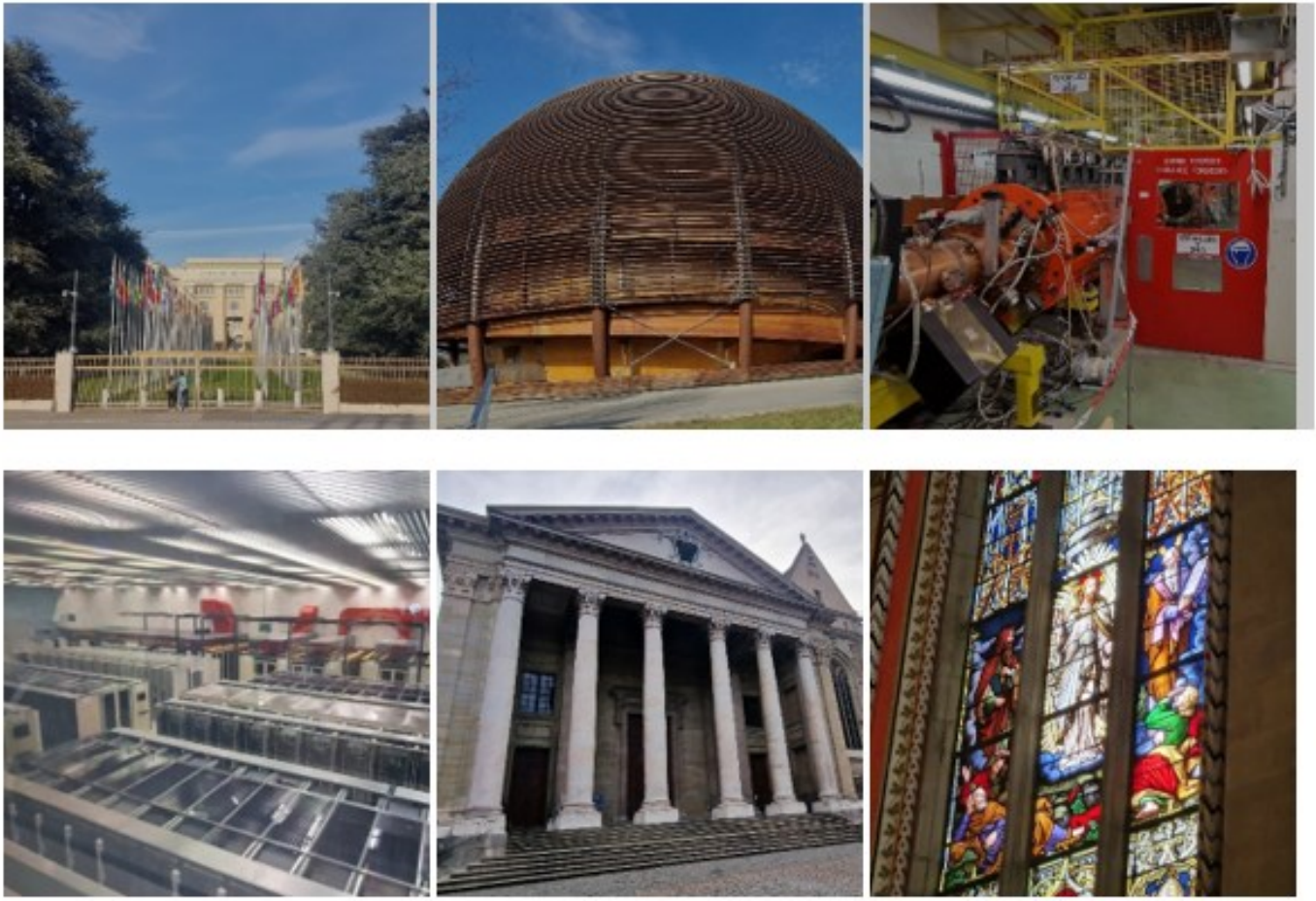


Eckington School



Issue 3

SPRING 2024 Newsletter

Dronfield Road, Eckington, Sheffield.

