



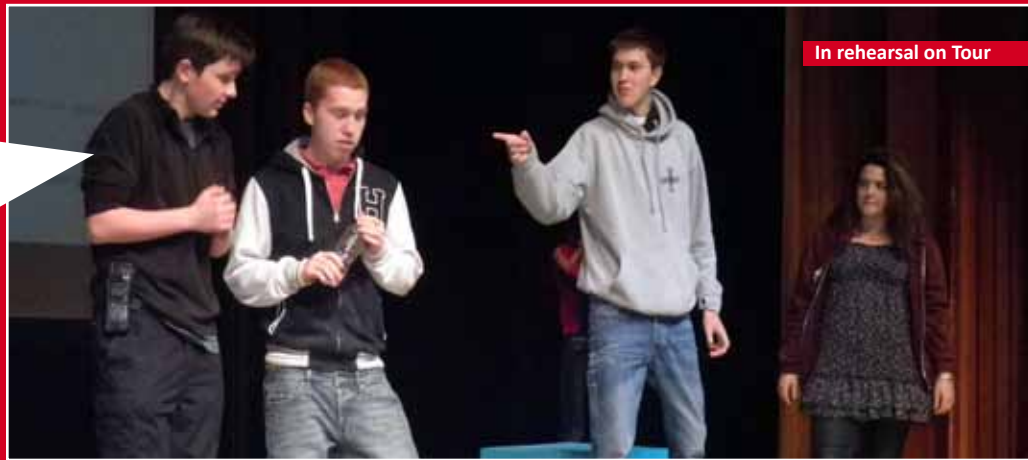
Ellesmere | news

SUMMER TERM 2011



Senior School Play 2011

'Crichton' in Ellesmere... and the USA



In rehearsal on Tour

In March this year senior school students were able to present a world premiere of a modern 'reimagining' of J M Barrie's classic play 'The Admirable Crichton'.

Ellesmere commissioned a new updated version of the play from young Playwright, Andy Hutchings, son of the play's director, Mrs Margaret Hutchings.

Working with a brand new script which was specifically written with them in mind proved a new experience for the cast drawn from Years 10 to Lower Sixth, but they rose to the challenge admirably and created a believable and very entertaining performance, now set in the narcissistic world of reality television and celebrity culture. Lewis Allsop played the long-suffering Crichton with understated charm, tolerating with patience his boss, the publicity obsessed media mogul, Mr Loam, played by Rory Maclean with

excellent comic physicality. The fame hungry contestants of 'The Dream Machine' talent show were skilfully brought to life by Luke Taylor, Luca Kuhn, Jenny Griffiths and Sarah Richardson, and they, together with the Show's embittered presenter, played by Paul Scull, showed off the costume making skills of College Housekeeper, Mrs Sue Hinks, assisted by Mrs Janet Owen, in their 'back to basics' island transformation. Meanwhile Matt Johnson and Vicky Tadros took on the role of comic villains beautifully as big name celebrity Mike Hurst and his long suffering PA. Becky Dale, Lower Sixth IB Theatre Studies student, demonstrated her range of acting skills from singing a comic song to winning the audience's sympathy when the man she loves rejects her. Year 11 David Whitehead also proved his worth as an excellent Stage Manager, taking responsibility for all the technical aspects of the show.



Crichton in performance



Lewis Allsop signing autographs



Visiting the Mayflower II

The actors were ably supported by a team of dancers trained by Miss Amy Darrant, Head of Physics, who also added operating the sound desk to her usual role as 'prop supplier in chief'. The play ran for three nights in Ellesmere, gaining in confidence and pace each night, but then, rather than enjoying a rest, cast, director and crew packed up and headed for Heathrow to enjoy a ten day tour of Boston, USA, during the Easter holidays. This was part of our regular exchange programme with Tabor Academy on the coast of Massachusetts, where the students stayed whilst performing in local schools, attending lessons and sports and taking in the sights of part of the States so steeped in history.

After a brief stay in the city of Boston itself for more shopping and sightseeing, students and teachers returned home, exhausted but very happy. As Margaret Hutchings commented: 'This is a rare and important opportunity for our students to experience taking a drama production on the road and living with it for longer than is normal in school. We are really grateful to everyone who supported the production and made it possible, and particularly of course to our friends at Tabor Academy for their kindness and hospitality.'



Actors recreate the life of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plimoth Plantation



Learning about the Wampanoag Indian Culture



Enhance Ellesmere

This year's 'Enhance Ellesmere' scheme to direct donations towards specific College projects is proving a huge success. 'Although we need a further £10,000 to complete the projects on the Enhance Ellesmere website, we have got off to a flying start,' commented Nick Pettingale, Director of Development.

