

Eckington School



Issue 4

SUMMER 2024 Newsletter

Dronfield Road, Eckington, Sheffield.

S21 4GN

01246 432849

Headteacher Introduction



Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of Eckington's newsletter. As we approach the end of a very busy academic year, I hope this newsletter provides parents, carers, and friends of Eckington School an indication of the amazing achievements that have taken place.

Recently, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their GCSE and A-Level examinations. I am looking forward to greeting all of our year 11 and year 13 students on their results day in August.

I am pleased to inform you that in July 2024, we conducted an independent review of our new anti-bullying processes that were launched in January 2024. The feedback was very positive, including positive student feedback, highlighting many improvements. Our new anti-bullying threshold system has been designed to help tackle all forms of unkind behaviour and is aimed at preventing repeated episodes of unkind behaviour (bullying).

The launch of The Eckington Way and our new behaviour systems were also acknowledged during the external antibullying audit, with students stating that these new initiatives have had a positive impact on the school's culture and climate for learning.



I hope the contents of this newsletter also provides you with some highlights of the "Eckington Enrichment" opportunities our students have had outside of the classroom (our Eckington Enrichment programme can be found on the school's new website). There have been some amazing opportunities this term, including the relaunch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where a group of Year 11 and Year 12 students completed their weekend expedition to the Peak District National Park. All students took part in a whole-school sports day on 10th July that was designed by the PE department to be 100% inclusive (where all students had the opportunity to partake in a sporting activity). There was also a successful residential trip to Barcelona, where 50 students enjoyed experiencing a different culture whilst competing in football, netball and basketball. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff who volunteer to run these enrichment opportunities outside of their contacted working hours (during lunchtimes, after school clubs and weekends). It is great to see so many students taking up these amazing opportunities and thriving in them!

Eckington School's motto of "outstanding achievement for all" has also been celebrated in many ways this term. Some members of the staff body have completed marathons, one member of staff has represented England at fell running! Another amazing achievement is our U16 boys football team winning the Derbyshire Cup!

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.

Over the summer holiday, all classrooms are having new, state-of-the-art interactive TV screens installed. 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.

Mr R M Cronin

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education



Message of Appreciation to Staff and Students

Thank you to all staff and students at Eckington School for your hard work and dedication throughout this academic year. As we reflect on the achievements and progress made, it is evident that both students and staff have truly excelled in their efforts to drive improvement and enhance the learning experience within our school community.

The commitment displayed by our students towards their learning has been exemplary. Their focus on academic success, combined with their determination always to strive for their best, has not gone unnoticed. The positive outcomes of their dedication and hard work have been reflected in their successes, leading to well-deserved rewards such as the Alton Towers trips, cinema afternoons and rewards teas. Moreover, their continuous efforts in representing Eckington School positively in all aspects of their work reflects their outstanding character.

Our staff members have also played a crucial role in the continuous development and engagement of our students. Through their hard work and commitment to creating innovative and motivating lessons, they have been instrumental in fostering a positive learning environment. Their pride in the achievements of all year groups this year is a testament to their unwavering dedication and professionalism. This same dedication has seen a plethora of learning opportunities being offered for all students through trips, and visits to sporting fixtures and field trips, including the long overdue return of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Thank you to every student and staff member that made these trips such a fantastic learning opportunity and a pleasure to be part of.

As we approach the end of another academic year, I encourage everyone to take this time to rest, rejuvenate, and return refreshed for the upcoming academic year. Your collective efforts and contributions have truly made a difference, and I look forward to the continued success and growth of our school community.

Thank you once again for your exceptional work and commitment.

Mr D Steed

Deputy Headteacher

Eckington School

Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)



As we reflect on the past year, I am thrilled to share with you the significant strides we have made in creating an even more enriching and supportive environment for our students. Our journey has been marked by a series of commendable improvements, thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive parents.

First and foremost, I want to celebrate the profound shift in our school culture. This year, we have witnessed a remarkable increase in student engagement and commitment, underpinned by The Eckington Way. This philosophy has become the cornerstone of our community, emphasizing respect, responsibility, and resilience.

It has been heartening to see our students embrace these values with such enthusiasm, contributing to a more positive and inclusive atmosphere. Their dedication to The Eckington Way has not only enriched their own educational experience but has also uplifted the entire school community.

