



Ellesmere

The Middle School





The Middle School at Ellesmere



Ellesmere College is a school proud of its distinguished history, but as a school we certainly do not live in the past. We are a vibrant and forward looking school offering excellent opportunities to boys and girls aged 7 to 18 years. An Ellesmere education is a preparation for living adult life successfully, considerably and with a sense of personal fulfillment. The school places great value upon the individual. Ellesmere's aspirations for its pupils are higher than simply passing examinations – however vital examination success is – but the value of developing the whole person is fundamental in the school's philosophy. Many pupils join Middle School as a transfer from Ellesmere College Lower School. Others join the College at the Middle School stage, usually from Preparatory Schools, but not exclusively so. Pupils joining Middle School will enjoy a stimulating environment with an even wider range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities. The emphasis upon developing personal responsibility and an appropriate self-esteem continues.

The pastoral system in the Middle School is based within the Residential House system. Upon Middle School entry at Year 9, all pupils join one of the College's integrated boarding and day Houses, and are under the care of a Housemaster or Housemistress and a team of dedicated tutors attached to each House. There are, at present, two male Middle School Houses, St Cuthbert's and St Patrick's, and one female Middle School House, St Aidan's. The tutor-pupil link will normally continue throughout the three years leading to GCSE.

The development of good relationships between tutor and pupil and between tutor and parents is given a high priority. This reinforces the belief of a reciprocal communication between home and school to ensure complete care when guiding pupils through such important developmental years. The guidance given to pupils within Ellesmere's pastoral system is also strengthened by the support given to pupils from the School Chaplain. Woodard Schools foster an experience of Anglican Worship and an understanding of Christian faith and values in a caring community.

As a member of the Middle School each pupil will have an allegiance to a Competitive House. Middle School pupils are encouraged to contribute to the performance of the Competitive House in a wide range of activities from sport to music, from drama to debating.

Programmes of Study

The Ellesmere curriculum begins with a broad range of subjects, which is then used as a basis on which to build gradual specialisation. The subjects offered reflect the National Curriculum, but the School takes advantage of its independence to develop opportunities beyond the National Curriculum confines. Individual tutorials review development and Period Grades provide a snapshot of progress. Formal reports are sent to parents at stages throughout the academic year.

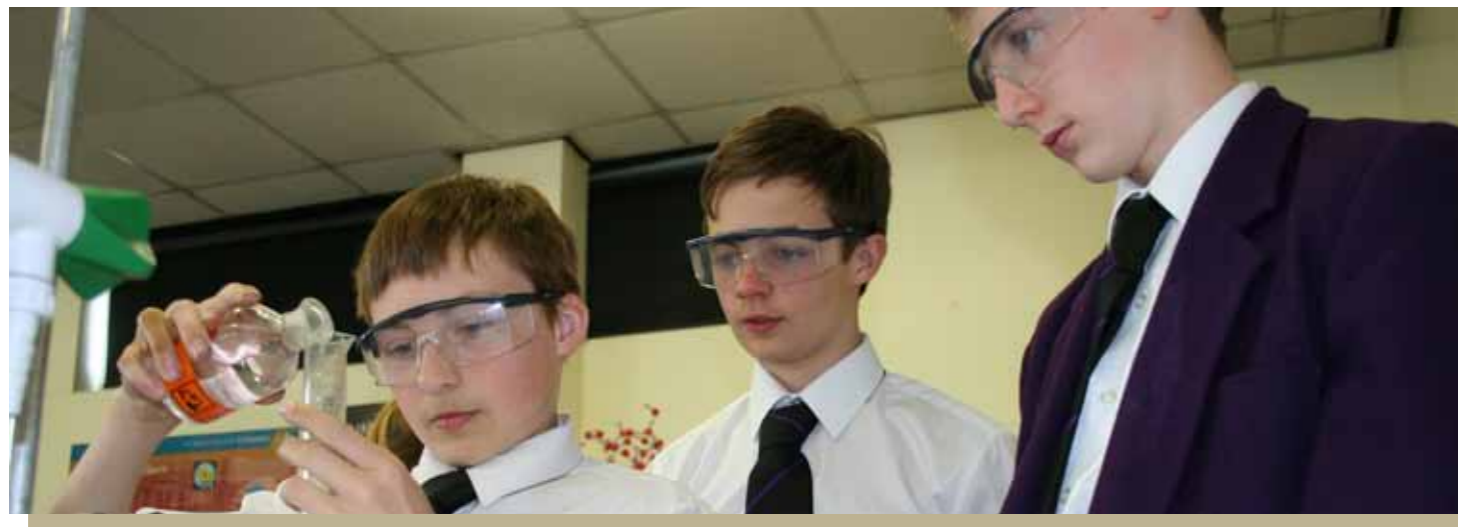
Striving towards a high academic standard is a priority. Each pupil is assigned to a personal tutor who, together with his or her Housemaster or Housemistress, and with support from the Head of Middle School and Deputy Head Academic, monitors academic progress. There are parent-teacher meetings at important phases and parents, of course, are welcome to contact school to discuss academic work at any time.