"New equipment for almost every department across the curriculum seems to arrive daily at the College, and I am starting to feel a little like Father Christmas as I tell the Common Room of the latest addition, funded by these generous gifts. As well as the projects, there are three new scholarships in place, which will provide 50% of day fees for talented students and those who would not be able to access an Ellesmere education without the fantastic support of our donors".

"I know that in these tough financial times giving might seem a stretch, but, whether equipment or scholarships, your generosity makes such a difference to our students and their education.

I also believe in honouring and recognising this generosity and so at the end of the year we will publish our annual review with the names of our donors and the projects that are completed".

You can visit the College website and give by credit card or download a donation form from: www.enhance-ellesmere.com

The accumulation of all donations, whether large or small, makes a huge difference to Ellesmere College, so thank you on behalf of our students and staff.



New outdoor table tennis tables bring more fun to Lower School break



New biology equipment

Modelling the Landscape

A modelling competition open to all Year 7 was recently held in the Geography Department.

The brief was to make a scale model of a landscape presented to students as a flat map. In other words they had to show what the map would look like in the field if they were out for a walk.

A great many entries of all shapes and sizes arrived in school during the Lent Term. Some were made of wood, others from card or even polystyrene and paper mache. They filled the floor space of the Geography Office!

Mr. Baggaley had a difficult time deciding on a winner from each class, but eventually came to a decision and prizes were awarded at Lower School Assembly.



The winners: Jack Bacon, Caro Hulme, Georgina Freer-Carmichael, Harry Pockin

Young Biologists Highly Commended



Year 11 students Mark McBrien and Joe Haigh were delighted to receive fourth place and a 'Highly Commended' in a recent national competition run by the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee. Schools across the country had to submit designs for a webpage informing the public on the importance of fungi in everyday life. Mark and Joe researched the contribution made to medicine by the cordyceps subsessilis fungus, which feeds on scarab beetles and from which is obtained the immunosuppressant drug cyclosporin, an essential part of treatment for organ transplant patients.

Woodard Oxford Master Classes

Each year up to eighty sixth form students from Woodard schools all over the country are invited to Oxford for a series of Master Classes to help further their academic interests and ambition. During the Easter break in 2011 Caroline Hayes and Christian Cieslik joined the Biology course and James Morrison was a member of the History group.

The students spent three days at Trinity College attending seminars and also having the opportunity to experience something of the undergraduate lifestyle. There was a chance to visit the Biology department of the University and the Ashmolean Museum, the oldest public museum in the world. These are not revision classes but sessions aimed at challenging the intellectual imagination of students.



Christian Cieslik, James Morrison and Caroline Hayes with Head of Sixth Form, Mr Philip Wood.

Director of Development, Nick Pettingale, visits retired Domestic Bursar, Anne Gray.



Anne and the boys with St Oswald's Foundation Stone

Anne started her working life driving an ambulance for the Royal Navy for the last two years of World War II, but had left to join the school during the year of the great fire in 1966. Appointed by Ian Beer and recruited by the then Bursar, Anne described those first few, difficult terms, living in the room that is now my office and walking into school every day through the ashes of the Chapel and Dining Hall. Difficult too, because she entered a school that was so very different from the school of today with practices that were hung over from a Victorian era and often perpetuated by a Common Room which was totally male dominated (and single male at that). So, even though Anne was responsible for looking after masters' rooms, the boys' dorms and was asked to 'oversee' the 'most difficult' boys, she was not allowed to enter the Common Room and had to queue with the boys outside to have a word with a particular teacher. One of those 'difficult boys' stole and crashed her car on one occasion, breaking his front teeth in the process.

As well as looking after the domestic staff, overseeing the kitchens, managing the workmen who maintained the buildings and handling her fair share of 'show rounds' for prospective parents, Anne still found time to drag boys up the Welsh mountains on outdoor training, manage the Scout Troop and teach a few Sixth Formers a spot of ballroom dancing.

One memorable story was when Anne joined staff and students in 1984 to run from Lindisfarne to Ellesmere, carrying the foundation stone for St Oswald's, the new girls' boarding house. The stone, weighing some 21lbs, was carried in turn by boys along a route that followed in the footsteps of St Oswald [see photo]. It took 10 days to accomplish, with Anne driving ahead of the team to prepare food and the odd church floor for an evening's rest. Eventually the 'blessed' stone was delivered to the College to be greeted by the whole school lining the drive, cheering and clapping and the Head serving champagne to the weary team of runners.

Anne served three Headmasters, Beer, Skipper and Maidment, and an equal number of bursars, but in the end followed Ted Maidment to Shrewsbury School for the final couple of years of her career. Of course a woman like Anne Gray doesn't actually stop and retire. Today you can find her working at The Ark in Shrewsbury, cooking and serving lunch for the homeless and the vulnerable, breaking up fights and counselling those who need a 'Mum' – so no change there then?

