

# Ellesmere news

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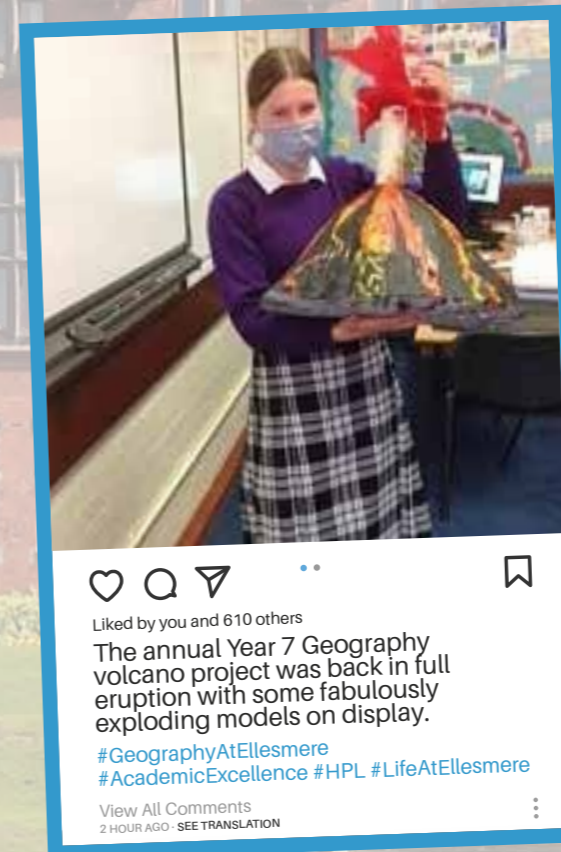
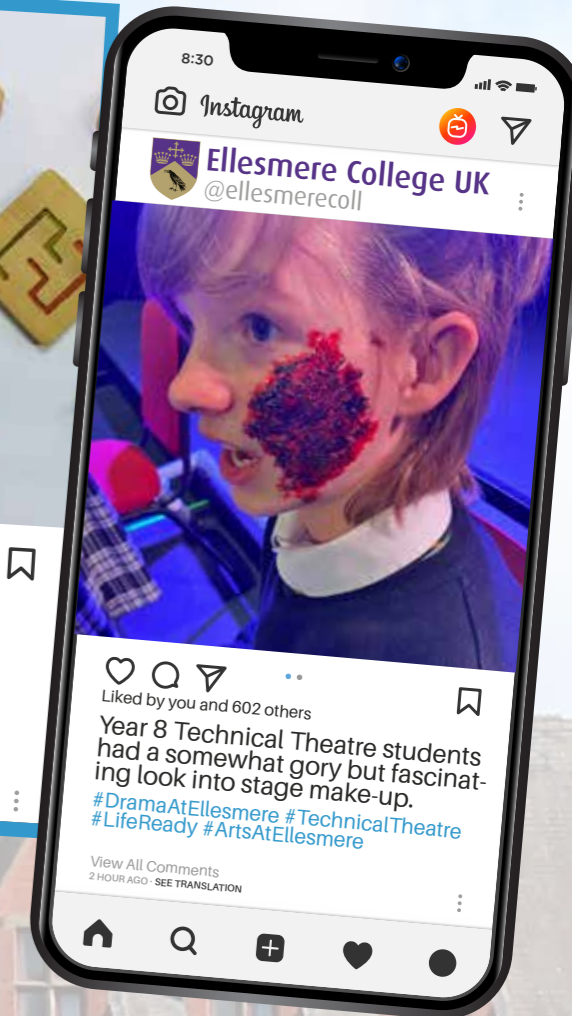
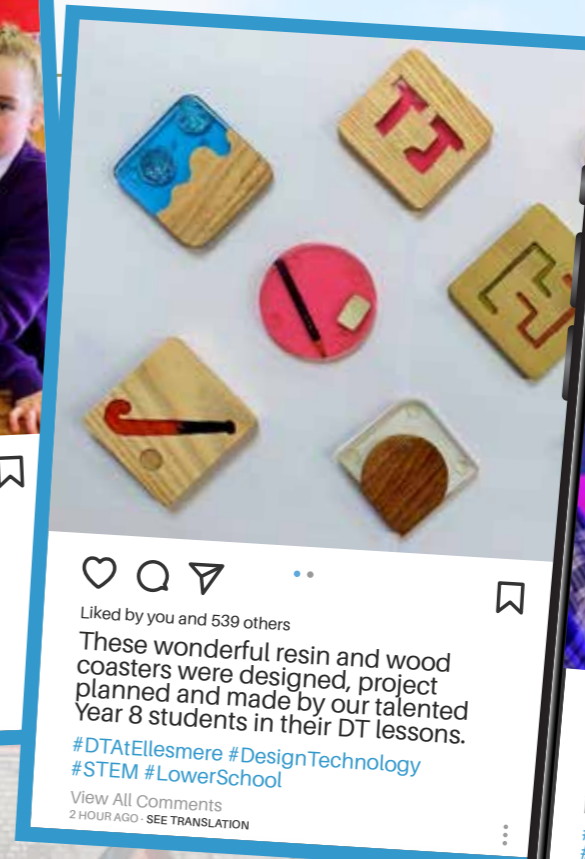


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# In the News...