We are also proud to announce the successful launch and integration of The Eckington Way into our daily routines. This initiative has provided a clear and consistent framework for behaviour and expectations, fostering a sense of unity and purpose. From classroom interactions to extracurricular activities, The Eckington Way has become a guiding light, helping our students navigate their educational journey with confidence and clarity.

Another area of significant improvement is the conduct of our students in and around the school premises, particularly during break and lunch times. We have noticed a substantial decrease in disciplinary issues and an increase in positive interactions among students. This improvement is a testament to the respect and responsibility instilled by The Eckington Way, as well as the proactive efforts of our staff in promoting a safe and respectful environment.

In addition, we have made great strides in our anti-bullying initiatives. The introduction of new anti-bullying thresholds has been pivotal in creating a safer and more supportive space for all students. These measures have not only heightened awareness but have also provided clear protocols for addressing and preventing bullying. The positive impact of these initiatives is evident in the increased sense of security and well-being among our students.

As we celebrate these achievements, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success. The collaboration between students, staff, and parents has been instrumental in driving these positive changes. Your unwavering support and partnership have been invaluable, and I am confident that together, we will continue to build on this momentum.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities the next academic year holds. With our shared commitment to excellence and community, I am optimistic that we will achieve even greater heights. Thank you once again for your dedication and support. Let us look forward to another year of learning, and success at Eckington School.

Warm regards,

Mr Power

Deputy Headteacher, Culture

Eckington School

Site Team

Our site team were hard at work over the Easter break to clean and tidy the school ready for our students' return. The break also provided the opportunity for the completion of a major project to upgrade and repair the school's ten flat roofs; a great investment in Eckington School.

Many of the trees around the site had burst into bloom during the holiday, which made a lovely welcome for us all.



Key Stage 4 Options



Year 9 students have been going through the process of choosing their key stage 4 options – the subjects they will study during Years 10 and 11 to GCSE / Level 2.

Students have been encouraged to consider their career plans (assisted by their attendance at our careers fair earlier in the year) and to discuss their options with a variety of people. The Year 9 Options Information Evening in March provided an excellent start to the process and, with 80% of parents attending the event, students have been better supported than ever.

Early Racer Festival

Earlier in April, ten of our Year 10 and five of our Year 12 students were involved in leading an Early Racer Festival for Reception and Year 1 students from two local primary schools.

The student leaders did an amazing job of delivering a number of activities which developed basic bike riding skills as well as improving our young guests' confidence along the way. There was a great atmosphere in the sports hall with our guests who were evidently enjoying their time at Eckington School.

Huge congratulations to the student leaders who were fantastic and, without them, the event could not have taken place.



Y8 - The World of Work



On Monday 22 April, more than 130 students in Year 8 had the opportunity to go into the world of work and observe a close family member for the day. They gained experience in a wide variety of sectors, ranging from animal care, engineering and retail to quantity surveying, dentistry and construction.

Whilst out and about at work, our students were tasked with investigating health and safety requirements, and they also discovered lots of details about their host company. The Year 8 students made a positive impression in their first outing into the world of work: the feedback from employers was fantastic.

Those staying in school had the chance to start their own business. Working with North East Derbyshire District Council, the '8 To Great' project will be continued as an after school club, so that our Year 8 students can experience what it takes to become entrepreneurs.

We would like to thank everyone for making the Year 8 work shadowing day such a great success...especially our wonderful Year 8 students!

Clothes collection

Staff and students are busy collecting good-quality clothing to donate to The Clothing Bank, a charity that distributes items to those most in need.

Many of our families have already taken advantage of the opportunity to make space by donating outgrown or unwanted clothes (that are still in good wearable condition). We have a growing collection of clothes at school. Many thanks to the staff, students and families who are



Exam Preparation

As we entered the summer term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students were busy with their exams. Teachers and staff worked extremely hard to support them and help them approach their exams with confidence.

We're very proud of all the effort our students put into their studies.

Well done Year 11 and Year 13!



Gardening Club

The gardening club, which meets every Wednesday lunchtime has had a busy term growing flowers, fruit and vegetables, both in the greenhouse and around the pond area. They have even taken cuttings to grow more spider plants!