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Headteacher Introduction



Term 2 has been a very busy time, especially for our year 11 and year 12 students in their build up to the summer GCSE and A-Level examinations. There have been a number of celebrations over this term. I hope this newsletter will provide parents and carers with some examples of the excellent work and achievements that have taken place. Some of the highlights include:

Y9 Options Evening: It was excellent to see over 90% of Year 9 parents attending the recent options parents' evening. I have been informed by Mr Horsfield that this is the highest parental attendance in twenty years and this is a great example of the school and parents working together to support children through their academic journey.

Eckington's Careers Fair: this took place in January. During this evening, all students visited the sports hall and engaged with employers from numerous businesses and services. This event is designed to help our students consider their options for the future and understand that working hard at school will provide them with more options and the freedom of choice in their adulthood.

A Growing Eckington Enrichment Offer: As headteacher, it is great to see so many Enrichment activities happening on a weekly basis. This includes lunchtime clubs, after school clubs, period 6 lessons (for Year 11), trips and educational visits. Within this newsletter, you will find examples of some of the opportunities that have been available during the term. As a school, we are keen to continue widening our Enrichment offer and Mr Shore, Assistant Headteacher is currently looking into a variety of exciting opportunities. I am pleased to inform you that our Eckington Enrichment provision was recently celebrated by student voice during a Chorus Trust quality assurance inspection of our personal development curriculum.



An Improving School Culture: The Eckington Way is having a positive impact on school culture, with student voice, staff voice and external visitors stating that the school's culture and student behaviour has improved since its launch in September. At the beginning of every term, students attend relaunch assemblies, where the school's expectations are reaffirmed. These relaunch assemblies will continue into the next academic year to ensure our new Eckington Way is embedded.

Attitude to Learning (ATL): The new Attitude to Learning reports have resulted in positive stakeholder feedback. After every ATL report, students are now completing a self-reflection booklet with their form tutors, to try and improve their attitudes to learning. Across the Trust, students with an average ATL score of better than 1.8 make good levels of academic progress.

No Place for Hate at Eckington: Mr Power, Deputy Headteacher has also written a new anti-bullying policy, including a thresholds document, that has been launched to students in assemblies. If you have concerns around any forms of bullying, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's Pastoral Support Assistant (PSA) or their Head of Year.

Uniform Consultation: We are currently reviewing our school's uniform policy. We have collected student voice and we will be writing to parents in the near future to collect your viewpoints. Any revisions regarding the school uniform will be communicated to parents in the summer term. If we amend the school uniform policy, it will be implemented in September 2024.

I would like to end by thanking parents and carers for their ongoing support and I wish you all a pleasant Easter holiday.

Mr R M Cronin, Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education



Appreciating the Impact of Education on Students' Lives

As we transition into the brighter mornings and longer nights, it becomes increasingly apparent how influential education is in shaping the lives of students and just how much time we spend surrounded by our friends and peers. However, during this period of extended daylight, our students continue to display remarkable achievements across all aspects of school life, ranging from excelling in sporting events, educational excursions, or just simply contributing to the everyday accomplishments that shape the Eckington community, and so it is important to take time to thank all of you for shaping the school we are in today.

As we embark on the Easter holidays, we all look forward to spending quality time with our loved ones and friends. This break allows us all an opportunity to recharge, relax, and prepare ourselves to return rejuvenated and equipped to tackle the final term.

Year 9 Students' decision time.

Upon the conclusion of the Easter break, our attention will quickly turn to all our year 9 students, who are embarking on an essential process of choice-making that will shape their own future. They now possess the autonomy to make decisions for the first time regarding their curriculum and learning. Although this phase is exciting, I implore each one of you to take ample time to delve into your options, consult with relevant staff members, and carefully weigh all possibilities before making final decisions. Remember that we are here to support you throughout this journey. Remember the deadline for your options is the 16th April.

Supporting students nearing the end of their time at Eckington.

As the academic year progresses, we start to focus on our students who have been with us the longest and are nearing the conclusion of their time at Eckington. The students in year 11 and year 13 are steadily approaching their final significant efforts, and we eagerly anticipate providing them with the necessary support during these crucial weeks towards a brighter and more promising future. For our year 11 and year 13 students, these last few weeks mark the end of an eventful journey that began in year 7. While this period is cause for celebration and the anticipation of a new chapter in the lives of some, it can be a source of stress and worry for others. No matter the emotions experienced, rest assured that the entire staff at Eckington are firmly behind you, wishing you the very best.

