



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher  
**James McNamara** BA(Hons); NPQH

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23 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we launched the 16+ process. We spoke to students about the choices available to them after finishing their GCSEs next summer. Students will be supported through the 16+ process by their form tutors, the 16+ and careers teams. You will find the presentation as a [PowerPoint](#) or [PDF](#) via the links and on the school website. The options available to students include sixth form here or at another school, college or an apprenticeship.

Students will start to write their application letters for their next steps during the afternoon of Prize Day and they will have two interviews with a member of the 16+ team to help and advise them about their choices. Students will fill out their options card based on these discussions and with your help at home.

As previously advertised, the Ecclesbourne Sixth Form Open Evening takes place here at school on Thursday 2nd October, from 6:00 to 8:30pm. There will be an introductory talk at 6.30pm followed by a series of 10-minute talks from subject teachers regarding their subject. Prospective students will be able to choose to attend up to six talks. We would advise that students ensure they attend talks on subjects that are new to them and that they may be interested in studying. There will also be classrooms staffed by subject teachers, and current students, along with a display of work and resources. In the sixth form centre there will be information about the extended curriculum, wellbeing choices and the roles of responsibility available for sixth formers.

Next Tuesday (30 September) students will be spending the morning looking at options in more depth including presentations from organisations outside of our sixth form including an Apprenticeship Ambassador, the Pride Park UTC and the Derby College Group. Year 11 will be presented with information on apprenticeships, T-Levels and other vocational courses. We will also be joined by current apprentices who will share their first-hand experiences. Students will be given time to reflect on these options in their Personal Development and Citizenship (PDC) lessons.

We would like to draw your attention to these key dates related to the 16+ process (you will also find them in the presentation):

EVENT	DATE
Launch of 16+	23 September 2025
Application Letters	From 26 September to be completed by 21 October
Post-16 Morning	30 September 2025
Sixth Form Open Evening	2 October 2025
Interim data from staff	24 October 2025
First 16+ interview	18 November 2025
Y11 Language Mocks	12 December 2025
Year 11 Reports	W/c 15 December 2025
Year 11 Mocks	5-16 January 2026
Year 11 Projected Grades	w/c 9 February 2026
Final 16+ Interviews	10 February 2026
Year 11 Parents' Evening	11 February 2026
Sixth Form Offer Letters issued	27 February 2026

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncker-Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Duncker-Brown  
Head of Upper School

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A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Vodson', with a large, stylized 'V' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicky Dodson  
Head of Year 11

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