What everyone has been talking about...



# Back in the groove (the same...but different)

January saw the start of term. Only to be abruptly stopped in its tracks after one school day, with further closures of schools and the second lockdown and its measures put in place. The pupils and staff seamlessly merged from in-person to online lessons again, including some hybrid models for those international pupils who were staying at the College throughout.

February saw Mrs Rhona Avery joining the College as the new Director of Finance and soon to follow her two sons, Dylan and Louie joined us at the start of the summer term into Lower School. (We hope they will be very happy at Ellesmere and welcome them all into our community).



Despite the enforced lockdown, work continued in earnest at Ellesmere with the planned renovation to St Aidan's dayroom. The girls were all really pleased with the upgrade and the time-lapse video showing the work has certainly been a hit with many on the social media channels.

As the second lockdown eased, it was great to welcome back the school community for what was the final three weeks of the Lent term. The energy and enthusiasm levels were palpable and the sheer enjoyment of being back in school and being with the friends and teachers was something that all pupils and indeed staff had missed.

The pupils continued to follow the protocols the College had in place from September and the seamless movement from online to in-person education became a quick one. Covid testing became a standard part of the school protocols for all pupils in Year 7 and above. The work of the medical team, the Boarding and Pastoral staff to put this process in place and to deliver it in such a way was testament to the College's commitment to ensure the safety of everyone and to build confidence in many pupils who had been away from the school. The testing was done over a set period and once the pupils had done their two tests in week one and a second test in week two, they were then all provided with Lateral Flow Test (LFT) packs to self-test twice a week from home, which has continued to the current point.



Our international pupils returned and some took up the opportunity to quarantining at the school and for some of those pupils, the Easter holiday period was a time in school and this enabled them to continue to work for the end of year assessments and ensured a safe and trouble free break away from the worries of travel. A big thank you must go to all the catering staff, cleaners and operations teams as well as those staff who worked in this period to care for and support those pupils in our care.

As the Cricket season began the rain came out to play, as the month of May decided it did not want to see competitive fixtures, but we persevered and managed to get some games played, to the sheer delight of pupils, desperate to represent the school and enjoy the team dynamic that many of them had missed. It was also great to see two prominent girl cricket players, make full representation for the first XI, congratulations to Georgia Munro and Emily Ashley as girls' cricket and the numbers playing continues to go from strength to strength.



We saw the LTA tournaments come back on line at the Indoor Tennis facility and all of our academy groups back doing the things they love and further developing the skill and abilities they have. Not to be missed, the cross country for Sixth Form made an early appearance along with House Golf and the UK Maths challenges. The traditional House Dinners could not operate as normal so this year they were replaced with a House Barbecue on the Terraces, which was greatly appreciated by all involved and proved to be a big hit with the pupils (Wakeman-Lambart even brought croquet back to Ellesmere on the Terrace lawn, which was certainly a nod to tradition).

School, as with life, is a learning curve, we as a community have learnt much over this last 18 months, we have learnt much about ourselves, we have understood the importance of those simple things and the things we often take for granted; family and health. At the same time, the pupils have been pragmatic and dealt with what life has presented and continued to move forward. It has been great to see the whole community of pupils, parents and staff work and support each other through this most difficult of periods and we certainly come out of this stronger as a community.

**Stephen Mullock**  
Deputy Head – External Relations





## Academic Results

It has been a challenging couple of years for students in exam years across the country, with the numerous lockdowns causing schools to close and the changes in the assessment process. We are incredibly proud of our students whose results are testament to how well they have coped and adapted to increased levels of uncertainty, new methods of teaching, remote learning and self-management of their learning and teaching schedules. They have shown a great deal of maturity, continuing to work hard regardless, and achieving an impressive set of examination results.



The first results of the summer were for students who studied the International Baccalaureate (IB). Students who follow the IB course study six subjects, a course in The Theory of Knowledge, and produce a university standard Extended Essay as part of their assessment. The pass level to gain the full diploma is 24 points - the average of this year's cohort was an impressive 36 points, being equivalent of AAA grades at A Level. The 2021 Ellesmere IB results saw 100% pass rate with 43% achieving 40 or more points, an outstanding achievement, given the maximum mark is 45.

