



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of what has been a very busy summer term and academic year, I hope this letter provides you with some useful updates. I also hope that the Summer Newsletter highlights some of the amazing accomplishments that have happened over the summer term. A copy of our past newsletters and our Eckington Enrichment programme (extracurricular activities) are available on our new school website.

Update: New Middle Leadership Team from September 2024

From September 2024, there will be a new Middle Leadership Team (MLT) at Eckington School. This will consist of Heads of Faculty (academic leaders) and Heads of Key Phases (pastoral leaders).

We are currently in the process of creating bespoke Faculty email addresses, designed to further improve our lines of communication with parents.

These faculties are shown in the table below:

| Faculty Name | Subjects taught within faculty | Head of Faculty |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| English Faculty | KS3 English, English Literature, English Language, Film Studies and Media Studies | Mrs. L Thompson |
| Mathematics Faculty | Mathematics | Mr. A Hylan |
| Science Faculty | KS3 Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics | Mrs. H Streets |
| Humanities Faculty | Geography, History and Religious Education | Mr. B Jessop |
| PE Faculty | Physical Education and Health & Fitness | Mrs. S Clark and Mr. R Roberts |
| (MFL) Languages Faculty | Spanish, French, German & Chinese | Mrs. D Atkin |
| Creative Arts Faculty | Art, Music and Drama | Miss. H Partridge |
| Technology Faculty | Design and Technology (DT), Textiles, Catering, 3D Design and ICT | Mrs. D Robinson |
| Social Sciences Faculty | Psychology, Criminology, Sociology, Health & Social Care, Business and Travel and Tourism | Vacancy |
| Head of Lower School | Pastoral and Academic Support for Y7 (including Y6 transition) | Mrs. C Gregory |
| Head of Middle School | Pastoral and Academic Support for Y8 and Y9 | Mrs. E Martin Miss J Redford |
| Head of Upper School | Pastoral and Academic Support for Y10 and Y11 | Mr. P Brennan |
| SEN Faculty | Supporting students with Special Education Needs and students requiring additional learning support. | Mrs. A Gregory (Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo) Mrs. P Ward (SEND Manager) |

Outstanding Achievement for All

Headteacher: Mr Richard Cronin

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Update: Changes to the SEND Department

From September 2024, Eckington's new SENDCO will be Mrs. A. Gregory (Assistant Headteacher). Mrs. Gregory will be working closely with Mrs. Ward (SEND Manager) and Miss Demirkazik (Chorus' Director or SEND) to ensure the quality of education for students with additional needs continues to improve and remains a whole-school priority area.

I am delighted that our new SENDCO will be sitting on the senior leadership team, ensuring SEND is represented at senior leadership team level.

Update: New Pastoral Middle Leadership Structure from September 2024

From September 2024, the school's pastoral leadership structure will consist of Heads of Key Phase and Pastoral Support Assistants. The table below shows how the pastoral team will look.

| Year 6 (Transition) | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Head of Lower School Phase | | Head of Middle School Phase | | Head of Upper School Phase | | Deputy Head of Sixth Form | |
| Mrs. C Gregory | | Mrs. E Martin Miss J Redford | | Mr. P Brennin | | Mrs. A Roberts | |
| | Y7 PSA | Y8 PSA | Y9 PSA | Y10 PSA | Y11 PSA | Y12 & Y13 PSA | |
| | Mrs. Turner | Mrs. Hemming | Mrs. Woodhead | Mrs. Marshall | Mrs. Cliffe | Mrs. Exley | |
| | SLT Link | SLT Link | SLT Link | SLT Link | SLT Link | SLT Link | |
| | Mrs. A Gregory | Mrs. L Moor | Mr. Shore | Mr. Horsfield | Mr. Steed | Mrs. Needham | |

Update: Anti-Bullying External Review – July 2024

In July 2024, I commissioned an external review of the school's new anti-bullying process that was launched in January 2024, including the new thresholds system that is designed to tackle any forms of unkind behaviour, before it becomes bullying. I am pleased to inform parents that the findings were positive with students informing the external visitor that the changes have been appreciated. Some student voice headlines include:

- 'Students say the school has improved over the past year. They feel much safer and are no longer being bullied. This is because clear sanctions are in place and systems for dealing with bullying.' (Anti-bullying Review, July 2024)
- 'Students understand the protected characteristics.' (Anti-bullying Review, July 2024)
- 'Students understand The Eckington Way' (Anti-bullying Review, July 2024)

Whilst these findings are pleasing, we will continue improving the school's anti-bullying campaign, and the school's new behaviour systems to ensure any form of unkind behaviour is dealt with in a timely manner.

Update: Improving Parent-School Communication

Throughout this academic year we have attempted to improve the way we communicate information with parents. This has included:

- The launch of a new website.
- The Parent Hub tab on the website (a shortcut to key information, including term dates).
- The new curriculum roadmaps (viewable on the curriculum page of our website). These have been designed to provide parents and students with an overview of each subject's learning journey to promote discussions/research at home as well as at school.
- Regular updates on our official Facebook and Instagram page (please subscribe).
- Half-termly parental letters.
- Termly Newsletters (can be viewed on the school's website).

Information about our communication policy and our complaints policy can be found on our website.

2024/25 Academic Key Dates (Half Term)

- Thursday 5 September 2024 – INSET Day
- Friday 6 September 2024 - Year 7 and Year 12 only
- Monday 9 September 2024 – School Open to all Year Groups
- Friday 25 October 2024 – End of Half-term 1

2024/25 INSET days (students not in school)

- Thursday 5 September 2024
- Friday 29 November 2024
- Friday 20 December 2024
- Monday 6 January 2025
- Friday 27 June 2025

All key dates throughout the academic year are available within the Parent Hub section on the school's website.

Finally, I would like to wish all students, parents, carers and friends of Eckington School a happy and safe summer holidays. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Cronin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr R. M. Cronin, Headteacher.