



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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July 2024

Summer Term – End of Year Letter From The Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the latest edition of the Ecclesbourne School Newsletter. This has been a more than usually eventful year at school and as you will see from its stories and photographs we have come to the end of the year in a flurry of activity.

In the last month alone, we have had a Year 9 Outward Bound expedition to Wales, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award hikes, the House Music Competition, Governors' Reception Awards Evening and a wonderful School Production of the musical 'Sister Act'. Our House Captains excelled themselves helping to organise Sports Day – which having been postponed twice due to poor weather – took place last week in glorious sunshine with two longstanding records being broken on the day.

We said goodbye to several long serving members of staff, Mrs Weighill, Mr Beardsley, Mr Bradshaw, Mr Ford, and Ms Dawson. In September we welcome Miss McCabe as Head of English, Ms Smyth as Head of Maths and Mr Weller as Head of Year 8 responsible for ethos and behaviour across Lower School. Miss McCabe has been Head of English and Head of Sixth Form at her previous school. Mrs Smyth has been a teacher at Ecclesbourne for many years and is our current Head of Year 7. Mr Weller is a vastly experienced Pastoral Leader with experience of leading on behaviour as an Assistant Head Teacher at other schools.

There can be very few schools with the levels of continuity and stability you will find at Ecclesbourne. We held a celebration breakfast for retiring staff on Wednesday and Mr Bradshaw was guest of honour. He started at Ecclesbourne in 'Michaelmas Term' 1972. We had some fun remembering the world and the school when he started his career. No mobiles, 70,000 red telephone boxes, the only ringtone is a ringing tone, press button B for your money back, overseas calls via the operator, police in touch with the station via blue police boxes and urgent news delivered via a knock on the door and a hand delivered telegram. Most people have never seen a computer in their lives. During the academic year 1972-3 the tennis game 'Pong' appears. You plug it into your TV and play by turning a knob to move the racquet. This is the year people were getting the hang of decimalisation. Pounds, shillings and pence replaced by 100p in a pound. Average salary was £2000. Average house price in London was £20000. Beer 11p a pint. A Berni Inn rump steak, button mushrooms, tomato, chips, apple pie and cream – 80p.

And at Sports Day, the following day - for one last time - our Year 7s got to take part in something that began way back in the Trinity Term in 1973. Mr Bradshaw was announcer and master of ceremonies on Sports Day. The children of the First Form back then will be 63 years old now. Our Year 7s will be alive in the 22nd century! A lifetime of service to our school and community for which we are so grateful. We wish Mr Bradshaw a long and fulfilling retirement.

Looking ahead, **A-Level examination results day this year falls on Thursday 15th August. GCSE examination results day is Thursday 22nd August.** Most students will wish to collect their results in person and so envelopes containing examination results will be available from the Sixth Form Centre



Academy

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

from 8.00am. Members of the Upper School and Sixth Form Office team will be on hand to help with individual queries about post-16 school and college courses and post-18 university applications on the relevant day.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and that you take from it a sense of the rich variety of life at school. I wish all our students, parents, and carers a wonderful summer and especially our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have worked so hard for their GCSEs and A Levels and deserve to do really well. **The new term begins for students on Monday 9th September,** and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara

Headteacher