A level and BTEC results were equally as impressive with a 100% pass rate and university places secured by those who have chosen to continue their education. 52% of students secured an impressive A\*/A in all subjects with some completing 5 A levels at A\*.

A selection of the Ellesmere 2021 cohort destinations and subjects in the UK include: Medicine at Cardiff, Sheffield, Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London, Biomedical Sciences at Plymouth, Exeter, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Computer Science at King's College London, Engineering at Durham, Theoretical Physics at Durham, Chemistry at Imperial College London, History at Durham, Exeter, Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Warwick, Politics at Durham, Psychology at Aberystwyth, Economics – University of Central London, Birmingham, Drama and Film at Manchester, Drama and Music at The Royal Holloway, London, Violin at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Vocal Studies at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Further afield: USA - Accounting in Nebraska, Criminology in Iowa, Natural Sciences in North Carolina. Globally - Business in Singapore and Medicine in Germany.

Our GCSE students complete the set with a very pleasing conclusion to the year with 56% of grades in the top 9-7 range (A\*/A) and a 95% pass rate overall.

There were some particularly notable performances in achieving multiple level 9's (equivalent to A\*) and many more with a number of level 9-7 (A\*/A) in their results tally and these included: Aditi Chezian - ten level 9's (A\*), Alex Norris - nine level 9's (A\*), Carmen Kilgannon - eight level 9's and two level 8's, Huw Lloyd - eight level 9's and two level 8's, Tessa O'Brien - eight level 9's and one level 8.

Students who came into College to collect their results were 'delighted' and 'excited' and are looking forward to returning to 'normal' in September. Many of the students will be returning to College in September to continue their academic journey into Sixth Form and study their choice of A Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB) or BTEC courses for the next two years.

Mr Wignall said, "It is a pleasure to see how well pupils have achieved and they are commended for their positive approach to our online lessons when the country went into lockdown. We continued teaching our full timetable using Microsoft Teams for remote learning and were pleased to welcome most students back for the final term, although some had to continue working online due to the pandemic. These results are a testament to their hard work and determination, to the diligence of their teachers and the constant support of parents."

We wish all of our leavers the very best of luck in their future endeavours and look forward to welcoming back our new Sixth Form students in September when we hope to provide a more 'normal' year in College."

## Alice's EPQ sets shining example

Alice Parton (Year 13) 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 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.

She 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, she showed me some of her work which helped inspire 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 EPQ teacher, 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."

Alice, who is the fourth generation Parton to attend Ellesmere College, is also studying Art, Psychology and Biology at A Level and is an accomplished equestrian.

## The annual Sixth Form Open Evening goes virtual



The annual Sixth Form Open Evening usually takes place in the Lent Term and is aimed at informing all students currently in Year 11 about the benefits of attending the Sixth Form at Ellesmere College. However, this year visitors were not be able to attend the event in person.

So instead, we 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 this link: **Sixth Form Choices**

We have created the online Sixth Form evening with an innovative approach, utilising digital media and students' own perspectives on all of the courses that are available; A Level, International Baccalaureate (IB) and BTEC as well as the state-of-the-art sports and boarding facilities.

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 the College has 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.



# 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, learn life skills, build resilience and leadership, and take part in activities such as wildlife conservation, climate workshops, making bug hotels, map reading, cycling and more.

One group of students who took part in the John Muir Award last year, were delighted to learn that they had been awarded Gold Certificates by the John Muir Award for their contribution to the programme over the course of the year, including planting and maintaining the Woodland Trust donated hedge located between the Tennis Centre and Lower School.

# Annual CCF Awards



In recognition of the hard work, commitment and dedication to the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) over the time the students have been at the College, the outgoing Year 13 CCF contingent were presented with their medals and trophies by Lt. Col. Clewlow, Contingent Commander, at a short ceremony.

The recipient of The Blake Hartley Trophy for Best Cadet in Year 13 this year was James Manton for his outstanding contribution to the CCF. Alongside his A level studies,

James has shown the utmost commitment to the CCF, and demonstrated outstanding leadership, resilience, team work, and initiative across all aspects of the programme in both in-school activities and external training.

Many congratulations to all of those who leave us with a key set of life skills that will serve them throughout their life, as well as the lifelong connections they have made through the CCF training, camps and manoeuvres.

# 2020-2021 Prefect Team



The Prefect team

We would like to thank all of our Prefects for their hard work over the last academic year, keeping spirits high and setting a great example to our younger students.

