



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write to you, we are the second week into this half term and our house play rehearsals are well underway. I look forward to seeing the final performances later this month and the joy that this brings the students. Students have settled very well back into school after the holidays. It has been fantastic to see the uptake of our Year 9 students on both the Danish exchange trip and the Outward-bound trip next year. Experiences of this nature will broaden their wider knowledge of life and undoubtedly improve their self-confidence. Prior to the holiday our team building visits to Lea Green were a great success. The students embraced this opportunity and despite the inclement weather on the second day all took part in the activities with a very positive attitude. I very much appreciate you signing your children up to this trip.

I am so pleased to see your children playing in the netball, football, rugby and futsal teams. This co-operation and commitment they show will enhance and broaden their range of skills. This aligns with the topic that we have been educating your children on during PDC this half term of careers. In particular we have been discussing "Green careers" which will be the shape of your children's future. We have encouraged them to think about how their personal qualities will need to be flexible and adaptable in the future of an ever-changing job market.

Students have also been competing in languages competitions, natural world photography competitions and our weekly general knowledge quiz competition. 9S were the victors by 1 point of a very well fought out competition and they were rewarded with cooked breakfast at the end of the half term.

Our form tutor representatives had the privilege of meeting our local Green party councillors Gez Kinsella and Alison McDermott to gain a better understanding of local politics. They also had the opportunity to meet local MP Pauline Latham and have an insight into her role.

Outside of school it is great to see students signed up to football academies, hockey teams, competing and qualifying for national equestrian events, shooting competitions, air cadets, fishing competitions, dance teams to name but a few. If you have the pleasure of visiting Derby theatre, you will see Year 9 students taking roles in both Nativity and Cinderella. These are the things that we love to hear about from your children in school. Please encourage them to come and share their participation in activities with us. It also makes our lives so much richer when we communicate and hear what they are doing out of school.

Likewise, please check out our website to see the new offering of extra-curricular activities we have this half term in school. Reassure your child that it doesn't matter if they have never done this activity before it is simply about taking part and trying. I am particularly excited that the Textiles department is once again able to offer Yr9 students the chance to make Hickman line bags for local hospitals in the community. A Hickman line bag is used during cancer treatment in children.

This week is a busy week for our Anti bullying ambassadors in school as we embrace Antibullying week. On Monday students were encouraged to wear odd socks and scrunchies to highlight to others that we are all different in many ways. Students were also asked to nominate any other students they know that had been an upstander, shown an act of kindness or been a good friend and supported someone who needed help or someone to talk to.

This half term our students are also competing in an inter tutor Kingball tournament which has been kindly organised by our Yr12 Junior Sport Leaders. This half term I am sure will fly by as we conduct the 16+ process with our Year 11 students and importantly for yourselves we approach the 14+ process. In the New Year we will be inviting you to join us in school to introduce this process for your children when they select their GCSE choices that they will study throughout Years 10 and 11. In PDC we also intend to show them techniques on how to help them revise for their end of year exams. More details on this topic as we get closer to the time. As we move into the New Year we will be looking forward to a number of other exciting opportunities for our students.

In the meantime, myself and Mrs Laughlin continue to be available if you have any concerns or would like to discuss and share any information with us regarding your child. Please either call school or email us directly on estott@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk or rlaughlin@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E Stott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs E Stott
Head of Year 9