GCSE Programme of Study (Key Stage 4)

The curriculum is streamlined from Year 9 to Year 10 with the focus placed upon courses leading to GCSE. All pupils study the core subjects of the National Curriculum: English, Mathematics and Sciences plus chosen subjects from a wide range. Given the College's strong emphasis upon seeking to serve the individual, programmes are considered to ensure that each individual achieves the best grades of which she or he is capable. Whilst we are not bound by the constraints of the National Curriculum our policy is one of convergence. Science, English and Mathematics are compulsory subjects to KS4. It is hoped that a Modern Foreign Language will be studied and that, in many cases, a form of Technology and/or Art will be taken. At least one Humanities

subject is a sound choice on educational grounds. All pupils will follow a non-examinable course in Physical Education whilst PHSE and Careers education are provided via the tutor system. A pupil should be interested in, and show ability in, the subjects of his or her choice. If there are definite ideas about a future career then choices should relate sensibly to the requirements of courses leading to that career. However, in all cases the objective should be to leave alternatives as wide open as possible and not limit career choices at a later stage. There are some areas where particular consideration must be given to future career.





English

When studying English, candidates should develop the understanding of the spoken word and the capacity to express themselves effectively. The ability to read will be developed and the individual will understand and respond to all types of writing. It will be expected that the individual will develop the ability to construct and convey meaning in written language using correct grammar and Standard English.

English Literature

Candidates are given the opportunity to explore their literary interests. Their ability to read, understand and respond to all types of literary text will be developed.



Science

Science at Ellesmere College enables pupils to make informed decisions relating to the science they encounter in everyday life. For those interested in pursuing a scientific degree or a science orientated career, the Extended Science option provides a suitable foundation on which to build.

The Biology department takes a practical approach to the study of the living world around us. Pupils develop investigative skills that not only allow them to interpret and evaluate their own data, but also make informed decisions about the ever changing ethical issues linked to this 21st century subject – for example cloning and genetic engineering.

Chemistry has been studied throughout history in one form or another. Why? The answer is that it touches everyone's lives in a multitude of ways. Our very existence is the product of chemical reactions in the body, allowing us to live breath and create. If you are to play a positive role in society then you will need to know some chemistry. If you have an inquisitive mind, can think logically, and enjoy a challenge, then the study of chemistry and all its different facets will interest you.

Physics in Middle School explores an interesting depth and breadth of concepts. As well as challenging the way pupils think, we encourage pupils to look at situations in a different way. With topics ranging from the smallest particles to the expanding universe we cover an interesting mix of classical and modern physics.



Mathematics

The aim is the development of as broad a mathematical education as possible. The emphasis is on teaching the value of rational thought and reasoning. Areas of study will include number, algebra, shape and space, and handling data.



