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OE News

We hope that this month's e:bulletin finds you and your families safe and well.

January started off somewhat differently to what we had anticipated with a majority of our students returning to online learning. This is a format that is becoming increasingly familiar to our young learners and we commend them for adapting with such ease once again. Our teaching staff are holding lessons to the timetable and we are seeing some very creative work

### Upcoming Events

All events have been cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

### Update your details

If you have recently moved house or changed your email address, please contact the office on: [external.relations@ellesmere.com](mailto:external.relations@ellesmere.com) so we can ensure your record is accurate.



being produced including revision mind maps for History and Shakespearian plays being re-enacted using Lego.

Father Gratian has been streaming live Eucharist services each day for those who are missing Chapel. These can be accessed via Instagram: ([www.instagram.com/ellesmere\\_rev/](https://www.instagram.com/ellesmere_rev/)), Monday-Friday at 4.30pm.

You will see over the coming pages that, despite the current lockdown, our students continue to thrive and we very much look forward to the possibility of welcoming them back in to College next month.

## College News

### Students awarded for contribution to conservationism



The [John Muir Award](#) at the College has been successfully running alongside the Survive & Thrive programme for over a year now and encourages students in Years 7 and 8 to observe and conserve the 'wild spaces' around them - both at the College and at home. The students get the opportunity to participate in a number of activities every Wednesday afternoon to stretch and challenge them; learning life skills, building resilience and leadership, and taking part in activities such as wildlife conservation, climate workshops, making bug hotels, map reading, cycling and more.

[Read More...](#)

## Ellesmere faces

Is there a typical Ellesmerian?

Find out here: [Where are they now?](#)

## Ellesmere news

Keep up to date with the College's news via:

[The College Website](#)

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### Alice's EPQ sets shining example



Year 13 student, Alice Parton, has had her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) research project picked as an example of outstanding work by the AQA exam board with her project to create jewellery from antique silver spoons that she bought locally.

Alice made rings, earrings and bracelets as part of her EPQ in Year 12 and said she wanted to create something that would give a new use to a product that already exists, demonstrating a valid business model for the 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle' philosophy. Alice explained, "My initial ideas for up-cycling antique silverware into modern and sustainable jewellery simply came from the idea that I wanted a spoon ring! Initial resources, including social media, helped me develop my first ring, and after some trial and error I learnt I needed a more malleable

material, such as sterling silver. I learnt lots about different hallmarks and what they mean, also about foreign silverware and how to use my time more efficiently when making the rings. After time my ideas developed into earrings and pendants too. One of the key resources throughout my project was interviewing professional jewellers such as Peggy Bourne, who showed me some of her work which helped to inspire my designs.

Alongside my EPQ project I set up a small business of selling the rings where I learnt how to keep organised in order to stay on top of the costs. I also learnt the importance of having good reviews and customer satisfaction. Regular meetings with my supervisor, Mr. Orr, helped me keep my project on track with the EPQ syllabus, aiding me to reach my full potential in my artefact and accompanying essay, and I am thrilled to hear that AQA moderators have said my work is an example of an outstanding EPQ project."

[Read More...](#)

### Ellesmere ranked in top 20 of UK's Sporting Schools

We are delighted to announce that we have been named the 17th best school for sport in the whole of the UK. The prestigious honour was revealed in the latest annual ranking of the top 200 sporting schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by [School Sport Magazine](#).



The scale of the achievement is huge with the nearest geographical school to Ellesmere in the top 200 being just inside the Top 100.

Ian Williams, Director of Sport, said: "We are over the moon with the news which emphasises our school's place among the UK's sporting schools elite. It's an amazing achievement and recognises the hard work and achievements of our students and coaches along with the ongoing success of our [Sporting Academies](#) and Sports Scholarship programme."

"School Sport Magazine is a prestigious publication and produces a highly respected Top 200 guide to the best schools which is eagerly

anticipated every year. We are regularly ranked in the top 50 in this annual table - a remarkable achievement for a school of our size - but to now be in the top 20 is fantastic."

[Read More...](#)

## Sixth Form Open Evening goes online



The College's Sixth Form Open Evening was planned to run on the evening of January 25th and is aimed at informing all students currently in Year 11 about the benefits of attending our Sixth Form. However, this year visitors will not be able to attend the event in person. So, instead, we have adapted to the pandemic by making the Open Evening virtual and the information will stay online permanently, so parents and pupils can 'visit' any time they like through the following link: [Sixth Form Choices](#)

We have taken an innovative approach to this year's Sixth Form evening, utilising digital media and students' own perspectives to all of the courses available in A Level, the International Baccalaureate (IB) and BTEC.