Below are a few tips to show how to deal with exams.

- Take control (the exams are coming so face up to the challenge)
- Keep things in perspective
- Eat well
- Think positively
- Sleep
- Get outdoors or exercise
- Take regular breaks
- Laugh or do something fun (remember you have a life outside of revision)
- Don't listen to others
- Speak to someone
- Don't do exam post-mortems
- Have a relaxing bath or shower
- Be adaptable
- Write down your worries
- Do mock exams at home

In conclusion, I wish you all a joyful Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Steed (Deputy Head Teacher) Eckington School

Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)



The Eckington Way: Upholding our core values

As we reach the end of another term at Eckington School, it's crucial to reflect on the values that underpin our school ethos. The Eckington Way serves our core values for all of us, encouraging them to embody key principles that contribute to a positive and thriving learning environment.

At Eckington School, safety is paramount. It forms the foundation upon which all our activities and initiatives are built. Whether in classrooms, corridors, or on school buses, students are expected to prioritise safety at all times, ensuring the well-being of themselves and others.

Being calm is another cornerstone of the Eckington Way. We believe in fostering a serene and composed atmosphere within our school premises. Students are encouraged to maintain a sense of calm not only in lessons but also in their interactions around school.

Polite and kind are virtues we hold dear at Eckington School. We emphasise the importance of treating peers and staff with respect and empathy, fostering a culture of inclusivity and support.

Being prepared is more than just a notion; it's a way of life at Eckington School. From punctuality and attendance to having the necessary equipment and adhering to the school uniform policy, students are expected to demonstrate readiness for learning and participation.

Lastly, ambition propels us forward. At Eckington School, we inspire our students to aspire for greatness and strive for excellence. By giving their best effort, students can unlock their full potential and achieve remarkable success academically and beyond.

Celebrating achievements

It brings me great joy to highlight some remarkable achievements within our school community. Since January, we have awarded over 5600 stars of the lesson, recognising students who consistently embody the Eckington Way. I extend my congratulations to Evie C in Year 9, who has received this acknowledgment an impressive 34 times since January. Your dedication and commitment are truly commendable.

Furthermore, I applaud Lily R in Year 7, who has received 15 commendations on three separate occasions since January. Your unwavering commitment to demonstrating the Eckington Way is truly inspiring.

Anti-bullying thresholds

In our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment, we have introduced new anti-bullying thresholds at Eckington School. These thresholds outline the procedures and interventions for addressing various levels of bullying incidents within our school community.

Threshold 1, overseen by Form Tutors, focuses on addressing friendship issues and individual conflicts through dialogue and guidance.

Threshold 2, managed by the PSA and Head of Year, tackles more complex issues such as group friendship conflicts, isolation, and targeted abuse.

Threshold 3, involves the SLT Link and Safeguarding Team, addressing serious incidents including hate crimes, online bullying, and incidents impacting well-being.

Threshold 4, handled by the DSL and Deputy Headteacher, addresses cases of sexual harassment, violence, and behaviours bringing the school into disrepute.

Finally

Threshold 5, under the purview of the Headteacher, deals with the most severe incidents requiring immediate and decisive action.

By implementing these thresholds, we aim to ensure a comprehensive and supportive approach to tackling bullying and promoting a culture of respect and understanding.

As we continue our journey at Eckington School, we continue to uphold the values of the Eckington Way and fostering a community where every individual feels valued.


Warm regards,

Mr. Power

Deputy Headteacher, Culture

Eckington School



				
Form Tutor	PSA / Head of Year	SLT Link / Safeguarding Team	Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Head Teacher	Headteacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendship Issues Conflict within friendship groups 1:1 falling out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group friendship issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The isolation of individuals The targeting of individuals with physical or verbal abuse Online bullying Incidents that happen at social time External incidents that impact negatively on the students well being and attendance where there is no police involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hate Crime (racist, homophobic, transphobic, biphobic, misogynistic behaviours) Any incident against protected characteristic. Any bullying incident out of school involving the police. Sharing of inappropriate images. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Harassment / Violence External threats of violence Coercive or controlling behaviours. Child on Child abuse cases Behaviour that brings the school into disrepute Ongoing bullying that has been dealt with at an earlier stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent or repeated incidences of bullying by a perpetrator Exploitation of other pupils. (CCE and CSE) Pre-meditated physical violence. Carrying an offensive weapon. Sustained patterns of Harmful Sexual behaviours Serious physical harm to students or staff.

