



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher

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## Prestigious Award and End of Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term, I am delighted to share some truly exceptional news: the **Ecclesbourne School has been named as one of the ten best state schools in the East Midlands by the Sunday Times Parent Power guide**, and we have also been recognized as the **top school in Derbyshire for academic attainment at GCSE**. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and the entire school community. It is a moment of great pride for us all.

While academic excellence is at the heart of our mission, we firmly believe that education is about more than just exam results. At the time of writing there is a festive buzz about the school, and we have enjoyed ushering in the end of term with our wonderful House Plays and musical events including the St Alkmund's Carol service and the Christmas Concert. At Ecclesbourne, the Creative Arts play a vital role in enriching our students' lives and broadening their horizons. This year's House Plays involved over 300 students, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm. Similarly, our recent Christmas Concert brought together more than 120 singers and musicians, who filled the New Theatre with festive cheer and outstanding performances.

Our commitment to developing confidence, resilience, and leadership through activities such as debating, teamwork, Duke of Edinburgh and performance ensures that our students are well-rounded individuals who approach life with courage and kindness. We have seen two inspiring examples of this involving Sixth Form students this term. The first is the courageous action of Toby Wilson, a Year 12 student, who rescued an elderly lady who had fallen in the river. Without hesitation, Toby fetched a lifejacket, helped her out of the water, and even gave her his own clothes to keep warm until help arrived. His selflessness and bravery exemplify the kind of confident and compassionate young people we strive to nurture at Ecclesbourne. We are immensely proud of Toby. A few weeks earlier this spirit of service and resilience was also evident in our Sixth Form Duke of Edinburgh students and Mr. Stapley, who together fetched a defibrillator and administered CPR when a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer became ill on a practice walk. We would do well to give less credence to the criticisms young people face today and remember our students are capable of amazing things.

As the festive season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents, carers, and children a happy and restful Christmas. Please note that, as usual, the school buses will be here to take students home at the earlier time of **2:40 p.m.** on the last day of term. Students who need to stay in school to wait for collection are welcome to remain in the library, where they will be supervised.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our school community. Let us celebrate this year's achievements and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara  
Head Teacher