Ellesmere News

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In the **News**....



Lower School Explorers Day

We were delighted to host two successful Lower School Explorers Days, giving prospective students a true taste of life at Ellesmere College through sports, academics, campus tours, and new friendships.





Author C.M Lewis Visits Lower School

We were delighted to welcome Welsh author CM Lewis to Lower School. She visited our Key Stage 2 pupils to share exciting insights into her upcoming children's book. During her visit, she also officially opened our Lower School Reading Room.

Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday we celebrated with a service led by Revd. Phillip alongside Rhian-Carys Jones from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.



House Dinners

Our end-of-term House Dinners were the perfect opportunity to celebrate the academic year, reflect on fantastic memories, and say a fond farewell to our Year 13 students as they begin their next chapter.











Staff member Takes on Mount Olympus Challenge for Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith

One of our amazing members of staff, Julie, completed a trek in Northern Greece to climb two peaks of Mount Olympus. To raise money for Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith so they can continue providing the amazing services they offer our community.



Yr Wyddfa Run 2026

Students and staff completed their annual 71.5-mile Snowdon Run. Reaching the summit after 14 hours of teamwork, determination, and resilience. Congratulations to everyone involved in another fantastic achievement!

Speech Day

We celebrated the achievements of all our students. For our Sixth Form leavers, it was a special opportunity to reflect on their time at Ellesmere and say goodbye to friends and staff.



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Ellesmere College and PSG Academy UK: A Partnership for the Future

The Lent Term marked an exciting milestone for Ellesmere College as we formally signed a strategic partnership agreement with PSG Academy UK, bringing one of the world's most recognised football development programmes to our campus.

This partnership brings together Ellesmere College's academic excellence with the world-renowned coaching philosophy of Paris Saint-Germain, designed to develop technical ability, tactical understanding, and personal growth whilst giving our students the opportunity to develop both on and off the pitch as part of the global PSG family.





ACADEMY ELLESMERE

Reflecting on the agreement, PSG Academy UK Managing Director Alex Harrap said: "From our earliest discussions, it was clear that Ellesmere College shares our commitment to developing well-rounded young people. This partnership creates a truly integrated pathway where talented players can train under a world-class football methodology while receiving an outstanding education. Success is not only measured by performance on the pitch, but by the confidence, leadership and maturity students carry into their futures."

For Ellesmere, the partnership aligns perfectly with the College's ethos of preparing young people to be Life Ready. It combines high-performance sport with character development, ensuring pupils are supported, encouraged and challenged both on and off the field. Together, we are creating a unique pathway that combines elite football training with outstanding academic and pastoral support. We are excited to see the opportunities this will create for current and future pupils.

















Since announcing the partnership, we have been delighted to welcome several members of the PSG Academy leadership team to the College. Visits from Benjamin Houri, PSG Technical Director, Olivier Versproumy, Project Manager at PSG and Alex Harrap, Managing Director of PSG Academy UK, have given our students valuable insight into the academy and the opportunities available to them. These visits have also provided students with the chance to ask questions, learn more about the programme, and build connections with the people leading the academy.

As we look ahead, this partnership promises to open new doors for aspiring footballers, providing access to world-class coaching, international best practice and a supportive educational environment. We are excited to welcome the first cohort of PSG Academy UK players to Ellesmere in September 2026 and to see this ambitious collaboration flourish in the years to come.



Headmaster's Message...

As my first year at Ellesmere has drawn to a close, the summer break has provided an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and the values, opportunities and spirit that make life at Ellesmere distinctive.









I was fortunate to take part in the Ellesmere to Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) relay run in mid-June. Setting off from the College gates at 4 am in darkness, our runners covered the 70-mile route across North Wales in stages before reaching the summit shortly before 6 pm. Arriving at the top, bathed in glorious evening sunshine, was a memorable moment and a fitting reward for the determination, teamwork and resilience displayed throughout the day. The boys and girls who took part epitomised the character of Ellesmerians, demonstrating a genuine 'can do' attitude as they responded to setbacks and wrong turns with remarkable fortitude and good humour.

I reference this challenge because it encapsulated the very best of Ellesmere: pupils embracing opportunities, supporting one another throughout, and demonstrating the leadership, resilience and teamwork that lie at the heart of our community.

Early in my career, I was advised always to "look for a school with a soul". The person offering that advice went on to say that it is difficult to define, but that "you will know it when you see it". The Snowdon challenge demonstrated exactly what they meant. It demonstrated beyond doubt that Ellesmere is a school with both soul and spirit.

