



Mr A Coupe
Director of Music
Email: tony.coupe@ellesmere.com

Ellesmere

A 7-18 Coeducational School

3rd August 2023

Dear Parent,

At the start of this year, I met with the new Provost of Woodard, Justin White, and proposed an exciting project for our students to meet and sing with choirs from other Woodard Schools. I am delighted to announce that Ellesmere will be hosting this weekend-long event from 6th – 8th October and Woodard have provided a very generous bursary to cover much of the cost involved.

You will see the main timings and events on the attached flyer. Students from other schools will be staying at The Quinta in Gobowen but as our students do not require accommodation, my plan is to use minibuses from school to take our students to and from The Quinta for the evening socials. I will write with more specific timings in due course.

This is a great opportunity for our Chapel Choir to perform alongside about 150 singers, learning and performing music at both Shrewsbury Abbey and in our Chapel. It is also the first main opportunity to perform this year. Rehearsals will focus on technique, tone and learning repertoire. Outside of rehearsals there will be opportunities to get know the other students with social events and activities ranging from BBQs to Ceilidhs to quizzes.

For parents of new students in Years 9 – 13, the Chapel Choir is a non-auditioned choir made up of 40 – 50 students who lead Chapel Services and perform concerts throughout the year. If your son/daughter enjoys singing, Chapel Choir will provide excellent training and lots of great performance opportunities.

At this stage, could I please ask you to do the following:

1. Fill in and return the slip at the bottom of this letter either by emailing me back or sending the return slip to school marked for my attention. There is a small charge of £25 to cover costs throughout the weekend which can be added to the termly bill.
2. Add the dates of 6th – 8th October to your calendar – students will be either rehearsing or socialising Friday (afternoon and evening), Saturday (all day and evening) and Sunday morning.
3. Join us at the Evensong or Eucharist, or both to experience the coming together of the 'Voices of Woodard'.

Many thanks and I hope that you are enjoying the Summer holidays.

Best wishes,

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

Ellesmere College Ltd is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406

Voices of Woodard

A Choral Weekend in Shropshire
Friday 6th – Sunday 8th October 2023



Our Aims

A gathering of singers from across our family of Woodard Schools to learn a little of the sacred choral repertoire, to perform it in a liturgical context, and to bring that performance material back to our respective schools.

Our Draft Schedule



Arrive at **Ellesmere College**
12.00pm, Friday 6th October
for lunch and rehearsals

Choral Evensong at **Shrewsbury Abbey**
(5.30pm – TBC), Saturday 7th October
(Friends and families are most welcome to attend)

Sung Eucharist at **St Oswald's Chapel, Ellesmere College**
11.00am on Sunday 8th October
(Friends and families are most welcome to attend)



Sung Compline by Candlelight
Friday & Saturday nights

Depart from **Ellesmere College**
After lunch, Sunday 8th October

Evening Entertainment

The **Quinta Conference & Retreat Centre, Oswestry**

BBQ
and meals
supplied by
Gracious Catering



Ceilidh
led by the
Tern Valley Tinkers

Fiendish Quiz Night
devised by
The Woodard Senior Provost

Cost

£25/head

(Thanks to a grant from the Woodard Corporation Board)
(Financial assistance/subsidies available on request)



Voices of Woodard Return Slip

Please respond by 19th September 2023

For the attention of Tony Coupe at tony.coupe@ellesmere.com (or in paper form)

My son/daughter _____ **will/will not*** be able to take part in the Voices of Woodard weekend from 6th – 8th October. I understand that they will be involved in rehearsals, performances and social activities on Friday 6th in the evening, throughout Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th in the morning. I understand that £25 will be added to my termly bill to cover costs.

I will collect my son/daughter from **The Quinta / College*** on **Friday evening**.

I will collect my son/daughter from **The Quinta / College*** on **Saturday evening**.

Please note that my son/daughter has the following **food allergies**:

My **emergency contact number** for the weekend will be: _____

Signed: _____

Name: _____

*Please delete as appropriate

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