



The Ellesmerian Club

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire

**To the Ellesmere Parents
From Richard Thurgood, Chairman, The Ellesmerian Club
November 2021**

On behalf of the Ellesmerian Club and Old Ellesmerians worldwide, may I begin by sending you greetings and best wishes in these continuing, somewhat turbulent times.

The reason for writing to you is to explain some of the benefits that your children will encounter at College and as they leave Ellesmere and become 'Old Ellesmerians'. For those parents who have been linked with Ellesmere for a number of years, thank you for your continuing support, and for those parents who have recently joined the Ellesmere Community, I would like to share with you a little information about the OE family.

I am sure you are aware that a small amount is added to the school bill each term for The Ellesmerian Club. May I thank you for agreeing to pay this as it enables the Club to function and deliver some vital services to your children. This is the Club's only source of income; £10 per term, over 15 terms from each pupil or £25 per term over 5 terms if you have just joined the Sixth Form. The Club does have certain administration costs, but the vast majority of the funds go back into the College through diverse routes including the sponsorship of a wide variety of projects and in assisting students to attend non-curricular events such as international trips that they could not otherwise afford. In addition, each OE obtains access to Ellesmere Connect, a website that will connect them to thousands of OEs worldwide, many of which are happy to offer work experience and mentoring to our younger generations. Students will receive a termly College newsletter and a monthly e: bulletin informing them of the various activities that are being organised and enabling them to keep in touch with the College and its wider community as time goes by.

The Ellesmerian Club exists to promote and continue good fellowship and friendships amongst OEs, to strengthen ties between past and present members of the school, and to further the general interest in, and prosperity of, Ellesmere College. We facilitate meetings, networking events, sports fixtures, social events, and dinners, whilst recognising the diversity of our membership and the College. The Club is run by a small executive of very dedicated OEs who meet regularly throughout the year, but in addition spend a great deal of time organising projects, events and facilitating a mentoring programme for younger Ellesmerians.

This year has continued to be challenging for the Club, with all of our normal events being cancelled due to Covid-19. These were to have included dinners in Manchester and London, an international reunion in Germany, two networking events in London, a family day at College along with luncheons in the summer term and on Remembrance Sunday. Physical projects sponsored by the Club have been fewer in the last year as we focused our resources towards support of pupils and families affected by Covid-19. Some minor projects are underway including completion of the engraving of the war memorial. It is also pleasing to note that normality appears to be returning as requests for sponsorship for extracurricular activities have recently been granted. Sporting events such as a recent rugby match between 2019 and 2020 leavers have also recommenced.

Thank you for your support and for taking time to read this brief letter which, I hope, has explained a little more about the Ellesmerian Club and its activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the College External Relations office (external.relations@ellesmere.com) and I will endeavor to answer them.

With all good wishes,

Richard Thurgood
Ellesmerian Club Chairman