Throughout the Lent and Summer terms, pupils have continually impressed me with their willingness to embrace challenge, whether on stage, in Chapel, on the sports fields, or in the classroom. A number have earned national honours in hockey, biathlon, tetrathlon, tennis, riding, swimming and shooting. Others have distinguished themselves in academic Olympiads, English-Speaking Board oracy examinations, quizzes, chess competitions, music festivals, LAMDA examinations, Model United Nations conferences, and Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

There have been significant highlights for our sports teams. The tennis teams continue to excel, with the girls' senior team reaching the LTA national tennis finals where they won three of their four matches against the top tennis schools in the country. The netballers and hockey players enjoyed very successful seasons, but I am sure the tour to South Africa's Western Cape will live longest in the memories of those who took part. The rugby season extended into the Lent Term due to the success in the national cup, where Ellesmere reached the semi-finals. For a small school, this was a phenomenal achievement, and despite the narrow 26-21 defeat in the final minutes to Oakham, the attitude of the players on the pitch and the tremendous support of the crowd on the touchlines is a moment in time that will also live long in the memory. The cricketers





enjoyed busy seasons, with both the girls' and boys' teams achieving success and many reaching regional finals. The golfers continued to perform at the highest levels, reaching the ISGA National Finals. We are also excited by our partnership with PSG and the positive impact it will have on the Football Academy and the continued development of our football programme.



The creative heartbeat of the school has remained strong in the second half of the year with some fabulous productions and concerts; Beat the Blues, the Midwinter Concert, Music Gala evening, Dance, Drama and Dazzling Lights and the wonderful Lower School production of Oliver! were all memorable evenings. I am also very proud of our fundraising efforts over recent months, particularly for the BeBook Charity and the Colour Run, both initiatives led by Year 12 pupils.



As the 2025-26 academic year draws to a close, our Year 13s are finalising their plans as they move on from Ellesmere. Their destinations reflect the breadth of their talents, ambitions and interests and demonstrate the depth and quality of an Ellesmere education. Pupils will be progressing to world-leading academic institutions including Trinity College, Cambridge and Imperial College London, as well as prestigious universities across the UK and overseas. Others have secured opportunities with organisations such as Airbus, embarked on degree apprenticeship programmes, joined the Police Force, or are pursuing sporting opportunities in Australia. These varied pathways are a testament to their hard work, character and confidence in pursuing the futures that are right for them. We wish them every success and remain immensely proud of the young people they have become.

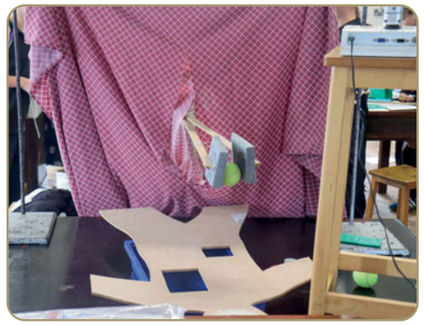


Jon Shaw
Head

Year 9 Stem Challenge

Our Year 9 students have been putting their STEM skills to the test in a fun and challenging hands-on activity. Working in teams, they were tasked with designing and building a mechanism to produce a prototype to simulate a heart and kidney transplant.





Pink Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Jack, Ellie, and Finn qualified for the Pink Kangaroo, an extra-challenging follow-on round from the UK Mathematics Trust. Huge congratulations to all three!



Gold Biology Olympiad for Isabella

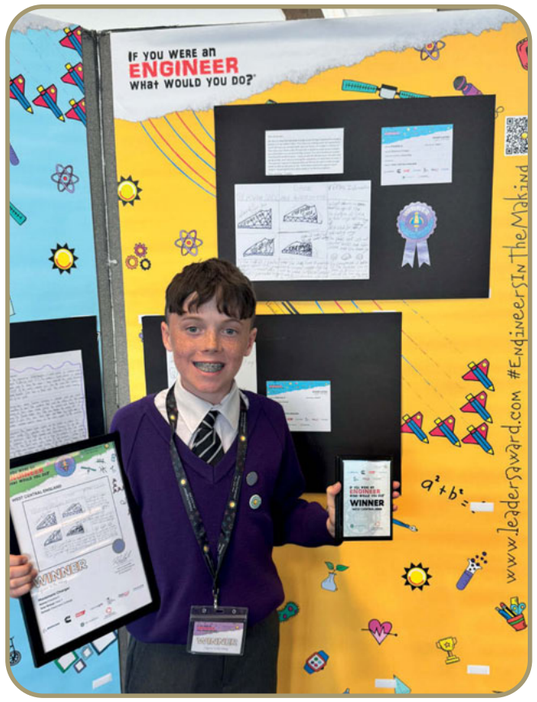


Our Year 12 student, Isabella has achieved Gold in the British Biology Olympiad!
Thanks to her outstanding percentage score, Izzy has been selected to progress to the next round of the competition.