Launch of the Arbor Parent App

In February, the school launched our new Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App. We are delighted by the increased use of the new app by parents. At the time of writing, over 85% of parents have logged onto the Parent Portal or used the Parent App, with the majority using the portal or app on a weekly basis. The Parent Portal and Parent App is especially useful for finding out your child's behaviour points (positive and negative), their attendance and accessing their school reports. The portal and app can also be used to keep the school up-to-date with any changes to your family details, such as address, phone numbers and medical details.

It is not too late for those parents who have not yet logged on to the Parent Portal or the Parent App. The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

Careers Fair - 30th January 2024



The school gyms were buzzing throughout the day as they played host to the 2024 Eckington School careers fair.

This annual event gives the opportunity for every one of our students to consider their future, and to meet professionals representing a wide variety of career paths and education providers to discuss their future options.

The students made the most of the opportunity to speak to experts representing routes that they are considering – and even a few that they hadn't. We welcomed visitors from universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers as well as local and national employers representing careers as diverse as construction, hospitality, manufacturing, the emergency services, and technology. We were lucky enough that Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service brought one of their fire engines with them for our students to explore.

Thank you to all our visitors, who helped to bring the choices available to Eckington young people to life today.

Key Stage 2 Boccia Festival



Ten of our Year 10 and four of our Year 12 sports leaders hosted and led the Chesterfield Key Stage 2 Boccia Festival here at Eckington School.

Four primary schools brought pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to compete in the festival. Our sports leaders did a fabulous job facilitating the event. We are proud of how they conducted themselves and of the confidence with which they supported and encouraged our guests.

'Pathways' Evening

We welcomed our Year 12 students and their parents and carers into Sixth Form for a 'Pathways' evening during which they found out about the possibilities for their next steps after A-levels.

They received information on apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and university degrees. Thank you to the Sheffield Hallam University representatives who presented information regarding student finance.

We hope the evening gave students and their families the opportunity to consider their options in order to prepare for their post-18 applications.



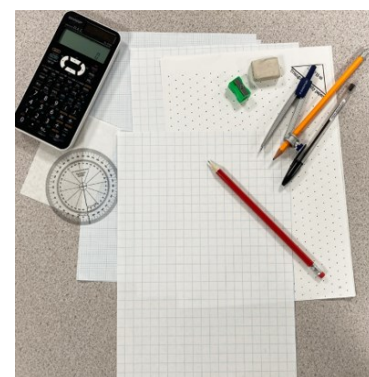
UK Maths Trust Competition

Students from Years 9 and 10 took part in a national maths competition run by the UK Maths Trust.

The UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge consists of a one hour multiple choice paper which is focused on problem solving and challenging questions that students might not see normally in lessons. Eckington students joined thousands of others up and down the country in applying their maths skills to this challenging set of questions.

The papers have been submitted and are being marked and the results will indicate if any of our students will progress to the next round. Whatever the outcome, this has been a great opportunity for our mathematicians to practise their maths skills in a national competition, and gain experience that can be added to their CVs.

Well done to all who took part.



Careers Mark

Eckington School holds the Career Mark as a reflection of the high standard of careers education and guidance offered by the school. The school's highly qualified careers team works hard every day to guide Eckington students through their education and career choices.

In addition to our usual careers support, our students took part in a range of careers related activities. From assemblies and form time activities to learning about our teachers' own career journeys, there will be many opportunities for students to plan for their futures.

More information on our careers guidance can be found at www.eckington.chorustrust.org/careersguidance.