Have you joined the Parents' Society?

Parent and Chair, Amanda Venner, writes:

The Ellesmere College Parents' Society hosts a variety of social events for parents, staff, family and friends throughout the year and also meet regularly in College during term time, mainly to chat, eat and drink, but also to arrange forthcoming events.

Parents' Society is a wonderful place to exchange ideas and experiences, while working hard to organise our events (and we just so happen to have a great deal of fun at the same time!). As well as days out together, ECPS organises and hosts events as varied as our grand annual Winter Balls and Ladies' Luncheons, as well as smaller events such as our annual Quiz Night, Christmas decorating days, themed discos for the younger children, coffee mornings and afternoon teas. We also fundraise for beloved charities in the process.

We'd be delighted to see as many parents as possible at the Lunch & Champagne Tasting afternoon next September, as this is always a really lovely way for us all to welcome in the new school year. Please check the College calendar for Parents' Society events and the dates and times of our regular monthly meetings which are usually held on Friday afternoons – alternatively, please contact me if you have any ideas or questions. We're always excited to be able to welcome new parents and just as delighted to see familiar faces!

Amanda Venner (on behalf of ECPS) e-mail: amanda.venner@btinternet.com



Oswestry Music Festival 2011

At this Spring's Oswestry Music Festival, Ellesmere College was the best represented School and Roger Paul, Director of Music, his team of music teachers and the pupils were able to celebrate some of their best ever results. Many individual pupils took part in a variety of classes and age ranges, and achieved an impressive 15 first places.

The Ellesmere College Scholars' Ensemble won the Churchtown Trophy for their performance in the Instrumental Ensemble class, 18 and under, whilst the Ellesmere College String Group achieved 2nd place in the Chamber Music class, 18 and under.

The Senior School Chapel Choir won the Harry Moore – Bridger Memorial Cup for the 3rd year running for their performance in the Youth Choir – 21 and under class. Commenting on the Choir's success, Roger Paul said, 'After much rehearsing together, the choir members' hard work resulted in a performance which impressed their audience with communication and enthusiasm in their singing.'

However, it was Year 11 pupil, and talented cello player, John Paul, who went on to win a further two prizes, returning to school with the John Cassin Memorial Trophy for the String Solo – 21 and under, the Shelia C. Freeman

Regional Prize for cello playing and finally becoming the Overall Senior Festival Winner, being presented with the Oswestry and District Town Council Cup and receiving a £200 bursary.



John Paul, who was awarded the overall winner's prize



Some of our outstanding Lower School Musicians:
BACK ROW: Isabel Ward, Will Ainge, Richard Walsh, Caro Hulme, Elizabeth Walsh FRONT: Lily Wilson, Oliver Smith

Maths Masters

Recently a group of the best Middle School Mathematicians at Ellesmere College took part in the annual Intermediate Mathematics Challenge held in many schools around the UK.



This year Ellesmere College pupils excelled themselves by achieving 6 Golds, 13 Silvers and 11 Bronzes, our best results ever in this competition. Three of the pupils qualified for the next stage of the competition. They were Year 9 pupils, Beatrice Roberts and Muang Luanghvisut, as well as Year 11 pupil, Hannah Clarke. The other Gold winners were John Paul, William Johnson and Luke Taylor. The Silver awardees were Joseph Hughes, Rebecca Neary and David Powell, all in Year 9, Emily Palmer in Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, Samuel Dapling, Louis Chaudron, Matthew Dewhirst, Robert Gereke, Joseph Haigh, Bethany Lyttle, Andrew Main, Mark McBrien and Dominic Simpson.

The Bronze awardees were Year 9 pupils, Anouska Gwilliam, Richard Lay and Hannah Miles, as well as Year 11 pupils, Yum Cheng, Alex Eaton, Lucia Jones, Le Cu Tung Lam, Ant Manawongsakul, Georgina Ottaway, Joachim Pescod and David Whitehead.

University Abroad?



Mr Wood with Niko Wojtynia

With competition for university courses becoming more intense and uncertainty still over the level of tuition fees, it is not surprising that Ellesmerians are beginning to examine opportunities further afield.

Students have always been careful to research options for courses and locations. In recent years candidates have been accepted at UK universities as far ranging as Aberdeen to Plymouth and Aberystwyth to East Anglia.

Last year half a dozen candidates were accepted by universities in the Netherlands. The British press has recently contained several articles looking at specific advantages which might be gained. In order to find out for himself, Head of Sixth Form, Philip Wood, recently visited an OE, Niko Wojtynia, now studying a

Law and Politics course in Utrecht. Lectures are all in English and there are apparently over a thousand courses at Dutch universities taught entirely in the English language. Tuition fees are about €1700 a year (with living costs and the standard of accommodation about the same as in the UK). Universities like Leiden and Maastricht pride themselves on their academic traditions and standards. Utrecht offers particularly impressive library facilities and Niko himself identifies three main advantages to studying in the Netherlands: academically outstanding programmes; a cosmopolitan environment and global outlook; interesting young people from all over Europe. It may not be for everyone but, for those open-minded enough, the Dutch option could be of increasing attraction to future sixth formers.