Academic Lecture from OE Lewis Hall

Old Ellesmerian Lewis Hall returned to Ellesmere College for our final Academic Lecture of the year, sharing his journey from Ellesmere to studying Medicine at the University of Birmingham and his work in pancreatic cancer research.





Freddie's Innovative Idea

A huge congratulations to Freddie, who won the West Midlands round of a National Engineering competition with his innovative idea for a phone charger powered by walking and staying active.

House Debate

Students took part in our House Debate, showcasing excellent preparation, confidence, and teamwork.

Judged on content, delivery, and structure, they earned valuable House points and should all be incredibly proud of their performances.



Dragon's Den at Lower School

Our Year 7 students put their entrepreneurial skills to the test in a Dragon's Den challenge!

After identifying gaps in the market, they designed and pitched their products to a panel of judges, showcasing their creativity, research, and presentation skills.



Chris attends Scouts Day as a King's Scout Award Holder



Chris attended the Scouts Day of Celebration at Windsor Castle as a King's Scout Award holder.

Achieving the award at just 17, Chris is one of the youngest recipients and has been a dedicated member of 1st Gobowen Scouts for over 11 years.

Mr Cowley at 70th DofE Celebrating



We were delighted to have John Cowley represent the College at the 70th anniversary celebration of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at the Palace, recognising his long-standing dedication to supporting Ellesmere students through all levels of the DofE programme.

Students Raising Money for Charity









Many of our students took action this year to raise money for charities close to their hearts.

St. Oswald's Sixth Form students organised a bake sale, raising **£650**, as well as a book donation drive for BeBook, a charity that provides children across the UK with access to high-quality English-language literature.

Izzy, a Year 12 student, organised a Colour Run in support of PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide, a charity that has been supporting young people and communities for many years. The event raised an incredible **£1,830**.

Our students have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in charitable events throughout the year, making a positive difference to causes they care about.

RAF and Navy Teamwork

Our RAF and Navy students took on an exciting challenge at TNR in Llangollen, where they went white-water rafting.

The students put their teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills to the test as they worked together to keep their raft afloat through the rapids!



DofE Gold



This academic year, we celebrated the achievements of 17 students who earned their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We are incredibly proud of them. We also have many more students working towards achieving their Gold Award, and we look forward to celebrating their success in the future.

CCF Easter Camp





Twelve Ellesmere College CCF cadets took part in a week-long mountaineering camp in northwest Scotland, developing skills while building resilience, teamwork and confidence. The experience was a challenging three-day expedition in which cadets planned, packed, and travelled through remote mountain landscapes.

Lower School Summer Music Concert

Our Lower School students delighted audiences with their Summer Music Concert.

They delivered a fabulous performance, making it the perfect way to round off the term. Congratulations to all the students who showcased their talents.





Oscar and LAMDA Achievement

Congratulations to Oscar in Year 13 for achieving a Level 3 LAMDA Certificate in Performance, Grade 8 Acting Solo Gold with Distinction, an outstanding accomplishment and one that is equivalent to an A Level qualification.

Grade 5 Violin Distinction

Congratulations to Year 8 student Jack, who has achieved a Distinction in his Grade 5 Violin exam! As Lower School Music Captain, Jack is a wonderful ambassador for music at Ellesmere, and this achievement reflects both his hard work and dedication, as well as the excellent support provided by our Music Department.



Lower School Tea Time Concert

Our Lower School Tea Time Concert was a wonderful showcase of growing confidence and musical talent, with students delighting the audience through singing and instrumental performances.



Lower School – Oliver!

Our Lower School delighted audiences with their production of *Oliver!*, showcasing their talent, confidence, and passion for the performing arts.



Music Gala Concert

Our Music Concert was a spectacular way to end the year, showcasing the incredible talent of our students. Congratulations to everyone who performed and to the staff and volunteers whose hard work made the evening a success.



Tallulah to Represent Guernsey at the Commonwealth Games



Congratulations to Year 11 student Tallulah-Mae, who represented Guernsey at this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow! A member of the Ellesmere College Swimming Academy for over three years, we're incredibly proud of her fantastic achievement.

Year 7 Ben achieving 2nd Place in the UK



Ben finished 2nd in the UK and 4th overall in the international competition, a fantastic achievement!

His dedication throughout the year has truly paid off as he trained across all four disciplines.

Netball v Rugby

The annual 1st Netball vs 1st Rugby match was great fun to watch, with students coming out to enjoy the event. Of course, the Netball team came out on top.



Lower School Sports Day





Our Lower School enjoyed their sports day! The afternoon was filled with lots of fun and competitive spirit. Well done to everyone who competed.