Art & Design

The Art Department aims to provide pupils with a stimulating and structured environment that will help individuals to nurture their particular talents so that they can develop an independence and maturity in the expression of ideas in the visual form. We offer the areas of Fine Art, Painting and Drawing, Printmaking, Sculpture, Multi-media, 3-D Design, Product Design, and Ceramics.

Business Studies

The approach to Business Studies is both practical and participative. Pupils have close involvement with the study of real life businesses and they are expected to follow their changing fortunes. The course has been designed to enable pupils to provide an investigative approach to Business Studies, encouraging pupils to study their local business environment.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is a wide-ranging subject developing pupils' creative skills whilst also working with a wide range of media and using a number of technical skills. The subject is focused on the design and manufacture of products, including anything from furniture and electric gadgets to the packaging that is used to promote and sell them. The subject will cover materials and processes, while also looking at design history and the theory of how the initial concepts are developed into the products you pick up off the shelves. Most work is project based and tends to have a strong practical element.

Drama

The course experiments and develops competence in all aspects of drama, including performance, design, and technical theatre. Pupils explore a range of acting styles and work on scripted and devised performances throughout KS3 and KS4 classes. All Middle School pupils have the opportunity to annually get involved in the House and Middle School plays.



Geography

Geography is a topical subject investigating how planet Earth operates and how humans interact with their planet. Within geography, pupils will not only develop an insight into how the landscapes they encounter are formed but will also look at the current issues of population change, globalisation and sustainability. These are all relevant in today's society and give pupils a greater understanding of the issues we are currently dealing with. Fieldwork is a key element of the geography course and pupils will have the opportunity for a full day of fieldwork investigating one of the issues covered within their GCSE.



A Busy Place to Be...

Academic Enrichment

The Academic Enrichment Programme is a new addition to the College. It has been introduced with the aim of challenging and stretching the pupils who have been identified as particularly able in certain subject areas

Arena Arts Programme

Promoting the Arts within Ellesmere and throughout the wider community, the programme covers the established performing arts of dance, drama and music, the traditional visual arts of drawing, painting and sculpture and modern media arts such as film-making, sound-recording and digital photography. Master classes, links with regional, national and international arts organisations, performances and exhibitions all play their part.

Sports Academies

Ellesmere College has developed a programme to help identify and develop talented young sportsmen and women. Our rugby academy was the first programme to develop an elite structure and is supported by first-rate facilities, national coaches, physiotherapists and fitness advisors. We replicated this successful programme through our Tennis Academy, the Titans Swimming Academy, the Cricket Academy and Rifle Shooting Academy married with our own access to coaching and support agencies. Our aim is to create a universal structure for individuals to maximize their own sporting talents.



Student Council

The Student Council meets each term, giving student representatives the opportunity to raise issues for discussion to ensure that Ellesmere keeps in touch with the changing needs and opinions of pupils.

Social Areas

There are a number of facilities in school where friends can meet and relax. Each House provides a variety of social areas offering access to table-football, snooker and pool. Hot and cold drinks can be prepared in House galley areas. Extra study and day rooms are provided in the Middle School study wing.





Music

Music is central to Ellesmere College's life – there is something for everyone from the Chapel Choir through individual performances to rock bands!



Sport and Games

Ellesmere offers an extensive programme of sports opportunities for all abilities. Differentiation is achieved through offering recreational sport, House Competitions, interschool competitions, and access to elite routes. We have on offer over twenty five different sports, which are also supported by a developmental programme through our Physical Education lessons. Each child is encouraged to engage in activity and develop to his or her potential. Education in the benefits of exercise is also stressed to help encourage a lifelong commitment to activity and well-being.



Opportunities at Ellesmere!



Information Technology

Information Technology involves work to complete DiDA (Diploma in Digital Applications). Pupils will develop the ability to select and use appropriate digital applications. They will enhance their own creativity and communication skills. The course aim is to equip pupils with skills needed in the workplace or in further education or training.