Anne receiving the good wishes of the Headmaster, Brendan Wignall, and Director of Finance, Nick Howarth.

Farewell to Mrs Knowles

College recently said a fond farewell to the School Shop Manager, Mrs Anne Knowles, who retired after 28 years in post.

Anne arrived at Ellesmere College in 1971 as the wife of a new master, who subsequently became Derry Housemaster, then the School's house for day boys. Her first few years were taken up supporting her husband in his role, flower arranging, making play costumes and serving match teas, whilst bringing up her two sons, Paul and Toby, who are Old Ellesmerians. It was in 1983 that she took over the role as the School Shop Manager, when it sold both clothes and tuck for the pupils.

The School presented Anne with life-time membership of the Ellesmere College Golf Club and a cheque. Teachers assembled on the last day of term to bid their farewell to her and she received some silverware and crystal sherry glasses from them. Her round of retirement celebrations ended with a reception led by Nick Howarth, Director of Finance, with many of her colleagues past and present.

SPEAKING OUT

Ellesmere has always placed great emphasis on developing its students' oral abilities, for example offering debating opportunities for all pupils from Year 3 upwards. Lower School and Senior School Debating Clubs meet weekly and pupils are encouraged to take English Speaking Board examinations as they progress through the School. This term students have enjoyed success in speaking activities both at home and further afield:

Model United Nations

Eleven Sixth Form students from Ellesmere College travelled to Holland recently to participate in the internationally represented Model United Nations and debate the current worldwide challenge related to food production.

Over 200 students from around the World came together for a realistic simulation of the United Nations, with the final day of debates being held in the United Nations Peace Palace in The Hague with the Ellesmere College team representing the countries of Cuba, France and Japan.

The simulation lasted for three days and the Ellesmere College group was truly international with four English students, Christian Cieslik, Dominick Coppinger, Rory Maclean and Charlotte Petrie participating alongside Viktoria Schaeff and Jan Wollenhaupt from Germany, Andrei Draghici and Vlad Dumitrescu from Romania, Artyom Drobysch, from Russia, Yvegen Zaliesskii from Ukraine and Minh Doan from Vietnam.



Enjoying the cosmopolitan atmosphere of The Hague

The International Baccalaureate Coordinator at the School, Dr. Ian Tompkins, added, 'The Model United Nations event embraces the ethos of the IB Diploma that is offered at Ellesmere since it focuses on fostering understanding and cooperation amongst students from around the world.'



English Speaking Board Results



This year our Sixth Form students have achieved extremely high grades in the Advanced Certificate in Spoken English Examination run by the English Speaking Board, with 32 (75%) candidates achieving either Distinction or top Merits.

Head of English at Ellesmere College, Stephen Purcell, commented, 'We are very proud of our senior students' performance in their ESB exams: excellent examination results, success in public speaking competitions and the dynamic performance programme in Arena Arts provide the perfect context for ambitious achievements in oral communication.'

Twelve students who participated in the external examination received the top grade of distinction. They were: Angus Cross, Michael Finnemore, Jennifer Griffiths, Victoria von Hoven, David Jarvis, Bethany Lyttle, Matthew Macintosh, Rory Maclean, William Mapstone, Sophie Osborne, George Shelley and Sarah Richardson. Stephen Purcell added, 'The students have been through an extremely rigorous procedure, working in a group for an entire day under the scrutiny of an examiner. They were tested in just about every conceivable aspect of oral communication from individual presentations to group discussions. These exams are a wonderful foundation for the skills demanded by higher education and life beyond. Our pupils have shown very special abilities as communicators.'

Lower Sixth Form student, Vicky von Hoven, shares her

Lessons from Auschwitz 2011



Vicky von Hoven and Caroline Hayes at the gates of Auschwitz Camp

Just before Christmas, the Lower Sixth was given the opportunity to go to Auschwitz and Caroline Hayes and I both felt that this was something we could not miss out on. It would be a memory of a lifetime, and indeed it has allowed us to appreciate the chances that are thrown at us in life. We learnt from the trip about humanity through the inhumane, the value of freedom and also identifying that those who were involved in the Holocaust were individuals just like ourselves.

Before we actually left for Poland, we went to a seminar to help us get mentally prepared for what we were about to experience and to share our expectations with the people we'd spend the rest of the project with. The initial seminar also allowed us to hear a testimony from a Holocaust survivor, Zigi Shipper – a truly sensational man with no drive for revenge.

