

# Eckington School

The Eckington Way



Issue 1

# SUMMER 2023 Newsletter

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# Headteacher Introduction

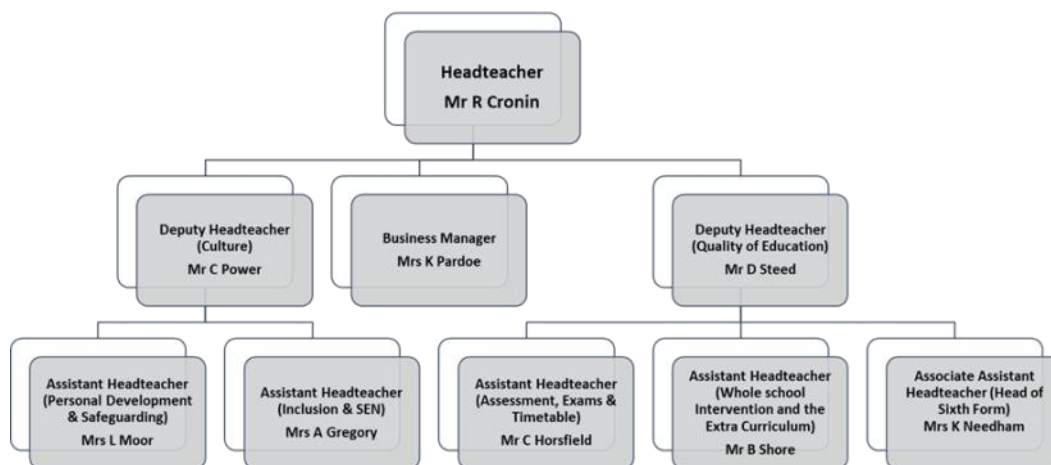


Welcome to Issue 1 of the new termly Eckington Newsletter. Since joining Eckington School on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, I am pleased to inform you that there have been many exciting developments and many student successes than need recognising and celebrating. I am hopeful that the launch of this newsletter will improve communication between the school, parents and the local community.

It would be impossible for me to name all of the exciting whole-school developments and student successes in this introduction. However, I have attempted to highlight some of the key updates that are linked to school improvement.

## New Senior Leadership Team Established

In September, there will be a new, permanent senior leadership team at Eckington School. Since April, two deputy headteacher positions and three assistant headteacher positions have been nationally advertised and successfully appointed. From September, the leadership team will be:



## The Eckington Way

In September 2023, we are launching 5 new core values called “The Eckington Way”. We expect all students to know these values, understand why they are important and to follow them at all times.



## New Behaviour Policy

In September, Eckington School will be launching a new behaviour policy designed to improve the standards of student behaviour inside and outside the classroom; this new behaviour policy will also include a same-day detention system. Our new behaviour policy has been designed in conjunction with the Department for Education’s Behaviour Hubs Programme (using good practice from around the country).

## **New School Website**

In September we are launching a new website designed to improve communication with parents, carers and the wider community. The website will be regularly updated throughout the year to ensure it remains up to date with useful information for parents, carers and the local community.

## **Social Media Updates**

Since April, the decision was made to only use Eckington's official Facebook and Instagram pages for regular updates; this will continue into next year so please subscribe and follow us.

## **Chorus Trust Support**

Joining Chorus Trust has significantly improved school improvement capacity. Since April, the school has utilised Chorus' Director of Safeguarding to ensure the school's safeguarding systems are effective. In September, the Trust's Director of SEN will be working closely with members of Eckington's leadership team to improve the quality of SEN provision at Eckington School.

## **School Building Improvements**

Over the summer, classrooms in the maths department are being refurbished and new interactive TV screens are being introduced. Other areas of the school are being decorated and new water fountains are being installed (following a request from student voice). I am pleased to inform you that future plans to refurb our student toilets and other classrooms are also being considered.

## **Careers Mark – Gold Status**

I am delighted to inform parents that in June 2023 we successfully secured Gold Status for the Careers Mark. This national award highlights the excellent careers guidance Eckington School continues to provide for its students.



I hope you find the contents of this newsletter provide you with an update of what is happening both inside and outside of the classroom at Eckington School.

I wish all students, parents and the local community a pleasant and safe summer.

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

Mr RM Cronin  
**Headteacher**

# Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education

Exciting times ahead and new plans in development for the Quality of Education at Eckington School.

As the newly appointed Deputy Headteacher, I am very proud to be responsible for and driving forward the standards of teaching and learning for the new academic year. It is my intention to ensure every lesson inspires, motivates and develops intrigue and enthusiasm while building resilience and self belief to confront any challenge that stands in the way. To accomplish this, we will be focusing on key elements to help students progress and be the best version of themselves, starting with routines, setting achievable expectations and ensure engagement in all lessons from the moment they enter the classroom.

