



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper: DE56 4GS
Tel: (01332) 840645 Fax: (01332) 841871
Web: www.ecclesbourne.org.uk
email: info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk



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Senior Section **Arrangements for Year 8 Transition to Year 9**

Dear parents and carers,

Ecclesbourne is a large school and so we are organised into smaller 'schools within the school' each with their own senior member of staff to oversee all aspects of students' education and pastoral support at each age and stage. The benefit of this way of working is that we are able to maintain a human scale to our work and to preserve the close understanding of children's needs and communication with parents that is possible at primary school level.

This year, since January, we have trialled a change in our Key Stage 3 (11 to 14 year olds) organisation by creating a new pastoral office for Year 9 which we are calling the Senior Section. We have made this change because with 240 now in each year group, Lower School had grown to over 700 children – larger than some secondary schools. The change will enable us to provide better focused care and attention for Years 7 and 8 and to make some exciting changes to the Year 9 experience for our senior Key Stage 3 students.

Year 9 is a crucial year in your child's education as it is the culmination of all that they have learned in the National Curriculum over their first three years in school. We are re-thinking our end of Year 9 assessment of the National Curriculum and students will have the opportunity to demonstrate the progress they have made through a suite of class assessment pieces and end of year examinations in the Exam Hall. They will also be given the opportunity to take on leadership, life skills and community service building up a portfolio of experiences and responsibilities that will contribute to a special end of Year 9 graduation ceremony and celebration of achievement. Students will be able to apply for a range of Year 9 experiences including extra-curricular clubs, representing the school in sport, culture or an academic event, taking part in an outward-bound experience, attending a sporting, academic or cultural event, taking part in a school production or event, making a formal presentation or speech, taking part in an international experience, taking part in community service, participating in fundraising and taking part in a sustainability project. They will also have the opportunity at the end of the year to participate in an exciting activity week with a range of options for all students.

Year 9 is also the time when your child is prepared for and makes their GCSE options choices and we have put together a specialist team of tutors led by Head of Year Mrs Stott and assisted by Progress Leader Mrs Laughlin. The team will have a specific focus on Year 9 to ensure students are well supported to achieve their potential and are fully prepared for the step up to GCSE study in Year 10. Mrs Ourabi, Deputy Head Teacher, oversees the pastoral teams in school and is in overall charge. Year 8 will transition to Year 9 from Monday 26 June and Mrs Ourabi will write to you after half term with details of form tutors and how students can apply for positions of responsibility and sign up for the range of activities and experiences on offer. Mrs Smyth, current Head of Year 8, will work with our primary schools to manage Year 6 transition to Ecclesbourne and will be Head of Year 7 from September.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara
Head Teacher

Petra Owen-Moore
Deputy Head Teacher

Clarissa Ourabi
Deputy Head Teacher