

A Welcome from Ellesmere College Parents Society (ECPS)

Dear Parent(s)

Welcome to Ellesmere College. We hope that your children are settling well into their new class, and that you have been discovering the myriad ways through which the College aims to foster an environment of inclusivity and community. To that end, may we extend an introduction to the Ellesmere College Parents' Society - often referred to as the ECPS. We are an informal Society, focused on enhancing the experience of being a parent of an Ellesmerian.

As you have no doubt found already, life at Ellesmere College can be very busy and - with parents' work commitments and pupils coming from a wide geographical area - it can sometimes be hard to catch up with other parents and caregivers at the 'school gate'. To help alleviate this, the ECPS works in partnership with the College to create a welcoming atmosphere and help integrate parents into the College community through organising events and activities that enable parents to meet each other.

Every parent or guardian with a child at Ellesmere College is automatically a member of the ECPS, although attendance is not compulsory! In fact, there are many ways in which you can take part in the work of the ECPS, including:

- Supporting our social events, such as Macmillan Coffee Morning, Creativity Day, Burns' Night, Ladies Lunch etc.
- Helping out behind the scenes
- Attending the Committee meetings (we have 2-3 meetings per term and an AGM each June)
- Volunteering your services for a Committee role

Whilst we are neither a profit-making nor fundraising organisation, our activities and events often do result in monies raised, either through the sale of tickets or via a raffle. This is then donated to chosen charities and to the school for the benefit of the pupils. For example, the raffle at this year's Ladies' Lunch raised £900 for Save the Children - as nominated by our guest speaker, Richard Jebb, a descendent of Eglantyne Jebb, who started the charity - and The Monduli Green Fund. Gifts in kind towards the organisation of events (e.g. decorations, flowers) or donations of raffle prizes are also welcome.

In short, you can be involved in the ECPS as much or as little as you wish. As busy parents ourselves, we understand how precious time is and know that it is not always possible to make a regular commitment. That's why we work in a flexible way and are grateful for any support you can give.

We are currently looking for a Treasurer to join the Committee. It is a book-keeping role, typically being a central point for people to book onto events, looking after the

bank account and paying the expenses for events. Somebody who is good at admin would do well in the role – you won't need accountancy experience to succeed.

As the ECPS Chair, I am warmly inviting you to come along and see how you could contribute. In anticipation, here are a few forthcoming dates for your diary.

- Friday 27th September - Coffee Morning 8.30am to 10.00am in Tuck Shop In aid of Macmillan Cancer Care
- 19th October - ECPS Committee Meeting
- 15th November - ECPS Committee Meeting
- 21st November - Creativity Day
- 6th December - ECPS Christmas Lunch at The Boathouse, Ellesmere

And dates for early 2020

- Friday 18th January - ECPS meeting @ 3.30pm Conference Room
- Saturday 26th January - Burns Night Supper in Big School from 7pm (Advanced booking is essential as it is a popular event)

Our events are listed in the White Calendar that goes out each term. In addition, please check the ECPS notice boards for more information - there is one outside the entrance to Lower School and one in Ante School at the Common Room entrance. We also post news on the College website and Facebook page.

We do hope you are able to join in with us in some way, either on a regular or ad hoc basis, or through supporting our events. In the meantime, do feel free to come and chat if you see any of us around the College, or please get in touch at contactecps@gmail.com

Kind regards

Janet Kelly

ECPS Chair: Autumn 2019 – Summer 2020