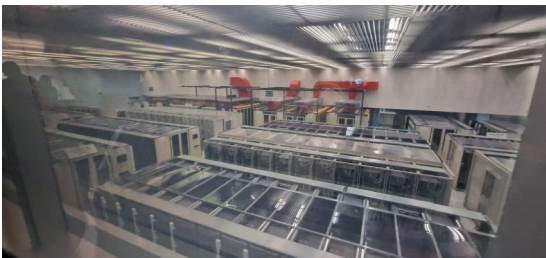
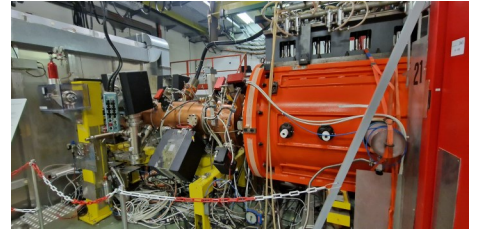
Sixth Form Science Trip - Geneva

Sixth Form scientists have recently returned from a three-day trip to Geneva, Switzerland to visit CERN - the home of the world famous large hadron collider.

The 16 students were given a talk by a professor who works at CERN and for Oregon University before being taken on a guided tour around some of the experimental facilities, the linear accelerators (Linacs) and low energy ion ring (LEIR) facilities and then taken to the hugely impressive data centre.

The purpose of this trip was to allow students to investigate particle physics at the biggest experiment on the planet. There was also time for exploration of the cultural side of Geneva, with visits to the History of Science Museum, the International Museum of the Reformation, the gothic Cathédrale Saint-Pierre (with 360 degree views of the city and the famous Alps and Mont Blanc) and a good look at some of the world's most expensive watches!

The students all came back smiling, full of scientific enthusiasm and some great memories.



Back to School

We welcomed our students back to school, after the February half term break. They got straight back to the business of learning, building their skills and experience to prepare them for life after school.

Students may have missed the sight of this wonderful rainbow at the end of the day, but the staff still hard at work preparing for the next school day were lucky enough to witness it casting its glow over our school site.



Science - Biology A-level



Practical's are a required part of the A-level biology syllabus and give an important insight to the creatures and systems that the students are studying, as well as enabling them to practice their all-important practical skills.

Our Year 12 biologists were making the most of the opportunity to hone their dissection techniques last week as they examined fish structures such as the respiratory system. They will supplement this exercise with, amongst other things, the production of scientific drawings to demonstrate their learning.

Information about A-level biology and other courses offered at Eckington School is available at www.eckington.chorustrust.org/courses.

Young Enterprise Success!

Eckington School Sixth Formers have entered the Young Enterprise 'Company of the Year' competition with their company, Blossom and Bloom.

The four Year 12 students have joined forces to develop a company that sells very desirable 'birth month grow your own flower kits'. The challenge requires them to undertake a full range of activities required to run a successful company from product design to financial management. It's a great way to develop key employability skills.



Just before the half term holiday, Blossom and Bloom took their flower kits to Chesterfield Pavements Shopping Centre, to take part in a Young Enterprise trade event. Their product obviously was well researched and perfect for Mother's Day, so they had a great day's trading and sold out of their sought-after product.

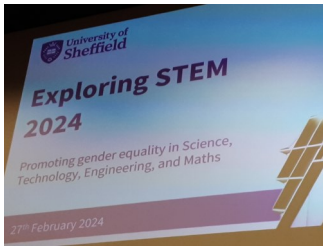
On the day, the team also completed a number of selling and marketing challenges set by Young Enterprise to win extra points in the competition. The next step is for them to complete a pitch to a panel of business owners and a presentation about their business journey to an audience of around 100 people at the Derbyshire Area Final.

They are a great team, and we wish them the best of luck!

Science Trip - Sheffield University

14 girls from Year 9 attended the University of Sheffield for the annual 'Exploring STEM' event, that promotes gender equality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The students took part in lots of hands-on activities in a wide range of STEM related subjects and had plenty of opportunity to talk to university students and scientists about courses and careers in STEM. We hope that they are inspired to become the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians.



Year 10 Hospitality & Catering Students



At the end of last term, the Year 10 hospitality and catering students turned the heat up on their kitchen skills completing their first practical mock exam.