Gwen to represent Ghana



Congratulations to Gwen Klu on her selection to represent Ghana in the Billie Jean King Cup. Gwen has earned recognition through her impressive performances on the ITF junior circuit and continues to excel both nationally and internationally. We wish her and Team Ghana every success.

KS2 Swimming Gala

Our Key Stage 2 Lower School pupils enjoyed taking part in their Swimming Gala, where they showcased their skills. It was fantastic to see how much they had progressed, and we are incredibly proud of all our Key Stage 2 swimmers.



Trip to Normandy

Our Normandy Battlefields Trip gave pupils a memorable opportunity to explore key D-Day sites, reflect on the sacrifice of those involved, and deepen their understanding of this moment in history through an engaging experience.



IB Creating Tapas



Our Year 12 A Level Spanish students made *salmorejo*, a traditional cold tomato soup from Southern Spain.

The lesson brought Spanish language and culture to life, while also exploring the famous cartoon character *Mafalda*, whose dislike of soup symbolised the political turmoil in Argentina at the time.



Half Term Paris Trip

Students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 enjoyed a trip to Paris, immersing themselves in French language and culture.

From Disneyland Paris to landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre and Sacré-Cœur, the trip was full of experiences, delicious food and opportunities to practise their French.

Celebrating Chinese New Year

Students celebrated Chinese New Year with a festive dumpling-making afternoon, learning about the traditions and symbolism behind this much-loved celebration while enjoying delicious food and plenty of fun.



South Africa Tour

Our 1XI hockey and netball teams travelled to South Africa, where they had the opportunity to compete against teams while developing their skills. The tour also gave pupils the chance to meet new people, experience a different culture, and learn more about South Africa.



From Ellesmere to ITV



Today, Old Ellesmerian Jacob Roberts works as a camera operator for ITV News Tyne Tees, filming everything from breaking news and live broadcasts to political events and royal visits. His role combines camera operation, lighting, sound recording and editing, while also taking turns operating the satellite truck that enables live television broadcasts. On some assignments, Jacob works independently, conducting interviews as well as filming.

From Ellesmere to ITV

After studying Media, Drama and Geography at Ellesmere College, Jacob went on to read Television Production at Bournemouth University, one of the UK's leading courses for the industry. Following graduation, he gained experience in film production before moving into commercial video production, eventually securing a graduate camera operator position with ITV.

The recruitment process was highly competitive, involving a CV review, interview and practical camera assessment. Today, Jacob covers major news stories across the North East, working alongside reporters to bring stories to audiences across the region.

"Everyone is encouraged to try things and not be afraid."

How Ellesmere Shaped My Career

"Everyone is encouraged to try things and not be afraid."

Jacob believes many of the skills he uses every day began at Ellesmere.

Studying Media and Drama allowed him to combine technical knowledge with practical experience, developing skills in lighting, sound, directing and stage production. Beyond the classroom, his involvement in CCF helped build leadership skills, while rugby, shooting and wider co-curricular activities taught him teamwork, resilience and problem-solving.

One opportunity proved particularly influential: being encouraged to apply for the British Film Institute's Young Filmmakers residential programme. Working alongside industry professionals gave him valuable experience and reinforced one of the biggest lessons he now shares with students – always say yes to new opportunities.



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Covering a Story that Captured the World

One of Jacob's most memorable assignments was covering the felling of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree. He filmed reactions immediately after the incident, documented the removal of the tree from Hadrian's Wall, covered the first anniversary and later reported from court throughout the trial, following the story from beginning to end.

Reporting on Politics and Royal Visits

Jacob has filmed interviews with three British Prime Ministers – Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer – as well as covering General Election campaigns and regional by-elections. As the designated pool camera operator, his footage was shared across multiple national broadcasters.

He has also covered several royal engagements, including visits by King Charles, Prince William and Queen Camilla.

Working Around the World

One assignment even took Jacob to Chicago, where he spent five days covering the case of a British woman facing criminal charges in the United States. The experience gave him valuable international broadcasting experience, including operating live transmissions overseas.

"If you don't give things a try, you won't know what you can do."



"The effort you put in today will help shape the career you build tomorrow."



Advice for Current Pupils

Q: What advice would you give students interested in a career in media?

Jacob: Learn the fundamentals and never stop practising. Whether you want to become a camera operator or a journalist, strong technical skills, attention to detail and teamwork are essential. Be prepared to work hard, stay open to feedback and don't be afraid to try new approaches.

Most importantly, don't expect to start in your dream role straight away. Take every opportunity available – internships, placements, work experience and trainee positions all help build your skills and confidence. Every experience teaches you something, and the effort you invest today will help shape the career you build tomorrow.

Discover Your Ellesmere













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