The Sixth Form Open Evening is normally an opportunity for parents of current pupils in Middle School, moving up into the Sixth Form, and new parents looking at Ellesmere College for the first time to speak to teachers and other Sixth Form pupils and get a first-hand experience of what we have to offer.

Parents can hear from key members of Sixth Form staff, view presentations by staff and pupils of each subject area and take a virtual walk through the school - an informative tour which will acquaint them of the extensive facilities.

[Read more...](#)

## Old Ellesmerian News

### Wales International, James King (Talbot 2008), retires from Rugby



Old Ellesmerian, James King, has taken to Twitter to inform his followers that he will be retiring from playing Rugby with immediate effect due to an ongoing shoulder injury.

In his heartfelt post, James said, "When trying to come back from the shoulder injury I sustained last season, I was still getting a lot of pain and just knew something just wasn't right with it. Further scans have now gone on to show that the operation has failed and that my shoulder has not healed enough to continue playing rugby. I'm therefore announcing my retirement from professional rugby with immediate effect"

He later went on to say "While this might be the end of my playing days it's just the start of something new. Although it's not how I would have wanted to finish, I am genuinely excited to get out there and find out what the next part of my journey is."

James joined Ellesmere Sixth Form on a Rugby scholarship in January 2007. During his time at Ellesmere he was selected for the Welsh U18 XV squad and juggled his time travelling to Cardiff twice a week, for training sessions, alongside his studies. During his final term at Ellesmere, James was signed by professional RFU Club, Ospreys. James has represented the Ospreys for the last 12 years, playing in 203 matches, and has earned himself 11 Wales Caps. He was also called upon for the 2013 Six Nations Tournament and the 2015 World Cup.

We would like to wish James all the best in his future endeavours.

## **Tributes paid to popular Lakeside founder, John R Davies**



It is with great sadness that we announce local Ellesmere businessman and Honorary Ellesmerian, John Davies, Owner and Chairman of Lakeside Coaches, passed away on 19th January, aged 82, following a long illness.

For over four decades, Lakeside Coaches have been providing transport for our pupils, transporting day pupils and those attending sporting fixtures and activities across the country.

John is well remembered by many Old Ellesmerians and tributes have been pouring in

with fond memories of school trips with John driving the bus. He was a great ambassador of the College and we are grateful that he was a part of our community.

John's funeral will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, it will be strictly private, by invitation only. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects can do so as the hearse leaves the Lakeside depot on Ellesmere Business park at 10.20am, travelling along Oswestry Road, Scotland Street, Cross Street, then turning right into Talbot Street. It will then go on to pass through Welshampton at 10.30am.

## **Former Ellesmere parents and students provide nifty knits for Charity**



A small group of Old Ellesmerian parents and students have spent their time over the lockdown period supporting various charities using their knitting and crocheting skills.

As part of the wider Ellesmere community, Sue Richardson, Sue Dewhirst and Marion Peterson have been creating a variety of teddy bears, blankets, cardigans, jumpers, beanie hats and even canular covers for babies of parents who are unable to afford these essentials.

Some of the items are being donated locally through Kidsbank Chester, a charity that was founded by former parent, Cathy Pettingale. Cathy is coordinating the distribution of the cosy knits to poverty stricken families within the Chester area.

Old Ellesmerian, Vicky von Hoven (pictured), has formed links with charities in Africa and has been sending out as many of the items as she can to them. Knitted teddies are also being sent to Syria

as part of the '1,000 pencil cases' project in which all children aged 7-11 will receive a teddy bear.

The ladies have some very simple patterns for knitting and crochet, and would love to share them with anyone who would like to keep their hands busy. If you can't knit or crochet, but would like to get involved, help is always needed with delivery costs and getting more wool supplies – donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information please message Sue Richardson on 07721 301675.

**From the archive...**

**PICTURE FROM THE ARCHIVE**



Sadly we don't have the names of three lads who were at Ellesmere College back in November 1964, but we can tell you what the original caption said back then: "Ellesmere College is the second public school to open its doors to boys whose parents are unable to afford the fees of independent boarding schools. The college is offering four places for boys in this category in 1965, which brings the total to 14 places for the two Shropshire public schools. Pictured above are three of today's pupils with the college in the background."

Thank you to the Shropshire Star for sharing this nostalgic image of three students standing on the drive from top gate in November 1964, before the new Nanki block was built – now known as St. Luke's Sixth Form boys Boarding House.

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