Pop Up Cafe



On Friday 21 June a group of Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students came back to school to participate in a student run pop up restaurant. Our students have been diligently learning various skills and techniques over the last 2 years and wanted to have the opportunity to demonstrate their culinary talents.

This event gave students the opportunity to express their gratitude to their favourite teacher by preparing a special meal for them. This gesture is a way for our students to show appreciation for the guidance and support they have received from their teachers throughout their learning journey at Eckington School.

Dishes on the menu included a choice of Vietnamese pork spring rolls or basil and mozzarella arancini for starters and Thai green curry or spinach and ricotta tart served with focaccia for the main.

A big thankyou to Gracie B, Shannon M and Ruby S for all your hard work and to all the teachers who attended the event.

Art After Eckington

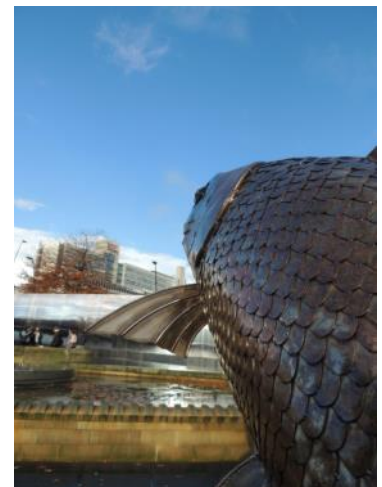
Mr Tipping and Miss Pickard were invited to see past-student Ethan B's final show at Chesterfield College. Ethan has been studying the Level 3 BTEC National Diploma/ National Diploma in Art & Design Practice, with a focus on ceramics. They were so grateful to be invited by Ethan and were amazed at their incredible work. Ethan is inspired by nature and the idea of sensations, amongst other ideas such as change and expression. Ethan's work took centre stage in the Dome, and it was truly brilliant to see the effort and thought that had been put into their final exhibition. We are so proud of Ethan and their creative journey, it is always a pleasure to hear from past students and witness the fantastic progress that they make after they leave us. We wish Ethan all the best with their next venture at Cardiff University, we can't wait to see what they produce next!



Rotary Club - Young Photographer Competition

Earlier this year we reported that a group of students had taken part in the Rotary Club's Young Photographer Competition, and that Sophie was the senior winner of our local Rotary Club competition. We are pleased to announce that Sophie's photograph was put forward to the District Rotary competition and that she has won this competition too—congratulations! Sophie has won a £50 Amazon voucher and was presented with this alongside her certificate at The Barn at Dronfield on Tuesday 9 July. This year's competition theme was 'Rebuilding', and the judges thought Sophie's photograph was a fantastic comparison of new and old architecture in Sheffield City Centre. We are extremely proud of Sophie and her commitment to taking part in a competition within the community. The competition will run again next school year, if any student is interested they should look out for more information in September from Miss Pickard.

Well done Sophie!



Sixth Form

Year 12 Careers Week

We kicked off Careers Week with a wonderful visit to the Russell Group University of Sheffield to learn insider top tips on personal statement writing and had a tour of their multi million-pound facilities. Students participated in two days of work experience, had mock interviews with local employers and learnt about apprenticeships and we launched our Year 13 apprenticeship programme. This culminated, at the end of the week, in students starting to write applications for their next steps.

Aspire Programme

Sixty Year 10 students have been involved in our Sixth Form Aspire programme this academic year. In March, we had a variety of alumni students visit our sixth form to speak to the Year 10s about their jobs. These students spoke about their careers in design, law and astronomy which really inspired our students. Then in June, we visited Nottingham University Open Day. Students listened to a range of talks and experienced a campus university where they visited accommodation that they would be living in if they were to go to this prestigious Russell Group University. Finally, the students experienced 'A Day in The Life of a Sixth Former' where they spent the day in sixth form attending A-level lessons. We hope that they have been able to consider their future ambitions and look forward to welcoming them into our Sixth Form at the end of Year 11.