When the day arrived, it was a very early start with a 5am check in at Birmingham Airport. The Lessons from Auschwitz Project aims to take two students from every school in the UK, promoting the idea that 'hearing is not like seeing'. Travelling through the camps was a very emotional and disturbing experience that will not be easily forgotten. Auschwitz 1 had exhibitions of personal belongings seized by the Nazi's, including the shocking images of personalised suitcases, glasses and shoes, whereas Auschwitz-Birkenau (the infamous extermination camp) was empty. 'We learn from history that we do not learn from history.' This proved all too true with our trip. At Auschwitz 1, it was what we saw that shocked us the most and at Auschwitz-Birkenau it was what we didn't see. Auschwitz-Birkenau had a huge impact on both of us, with its desolate area surrounded by trees and even houses nearby. Knowing that the victims we learned of walked the same ground I did to their death is chilling, but allows your perspective on life to change.

At dusk Rabbi Barry Marcus – who had accompanied us on the trip - gave a very moving memorial service at the end of the day, just yards away from gas chambers where a minimum of 1.1 million people were murdered. He told us that if we were to hold a minute's silence for each victim, we would have been standing in the bitter wind for three years. Darkness fell and we, along with the other 200 students, left candles at the end of the railway track, trying to process what we had been witnessing all day. It makes you realise that we've been learning about the Holocaust and events and factors that led to it and you look at all these statistics and numbers. But when you come here you realise that those numbers were people, with families and lives and futures.

With Auschwitz happening over 60 years ago, it's inevitable that there aren't going to be any survivors left to educate children as to what happened in years to come. To have a first hand knowledge of the place and seeing it for ourselves, would benefit students' learning, as they would hear it from a person and not just read an extract from a text book. In order to promote awareness of this, we are going to a primary school in the local area to teach them what we learnt from the trip and also we want to hold an event in the Summer Term to commemorate those individuals whose lives were stolen.





Tsunami Concert



Ami Takahashi

Following news of the disastrous tsunami and its impact on her home country of Japan, Ami Takahashi, a 2nd year International Baccalaureate student, persuaded friends to support her vision of a student-led concert which resulted in a memorable evening of entertainment and Japanese food.

The evening began by Emma Croall, British Red Cross Fundraiser for Shropshire, explaining the charity's current challenges in Japan and how the money raised during the evening would support the immediate need for the creation of 20,000 temporary homes for displaced Japanese citizens. A full house in the Arts Centre then enjoyed a varied

evening of contributions from the Senior Chapel Choir and individual musicians from all sections of the College, all of whom had volunteered their services to raise money for the appeal.

At the end of the evening Emma Croall presented Ami with a certificate of recognition for her fundraising efforts. Richard Boswell, Director of Performing Arts at Ellesmere College commented, 'Ami and her international team of fellow Sixth Form students have devised a much enjoyed programme of musical entertainment which has raised a significant amount of money for a very important cause.'



Karting Challenge

On a lovely evening in March twenty-five students from St Cuthbert's took part in a timed challenge at Rednal Karting near Oswestry. The participants were from all over the globe, with students from China, Germany, Spain and the UK. The group were split into two racing teams. The first team enjoyed a clear track and set off at a breakneck speed. Lucas Wiehofskey was seen to have done this before as he left the rest of the field standing. Some students had a leisurely drive around the track as it was their first time.

The students were awarded medals for first (Gold) Sam Owen, second (Silver) Lucas Wiehofskey and third (Bronze) Alex Owen for the fastest lap. A cup was awarded to Alex Owen for the fastest timed 15 laps.



The First Pupil at Ellesmere

Pippa Bullock (OE 1998) writes about Charlie Edward Edwards, the first ever Ellesmere pupil.

Here Sloane revisits Charlie's founding experience in his first volume entitled 'Charlie Edwards':

'The great day ultimately arrived. Father and mother were dressed all in their best, and no doubt the boys had a special polish. But the habits of farm life were not to be broken, even on so momentous an occasion. Everyone was up at dawn, and a very early start was made, father driving the whole

party in a pony and trap from Prees to Ellesmere. On the way a great deal of homely and sound advice was poured into four not too attentive ears, special emphasis being laid on civility towards the Headmaster... When Ellesmere was reached and the school duly located, the Edwards' party found that it had far outpaced any competitors. Charles and Tom were on the spot by 10.30 in the morning. As no other boys arrived until well in to the afternoon, the brothers claim to be original, foundation members of the school.'

This was to be one of the major boasts of Charlie's life; Sloane felt that he enjoyed his somewhat unchallengeable position. Whilst there is little record of Charlie's time at Ellesmere, other than reports that reveal him to be studious and diligent, he certainly held the school very close to his heart, frequently attending OE dinners and celebrations. Sloane goes on to describe how, as the

years elapsed, Charlie became one of only a small bunch of survivors of his year, until eventually he was the last (life longevity was a family trait), which tickled him further.