The students were given four hours to prepare and cook their dishes making a meal suitable for a teenager. They served up chicken fajitas with homemade flatbreads and dips. This was followed by a desert for which they demonstrated key skills by making shortcrust pastry from scratch and either cream patisserie or lemon curd.

The students were assessed on their skills, techniques, presentation and also health and hygiene.

They all did a fantastic job and should be very proud of their work.

British Science Week

We welcomed a lecturer in physics from Sheffield Hallam University to Eckington to run two mini meteorite workshops with some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The students heard a short talk and were led through the techniques necessary to find and isolate micro meteorites, which are very small, spherical, magnetic particles. The students then tested these techniques themselves, involving the use of fine sieves, magnets and digital microscopes.

Many thanks to Alex, from Sheffield Hallam, for enabling our students to embrace the opportunity to extend their scientific knowledge. All the students were very engaged in the activity.



Rotary Club Young Photographer Competition

This year's Rotary Club Young Photographer Competition saw Lily S, Lily N, Sophie K-P, Finley H-P and Jess D entered an image demonstrating their interpretation of the theme 'Rebuilding'.

They have all received a 'commended' certificate for their fantastic entries, except Sophie who has made it through to the next round!

Sophie received her £30 cash prize and certificate delivered to her, then Eva Burton a representative of Dronfield Rotary Club came into school to hand out the other certificates. We managed to gather some of the entrants for a celebratory photograph.



Congratulations to all of the entrants, and good luck to Sophie in the next round!

Miss Pickard will be assisting students with entering again next time, if students are interested, they should look out for a poster in September and see Miss Pickard in Art.

Year 9 Options Process



Spring is always an exciting time for Year 9 students at Eckington School, as we launch our Year 9 Options Process. Eckington School has an excellent careers programme, recognised by our long-held Quality in Careers standard award and Careers Mark, and in March and April of Year 9, students begin to put their guidance into practise as they consider their future career ambitions and the Key Stage 4 option subjects that will help them get to where they want to be.

This year, we launched our Options Process on Wednesday 13th March with an assembly in the morning, followed by our Options Information Evening. Both parental and student engagement with this process was phenomenal. Over 80% of our parents attended the evening. This was, without doubt, the best turnout we have seen in twenty years! Such a high turnout did create some overcrowding, and we did have to run four parent talks, instead of the usual three, but we are delighted that parental engagement is as high as ever and look forward to welcoming as many parents into school as possible at future events.

Library - World Book Day



Our Library has been a hive of activity during World Book Day. They've been giving away free books and World Book Day vouchers to lucky students.

It's always good to have a recommendation for a great read so the students have been invited to fill in a recommendation bookmark to give to a friend. We hope that this encourages our students to read for pleasure – whole new worlds of knowledge, adventure and intrigue await the avid reader.

Four Year 7 students led the way for World Book Day, by taking part in the National Reading Champions Quiz and gaining Eckington School our best ever result. Well done, team!

Library - National Reading Champions Quiz

We were delighted to take part in the National Reading Champions Quiz again this year. Students who have shown an enthusiasm for reading in their Library lessons were selected to represent our school. We were up against schools from all around the country in our heat, and our students did really well answering questions on a wide range of books for children and young people. Unfortunately we didn't win our heat, however we did achieve our best ever result! Well done to Isabella, Tally, Abi and Lola.

Library - Derbyshire Schools' Book Award

Our DSBA group has been meeting at lunchtime most weeks since October to shadow the Derbyshire Schools' Book Award. We read the shortlisted books, took part in activities and voted for our favourite book. Students who took part were then invited to the grand final at Derby University, where we met over 100 other students from schools across Derbyshire. We met award winning author, Ben Davis, took part in a quiz and had a tour of the university. Some of our students also presented one of the books to the audience - which was a little nerve wracking. However, they were amazing and a credit to themselves and our school. We were delighted that our favourite book, Always, Clementine by Carlie Sorosiak was announced as the winner.

Year 12 Work Experience

Work Experience is a key element of Careers education within the Building Futures programme in Sixth form.