Waterstones Bookstore Internship Programme



Earlier this year, Waterstones bookstore in Chesterfield approached all local secondary schools with details of a paid summer internship programme. The internship is part of a national initiative being rolled out by Waterstones to raise awareness of careers within their industry, specifically book selling. The internship programme is currently only offered in around 30 of their stores nationwide and will include learning about the various roles within the organisation as well as being assigned a mentor to help them along the way.

Applicants were asked to submit a creative application that demonstrated their love of books and reading.

We are hugely proud of all our students who applied and are thrilled to share that the only two successful applicants from across the Chesterfield area, were two students from Eckington School.

Huge congratulations to Holly in Year 12 and Hannah in Year 11 for getting the role. Well done on your superb creative application and impressing the store managers at your interview. We hope you have a wonderful summer at your internship and look forward to hearing all about it.

Derbyshire Schools County Cup Winners!

Match report

Eckington School have been celebrating their victory in the Derbyshire School's County Cup final. The first XI, made up of the most talented students from Years 10 and 11 contested the final against St John Houghton at Brookfield School. On an extremely warm afternoon, Eckington surged into a 1 - 0 lead, courtesy of Elias B who climbed high to head home the first goal of the cup tie from a corner. Half time came and students were keen to get straight back out there. St Johns came out strong in the second half and were piling on the pressure. They had chance after chance and finally tucked one away to equalise from an in-swinging cross their striker headed home.

Eckington's courage and resilience shone through as they played some excellent football in and around the St John players. Something was coming...with a couple of minutes left, Eckington sent defenders forward to try and snatch a late winner. From a short throw in, Fin W fizzed a pass into the captain Conor G, who turned the defender and fired a shot across goal which rifled into the top corner. The final whistle blew, and Eckington claimed the victory with a well-deserved 2 - 1 win.

Mr Roberts is incredibly proud of how the lads conducted themselves throughout the entire game and believes they fully deserved this cup final win. They all worked and performed to the highest standard and their hard work paid off.



Well done, Eckington.



Charity Football Event



On Sunday 5 May students from Eckington School took part in a charity football tournament for Western Park Hospital. We won the tournament and money was raised for a great charity.

Football News

The Year 9 / 10 Football Girls attended a tournament on Friday 26 April. They were fantastic, and although they haven't played together very often at all, they showed brilliant teamwork and skill.

Unfortunately they were knocked out at the semi-final stage against a well-organised Brookfield side, but hopefully they had a good time and enjoyed the opportunity to represent the school.

Player of the tournament was Isabella G who was also captain. She worked very hard in the midfield and was encouraging of the whole team.

Congratulations to:

Marlie B	India B	Katie B	Lucy R	Charlotte L	Hannah G
Amber H	Diane J	Anna M	Isabella H	Isabella G	Isobel W

On Friday 7 May the Year 7 / 8 Football Girls attended a 7 a side football tournament, they were absolutely fantastic and after a shaky start made it to the final!

Their attitudes and effort were amazing, with no out and out goalkeeper they took turns in net and organised their own subs being fair and kind towards each other to ensure everyone got an equal chance to play. They dominated the final but unfortunately Springwell's goalkeeper was their best player by far, and from a long goal kick and a scrappy finish Springwell managed to get the winning goal. They still came away smiling and with a silver medal to show for their efforts.

Congratulations to:

Maisie E	Sasha H	Gracie B	Ella B	Katie W
Abbie F	Ruby H	Isabella G	Ellie D	



School Trips

Barcelona

On Tuesday 18 June, 50 students and 5 staff ventured off to sunny Spain. Students were representatives of the Year 8, 9 and 10 football teams, Year 9 and 10 netball teams and the school basketball team.

Students were kept busy during their 4 day excursion. The Wednesday morning was spent training as well as trying out a bit of paddle tennis. Students spent the afternoon relaxing by the pool before setting off to play fixtures against the Spanish opposition.

The girls' netball team played against the Spanish basketball team and work so hard to transfer their netball skills over into the game. Following this, the Spanish team played ours at netball, with the Eckington girls helping their opposition with the rules. A wonderful atmosphere and all the girls enjoyed themselves and the experience.



School Trips

The boys' basketball team then followed onto court and despite playing a very strong opposition, played well and enjoyed themselves.

Football was played at a different venue and all three teams played with passion and a determination to win. Again, it was an amazing experience to play against an international team and one which I hope they will remember for years to come.

