



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Friday 13 September 2024

Pastoral Support

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students back to school after what hopefully has been a pleasant summer break, and to extend a warm welcome to our new Ecclesbournians.

Below I have outlined some key information that will support you and your child to progress and prosper during the academic year.

Information Evenings

Over the next two-weeks each school pastoral office will be holding information evenings to welcome you and explain more about their role. The dates for this are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Upper School | Year 10 | 11 th September |
| Sixth Form | Year 12 | 18 th September |
| Lower School | Year 7 | 19 th September |
| Senior Section | Year 9 | 25 th September |

Further information about these evenings has been provided by the relevant school offices. If you do have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact School Reception on 01332 840645.

Attendance

We are proud of the work we have done to maintain high levels of attendance during what some are referring to as a national crisis of persistent absence. During the last academic year, the school was recognised for having attendance in the top 10% of all schools.

If your child is too unwell to come to school, then you must let the school know so that we can adjust the register accordingly and most importantly know where your child is and that they are safe. Before you report an absence, please consider whether your child is fit enough to attend school. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. For further information please refer to the excellent NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-a-z/when-to-call-the-doctor/when-to-call-the-doctor-when-to-call-the-doctor/).

In addition to physical illnesses, we are aware that some children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. The Department for Education has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#). If your child is experiencing persistent symptoms, please contact their Head of Year to discuss how we can help and support.

If you do not report your child's absence and they are not present in morning registration, then we will text and phone home to ascertain your child's whereabouts to ensure they are safe. Ideally, we would rather you did not make medical appointments during school time. However, we are aware that this sometimes cannot be helped. If your child has a pre-arranged medical appointment, can you please inform us beforehand, so we can amend the register. Please ask your child to make sure that they speak to their teachers about catching up the work they are missing.

Under new government guidelines holidays will not be permitted during term time. If you wish your child to be absent during the school year, then you must complete the exceptional circumstances form which is available via the school website or the Head of Year.

Early Help

We know there are times during the academic year when your child may have an issue which you need to discuss. The first point of contact is their Head of Year who will know your child and can discuss the specific support we can offer. We also have an Early Help Team in school to offer tailored support to meet the needs of your child. This can include individual 1-to-1 support for health, well-being, and a range of other issues. If you wish your child to receive tailored support from the Early Help Team, then contact the Head of Year in the first instance. The Early Help Team can also support with referrals to external agencies if more specialist support is needed.

Community Project

The school's code of conduct and behaviour policy is underpinned by "The 4Cs":

- Community
- Commitment
- Courtesy
- Co-operation

This term the theme for our pastoral work with students is Community. As part of this, we will be supporting three charities through student fundraising activities. Two of the charities are local and one is a national campaign focused on inclusion and community cohesion.

- Padley Food Bank
- The Shed (a local charity raising money to provide mental health support for boys and young men)
- Show Racism the Red Card

We will be holding several events to highlight the work that these charities are doing and also invite volunteers into school to talk about where the money we raise goes. In addition, we will be holding a community week from 4th November. If you have a supportive role in the local community and you would be prepared to come into school and speak to students about it then please contact me.

Finally, if you are ever particularly concerned about your child, then please contact me directly on (01332) 843274 or courabi@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk so I can arrange an appointment. We would much rather parents involve school as early as possible where issues emerge so we can help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Ourabi'.

Clarissa Ourabi
Deputy Head
Head of Pastoral & Behaviour