We wish all of our Year 13 and Year 11 leaders the best of luck in their future endeavours.



Captains of School – Daniel Cooper and Maddie Freer-Carmichael



Meynell House Captains – Ronan Phillips and Sophie Ward



Talbot House Captains – Jac Jones and Rosie Wood



Wakeman-Lambart House Captains – Georgie Dawson and Joe Patmore



Woodard House Captains – Dylan Jones and Claudia Hastings



Congratulations to our many talented musicians who have once again achieved a superb set of results in the latest ABRSM examinations.

Practical examinations were taken from Grades 1-8 in Piano, Singing, Flute, Clarinet, Cello and the Organ and three students sat the Grade 5 Theory Examination.

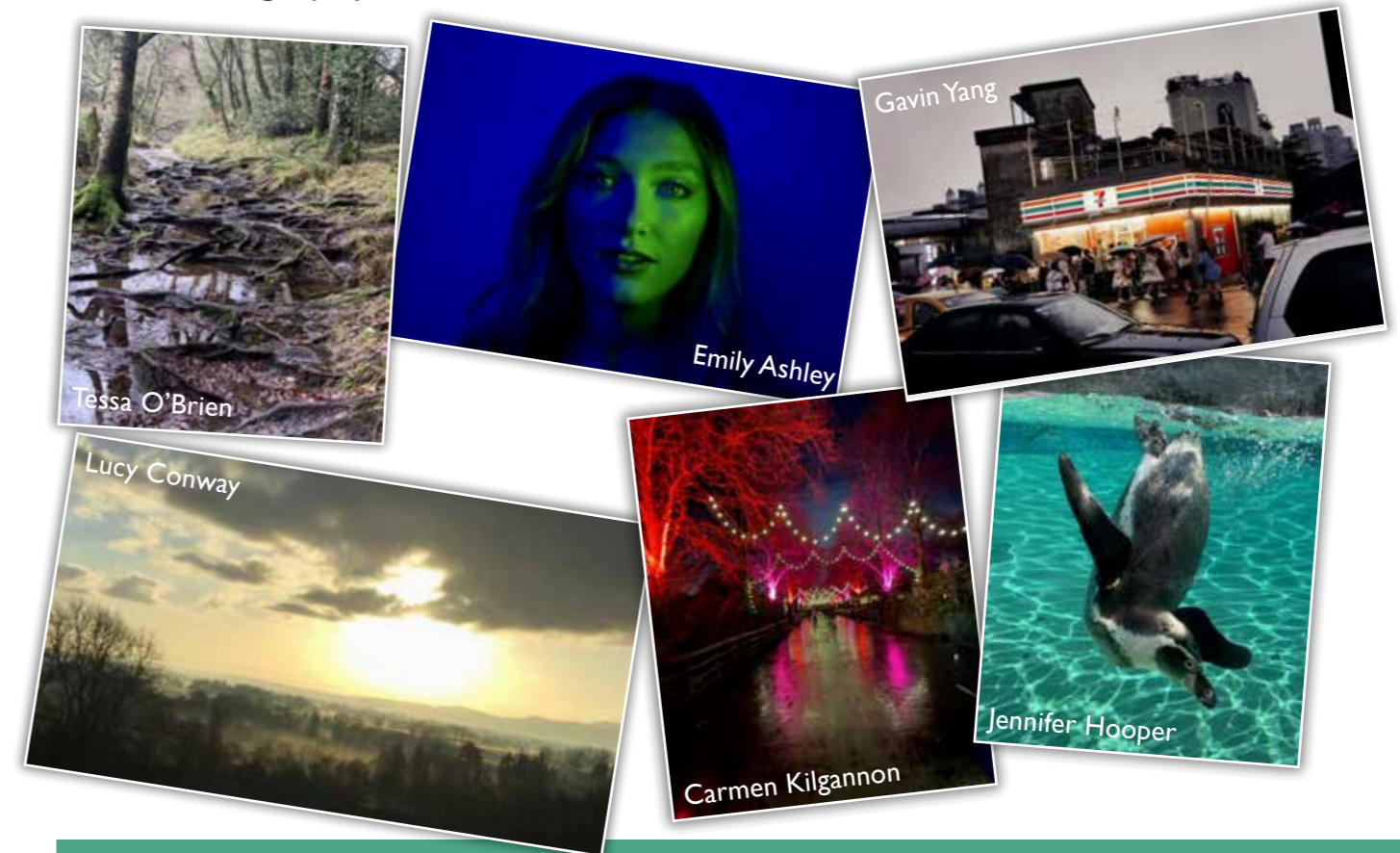
## House Photography

### House Photography Prize Winners – Juniors

NAME	YEAR	TITLE	ACHIEVEMENT
Ethan Oliver	Year 9 Meynell	New Beginnings	1st
Evan Garratt	Year 9 Woodard	New Beginnings	2nd
Josh Norris	Year 9 Wakeman	New Beginnings	3rd
Elliott Catt	Year 10 Woodard	Lighting	Highly Commended
Francesca Appleby	Year 9 Woodard	Lighting	Highly Commended



