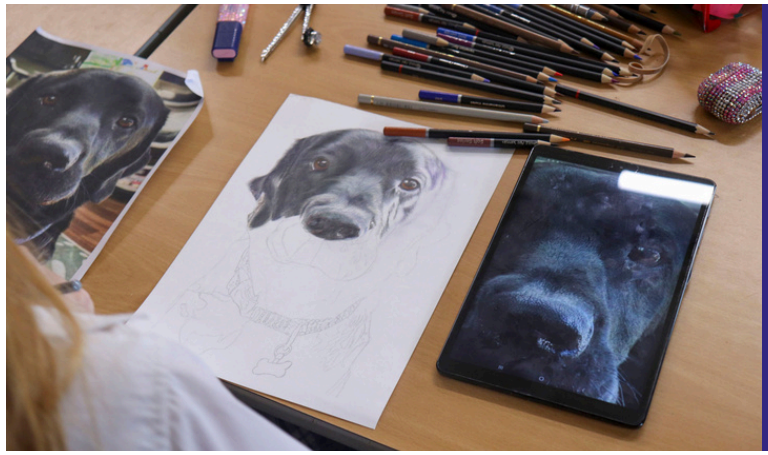
moral, social and cultural

development is excellent.'

Independent Schools Inspectorate







SUCCESS AT ELLESMERE IS FOUNDED UPON HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND A COMMITMENT TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, BE THEY ARTISTIC, SPORTING OR OUTDOOR PURSUITS.

All our students are encouraged to express themselves and be stars in as many areas of school life as possible.

Music, dance, drama and the visual arts enable many to be just that: stars. At the same time, they offer every single student the opportunity to come together in teams to create plays, concerts and exhibitions of all sorts. The rich and vibrant cultural life promoted by our Arena Arts Programme is essential to the spiritual and creative health of our community.

As in all things, we enable the very best to reach a national audience. We offer Arts awards and scholarships to outstanding students and nurture their talent with the very best teaching.

But most importantly, we urge everyone to play their part and reap the benefits. We're not snobby or exclusive; the range of tastes catered for is as broad as it gets. And there is always plenty of vital, exciting work for those who shy away from limelight and prefer to be backstage engaged in specialist technical work.

We enrich the experience and foster community links by touring and by hosting events. In addition to regular performances in the UK, there is a biennial drama tour of the USA and an annual choir tour in Europe.

Alongside these and many other headline events there is always plenty going on back at College.

No less important is the preparation everyone receives in the indispensable art of public speaking. Qualifications in spoken English are available to all.

Notwithstanding the dizzy heights reached by our elite musicians, actors, dancers and artists, there may be nothing that compares with our annual House singing competition. Everyone gives voice. It is a splendid and touching reflection on the nature of our community.



Leadership



We believe that some of the best lessons we learn about getting it right are best understood by getting it wrong. The art of the comeback is an essential life skill. So we offer lots of opportunities to fail - and overcome the fear of failure, and rather fight back and prevail.







We aim high and encourage all our students to be stunningly successful at what they do best - but never by becoming narrow specialists. Ellesmerians must be all-rounders.

Above all, they must be leaders. Leaders, not commanders. You'll detect no trace of public school elitism at Ellesmere. Our students see themselves as fortunate, not privileged.
Leadership here is defined as the ability to generate a good idea, carry it forward, surf the setbacks and see it through. This calls for optimism, self-knowledge and team working skills. It calls for original thought. It calls for resilience. It calls for charisma, not bossiness; for confidence, never arrogance.

In short, all the qualities needed for a lifetime of successful adulthood. And that's the point.

All our students, of all ages, are eligible for positions of responsibility - responsibility, not power. They learn leadership through collaboration: through team sports, the Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They learn through the countless activities and opportunities we offer them. Just one example is the inter-House drama festival. Plays are chosen, directed, staged, performed - sometimes even written - by the students themselves.

It's a tough world out there. You know that. But with the right emotional equipment it's also a lot of fun.

'Pupils' personal development benefits considerably from the well-established and highly successful MUN, CCF and DofE programmes.'

Independent Schools Inspectorate



















At Ellesmere we are committed to the continuing development of The Arts as a benefit to all.

Parents

Ellesmere is a very distinctive school. Whilst we believe that any child would be happy here, we do not expect to suit all parents, only those who share the values which are set out plainly in this prospectus.

Parents are an integral part of the Ellesmere community. This is not a school where students are dropped off at the start of term and collected at the end. On the contrary, we expect to work closely with you - because it's probably not all going to be plain sailing. And we're not perfect, either. When problems arise it is important that we work through them together. We can only do that if we share each others' values. We are a partnership.

This is why it is vitally important for you to come and see us and find out for yourself both what we are and what we are not.

We shall communicate with you frequently to keep you up to date with news. We shall invite you to parents' meetings. We look forward to seeing you at sporting, cultural and social events.

The day parents join the Ellesmere community they are embraced by the Parents' Society and join a vibrant and active social group run by parents for parents with the welfare of the school at heart.

Just as our students form lifelong friendships here, so do their parents.




‘The quality of links with parents
and guardians is excellent.’
IndependentSchoolsInspectorate













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