In life, Charlie was a true British eccentric, a hard working and devoted farmer, auctioneer and countryman with a thirst for adventure. He harboured a lifelong love of horse racing, owning, training and breeding many a famous horse, including the King's Gold Cup winner 'Timur'. Another great passion was politics, leading him to stand for Parliament in the 1945 general elections. Charlie was an avid campaigner, which is demonstrated by the vast correspondence that he fired off to the war agricultural committees and many other local and national publications. There are accounts of numerous lawsuits to which Charlie was enthusiastically attached. But perhaps his defining spirit is shown in his sense for adventure, captured when he set off in 1947 to travel the globe, which is recounted in E T Sloane's *Round the World at Seventy-Five*. Charlie's passion and keen sense of adventure are certainly inspiring, if unsurprising, attributes of Ellesmere's first pupil.

Pippa Bullock OE 1998

There may not be a multi-million pound empire or a Bugatti to show for my two years at Ellesmere [yet], but undoubtedly the OE's network has played a huge part in shaping my life to date. It's where I met my boyfriend and has literally led me to my current job and flat. For many reasons I'm proud to call myself an Old Ellesmerian. Not least for Ellesmere's reputation for producing colourful characters. A perfect example of this is Charlie Edward Edwards, who laid claim to being the first pupil through Ellesmere's gates in 1884.

I discovered Charlie via my brother-in-law, who proudly announced that his great grandfather was the founder pupil of Ellesmere College. Indeed Charlie Edwards was so proud of his time at the College and his subsequent life of adventure that he employed the services of Mr E T Sloane to chronicle his story in three separate publications.

BUSNET



The Ellesmere College community is made up of local, national and international connections through our Old Ellesmerians, our parents and the College Common Room. BusNet is an online directory of companies and businesses with an Ellesmere College connection. These will be owned or managed by a member of our Ellesmere community.

If you wish to register your company or business, look at the Development section of the College website.

Birthday Celebrations For *Ian Beer*



At the end of April College hosted a very special occasion in the form of a dinner to celebrate the 80th Birthday of past Headmaster, Mr Ian Beer CBE. Ian was a very young Headmaster when, in 1961, he became Head at Ellesmere at just 29 years old, with Angela, his wife, being even younger. In 1969 he went on to Lancing College and then to be Headmaster at Harrow from where he retired in 1991.

The evening began with a champagne reception followed by a superb four course dinner for the 116 guests, all interspersed with musical items from current students. Displays and memorabilia highlighted the 'great fire' which swept through the College Chapel and Dining Hall in 1966, as well as the many successful Old Ellesmerians who were educated during Ian's time at the school. For some guests, there was astonishment at the growth and changes at Ellesmere College as Mr Brendan Wignall, the current Headmaster, painted a picture of the school today and its vision for the future.



Ian Beer with Mrs Anne Wignall

Ian, having played rugby for Cambridge University and internationally for England, has remained passionate about the game and so Nick Pettingale, Director of Development, launched the 'Ian Beer Rugby Scholarship', a birthday gift from the staff and OE's which will support a Sixth Form boy in the School's Rugby Academy. But the night belonged to Ian, one of Ellesmere's best loved and progressive Headmasters, who still to this day continues to influence, as his Rugby Scholarship has the potential to change the life of a talented young rugby player over the next few years.

The feedback from OEs who attended the dinner has been so positive that we are planning a College Weekend on 21 and 22 April 2012, so look out for further details in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Lower School Perform

The Demon Headmaster



James Bateman



James Hadden, Taylor Arnold, Carro Hulme, Lottie Hulme, Isabel Ward and Georgina Freer-Carmichael

With no reference made to Mrs Owen or Mr Wignall, the Year 7 and 8 pupils presented the play *The Demon Headmaster*, adapted from the well-known book by Gillian Cross.

The story is about a Headmaster who hypnotises his pupils so they become like zombies and he then tries to use a television show to take over the world. However, a group of the pupils

prove resistant to his powers and they become his downfall.

The cast was made up of over thirty pupils and there were three performances over two nights, which were well supported. The children did themselves and the school proud with their hard work and enthusiasm, which was especially appreciated by the College staff involved in the production: Joanne Davies, Peta Fox and Helen Coney.

In May a squad of keen shooters travelled down to Bromsgrove to take part in the Worcestershire County Rifle Association Competition. As well as veteran shooters Ryan Williams, Luke Caldicott and Richie Lay, the team also included some members competing out of doors for the first time: Nia Squirrel, Scott Davies, Tom Gereke, Tom Powell.