### House Photography Prize Winners – Seniors



NAME	YEAR	TITLE	ACHIEVEMENT
Tessa O'Brien	Year 11 Woodard	Science in my life	1st
Emily Ashley	Year 13 WL	Lighting	2nd
Gavin Yang	Year 11 Woodard	Lighting	3rd
Carmen Kilgannon	Year 11 Meynell	Lightning	Highly Commended
Jennifer Hooper	Year 11 Woodard	Lightning	Highly Commended
Lucy Conway	Year 11 Meynell	Lightning	Highly Commended



## Harvey Cuckson's Successful 'Try' for England Rugby

Harvey Cuckson, Year 12, has been selected to play for English Rugby Under 18s squad and will now go on to play international fixtures for this age group, with a view to progressing to the senior level.



He's been playing for Worcester Warriors for four years and is delighted to be named in the final England squad after a lot of hard work. He said: "I am really pleased. This is something I have always aimed for and I am so pleased I have made the cut. I have had a few injuries and there has been a lot of disruption throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, as you would expect, but all my practice has paid off. There is a lot of work to do now though and I am looking forward to getting stuck in to playing with and learning from the best of the best."

Harvey has been involved in various England training camps since Christmas. The camps were made up of over 90 players from the English Premiership academies and numbers were gradually whittled down.

Alex Murphy, Director of Rugby at Ellesmere College, said he is incredibly proud that Harvey has made the final squad.

"This selection is the result of a lot of hard work and focus," he said. "Harvey is part of talented cohort of players at Ellesmere in the Rugby Academy that have displayed an exemplary attitude towards training and personal development while their domestic rugby season has been severely disrupted. Harvey has embraced the training opportunities that have been available to him and for the past four years has been making the trip to Worcester Warriors academy training every week, which is obviously very time consuming on top of his academic studies. He has displayed great resilience in overcoming a number of difficult injuries last year while also persevering with his own training while Coronavirus put a stop to rugby across the country."

## Ellesmere College ranked in Top 20 of UK's top 200 sporting schools



Ellesmere College is celebrating being 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 in this latest table, covering 2020, is huge with the nearest geographical school to Ellesmere College in the top 200 being just inside the Top 100.

Brendan Wignall, Headmaster, said: "We are absolutely delighted 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."

## Young golfing champ is ready to shine

Year 4 student, Ethan Harrison, took up golf to work on his focus for other sports and has won a major competition which could give him the opportunity to play golf in California.

Nine-year-old Ethan, who joined Ellesmere in September for its sporting opportunities, played his first golf competition with his boxing coach - World Champion Super Flyweight Boxer Paul Butler - because he was the only adult he knew who played golf. Despite only taking up the sport 18 months ago, Ethan and Paul won the Pryors Hayes Adult Junior Pair Series 2020 and Ethan has since been picked for the European Junior Golf Tour Championship where he will play at MacDonald Hill Valley, Haydock Park and Wrekin golf clubs.

His mum Caroline said: "Ethan started having lessons with ex professional Roger Shutt last year to help him relax and focus. Roger runs the Pryors Hayes tournament and suggested that Ethan take part, but neither me nor his dad play and he needed an adult to play with him. The only person I knew who played golf as a hobby was his boxing coach, Paul.

"He did fantastic to win. He was the youngest person taking part with everyone else aged 12 or older but they finished nine points ahead. He's loving it and it is a fantastic game, it helps him to focus and be calm and really trains your brain too. We know he is sporty and coordinated and a natural all rounder, but this has taken us by surprise. He is now watching golf on his phone on the bus on the way home from College."

The Year 4 student, from Tarporley near Chester, has previously been on the books of Everton, Manchester City and Manchester United Football Clubs but has now fallen out of love with football. He has been boxing since the age of five and also enjoys rugby, tennis and swimming. Since starting at Ellesmere he has also taken up cricket.

Ethan played in the Easter Junior Holiday Club Series at Pryors Hayes Golf Club and club professional Roger Shutt said he was one to watch, saying "Ethan is a strong lad for his age and he was outdriving his fellow players with long and consistently straight tee shots with his favourite club, the oversize driver. His driving was flawless, with seven out of nine holes perfect, absolutely incredible drive and accuracy of the ball.