Staff will be working hard to be at the forefront of teaching developments and at the cutting edge of new and interesting teaching methods. When we combine these new approaches along with our new approach to behaviour and standards we are confident that Eckington School will thrive through 2023 and beyond.

Next year what we expect from students is nothing short of their very best on a daily basis. Whether in a classroom, sports hall, school field, workshop or science lab the expectations will be the same. It is our responsibility to ensure every child achieves and is successful in an ever-changing modern-day Britain.

Importantly, education doesn't stop when you leave the school gates. We welcome any parent/carer to share in this learning journey, discuss and engage in homework, ask about the school day and feedback to the school. This will demonstrate a complete package of learning around the child and instil an attitude to learning beyond the Eckington walls. Together we can make a real change and a change that will see the benefits for years to come.

We look forward to the challenge and what 2023/24 has to bring.

Mr D Steed

**Deputy Headteacher, Quality of Education**



# Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Deputy Headteacher for Culture (Behaviour and Attitudes) at Eckington School. I am truly excited to embark on this journey with each one of you. Together, we will strive to foster a safe and positive environment where everyone can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

One of the cornerstones of our journey will be the implementation of the "Eckington Way," a set of five key values that will underpin our school culture. These values are not just words on a page but the foundation upon which we will build a safe and strong community.

1. **Safe:** Creating a safe and secure environment is our utmost priority. We want each student and staff member to feel protected, both physically and emotionally, allowing them to concentrate on their learning.
2. **Calm:** A calm school with calm corridors is central to keeping all young people safe at Eckington. We will expect everyone to conduct themselves around the building in a respectful manner.
3. **Ambitious:** At Eckington School, we believe in aiming high and expecting the best of everyone. Together, we will foster a spirit of ambition, encouraging every individual to set high goals and work diligently to achieve them.
4. **Polite and Kind:** Respect and empathy are at the centre of a safe community. We will cherish kindness and politeness as essential attributes, creating an inclusive and compassionate environment for everyone.
5. **Prepared:** Preparation is the key to success. By equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need, we will empower them to face challenges with confidence and determination.

High expectations will be at the core of our pursuit of excellence. I firmly believe that every student and member of staff has unique talents and capabilities, and it is our collective responsibility to unlock their full potential. By setting and maintaining high standards in both behaviour and academic achievements, we will nurture a culture of growth, safety, and success.

Open and effective communication with parents is vital to our shared endeavour. We recognise the indispensable role parents play in their children's education, and we will actively foster strong partnerships to ensure that our students receive the support they need.

As I begin my time at Eckington School, I have been so impressed by the warmth and dedication that the school community exudes. I look forward to working with you all to create a safe and supportive environment where everyone can excel and find their true potential.

I am excited about the future that awaits us. Together, we will create a school culture that is built on the foundation of the "Eckington Way" and fosters a love for safety, learning, respect, and kindness.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Mr C Power

**Deputy Headteacher for Culture (Behaviour and Attitudes)**



# Business Support Services Manager

Hi everyone

I just wanted to introduce myself and let you know about a few projects we are working on during the summer break.

I came across with Chorus in March this year from Silverdale School, where I was working as School Business Manager, to become the new School Business Manager at Eckington. I wanted to make this move to be part of the new Senior Leadership team to assist with making positive changes.

We are all really keen to improve the school premises and make all the improvements required. However, with tight budgets, unfortunately we cannot do everything we want, straight away.

We have therefore had to prioritise works for this year, some of which are not only of benefit to staff and students, but also have an eye on the environmental aspect.

Below is a summary of the main planned works this summer:

1. Maths department refurb – this will set the standard and be the template, which we will gradually roll out across the school.
2. Toilets – ideally we would like to fully replace all of these straight away, however, the costs for this as you can imagine is high. Therefore, for now, we are going to ensure all toilets are deep cleaned, re painted where possible, seats replaced and new / additional soap dispensers are installed where needed.
3. We have also booked in a plumbing company to investigate the ongoing leak in the main toilets and an ongoing issue with the pipework in main reception.
4. We are having 3 water machines installed across the site, so students have easier access to refill their water bottles.
5. We are updating our current exclusion room, to become a new reflection room, for students who require short periods of time out of lessons. There will be a new room established in a different area on site, for students who require full day/s in seclusion.
6. We are having 20 new external picnic benches installed around the building, so our students have more outside seating areas to use at break and lunch times.
7. We are having all new LED lighting installed across the whole site.
8. We have ordered a new canopy to provide a dry outdoor area next to the snack shack, for our students. We are hoping this will be delivered and installed during the summer break.
9. In terms of catering, we will be having full plate / cutlery service back for main meal options, so students have a better dining experience. We are working with the catering team to review the menus and costs. We have also asked for the current menus to be displayed with the costs, in our dining areas so students are aware of what is available each day and the costs. We will of course also update our website with new menus etc.