Guided and encouraged by Shooting Coach, David Gregory, and teacher, Dagmar Lensing, the team battled with challenging weather conditions of changeable wind and light as well as regular showers. The 'greenhorns' quickly found their feet and everyone put in a first rate effort.

Ryan Williams took the 1st in the B Class Junior match and the Junior Prize, whilst Richie Lay was awarded 1st prize in the C Class, both with scores of 749 out of 800. Nia Squirrel came 3rd in the C Class and Nia and Tom Gereke also came first in the C Class pairs.



The Mighty Titans Continue to Flourish



Hector Smashes British Records

On Easter Sunday at the Ponds Forge International Pool, Sheffield, Hector Pardoe, aged 10, of Ellesmere College Titans, smashed the all time 10/u British 1500m Freestyle Long Course record in a time of 19:17.94.

Despite only having turned 10 a few weeks previously, Hector took nearly 10 seconds off the previous record of 19:27.73, which had been set back in 2009. This record adds to the 800m and 400m Freestyle and 200m Backstroke Long Course British Age Group Ranking records that Hector has previously set in the 9/u age category.

Commenting on his new record Hector said "After the race I felt fantastic – it's great to get the record so soon after turning 10." Hector is part of the highly successful Ellesmere College Titans training programme which enables some of the top young swimmers from all over the UK to train together whilst balancing their sporting and educational needs.

Poppy Selected for World Island Games

Titan Swimmer Poppy Evans has been selected to represent the Isle of Man at this Summer's forthcoming Nat West Island Games X1V which are being held on the Isle of Wight from the 25th June to 1st July.

The International Island Games were founded in the Isle of Man in 1985 and today include 25 member islands in, or associated with, the nine sovereign nations of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK, in addition to the islands of the Caribbean. The Islands come together every two years to compete in friendly competition in a range of up to 14 individual and team sports chosen by the respective host Island from an approved list of 18.

With around 4000 athletes from 25 member islands competing in 14 sports during the course of one week, the Isle of Wight NatWest Island Games 2011 is anticipated to be the largest games to date. It will certainly be the largest international multi-sport event ever held on the Island.

Poppy, aged 17, will be representing her home island in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke, 100m individual medley events and the 4 x 50m and 4 x 100m freestyle relays. We wish her every success!



Netball Success



Under 19 County Plate Champions (from left to right): Sian Gatenby, Viola Grosvenor, Sophie Halstead, Zoe Evans, Poppy Evans, (front row) Clara Edwards, Alex Brooks.

Netball has gone from strength to strength after winning three county or district tournaments last term. The 1st VII Netball team won the U19 North Shropshire Tournament in March. During the Tournament, across four games against other local schools, the team scored 49 goals, conceding just 6.

After a good season the U15s netball team went into the County Plate tournament feeling reasonably confident of success. They reached the semi final stages with wins of 12-8 over Corbet, 14-1 over Idsall and 13-6 over Oswestry.

The semi final against Priory was put beyond doubt with an excellent shooting display which enabled us to win 12-3. The final saw us meet Corbet again and the girls went out very focused and strong. Fluent attacking, coupled with a strong defence, enabled us to win 8-2 and take home the County Plate.

The U12s finished runners up in their group, narrowly losing out to Moor Park after displaying some excellent movement and passages of play down court. The girls dominated their semi-final match against Sundorne, winning 6-1 and setting up a final against Thomas Adams. As the day progressed, so did the girls' enjoyment and optimism and, after a great final, Ellesmere won 6-3 and were crowned U12 County Plate Champions.

Other successes over the term:

U12 North Shropshire Runners up

U13 Shropshire County Plate Runners Up U13 Rydal Plate Tournament Runners Up

Well done, girls!





Back Row L-R : Jack Baxter, Mike Finnemore

Middle Row L-R: Matthew Macintosh, Bryn Phillips,

Will Goodwin, Tom King, George Baxter, Ross Mackaill, Iwan Phillips

Front Row L-R: Adam King, Oliver Brereton, Kieran Pinches

RUGBY SEVENS' STORMING SEASON

This year's rugby season has proved to be an outstanding one for the College Sevens' Squad, who won both the Christ College, Brecon, and the North of England Rugby Sevens' Tournaments against some very tough opposition.

After a gruelling six weeks of rugby preparation and demanding fitness based sessions, the Ellesmere College 1st 7's team travelled down to Brecon on Saturday 26th February to participate in the Christ College Sevens' Tournament. Both the group and knock out stages proved to be a steep learning experience for Ellesmere, but they emerged triumphant over some fine teams, including the Christ College 1sts.