"Who knows what Ethan's destiny is in golf - based on such rapid development from beginner to winner - a golf star in the making!"





## Breaking Bread – Drama students join hands across the ocean

It's not quite the school trip they're used to, but students from Ellesmere College have not completely missed out on an American exchange because of the Covid pandemic.



Ellesmere is the only UK partner school of the Tabor Academy in Boston, a partnership which has been hugely beneficial to students from both schools with a drama exchange trip every two years. But being unable to travel to Boston this Easter, the students instead enjoyed an online programme of enrichment in a cultural exchange with their American counterparts called 'Breaking Bread'.

Rachel Schubert, Director of Drama, said the biannual exchange was a valuable asset to both schools and it was important for it to go ahead - albeit online. "There are so many advantages to these trips, the chance to soak up the culture of a different country, enjoy a free and frank exchange of views and ideas and how contemporaries are using the wonderful medium of drama in an educational setting," she said. "We have a unique relationship with Tabor Academy and it was felt to be in everyone's interests for the exchange to go ahead this year in whatever way could be arranged. It cannot replicate the usual trip they enjoy, but students had a great experience and we believe it is still something they will remember for the rest of their lives. In fact, the virtual exchange programme has been so successful it is likely to continue as the world comes out of the pandemic as it has proven an excellent way for students and staff to engage in discussion and common goals from across the world."

More than 280 students aged between 14 and 19 and 34 staff met via zoom, exchanging views, hobbies and interests, sharing their experiences of the pandemic, ideas for human empowerment and global partnerships. The exchange programme has been going for over 20 years and is open to all senior school students. It is hoped it can happen in person again during the Easter break in 2022.

## Students raise funds for MHESS and Christians Against Poverty

At the end of the Lent term, a group of Sixth Form students, led by Elin Jones (Year 13), organised an Easter egg raffle to raise awareness about MHESS (Mental health at Ellesmere Support System), the support available at school and to raise funds for further training and activities for pupils. £233 was raised and has been divided equally between MHESS and CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

We would like to thank everybody who supported Elin and our team of medical staff with this fund raiser including Mr Wignall who helped draw the results, Sue Hinks for costumes and display boards and Tesco and Co-op in Ellesmere who very kindly donated Easter Eggs for the raffle.



Mental Health at Ellesmere Support System (MHESS) is an initiative that is led by Year 13 student, Elin Jones, a team of Sixth Formers and Alex Murphy, Director of Rugby, all supported by our qualified team of medical staff. The scheme is designed to raise awareness about general mental health and wellbeing for students, as well as the problems associated with the tighter restrictions students have been facing during these unprecedented times of Covid. The group are in the process of creating a multi-layered support structure with lots of options for our pupils.

Having a student support team provides an approachable source of guidance for students that acts as a stepping stone between pupils and staff. It's difficult to understand the risks to mental health - something which can creep up on you without being aware of it, which is what prompted the launch of the scheme. Problems can arise in several ways, including anxiety, stress and depression so we must do everything we can to safeguard the health of our students. The support system will monitor, help and advise while raising awareness of the risks to people who are having to deal with every day issues as well as the increased isolation we are all facing at this time.

## The richness of languages at Ellesmere

Sixth Form languages may be declining nationally, but here at Ellesmere the interest from our Sixth Form students in the languages we offer, and in the cognitive benefits and transferrable skills that languages bring, remains strong at both A Level and with the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme.

Edward Paul, an Upper Sixth student, has recently accepted a place at Newcastle University and is looking forward to studying for a BA in Linguistics with Spanish. Edward says: "Having previously lived in Argentina and India, I have grown up with an awareness of different cultures and the richness of languages. I believe foreign languages act as the perfect gateway to experiencing a wealth of cultures, and studying them to a high level allows you to broaden your mind. The British Council recently listed the top ten languages that should be studied to safeguard the UK's future prosperity and global importance, and Spanish was ranked at number one. My university course will therefore put me in an ideal position for a range of suitable careers that will allow me to experience life in different countries, and to enjoy a rewarding career when I finish my studies. I am very appreciative of all that my subject teachers have done to promote language-learning and global matters whilst I was in Sixth Form, and I have also enjoyed being part of a diverse international school during my Sixth Form years."



At Ellesmere we wholeheartedly believe in the benefits of foreign language acquisition, a belief that has put us ahead of the curve. The advantages for business, travel and cultural intelligence are obvious but there are also the cognitive benefits of language acquisition, along with the sheer fun of learning something new.

We wish Edward all the best as he moves on to university.



