

Ellesmere College Parents' Society

October 2026

ECPS NEWS

Ellesmere For Everyone



Raise £500 for Macmillan? For Ellesmere, a piece of cake!

It is hard to believe that the school year is already one month down. If time flies when you are having fun, the start of the new school year has clearly been a joyous one! This was especially true at our first event of the year, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, which raised over £500 for cancer support. Thank you to all parents who baked or attended the event, and a special thank you to all the KS2 children who certainly helped with the fundraising by attending the Bake Sale in their break time.

We have also had a lot of fun re-energising the ECPS Instagram account, which has had over 11,000 views in September alone. Please do follow the account as we will be sharing updates and news every week throughout the year. You can find us at <https://www.instagram.com/ellesmerecollege.ps/>.

Also remember you can join our Whatsapp Community and join any of our many chats regarding upcoming events, meetings or even influence what we include in our newsletter. To be included, please complete the following registration form: <https://forms.gle/LFF93tWoP8Vbm4bv8>

Now that we have completed our first event, the ECPS start to get into the very serious work of planning Burns' Night. The event will be on Saturday January 23rd this year and we are looking for donations for a silent auction, which will be launched online at the end of this term and completed at the event. Please contact us via the Whatsapp community or via ecps@ellesmere.com. We already have a very exciting lot, worth almost £4,000, so be sure to take part.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

ECPS Meetings

Our next meeting will be on Friday 9th October, running from 8:30 to 10:00. We'll be discussing plans for Burns' Night and also checking on our next steps from the first meetings. Please feel free to join at any time and we will also be having a social, 10:30–11:30 at The Boat House for anyone who would like to join us.



Christmas is Coming

Maybe a little early for some, but we are already making plans for Christmas events. This year we are planning to make the tree lighting event open to all year groups, with refreshments available for children and adults. We are also planning a Christmas gift shop for Lower School children, to go alongside our traditional KS2 Christmas Disco. More plans to follow.

Let's Get Creative

This year, ECPS will be hosting not one but two Christmas Creativity workshops. To make the event more accessible to working parents, we will have Wreath-Making on Thursday 26th November (19:00–21:00) and Christmas Centrepiece on Friday 11th December (09:00–11:30). We hope to see many of you there.



Eat, Drink & Be Merry

The ECPS is a voluntary society where every parent and carer is automatically a member. As such, the ECPS Christmas Lunch is open to all and we would like to invite you to join us on Friday 11th December for a festive lunch on the last day of term. Tickets will go on sale shortly to reserve your spot.

"Technology alone is not enough" Steve Jobs

We have been reminded this term that technology can let us down but people rise to the challenge. It has undoubtedly been a tricky few weeks with the IT issues at school but ECPS members would like to acknowledge and praise the incredible efforts of the teaching and support staff to ensure the impact on children has been minimal. We know it can not have been easy, thank you for your efforts. Due to the IT issues, the ECPS webpage has not yet been updated but we promise to do so as soon as possible. You can continue to contact us via our social media channels, if required.

MAKING THINGS BETTER, TOGETHER

We are 'Enabling Ellesmere'

The objective of the ECPS is to organise events and activities to nurture a feeling of community across the school. We are not a fundraising organisation, as you may have experienced with other PTAs. The revenue generated at our events should aim to cover costs the costs, as a minimum.

Naturally, there may be occasions when events have generated additional funds and these are used to benefit the school or to invest in future events. To ensure that any additional funds are directed into the most appropriate projects, ECPS are launching **Enabling Ellesmere**. This will be a system to allow all staff to nominate improvements across the school, giving greater control to those who most understand the needs of students and teachers.



The infographic is titled 'ENABLING ELLESMERE' and features the Ellesmere College logo. It explains that the ECPS is run by volunteers for the benefit of all families. It invites staff to submit bids for improvements, categorized into three levels: GOOD (UP TO £250), BETTER (£250 - £750), and BEST (OVER £750). Each category includes a description of the type of improvement and an illustration. The 'GOOD' category shows children playing on a playground. The 'BETTER' category shows a person working on a stage. The 'BEST' category shows a person working on a garden.

ENABLING ELLESMERE

Ellesmere College Parents' Society is run by volunteers for the benefit of all families at Ellesmere College.

As part of our events, donations may be generated and we are inviting all staff members to submit bids on how they would use some of these funds.

We would like to invite you to submit a bid under the headings below and ECPS will look at which we are able to support

GOOD	BETTER	BEST
		
UP TO £250	£250 - £750	OVER £750
Something small that would make a difference, such as an addition to a classroom or a piece of equipment for children to enjoy at play time.	A slightly bigger investment which could be more strategic. New equipment in the drama studio or improvements to facilities.	A new outdoor classroom, a large vegetable garden or maybe some new technology. Let us know what sits at the top of your wish list.

By supporting our events, you increase our ability to help. We will keep you updated on what has been supported throughout the year via our social media channels and the newsletter.

Like what you see? That may be the OE



It is not just the Parents' Society who volunteer and work to improve life across the school. The Old Ellesmerians (OEs) are made up of former students and work with the school to provide funding for projects which may need some financial support. Often their work goes unnoticed but ECPS wants to shine a spotlight on their efforts.



One recent improvement you may have noticed is the new and improved signage across the school campus. We feel these give a much fresher feel and are a big improvement (notice the nod with our colours this months?). The OE also funded new furnishing for the Visitor Meeting Room, which provides prospective families with a much nicer space to meet with teaching staff and school leaders.



Similar to the aims of ECPS, OE run events to bring alumni families together, continuing to nurture the feeling of community. An example of this was their Golf Day in July, which was hosted at Oswestry GC. You can find out more about the Old Ellesmerian Club by clicking [HERE](#).