The Tournament's quarterfinals saw Ellesmere pitted against a successful King's Worcester team. At this point Ellesmere were now comfortable in their style of play and were able to keep the ball for long periods of time, holding off the opposition to a 26-15 win. The Semi Final against Plymouth was perhaps one of the best displays of 7's rugby seen at the Tournament, with Ellesmere keeping the ball and scoring from anywhere on the pitch, and leading to a resounding 0-30 victory. Tired, battered and bruised the Ellesmere players took the field for one last battle against previous winners, Llandovery College, which proved to be another epic game, with Ellesmere's superior fitness leading

them emerge as Champions after a 26-5 win.

After only a week's respite the squad then travelled to Birkenhead to compete in North England Sevens competition. Progressing comfortably through the early stages, including a 53-0 win against St Anselm's School, and a 51-0 win against Stonyhurst College, the boys then found themselves facing the formidable team from Sedbergh School. This proved a tougher challenge, and the game was much tighter, with Ellesmere only achieving victory by a well crafted try in the final minutes to win 17-14.

Their confidence high, the Ellesmere lads faced another tough match against Hymer's College, but by grit and determination fought their way into what proved to be an exciting final against Bromsgrove School. Emerging as winners, the squad became one of the elite group of Rugby Sevens teams to win two trophies from consecutive tournaments, with a final scoreline of Ellesmere 24-Bromsgrove 5.

Alex Murphy, Ellesmere College Rugby Coach, who himself represented Wales at U16 and U18, commented, 'Once again our talented band of brothers have done well. All the work that the lads have spent on the training field with Paul Goodwin really is paying off and we have now become the team to beat.'

Of particular note was the fact that the strongest line up included 3 sets of brothers, the Baxters, Kings and Phillips, possibly something of a record for a 7's team.

Duo Selected to play for England

As the rugby season ended at Ellesmere College, two Year 11 boys were thrilled to have the opportunity to represent England in a string of international matches over the Easter holidays.

Colin Dickson from Shrewsbury and Louis Chaudron from Bridgnorth both joined Ellesmere College in Year 9 as rugby scholars and for the last three years have successfully combined their education with the development of their rugby playing at the School. Rising through the County, district and then regional sides, earlier this year, Colin Dickson was selected to represent England at Under 16 level and Louis Chaudron was selected to play for the England A side. Both boys have been training regularly with other elite development players from around the UK.



Colin Dickson and Louis Chaudron

Easter Holiday Programme

For most people in College the start of the school holidays means a welcome break from the busyness of term. However, what most people don't realise is that College is every bit as busy in the holidays. As usual over Easter there was a full programme of activities at Ellesmere College, involving over 300 children and young people, with a special focus on cricket development in association with the College Cricket Academy.

Following the successful Welsh Airgun Association competition that was held in the School's Sports Hall, it was the turn of the Sports Centre Manager to deliver his ever-popular holiday camps for 8 to 14 year olds with a Multi-Activities Course, Adventure + for older children, tennis course and a two day Easter cricket camp. The cricket course proved particularly appealing amongst this younger age group who were treated to a range of sessions led by two award winning Shropshire Young coaches James Wojda and Megan Jones.

During the second week the School hosted the English Cricket Board Disabled squad, who took full advantage of the wonderful facilities including the indoor nets and Fitness Suite at the School as well as playing two outdoor matches in glorious weather. Neil Bradshaw, a Shropshire coach and one of the head coaches of the ECB squad said 'all the squad members were delighted to be able to return to Ellesmere and everyone really enjoyed their time training there. We were well looked after from start to finish and will be looking to come back at the next available opportunity'.

The third and final week was a particularly busy period for the College Enterprises Department. It was a first in the Country for a County girls-only pre-season cricket training camp. The Under 13's arrived on the Sunday night and trained for two days and then were replaced by the Under 15's on Tuesday. County squads from Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire participated with 85 girls in total attending over the four days. Their trainers included the two ECB women players, Jenny Gunn and Lydia Greenway.

Working with the ECB Ladies' Cricket Development Officers, it is planned for the girls' pre-season training to take place again next year when it is anticipated that more Counties will take up the opportunity to train with National coaches. Rod Jones, Head of the College Cricket Academy, added. 'The feedback has been great and we are looking forward to this becoming a regular fixture for Counties from around the UK coming to prepare themselves for the season ahead.'

Besides the national Disabled team and County Girls' pre-season training,

75 members of the Manchester University Cricket Club stayed at Ellesmere College for two days training. In excess of 120 players training alongside each other around the School, which was a huge achievement of the support staff who pulled together to make it possible.

The Ellesmere College Cricket Academy continues to flourish, where cricket talent can be nurtured and developed as part of a full training programme, whilst pupils receive a first class education. Many pupils have already progressed into County or above, especially with the links that have already been forged with first class Counties, including Lancashire and Worcester.

For details of our Summer Activity and Sports Leadership Courses, visit the College website.





The Annual Three Choirs Concert

MAY 2011