Our Year 12 students are allocated a full week for work experience which is split over two different calendar weeks. This allows students to sample careers and industries they are considering for their futures and either return to the same placement with the confidence and knowledge they have already gained, or try something new if they still have other career options they would like to explore.

We also encourage students to use the experience as a springboard to further experiences in their own free time, to give them a range of experiences to enhance their applications for their Post18 destinations.

Part 1 of Year 12 work experience took place at the end of January. Employers fed back that our students were enthusiastic, engaged, inquisitive, excellent listeners, had good teamwork skills, and were professional and personable in their attitudes. Students told they were most proud of themselves on work experience for learning new skills, being part of professional meetings, getting involved in new activities, trying their best to help wherever they were needed, speaking to groups of people they didn't know and feeling like they were making a difference.

Students are now busy securing themselves placements for Part 2 of Year 12 work experience, which sits within Year 12 Careers Week, taking place in July.

Year 12 Visit to Derby University

In February, as part of the 6th Form Building Futures programme, our Year 12 students visited Derby University.

As well as experiencing firsthand the fantastic facilities Derby University has to offer, the students took part in the university's annual 'Build Your Career' event.

Our students met leading local employers and expert academics at the event which is designed to inspire them to start planning their future careers.

In a full day packed with activities, students experienced an employer showcase, including organisations such as Rolls-Royce, Derbyshire Constabulary, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, and Alstom, who talked to our students about work experience and internship opportunities.

Year 12 were also able to opt in to talks by the university's academic experts, giving them an opportunity to take a deep dive into a range of subjects, while current University of Derby students and apprentices from Rolls-Royce shared their experiences.

It was a fantastic, inspiring event and a wonderful day out, rounded off by a couple of games of Mrs Roberts' legendary Bus Bingo on the way home.

Year 10 Work Experience



In March our Year 10 students had the opportunity to go into the world of work for a week. Year 10 Work Experience week helps our students to better understand the working environment and make the transition from education into working life by giving them first-hand experience of the workplace and insight into jobs and sectors. We've had some great feedback from employers and would like to thank everyone who supported our students going out to work for the week. Well done year 10!

Our Enrichment Offer

Curriculum enrichment (trips)

We are thrilled that since September, Eckington has run 28 trips to enrich our curriculum and offer opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. There are too many to list, but highlights include the 3-day international trip to CERN, the home of the world-famous Hadron collider in Switzerland for our Sixth Form students, in addition to a residential trip to London for our English A-level Students. In Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, we offered trips to Chatsworth House, Rugby School, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bletchley park, Magna, City of York, Etihad Stadium, The Civil War Museum, Sheffield University and many more to broaden our curriculum offer in a range of subjects. We value enrichment opportunities and hope to expand this further in the future and deepen our student's experiences in school. We have a sports tour to Barcelona running in the summer for some pupils, our first residential trip for some years. We are excited to announce that The Duke of Edinburgh award has re-launched at Eckington for the first time in many years with our first cohort of Year 10 and Year 12 students, who partake in a residential outdoor expedition in July.

Extra-curriculum enrichment (clubs)

Extra-curricular clubs are often where students develop as individuals and learn new skills, so we are delighted to say that we have increased our offer this year. There are currently 22 non-sporting clubs that run after school or at lunchtimes by our passionate teachers and support staff and ten sports clubs that are run through the PE department. We are pleased with the uptake to these clubs with 35% of our Year 7 to Year 11 pupils joining or taking part this term. There is still time in the summer term, so please promote and discuss these with your children (timetable can be found on the website). Our aim is for all pupils to have engaged in a club during their time at school. Our best attended after school clubs are football, table tennis, netball, Harry Potter and writing club. Our most popular lunchtime clubs are our greenhouse club, coding club and badminton.

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

The Eckington Governors are extremely pleased that two members of staff have stepped up and agreed to join our Governing Body – Lewis Mason as a Teacher Representative and Eliza Hemming as a Support Staff Representative. As your Governing Body, we welcome the input from members of staff and hope that you will contact them both with any ideas / suggestions / thoughts that you may have. We look forward to welcoming them on two Committees – Quality of Education and Safeguarding / Inclusion as well as their attendance at the full governing body meetings.

Jill Wormleighton – Chair of Governors

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