The next day we went to Barcelona for the day and visited RCD Espanyol stadium for a tour. We then ventured into Barcelona itself and explored the famous La Rambla. To finish the day we went back to the hotel and watched the England match against Denmark and finished off with a fun game of mini golf in the resort. A fun packed day with very tired students at the end of it.

The final morning was spent by the pool, playing water polo, and in the resort shopping for gifts and memorabilia to bring home.

Students behaved impeccably throughout and represented Eckington School in a positive manner. An amazing trip with a great bunch of students.

A massive thank you to all the staff who came and supported the trip. Plans are in place to run a similar tour next year!

Mrs Clarke



School Trips

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year Eckington School has relaunched the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

During the weekend of 28 - 29 June, students had a couple of training days in school to learn first aid, tent skills, cooking, survival and map skills. They even learned how to pack their huge bag correctly. They then had a practice walk around the Eckington area with all their kit to practise their new navigational map and compass skills.

On the weekend of 6 - 7 July we took 12 Year 10 and six Year 12 students on their two day, one night qualifying expedition. We covered 30km + and over 50,000 steps across the Hope Valley, carrying all of their equipment (and food!) and camped overnight in the Peak District. The students weren't allowed their phones or Google maps and had to find their way using team work and problem solving.

All of the students were incredible and showed fantastic resilience, particularly given the amount of rain we had.

Mr Shore wants to congratulate them all for completing and passing this challenging experience.

They smashed it!

We hope to grow the Duke of Edinburgh next year offering the Bronze to Year 10 and Year 12 again next year, with the possibility to growing to the Gold Award the year after to Year 12.



School Trips



Dr Nolan (Science)



You may know Dr Nolan as your friendly science teacher, but you may not know that he is one of the best runners in the country in his age group – he's 57 by the way! Dr Nolan is the current British Masters champion at the 3000m steeple chase and has represented England several times in road running. He also won the first round of the English Fell Running Championships in March this year. He is a member of Hallamshire Harriers and Dark Peak Fell runners.

In August Dr Nolan will be representing Great Britain at the World Masters Athletics Championships (WMAC) in Gothenburg, Sweden. The WMAC will attract over 8000 athletes from ages 35 to 100, representing nearly 120 different countries.

What an amazing achievement.

Eckington School wish him the very best of look.



Marathon success



Mr Benamara successfully completed the Paris marathon over the Easter holidays after two years of injury and thinking his running days were over.

Great achievement.

Well done



The Creative Arts faculty would like to say a huge well done to Ms Partridge for completing the London marathon. The hard work and dedication she has put into the process has been awe inspiring.

We couldn't be more prouder.

Athletics

Two Eckington students recently competed in the Derbyshire Schools Combined Athletics Event on 23 May and came away with a clutch of podium positions and personal best scores.

The athletes competed in the combined event, which includes hurdles, 800m, high jump, long jump and shot put. Oskar achieved an excellent third place overall in the junior boys' event and has now been selected to represent Derbyshire in the regional round.

What a wonderful achievement from both lads – well done Oskar and Felix!



Careers



Eckington students are Future Focused – Careers End-of-Year Round-Up

Another strong year at Eckington School for careers learning and guidance has come to a close. Our students have been immersed in a variety of career-focused experiences, from engaging with visiting speakers to participating in enriching trips. These activities have provided them with a comprehensive understanding of the numerous paths available as they prepare to take their "next steps" into the world of work.

Here are some of the highlights from this year's career interactions:

Annual Careers Fair: This year, our Careers Fair was bigger and better than ever, with over 60 visitors from diverse industries and educational institutions. Students had the unique opportunity to discuss their future prospects and gain insights directly from professionals.

HEPP Workshop for Year 7: The Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP) workshop introduced our Year 7 students to the benefits of higher education. This myth-busting session sparked enthusiasm for learning and elevated their aspirations for the future.

Post-16 and Post-18 Applications: Every Year 11 and Year 13 student has successfully made applications for their next steps, thanks to the support from tutors, year teams, and Mrs Lazenby. We also held a Year 11 application drop-in clinic during lunchtimes to provide additional support for college and school applications.