# A tribute to former Headmaster Ian Beer on his 90th birthday

On 28th April we celebrated former Headmaster, Ian Beer's, 90th birthday.

Cambridge educated, Ian joined Ellesmere as a very young Headmaster in 1961, aged only 29 years. He and his new wife, Angela, made the move up to Shropshire from Marlborough College where Ian had served for five and a half years and was a Housemaster.

Reform-minded Ian quickly set about making vast changes at the College starting with the reduction of corporal punishment, a form of discipline that had been used by Masters and Prefects alike for many years. Against the odds he successfully educated an entire community on alternative ways of disciplining pupils which proved much more effective than a cane.

Ian made changes within the Common Room at a time when there was no retirement age. Many of the older Masters were replaced with younger teachers, helping the College in the transition from an old-style public school to a modern independent school. For the first time, the happiness of the pupils was put at the forefront of their education which provided a much more positive environment for them to learn in. Something that remains in the College's ethos to this day.

The 'Great Fire' of 1966 took place during Ian's Headship, an evening that he would never forget. Following a visit to London, he and Angela returned to Ellesmere in the early evening to be greeted by a huge pall of black smoke. Sadly, the Chapel, Dining Hall, House playrooms, domestic quarters and kitchens had burnt down and smoke was still pouring out of the College's beautiful red brick buildings. Fortunately, nobody was hurt and, once the fire was under control, Ian set about managing the situation so that pupils could remain in school. After making some calls to some senior military contacts, Ian held a 2am meeting with his team of soldiers; field kitchens were set up on the golf course and breakfast was served at 7.15am, meals were served three times a day from here until a temporary dining room was set up in the gymnasium. There was no disruption to the boys' school routine and not a lesson was missed.

Before leaving the College for a Headship at Lancing College, Ian saw the opening of the newly built chapel in May 1969.

Ian was the Head of Lancing College from 1969 to 1981 when he left to be the Headmaster of Harrow. He remained at Harrow until his retirement in 1991.

Ian has continued a close bond with each of the schools throughout his retirement. In 1992, he was appointed a CBE in recognition of his services to education.

In addition to an impressive teaching career, Ian was also a talented Rugby player, representing the Cambridge Blues from 1952-1954 and being capped for England twice in 1954. Following his retirement, he was President of the RFU in 1993-1994.

To mark Ian's 80th birthday, former Director of External Relations, Nick Pettingale, created the Ian Beer Rugby Scholarship at Ellesmere College with support from College staff and Old Ellesmerians. The award supported two aspiring rugby players, Colin Dickson (Meynell '13) and Mathew Kinney (Meynell '15), through Sixth Form enabling them to continue their studies whilst receiving excellent Rugby coaching.



# Post Sixth Form Internship opportunities

Former Ellesmere College student, Alex Lovén, founder and CEO of successful international business, Net World Sports, is offering Sixth Form students the opportunity of an internship with his company.

The business internship is based at Net World Sports' Head Office in Wrexham and runs for a period of 12 months. The programme has been created as an alternative to higher education, giving Ellesmere College students the opportunity to gain practical work experience across several different departments; from sales to customer services, web development and accounts, or logistics and marketing.



Josie Evans left Ellesmere in July 2020 in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, and decided to defer her place to study Physiotherapy at Liverpool University to gain some workplace experience and to help her decide whether or not university, or indeed physiotherapy, was the path she would like to follow. Josie was Net World's first post Sixth Form Intern, with Daniel Cooper, current Head Boy, taking on the opportunity from September.

We visited Alex and Josie at Net World Sports and asked Josie about her experience as an intern;

## What made you decide to take an internship?

Mainly because I didn't feel the same excitement about going to university as my friends did. Whilst others were keen to talk about their offers and courses, I was more intent on getting some experience by working in a business. Something holding me back was that I wasn't 100% set on my university course, so getting an internship offered me the ability to try out a few roles before making the big decision of which career route to go down.

## Tell us about your time at Net World Sport.

When I joined Net World, I started off in Customer Services, then moved to the Content Team before transitioning into the Product Team. In CS, I was taught how to use NAV (the computer system) and I got to see how the products we sell are received by the customer whilst helping with any issues or queries. To help create effective listings, the Content Team ties in with Marketing and eCommerce, so in this department I was shown how to use SEO techniques when writing content for the Website, Amazon, and eBay platforms. Within this rotation, I also got to experience going on a photoshoot, witnessing the 'behind the scenes' as well as being in some images for a four-person paddleboard listing. My role in the Product Team was also new to me; I was given freedom to carry out market research and source suppliers for a new product range and I also helped with daily sales reports and garden furniture samples. As each has been so different and I have enjoyed the variety.