This is a really exciting time to be part of making these changes happen and to observe the benefits for all our students and staff.

I am looking forward to working out the next planned projects and will be letting you all know in due course.

Thank you

Mrs K Pardoe

**Business Support Services Manager**

# Christian Horsfield - Assistant Headteacher

## Parents' Consultation Evenings

In the spring term we consulted parents on the future of parents' evenings, in particular the continuation of online parents' evenings. Feedback was split between parents who wanted a return to face-to-face evenings and those wanting to continue with online evenings. Our response to this feedback is to move forward with a mixture of face-to-face and online evenings. The Year 7 Settling In meeting with parents will now be face-to-face; Year 7 to 8 parents' evenings will remain online; and Years 10-13 parents' evenings will return to face-to-face. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who responded to the survey and we hope this new approach will please the majority of parents.

## Science Trip

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July we took some A-level chemistry students to the Kroto Schools Laboratory at Sheffield University where they synthesised aspirin. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience the modern university labs, use high spec equipment and get a feel for what studying science at university would be like.



## A Level Art & Photography Exhibition

We celebrated the work of our talented art and photography A-level students in our annual Art Exhibition in June. Students were able to curate and showcase their work for exhibition. The open evening was a wonderful event where students were able to share their successes with their family and friends. Students across the school had the opportunity of visiting the exhibition and experiencing some of the wonderful installations, paintings and photography and explore what art can be.

Congratulations to all our art and photography students for completing their course and presenting their work in the exhibition.

We wish them all the best for results day in August and their future.

# Rotary Club Young Photographer Competition

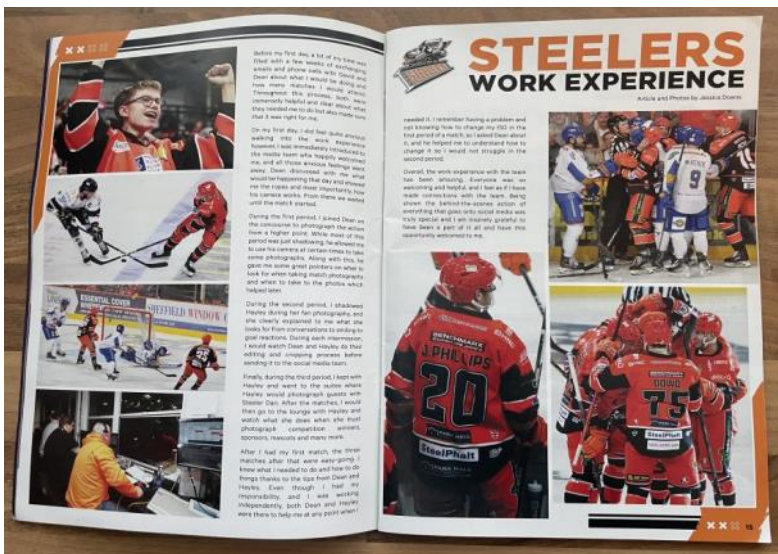


This year a group of students worked with Miss Pickard to enter the Rotary Club's Young Photographer Competition through the Dronfield Rotary Club. The theme was 'the Beauty of Architecture', and the students each submitted one photograph they had taken in their own time. In the first round Finley, Holly and Jess were commended in their respective age categories, with all participants receiving a certificate recognising their efforts. Isobel won the first round of the senior category earning her a £30 cash prize and entry to the next round. We have recently heard that Isobel has come **FIRST OVERALL** in her age category and will be attending a Winners' Presentation at the Rotary Club to collect her certificate and prize. We are very proud of all our entrants, especially Isobel, for taking part in an external competition and getting involved with the local community,

showing what our Eckington students are capable of. If anyone is interested in taking part next year look out for a message from Miss Pickard in September.

**Well done Isobel**

## Y12 Photography Student Steals The Show



One of our talented Year 12 photography students had been able to secure a work experience placement with the Sheffield Steelers this Autumn. This was an incredible opportunity for Jess which has given her invaluable experience in the industry. Her dedication and professionalism were second to none, not to mention the quality of the work she produced. We are super proud of Jess and hope she is able to develop her interests in the future. The image shows an article of her experience with the team and some of her fantastic photographs.



# Year 6 Taster Art

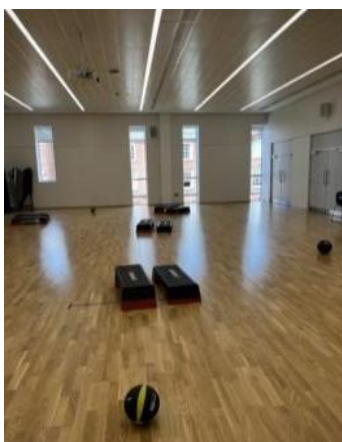
Our up-and-coming Year 6s had the opportunity to experience an art lesson at Eckington School. Many students were excited about the prospect of having an art lesson every week and being able to explore more range of media, techniques and processes. We like to get students to think more creatively about what art can be, so we explored the work of Victor Nunez.



