



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher  
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## Five Years On

Dear Parents and Carers,

This month marks five years since the first national lockdown in response to the coronavirus pandemic - a moment that changed the world in ways few could have imagined. At The Ecclesbourne School, it offers us a chance to reflect on how far we have come, and to celebrate the strength, resilience, and community spirit that carried us through some of the most challenging times in recent memory.

Like young people across the country, our students faced enormous obstacles. Learning was disrupted, friendships paused, and the everyday rhythm of school life was broken. When our pupils returned, many brought with them gaps in knowledge, anxiety, and uncertainty. But from the very beginning, our response was grounded in optimism, care, and determination - not just to help them recover, but to help them thrive.

We have always believed that academic achievement must be matched by emotional wellbeing. In the years since lockdown, we have invested deeply in pastoral care and built a culture where every student feels seen, supported, and part of something bigger. Through roles such as House Captains, Prefects, and Peer Mentors, students have helped to rebuild our community - and in doing so, they have grown into thoughtful, compassionate leaders.

Beyond the classroom, the arts, sport, and creativity have been a source of healing and joy. Whether it is the pride of playing for a school team, the energy of rehearsals, or the courage of performing in front of an audience, these moments have helped our students rediscover confidence and connection. Our student-led House Plays involved nearly 400 pupils this year - an extraordinary testament to their enthusiasm, collaboration, and spirit.

Academically, our students continue to achieve remarkable things. Despite the national concern around lost learning, Ecclesbourne students have secured outstanding A-Level and GCSE results. Attendance remains well above the national average, and our inclusion in the Sunday Times Parent Power list of top ten schools in the East Midlands reflects not only high standards, but a shared belief in the value of a well-rounded education.

What we will remember most from these past five years is not just the difficulty of the pandemic - but the way our school community came together in response. Our students have demonstrated exceptional resilience, kindness, and ambition. They are a credit to themselves and to this school.

We want to end by offering our heartfelt thanks. To our students - for their cheerful courage and their ability to adapt, bounce back, and inspire. To our parents - for their steadfast support, for championing this school, and for always believing in what we stand for. And to our extraordinary staff - teachers and support staff alike - who have worked tirelessly, always placing children at the heart of everything they do.

Thank you, from all of us at Ecclesbourne. We are proud of how far we have come - together.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara  
Head Teacher