Activity Programme

Ellesmere College has a comprehensive activity programme, which allows pupils to develop a range of physical and personal skills. Tuesday and Friday after lessons offer pupils the chance to participate in a range of activities including Art, Basketball, Music, Sailing, Shooting, Squash, Stage Tech and Swimming. On Thursday afternoons pupils may choose to take part in one of the following - CCF (Combined Cadet Force) in all three services, Army, Navy and RAF, The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, a Drama/Media experience or become involved in recycling as part of 'The Green Team'. The activity programme has two three-day expeditions and a Field Day during the academic year.

History

The aim of the History course is to stimulate interest in, and to enthuse in, study of the past. History promotes an understanding of the nature of cause and consequence, continuity and change. Analysing and organising evidence and presenting logical argument are fundamental skills developed through the course.

Latin

When studying, pupils will develop a competence in the Latin language. They will be encouraged to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally, including an awareness of the relationship between Latin and the languages of today.



Study and Support Opportunities



Media Studies

GCSE Media is a course for those who are interested in learning about film, television, radio, the music industry, newspapers and magazines. There is a lot of practical work involved, so it suits creative people. The course is 50% coursework and 50% exam. Media makes the world what it is. By studying the Media pupils will learn how society is shaped.

Modern Languages

Fundamentally, the study of Modern Languages aims to equip pupils with the necessary language skills to be able to understand and communicate effectively in French or Spanish or both. The course will provide pupils with an understanding of how the language functions and equip them with language learning skills which they can apply to the study of other languages. Pupils will also develop a knowledge and understanding of the culture that underpins the two countries.

Music

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, world music and classical music. There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording.

P.E. (GCSE)

The P.E. course of study aims to stimulate interest in, and promote the study of, physical education. This is done by widening knowledge of particular sports. Pupils will improve their physical performance and examine the human body with regard to health and fitness. Pupils will also develop an understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors, which influence physical education.

Religious Studies

Pupils studying Religious Studies will need to be prepared to argue and debate as world religions are explored and social issues discussed, such as euthanasia, war, peace, crime, punishment, racism, sexism and many other topics. The course allows pupils to study some of the big questions asked in society today, and encourages pupils to think for themselves.



Support for Learning in Middle School

Ellesmere's aim is to provide good provision for all pupils, including those who are dyslexic or require support for their learning in other ways. The ultimate aim essentially is to help Middle School pupils to achieve the best of his or her abilities in mainstream subjects. As a CReSTeD (Council for Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Pupils) recognised school Category DU, support for Middle School provision is nationally monitored. Support can be given on a permanent or temporary basis with lessons tailored to the individual needs of each pupil.

Library Access in Middle School

The well-stocked Library is open Monday - Friday from 8:15am until 5:30pm, with late opening on a number of nights and Saturday 10:00am to 12:00noon. Pupils have access to over 8,000 books as well as to the internet. The Librarians are on hand to assist pupils with their requirements and work closely with members of the teaching staff to ensure that materials relevant to particular areas of study are available. The Library aims to provide a quiet location for pupils to undertake prep, coursework, revision and, of course, reading for pleasure!



Private Study Time in Middle School

One of the academic aims of Middle School is to encourage and equip pupils with the necessary skills for independent learning. Pupils are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their learning as a step towards adult life. Pupils will develop an understanding for effective time management and private study in their quest for achievement of personal goals.

Learning Resources

Boarders have access to in-House study facilities. They may also access the general school facilities if they so wish.



The Future at Ellesmere

Ellesmere Sixth Form

The story does not end with Middle School. Following GCSEs Ellesmere Sixth Form offers many exciting opportunities and excellent preparation for higher education. Students have a choice of A-levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; in recent years the average score for the International Baccalaureate is usually in a range equivalent to A*, A*, A* at A-level. In overall terms the College's Sixth Form leavers usually

average the equivalent in A-level grades of A, B, B. Recently one of our International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates achieved 45 points (the top mark), formally equivalent to 6 ½ A grades at A-level, and was one of only 100 candidates in the world to achieve that level. Given that the College continues to require only five GCSEs at grade C to enter the Sixth Form the results are quite exceptional.

The Registrar

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