The students had great fun creating imaginative drawings merged with everyday objects, creating the extraordinary out of the ordinary!



# Sixth Form Carnegie Sports Experience Day



In May, our Year 12 A-level PE and Cambridge Technical Sport students went to Leeds Beckett University to take part in a 'Carnegie Sports Experience day'. This involved them experiencing short sessions from different sports courses on offer at the University.

Our A-level students were engaged in sport and exercise physiology, sport and exercise

biomechanics, and achieving peak potential workshops .

The Cambridge Technical students experienced 3 different courses: sport development, physical activity and health, and sports coaching workshops .

Students really enjoyed the experience and having a 'day in the life' of a university sports student. Facilities at the university are second to none and a few students have already said that they would like to apply for courses there next year.



# Athletics

An Eckington student has recently excelled at athletics, representing the school several times last month.

Oskar (Year 8) started his impressive run of events representing North East Derbyshire at the Derbyshire Schools Athletics competition at Moorways Stadium, Derby on Saturday 10 June. Oskar had an amazing day, taking gold in the junior boys' discus and silver in junior boys' shot putt. This led to him representing Derbyshire at the Mason Trophy event in Stoke the following Saturday.

Following his success at both events, Oskar has been selected to represent Derbyshire in shot putt at the English Schools Athletics Championships.



Well done Oskar for these fantastic achievements. We wish you the very best of luck in your forthcoming events!

## Also...

Younger Eckington athletes are preparing to follow in Oskar's footsteps, as demonstrated by 20 students from Years 7 and 8 when they competed in last month's North East Derbyshire Quadkids event. All competitors performed well against strong opposition, giving it their all. It was a great taste of competition and we're looking forward to hearing more of future performances from our up-and-coming athletes.

## Message from the Chair of Governors - Mrs J Wormleighton Eckington School

Our school is looking to recruit two/three COMMUNITY GOVERNORS to join our experienced team of Governors.

Chorus Academy Trust became responsible for Eckington School on 1st April 2023. Together with their Management Team, our Governing Body were involved in the recruitment, interviewing and selection of the Head Teacher, two Deputy Heads and four Assistant Heads to set up a secure SLT to face the on-going challenges in September to raise standards in our school.

If you would like further information in joining the Governing Body, please email :

Davina Middleton HT PA and Governor Support Officer.

# Peer Educators teach Teachers on national RSE Day

Our wonderful group of student leaders were invited to attend a PSHE teacher conference in June on Relationships and Sex Education Day (RSE Day), to demonstrate their talents at being 'Peer Educators'. They showed the teachers how to play a giant board game called 'Our World' which they have used in Year 7 classes this year. The game encourages students to discuss personal safety, risky situations and how to handle peer pressure. It is a conversation starter game, which our student leaders expertly led with Year 7 classes early this year. We hope to do more peer educator work in our character lessons next year involving our wonderful student leaders.

Some quotes from teachers on the day:

**"WOW! We had so much fun playing the game. Our Peer Educator Billy, helped us out and even joined in the fun during the dares! We would love to use this game in our school. Thank you"**

**"Lovely articulate young man presented the game to our group. Very friendly and informative. Thank you"**

## RSE Day and Pride Month

Our school celebrated national Relationships and Sex Education Week, with RSE day falling on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The theme this year is 'Launch into Kindness'. This month we have done lots of activities at school to focus on relationships of all kinds, and there is a summary below:

- Unveiled a new permanent display about equality, diversity and inclusion created by our EDI student committee members, outside our main hall.
- During RSE Week our students took part in different 'Kindness' related activities each day.
- Our school nurse team held a drop in stall outside on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at break and lunch time to discuss healthy relationships and kindness.
- Our students have had assemblies about Pride Month.
- Our teachers have been given a special pack of CPD materials to support the wellbeing and mental health of our students, full of activities to use in the classroom.

- Our 'Deep Learning Day' on June 21st had a theme of 'No Place for Hate', in which our key stage 3 students focused on the language of kindness, self-identity and celebrating our differences. The aim was to stamp out bullying language and harassment, and teach our students to be kind and tolerant of each other.
- The whole week ended with an RSE quiz in Friday registration.

We hope we have been able to spread some kindness and tolerance this month.



## Careers Week for Year 12 - Assessment Centre Day

On Wednesday during the Year 12 Careers Week our students experienced a mock assessment centre day to allow them to reflect on the application process used by many large employers and apprenticeship providers at the moment. The day involved a range of group and independent assessments, a mock interview with an employer, and a Myers Briggs personality test. The students were also able to opt into an employer talk by a range of local industry professionals such as the AMRC and AECOM, including some alumni talks from past students who are now working in the legal sector and the armed forces. They all took the process very seriously, and arrived wearing business dress appropriate for an interview. The feedback received will be invaluable to them as they progress with their careers. Huge well done to all our Sixth Formers for the really positive way they tackled the event.



