



Circa 1492

# Ermysted's Grammar School

Headmaster: Mr M J Evans

22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Extracurricular Programme**

It gives me great pleasure to commend to you the many and varied programme of extracurricular activities offered at Ermysted's Grammar School. There is so much more to the education of our pupils than simply what happens in the classroom. Pupils are encouraged to become involved in the wider life of the School, and to take part in the many activities which are run before school, at lunchtimes, and after school as part of a vibrant enrichment programme.

The School is very proud of the achievements of our pupils, not only within school, recognised through avenues such as the House system, but also successes at local, regional and national level.

Sporting successes include recent area or county titles in rugby, badminton, football, and cross-country. Cross-country has been particularly successful in recent years, with the School selected to represent England in the 2020 ISF World School Cross Country Championship in Slovakia, and most-recently winning three of the four national titles at the English Schools' Fell Running Championships. We are also rightly proud of pupils who excel outside of school and celebrate their selection for representative honours, whether it be in the national squad for fencing, or representing Harrogate & Craven, Yorkshire or England in rugby, cricket, cross-country, swimming and other sports too numerous to mention.

The School is committed to continuously extending and improving its extracurricular provision, with the recent addition of cross fit, ultimate frisbee, and table tennis to the sports programme. We have also invested heavily in our facilities; for example, we have resurfaced our tennis courts and sports hall, and we will shortly extend our climbing facilities very significantly. As previously signalled, we are seeking planning permission to improve our outdoor sporting provision and hope that all these investments help support our pupils to pursue active and healthy lifestyles in school and beyond.

We are also pleased to support pupils in their non-sporting endeavours. There are many lunchtime and after school clubs at Ermysted's, some run by staff, some run by pupils. Some of these clubs support pupils to progress in particular subjects, but most aim to enrich the lives of the pupils beyond the core curriculum. Chess Club, Art Club, and Board Games are perennial favourites, but there are also opportunities to experience meditation, support sustainability, joining the debating team, and develop entrepreneurial skills as Young Dragons or in the Young Enterprise scheme.

The School has had tremendous success in literacy in recent years with victories at county and regional rounds of the 'Kids Lit Quiz', as well as promoting the 'Carnegie Medal'. Both of these competitions, delivered through the tremendous facility of the school library, are accessed predominantly at lunchtimes.

'The Reason', our national-award-winning school newspaper, is another vehicle for developing our pupils' skills and confidence. The lunchtime club offers opportunities to contribute to all year groups. This can be through researching and writing articles on various topics through to editorial decision-making.

Our musical offerings are also very varied. Pupils can play in the Training Band, Swing Band, Brass/Wind group, Orchestra, sing in the choir, or join the music technology club. There are also individual peripatetic lessons and further opportunities for practise in whichever instrument is played. The Bands perform regularly within school, as well as external performances both locally and abroad. There is considerable overlap with school drama, with our musicians supporting this year's production of 'Ladykillers'.

Last, but not least, is the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where there are regular meetings for the large numbers aiming for Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. These extend and complement our own 'Ermysted Award' scheme and show just how well rounded many of our pupils are, offering opportunities to demonstrate achievements in the categories of Academic, Cultural, Skill, Physical, Service and Community.

Thank you for reading this far and I do hope you encourage your son to take advantage of the full and varied programme offered at Ermysted's.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Speak".

**Stephen Speak**  
Assistant Headteacher