



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership. Your involvement in our school community plays a crucial role in creating an environment where our students can maximise their potential, both academically and holistically.

This term has been filled with exciting successes. Our Year 6 Open Evening and Year 12 Open Evening were remarkable events, showcasing the fantastic opportunities available to our students. It was heartwarming to see so many families engage with our school, and I want to thank you for your participation and enthusiasm.

We have also had numerous educational visits that have enriched our students' learning experiences, providing them with valuable real-world insights and creating lasting memories. The Eckington Enrichment Programme has been another highlight, offering a range of activities designed to spark curiosity and encourage exploration beyond the classroom. Our Eckington Enrichment offer is viewable on the school's website.

In October, Chorus Education Trust conducted an Enquiry Visit (quality assurance process), which focused on core subjects (English, mathematics, and science). The findings from this visit indicated improving learning across the board. I am pleased to report that other Quality Assurance (QA) undertaken this term also suggests that learning, teaching, and students' attitudes are continuing to improve.

In addition, we are excited about the implementation of the new Thinking School strategy, launched in September 2024, that supports student literacy and oracy in all lessons. As part of our wider literacy strategy, we have also invested in whole-school reading and spelling testing. This has provided the school with reading ages



Outstanding Achievement for All

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for all students (Y7 to Y10), allowing our teachers to tailor their lessons more effectively, intervene when necessary, and provide appropriate stretch and challenge in lessons to ensure all students maximise their potential.

In January 2025, we are also launching Thinking Reading. This intervention programmed, coordinated by our new Learning Support Department, is specifically aimed at supporting our students with significantly low reading ages.

Another area of progress I am particularly proud to highlight is the improvement in student behaviour and attitudes to learning. We have seen a significant decrease in disruptive behaviour and significantly fewer suspensions, which speaks volumes about our collective efforts to create a positive and respectful school climate.

Student attendance is also improving but remains a top priority for us; we know that regular attendance is crucial for academic success and overall wellbeing. I appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly, as this is foundational for their growth, achievement, and future success.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that on 22nd October 2024, I toured Eckington School with Mr. James (Chorus Education Trust CEO) and a group of Chorus Trust Members (a committee who hold Chorus Education Trust Trustees to account). I was delighted to hear their positive feedback on the improvements we have made since April 2023. They were particularly impressed by the atmosphere within our school, the smartness of our school uniform, the polite and kind conduct of our students, and the engaging lessons they visited. It was heartening to see our students demonstrating The Eckington Way (Safe, Polite & Kind, Prepared, Ambitious and Calm).



Thank you once again for your support. I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable half term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cronin'.

R M Cronin
Headteacher