# Young Enterprise

Our students took part in the 22 / 23 round of the national competition called Young Enterprise this year. The student company called 'Save the Date' competed against other schools in the county, and developed entrepreneurial skills and business acumen. We are very proud of their achievements.



# Within 4 Walls



During a Flexible Learning Day last year our Year 7 students took part in a script writing competition for a local charity called Space4U who specialise in supporting children and families affected by someone else's substance misuse. Our winning script has now been turned into a short film to promote the charity, and a film director worked in school with our script writers to bring the story to life on the big screen. We involved our superb actors and actresses from the Drama Department to star in the film too. The film is now being used across Derbyshire to promote the charity to local schools and professionals who work with young

people. The final film called 'Within 4 Walls' describes the tale of a brother and sister who are struggling to cope with the erratic behaviour of a parent who regularly consumes too much alcohol, and the narrator describes how this makes the children feel. The film is extremely powerful. We are so proud of the work our students did, and hope the film is able to help many other children across Derbyshire.

# Study time at Eckington

Year 11 and Year 13 students have worked hard during the exam period. This was particularly visible in our Sixth Form Centre, which provides an excellent study area for students to use when they need it.

It's great to see the students so focused. We wish them the best of luck and are here to support them when they need it.



## Design & Technology - Year 7 Bird Boxes



Our Year 7 students were busy learning new skills in Design and Technology lessons as they created one of their first D&T projects in the school: constructing birdboxes.

The students used a variety of equipment to create these from scratch, including tenon saws and sanders. They practised their marking out and accurate measuring skills, before constructing and applying an external finish.

## The Addams Family Musical

Audiences have been treated to a fantastic production of The Addams Family musical at Eckington School.

Students from across the school put in months of hard work to bring the performance to life, both on stage and behind the scenes. Their efforts paid off with wonderful performances adding to a great couple of nights' entertainment.

Congratulations to everyone involved!



# The Library



The library is a hub of learning and support at Eckington School. Open to all every day before and after school, as well as at break and lunch, students can come here to read, research or just take some quiet time out during social times.

Year 7 students have a series of lessons to introduce them to the facility and older students can take on rewarding roles, helping with the day-to-day smooth running of the facility or supporting younger students with their reading.

Not only is reading ability one of the strongest predictors of academic success across the curriculum, but it's also great for well-being so, the library hosted a half price book fair for those who want to treat themselves to a new read. Thank you to everyone who bought a book - the purchases have earned the school free books so the library will be better stocked in future for the benefit of all students.

# Gardening Club



Right in the heart of the school is an oasis that is tended every Wednesday lunchtime by the students of the Gardening Club.

This calm and tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of the school day comes to life on Wednesdays as our keen gardeners tend the wide range of plants – both edible and beautiful. The club is run by our Science Department and students get involved with keeping the area clean and tidy, repotting plants, watering them and growing even more.

Runner beans, tomatoes and peas give the gardeners the chance to taste the produce they have grown.

Well done to the group – those peas look delicious!



# Eckington House News

Eckington School

**WANTED**  
House Captains  
Apply Now – Deadline 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Are you interested in being a House Captain?  
Are you reliable, organised and a good leader?  
Do you have some ideas of how we can make the Houses a bigger part of the school community this year?  
Can you inspire your team mates to do their best to win while being fun and friendly?  
Are you a positive person who will be enthusiastic about all house events?

Collect an application form from your year office and return to your Head of House:  
Mr Tipping A3, Mr Wilks HUB, Miss Crowe HUS, Mr Roberts PE block, Mr Clifton M1

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In the Autumn Term we interviewed and recruited our 5 new Heads of House. Each teacher was full of enthusiasm to get started.

We then asked all students what they wanted their new houses to be called, holding a student vote. We also asked students for activity ideas and created a calendar of house events using their ideas. Our students also entered a competition to design our new house shields, and we were thrilled to see the results.

Our incredibly talented Art Department and Artemis House leader Mr Tipping has designed professional quality shields using the student designs, and these will now be represented across the school and on our house displays.

In the Spring Term we held interviews for the House Captain roles. Students completed an application form and interview for the role, and we chose a fantastic bunch of leaders to be House Captains from every year group. These keen and enthusiastic leaders will help our House Heads of House to promote and lead the inter house activities throughout the year.

These are the new House Shields based on the designs submitted by students as the new house system was being launched. The house displays have never looked smarter.



