



Dear Parents

In Big School assembly this week, I spoke about how a school isn't defined by its buildings, its facilities, its results or even its traditions; instead it is defined by its people and its culture. Culture is often described as "the way we do things around here". It is the collection of values, behaviours and expectations that shape daily life.

During assembly, I read out two emails that I had received recently from two elderly members of the Ellesmere town community. One email described how an Ellesmere pupil had helped her when she was struggling on the steep canal bridge. Another, more detailed email, commended three boys who had helped her with her shopping, whilst visiting a corner store in Ellesmere. She commented that 'a forklift truck could not have lifted my spirits more than their simple act of kindness'. I also mentioned a third act of kindness from last week at breaktime. When a Lower School pupil realised that he did not have enough money to pay for his tuck, a nearby sixth form pupil immediately stepped in to pay for him.

Pupils were encouraged to play their part in contributing positively to the culture at Ellesmere – it could be as simple as holding a door open for someone, encouraging a teammate or saying thank you in the dining hall. Above all, culture is visible in the way we treat each other - a small act of kindness might even lift someone's spirit more effectively than a forklift truck.

With best wishes

Jon Shaw

Head of Ellesmere College

Highlights of the week

Equestrian: Well done to all riders on some outstanding results at the National Show Jumping Qualifiers at Southview on Saturday 12 September. We had a brilliant turn out, with Cordelia, Otto, Grace, Doris, Darcey, Ben, Lilla, Billy, Immy, Charlie and Jasmine all finishing in the top 5 in their competitions. The team now looks forward to the NSEA National Championships at Addington in October.

Rugby: In our first block fixture of the season against Wrekin College, all four teams recording relatively comfortable victories. The 1st XV produced an impressive performance to win 46–19 against a very competitive Wrekin XV, while the 2nd XV secured a commanding 50–3 victory. There was further success through the age groups, with the U15s winning 12–0 and the U14s completed an excellent weekend with a 41–7 win.

Hockey: The girls hockey team convincingly won their group matches against Moreton Hall (6-2) and Wrekin College (5-1) in the Wrekin 7s tournament, before narrowly losing the final against Shrewsbury School 2-1.

Wellbeing Hub: The Wellbeing Hub is a resource we provide for pupils, parents and staff. It provides a wealth of resources to help navigate the teenage years in particular. If as parent, you want some guidance I would recommend without hesitation using the Wellbeing Hub: [Login - The Wellbeing Hub](#).