## Has the experience shaped your decisions on future career / study choices?

This internship has helped me to identify the different parts of a job which I like, and those which I can't see myself pursuing. As the internship has progressed, I have gained confidence in my choice of university course, Physiotherapy, and I believe this is down to feeling satisfied in having tried out other jobs before following this route.

## Have you learnt anything unexpected?

Not everything I have learnt has been computer skills; I have also had hands-on opportunities including honing my drill skills when assembling wooden garden furniture and even working as a picking operative in the warehouse for a day. For a taste of HR experience, I got to sit in on an interview, and I developed my spreadsheet skills through using Excel regularly. From being on the Customer Service side of LiveChat, to writing a Darts Buyer's Guide, to researching different types of steel, I feel I have picked up plenty of life skills and random knowledge along the way.

## What advice would you give to students considering an internship?

I would personally recommend it. Not only will it look great on your CV, but an internship lets you gain valuable experience whilst earning some savings at the same time. Due to the nature of an internship, you get the chance to explore different roles without a great deal of pressure on you. It is also a great way to get used to being professional in a workplace as well as to grow in maturity and self-confidence.

We wish Josie and Daniel the best of luck in their future endeavours and thank Alex and the team at Net World Sport for their continued support.

# Doodle Boy, Jo Whale, joins Ellesmere with the Adlard Art Scholarship



Online sensation 'Doodle Boy' – aka Joe Whale – who joined Ellesmere College on an art scholarship awarded by internationally renowned artist Charlie Adlard, finally managed to meet Charlie at the College this term.

Joe Whale, from Shrewsbury, took his place at Ellesmere in the spring and has eagerly taken advantage of the opportunities available. Joe was one of 11 students, including his brother Jesse, who joined us – and had the opportunity to finally meet Charlie to chat about his art and the Scholarship in the Adlard Studio.

Joe, 11, was dubbed 'The Doodle Boy' for always doodling in class and became a social media sensation when pictures of his sketch books were posted on Instagram. He now gives online advice and tutorials through his own dedicated social media platforms, has appeared on USA TV show, NBC's 'Little Big Shots', and is having his first book published this autumn.

Charlie Adlard, the artist for The Walking Dead comics and former Comic Laureate, has also funded the new Adlard Art Studio at the College providing a higher platform to showcase some of the excellent art work created by Sixth Form students. He said: "I am delighted to see Joe awarded the Scholarship – he is a prodigious talent and one already recognised by many admirers who are following his story online. It's a great opportunity for him and I wish him well at Ellesmere College.

"It's exciting for me to be able to award a Scholarship and I will be watching Joe's progress with interest. I am particularly impressed with him wanting to begin his journey at the College mid-term – it just shows how keen he is to get started!"

Siobhan Phillips, Head of Art at Ellesmere College, said: "We are thrilled to see Joe awarded the Charlie Adlard Scholarship. It's fully deserved and we look forward to helping Joe develop his artistic potential over his time at the College – it's a marvellous opportunity for him and I would like to thank Charlie for making it possible."

# Old Ellesmerians represent Team GB at Tokyo

We are incredibly proud of three former Ellesmere College Titans who have recently returned from representing Team GB in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Freya Anderson, Hector Pardoe and Cassie Wild battled their way through the British Swimming Selection Trials to secure their places on the team, fulfilling their lifelong dreams to compete in the Olympics.

Freya (Woodard '19) competed in the Women's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay, achieving 5th place in the final, and reached the semi-finals for the 100m Freestyle with an excellent time of 0.53.53, and the 200m Freestyle at 1.57.10.

In addition, Freya stepped in for Anna Hopkin in the Mixed 4 x 100m Heats alongside Adam Peaty, James Guy and Kathleen Dawson, achieving a combined time of 3.38.75. The quartet beat the European Record and were only 0.34 seconds outside of the World Record. Freya was replaced by Anna in the final when the foursome went on to win Gold. Although Freya was denied a place on the podium she later received her well-earned Gold medal after the official ceremony.

Hector (Woodard '19) had an eventful race where he had to retire on the final lap of his 10k open water swim following an incident where he was elbowed in the eye, resulting in him requiring medical attention.

Hector had a very impressive swim, managing to get himself within the top ten before encountering his injury. This illustrates the sheer brutality of open water swimming and its potential risks.

Cassie (Talbot '18), competed in the Backstroke 100m and 200m, finishing her competition in the heats with an impressive 1.00.20 for her 100m performance and 2.12.93 for her 200m.

These amazing achievements are just the start for our three young Old Ellesmerians, who were much younger and inexperienced than the other competitors in their field. We can't wait to see them competing in Paris in 2024, the world really is there oyster!





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