**Current Scores**

Artemis	54
Athena	51
Zeus	51
Poseidon	49
Apollo	41

**RANK Order**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Artemis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Athena
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Zeus
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Poseidon
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Apollo

Contribute → Engage → Have Fun

- Sporting Competitions (for exa... 156
- Silly Sports Competitions (such ... 112
- Creative and artistic competitions 105
- Visits, trips, experiences 230
- Food related (such as Bake Off, ... 128
- E-Sports or gaming related 138
- Drama and Music related activit... 63
- Reading competitions 29
- Mental Health and wellbeing act... 57
- Science and Technology related ... 47
- Film, Media and literature relate... 94
- Robot wars 102
- Debating competitions 47
- Other 11



# LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

## SPRING TERM ACTIVITIES

Paper Aeroplane Challenge (all year groups)

Inter House Quiz (all year groups)

Bouldering Competition

Year 8 Enterprise Day - Project Pizza 'Pitch It' competition

Inter House football competition (all year groups)

Red Nose Day 'Welly Wang'

Inter-House 'Dead Hang' competition



## PAPER AEROPLANE CHALLENGE

This was the first event to kick off the new house systems and took place just a couple of days after students had been allocated their house. Students were invited to compete as a house team, against other house groups in their school year. The goal was very simple: to build a paper plane that would fly the furthest and beat the distance achieved by the other competing houses. There was lots of discussion and thought given to different variables that might help a plane to fly the furthest distance. We had planes of different sizes, shapes, weights and with different aerodynamic designs. As the weather that week was calm, competition took place outside on the school service road. Some of the winning planes were achieving distances of around 15 metres, though there may have been a little wind assistance at times! Most importantly though, a lot of fun was had, and the students enjoyed their first taste of house competition.



## YEAR 7 AFTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Year 7 after-school football was adapted one week to include a house competition. This consisted of 3 attempts at a penalty shootout against Mr Clifton in goal, followed by 3 attempts at a crossbar challenge and then a passing accuracy challenge to get the ball to stop in specific zones. These activities combined with a couple of fixtures helped students to tally up individual points for their assigned house.

## HOUSE NETBALL

Year 9 girls joined us on Thursday 18th May for an inter house netball competition in the Gym. A lovely group of girls participated. The atmosphere was fantastic, and the skill levels were sensational. A lot of fun was had, and the girls were surprisingly competitive. This is one we will definitely run again soon with girls across all year groups, potentially leading up to a mini competition between years at the end of the term.



## Year 7 & Year 8 GIRLS' INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL

In April and May we held the Year 7 and Year 8 girls' inter-house football competition. Girls from every house participated and the matches were of a very high standard. Some of the games were exceedingly tight, with just one or two goals making all the difference. Year 8 girls enjoyed taking part so much that next term we are hoping to make Year 8 girls' lunchtime football a weekly event. The girls are very excited about this.

## DEAD HANG CHALLENGE

All years were given the opportunity to attempt a dead hang on a pull up bar during lunchtimes. The turnout was amazing, boys and girls were all eager to beat the time of their friends and represent their house without realising how challenging the task was. The pull up bar will appear again for the pull up challenge.



## INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL COMPETITION BOYS (Year 7 - Year 11)

Boys across all year groups signed up to represent their houses in a 6-a-side tournament in the sports hall. It was extremely competitive, and everyone played with a smile on their faces. The standard was exceptional across all year groups and Mr Roberts was really impressed with how all the students conducted themselves. Everyone showed real pride in representing their houses.



# Competitions Held During the Summer Term

## SUMMER TERM ACTIVITIES

Y9 Girls' Netball

Coconut Shy

Timetable Challenge

Best Tik Tok Challenge

'Come dine with me' Competition

Tik Tok Dance Competition - all year groups

Photography Challenge

Pull Up Challenge

# LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



## Enrichment at Eckington

At Eckington, we thoroughly believe in offering a wide selection of extra curricular activities to give further opportunities for students to develop. Outstanding achievement can be realised both in and out of the classroom. To that extent, we have run a successful extra-curricular program this year and nearly third of all of our pupils have engaged in either a lunchtime or after-school club. Our aim is to grow this next year and for this reason we are expanding the selection of clubs on offer. In the new academic year, along side the popular sports clubs we will be running the following enrichment clubs:

- CHESS
- GREENHOUSE CLUB
- STEM
- ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP
- GAMES CLUB
- KS3 ART CLUB
- KS3 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
- CODING CLUB
- YOUNG ENTERPRISE
- ROCK BAND CLUB
- KS3 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
- SCHOOL SHOW
- D & D
- LIBRARY CLUB
- WRITING CLUB
- YOUNG EDITORS
- LIBRARY LUNCH TIMES
- DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD
- HARRY POTTER CLUB
- MATHS, PUZZLES & GAMES
- CHINESE
- ROTARY CLUB
- YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

## Year 8 Trip / House Competition / Deep Learning Day

It has been a tremendous half term for Year 8. One hundred and fifty two of us went to Alton Towers and battled through the rain to have an enjoyable fun day.