University Workshops: The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University partnered with our Business department to offer workshops on careers in Economics and careers in Business. These interactive sessions allowed students to engage with university staff and students, providing a real-world perspective on these career paths.

Year 12 Career Week: This term, our Year 12 students participated in an action-packed Career Week. They benefited from networking opportunities, specific guidance for career pathway applications, mock interviews, assessment centre practice activities, and work experience. This fantastic week has set them on the right path for their post-18 plans.

We are eagerly anticipating the adventures of our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they receive their results and take the next steps to shape their futures. Stay tuned for updates on their exciting journeys!



Respect and Protect Day June 24 - #NoPlaceforHate at Eckington

Our commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment continues to shine through our Personal Development education curriculum. This term, our Year 8 students participated in a special day dedicated to anti-bullying and inclusion, centred around the impactful film "Dear Evan Hansen."

The film underscored the importance of vigilance on social media, emphasising key messages of kindness, tolerance, and acceptance. Our Year 8 students not only enjoyed watching the film but also engaged in thoughtful discussions and activities that followed, further deepening their understanding of these critical issues.

To cap off the event, students worked on anti-bullying initiatives that will be spread throughout the school, reinforcing our collective commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

At Eckington, politeness and kindness are fundamental components of "The Eckington Way," and we are proud to see our students embodying these values every day. There is no place for hate at Eckington School.

County Lines Learning: Supporting Our Students in the Community

On June 24, our Year 10 students participated in "Respect and Protect Day," where they viewed the film County Lines. This powerful film aims to educate students about the potential dangers and risks they might encounter in the community, particularly related to grooming and criminal exploitation.

Our community is not immune to these threats, and it's crucial for our students to recognize the tactics used by those who might seek to harm them. By understanding these risks, students can better protect themselves and feel empowered to report any situations that make them feel uncomfortable.

In addition to the film, students also attended a talk by local police officers on stalking and harassment. This session further developed their resilience and provided essential knowledge on how to identify and report these issues.

We are committed to equipping our students with the tools and awareness they need to stay safe and confident in their community.

Safer Driving Day for Year 12

This term, our Year 12 students participated in a Safer Driving event organized by our partners at the Derbyshire County Council Road Safety team. The event featured collaboration from the Police, Fire and Rescue service, and the Road Safety team to deliver impactful messages about the dangers of speeding, unsafe driving, and driving under the influence.

Through these hard-hitting workshops, we hope to have sparked meaningful discussions that will help keep our sixth formers safe now and in the future.

To round out the day, the sixth form team also took part in a fun-filled "Ready Steady Cook" challenge. As part of their "Independent Living" curriculum, students were tasked with creating a balanced meal on a budget, resulting in plenty of laughs and valuable life skills.

Year 10 Geography field trip



As part of the Geography GCSE course we conduct two fieldwork trips. We took over 100 Year 10 geography students to see an urban regeneration project in Sheffield. Park Hill Flats is an area that has seen many changes over the last 100 years, from being a dirty and dangerous place to being one of the most desired locations in the country. Our students were all pleasantly surprised to see how successful the most recent change, or urban regeneration, was. We even had a few enquiring how much it would cost to buy one of the newly refurbished flats.

We conducted our fieldwork and collected primary data to help answer our fieldwork investigation title. The students can be seen here near the newly regenerated section which is now home to smart new apartments, offices, cafes, and shops.



Following our trip, we took the students to a lecture theatre in Sheffield Hallam University so we could continue our write-up of the investigation. We are incredibly grateful to our close friends at Sheffield Hallam University for the use of their facilities. Our students were in awe of the amazing facilities they have to offer and the experience of student life.

The second of our geography trips will be examining the course of the River Porter in Sheffield. We look forward to seeing geography in real life and getting our feet wet.

The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial as it supports academic success and personal development. Good attendance ensures students engage with the school's curriculum, grasp key concepts, make outstanding academic progress and develop essential social skills for adulthood.

Attendance of above 95% will provide your child with the best chance of success in school. Please contact your child's form tutor, head of year or our attendance team if you require support regarding your child's attendance.

All students above 98% attendance were treated to a hot chocolate and shortbread with members of the Senior Leadership Team.



Website News

You can visit our website at www.eckington.chorustrust.org



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust