



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

September 2024

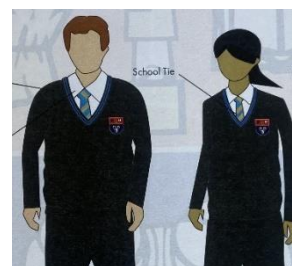
Welcome Back to the New Term

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome you and your child back to the new academic year. We are excited for the year ahead and have several updates to share with you.

A Smart Start: Students Looking Great in the New Uniform

It has been fantastic to see our students return to school looking so smart in Eckington's new school uniform. There is a sense of pride and unity among our students, and the positive impact on the school environment is clear. We are aware that our uniform supplier, Pinders, has experienced some stock issues, but we expect this to be resolved within the next couple of weeks.



A Positive Return to Learning and 'The Eckington Way'



Our students have come back to school with an excellent attitude toward their learning, which is wonderful to see. In assemblies this week, we have reminded them of *The Eckington Way*, which sets out the values we expect all students to uphold. These values are: Safe, Calm, Polite and Kind, Prepared and Ambitious.

By following *The Eckington Way*, students create a positive environment for themselves and others, ensuring that everyone can maximise their full potential, both academically and holistically.

Launching our New 'Thinking School' Strategies

This year, we are excited to introduce our *Thinking School* strategy, designed to raise the levels of literacy and progress in lessons. This strategy involves four key elements that will become commonplace in all lessons:

1. **Think It** – Students will be given time to think about the lesson's "Big Question".
2. **Speak It** – Students will be encouraged to talk about what they are learning.
3. **Write It** – After reflecting and speaking about their learning, students will write down what they have learned in full sentences.
4. **Improve It** – Finally, students will have regular opportunities to improve their work, which helps deepen their understanding and ultimately make better progress.

Outstanding Achievement for All

Headteacher: Mr Richard Cronin

Eckington School
Dronfield Road
Eckington
Sheffield, S21 4GN

T 01246 432849
E enquiries@eckington.chorustrust.org
W www.eckington.chorustrust.org



Chorus Education Trust CEO: Chris James

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New Attendance Regulations and the Importance of Education

Mr. Power has recently written a detailed letter outlining the changes in attendance regulations and the expectations for our school community. We encourage all parents to read through this important information to ensure we are all aligned on the importance of good school attendance. The link between good school attendance and academic achievement is undeniable. **A polite reminder that the school day starts at 8.30AM with registration. Students should be on site by 8.25AM.**

Investing in the School Environment

Over the summer holiday, I am pleased to inform you that we have installed new, modern interactive screens in all classrooms. This significant upgrade is aimed at enhancing the quality of education and creating a more engaging climate for learning. These state-of-the-art screens will allow for more dynamic teaching and interactive lessons, giving students a more immersive learning experience.

Our Learning Support Department has also been renovated with a sensory room being installed in the near future to improve levels of support for some of our students with additional SEND needs.

These improvements are part of Chorus Education Trust's ongoing commitment to improving the school environment at Eckington, with further improvements planned for the upcoming year.



Introducing Our New Middle Leadership Team

From September, Eckington School has a new Middle Leadership Team consisting of Faculty Leaders. These middle leaders will be responsible for raising standards and driving academic progress within their specific faculty areas. We are confident that this new middle leadership structure will allow us to focus more closely on the quality of education in all subject areas and help achieve our mission statement: *outstanding achievement for all*.

Improving School Communication with Parents

At Eckington School, we value clear and effective communication with our parents. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in improving how we keep you informed, including the following:

- **New Website** – Our new school website has been designed to ensure it is more user-friendly and provides easy access to key information. We have included a Parent Hub tab at the top of our website that is a shortcut to most-frequently visited areas.
- **Arbor Communication System** – We have introduced *Arbor*, a new communication system. Please ensure that you log in regularly to check your child's attendance, progress, and behaviour records.
- **Social Media Platforms** – We are active on two official social media platforms: *Facebook* and *Instagram*. Please follow us for regular updates and important announcements.
- **Termly Newsletter & Headteacher Letters** – In addition to our newly introduced termly newsletter, you will also receive termly letters from me to keep you updated on school events and important information.

New for September: Faculty Email Contact Details

We have introduced new Faculty email addresses (below). We hope these new email addresses make it easier for you to contact the right person should any concerns arise regarding your child's education.

Faculty Name		Email Address
English Faculty (includes Media Studies)	Mrs. L Thompson	english@eckington.chorustrust.org
Mathematics Faculty	Mr. A Hylan	maths@eckington.chorustrust.org
Science Faculty	Mrs. H Streets	science@eckington.chorustrust.org
Humanities Faculty (History, Geography and Religious Education)	Mr. B Jessop	humanities@eckington.chorustrust.org
Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish, French and German)	Mrs. D Atkin	mfl@eckington.chorustrust.org
Technology Faculty (Technology, iMedia and Catering)	Mrs. D Robinson	technology@eckington.chorustrust.org
Social Sciences Faculty (sociology, psychology, criminology business studies and travel and tourism)	Mrs. Needham (pending recruitment)	socialsciences@eckington.chorustrust.org
Creative Faculty (Art, Drama and Music)	Miss. H Partridge	creative@eckington.chorustrust.org
Physical Education Faculty (PE and Health and Fitness) –	Mrs. Clarke and Mr. R Roberts	pe@eckington.chorustrust.org

New for September: Pastoral Email Addresses

Should you need to contact one of our Pastoral Support Assistants (PSAs), regarding a pastoral matter, please use the new email addresses below:

	PSA Name	Email Address
Year 7 PSA	Ms. A Turner	Year7@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 8 PSA	Mrs. E Hemming	Year8@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 9 PSA	Mrs. J Woodhead	Year9@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 10 PSA	Mrs. N Marshall	Year10@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 11 PSA	Ms. J Cliffe	Year11@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 12 and 13 PSA	Mrs. R Exley	Sixthform@eckington.chorustrust.org

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Yours faithfully



Richard M Cronin
Headteacher