The new house competitions have added extra excitement at lunchtime and it has been a pleasure to see how many Year 8 students have got involved.

Finally we managed to experience a deep learning day and the students really enjoyed participating for their house! Well done Year 8.



## Year 12 A-level Biology Trip

We were delighted to take the Year 12 A-level biology students to Padley Gorge in the Peak District, to experience how ecologists sample ecosystems.

The trip was led by highly knowledgeable National Trust ecologists, and the students gained experience of sampling many soil and air conditions, putting the theory they learn in class into practice, in the same way that ecologists do in their careers.

The National Trust staff were very impressed by the attitude of the students and by the quality of their work.



# Aspire Programme

This year, 50 Year 10 students have been involved in our Sixth Form Aspire Programme. The students have been mentored by Year 12s, attended talks from alumni students who are now studying or working in a variety of industries, attended Nottingham University Open Day and visited Sixth Form for 'A Day in the Life of a Sixth Former'. We hope students have had the opportunity to reflect on the different pathways they can take after their GCSEs and A Levels. We are excited for them to start their 6<sup>th</sup> Form journey with us in September 2024.



# Alumni Talks

This year we have had a variety of Sixth Form Alumni students present to some of our current students about their journey after Sixth Form. Our visitors consisted of students who have left Eckington Sixth Form within the past 5 years; Liam, who is at Sheffield University studying Medicine, Jack who is at Oxford University studying Biochemistry, Natasha who is about to embark on a PhD, Josie who took a gap year travelling, Lauren who is at University of Sheffield studying Aerospace Engineering, and Megan who is at Loughborough University studying Media and Communication and who is about to do a placement year in London with Disney. In addition we also had a visit from Alix who is completing a Degree Apprenticeship with a law firm in Manchester and Harvey who is in the RAF. It was brilliant to see these past students and learn about what they have accomplished since leaving our Sixth Form. Thank you to all our alumni students for their time and efforts.

# Maths

As I reflect on the 2022-2023 year in maths I would like to begin by saying how proud the teachers in mathematics department are of all the students in Year 11 and Year 13 who worked so hard at GCSE and A-level. They should feel so proud of themselves. A huge thank you to the maths staff who gave up their time to run revision sessions to support and extend the work done in lessons.

A few months ago, Year 10 and 12 students sat their first mock exam which gave them a taste of what the GCSE or A Level will be like. I hope this was found to be as informative for the students as it was for staff as we move into Year 11 and 13. A challenging year lies ahead but the maths teachers are all ready to support and guide the students to be the best they can be. It is to be noted that 'the best way to learn mathematics is always to do mathematics'.

It was great to see so many students showing an interest in studying maths at A-level when we ran the taster session. A-level maths is such a facilitating subject, meaning it helps students gain places on many different types of degree or apprenticeship. We also gave Year 10 students an idea of what 6th form lessons would be like. The Year 10 students were so eager to show what they could do and engaged in the activities well.

A huge thankyou to the Year 9 students who, under the leadership of Mrs Bonsall, helped the Year 7 students understand and master some of the basic principles of maths. These Year 9 students showed commitment and lots of understanding.

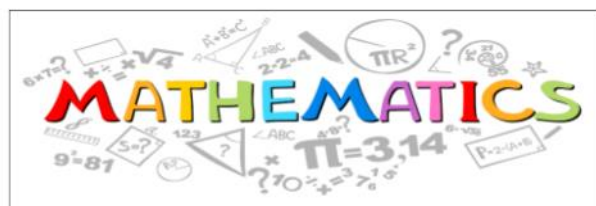
Earlier this year, the decision was made to change the online homework that our students do from HegartyMaths to Sparx. Already we have seen a greater degree of engagement and homework completion. These homeworks visit recently taught topics and also enable students to practise times tables, in which fluency is so important for even the most able mathematics student. As parents, I am sure you are aware that Sparx keeps you informed of the homework your child is being set. Sparx are also very good at providing information for the class teacher.

During the year, students are made aware of how the maths studied in the classroom links to the real world and we have included, in the lessons we schedule for each year group, the development of maths, through history to where it is now, by recognising leading figures and world changing achievements in mathematics, engineering and other areas. This will continue next year too.

Recently the maths staff enjoyed meeting the Year 6 students during their taster days and found the Year 6 students polite and keen to work on mathematics problems. We are all looking forward to working with them in the next academic year as we are all the students we already have.

We all hope you have a good summer break.

Mrs A Burton  
**Head of the Mathematics Department**



# Careers Week

In July all our Year 12 students came off timetable for the week and spent the time exploring their next steps.

This years Year 12 Careers Week included:

- 2 days' work experience.
- A visit, tour and talks at the University of Sheffield.
- An employer workshop day where students took part in a mock interview, by real life employers and also listened to a number of talks from local employers.



Students really enjoyed reflecting on their pathways and next steps ready for writing their post-18 applications.

## Menus for September

**STREATERIES**

**Aspens**

					
<b>WEEK 1</b>					
<b>STREET</b>	<b>Curried Coconut Chilli Chicken</b> Wholegrain Rice n Peas	<b>Homemade Spicy Falafel Flatbread</b>	<b>Glazed Gammon Roast</b> Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potato & Gravy	<b>Low Salt &amp; Chilli Chicken</b> Firecracker Rice	<b>Choose from:</b> Battered Fish Sausage (battered or plain) Margherita Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce
<b>VEGGIE</b>	<b>Jamaican Black Eyed Peas Stew</b> Wholegrain Rice n Peas	<b>Plant Based Creamy Green Pea &amp; Spinach Pasta</b>	<b>Root Vegetable &amp; Bean Stew</b> Roast Spuds	<b>Japanese Yakisoba</b> (Japanese Stir Fried Noodles)	<b>Choose from:</b> Margherita Pizza Veggie Sausage (battered or plain) Chips, Gravy or Curry Sauce
<b>SIDES</b>	Lime Dressed Slaw	Mixed Salad	Roast Carrots & Parsnip	Sweet Chilli Sticky Greens	Minty Peas or Baked Beans
<b>Extras additional to Main Dish</b>	Flatbread Wedge	Hummus Pot	Cauliflower Cheese	Prawn Crackers	Onion Rings

4/9, 25/9, 16/10, 6/11, 27/11, 18/12, 8/1, 29/01

# STREATERIES






Aspens  


						
	<b>INCREDIBLE INDIA</b>	<b>AMERICAN Diner</b>	<b>Home STYLE</b>	<b>• MEZZE •</b> MIX IT UP!	<b>Chips &amp; more</b>	
WEEK 2	STREET	<b>Spicy Chicken Dhansak</b>	<b>Tex Mex Burrito Bar</b> Chipotle Chicken or Spicy Beef	<b>Sticky Red Onion Sausages</b> Roast Spuds & Gravy	<b>Meatballs</b> in Baharat Tomato Sauce	<b>Choose from:</b> Battered Fish Sausage (battered or plain) Margherita Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce
	VEGGIE	<b>Indian Street Food</b> Vada Pav Bhaji	<b>Crispy Topped Mac n Cheese</b> BBQ Drizzle & Crispy Onion	<b>Veggie Bangers</b> Cheesy Chive Mash	<b>Cumin Chickpea &amp; Vegetable Bake</b> in Baharat Tomato Sauce	<b>Choose from:</b> Margherita Pizza Veggie Sausage (plain or battered) Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce
	SIDES	Wholegrain Rice & Kachumber Salad	Chunky Tomato Salsa Mexican Slaw	Carrots & Peas	Moorish Cous Cous & Green Salad	Minty Peas or Baked Beans
	Extras <small>to add to your meal</small>	Naan Bread	Tortilla Chips	Cauliflower Cheese	Garlic Flatbread	Frickles

11/9, 2/10, 23/10, 13/11, 4/12, 25/12, 15/1, 5/2

# STREATERIES

Aspens  


						
	<b>AMERICAN Diner</b>	<b>PAN ASIAN</b>	<b>Home STYLE</b>	<b>INCREDIBLE INDIA</b>	<b>Chips &amp; more</b>	
WEEK 3	STREET	<b>NY Deli Open Chicken Bagel</b> American Mustard Slaw	<b>Laab Moo</b> (Spicy Thai Pork) Lime Wholegrain Rice	<b>Creamy Chicken &amp; Leek Pie</b> Roasties & Gravy	<b>Chicken Ruby Murray</b> Yellow Rice	<b>Choose from:</b> Battered Fish Sausage (battered or plain) Margherita Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce
	VEGGIE	<b>Tex Mex Chipotle Sweet Potato &amp; Lime Taco</b>	<b>Veggie Thai Style Noodles</b>	<b>Lentil &amp; Onion Pie</b> Roasties & Gravy	<b>Chana Masala</b> Yellow Rice	<b>Choose from:</b> Margherita Pizza Veggie Sausage (plain or battered) Chips & Gravy or Curry Sauce
	SIDES	Hand Cut Wedges & Mustard Slaw	Wok Fried Oriental Veggies	Seasonal Mixed Vegetables	Kachumber Salad	Minty Peas or Baked Beans
	Extras <small>to add to your meal</small>	Cajun Onion Rings	Prawn Crackers	Cauliflower Cheese	Naan Bread	Garlic Mayo Dip Pot

18/9, 9/10, 30/10, 20/11, 11/12, 01/01, 22/01, 12/02



**Eckington School**

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