

NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



Hello everyone

Welcome to our newsletter. In this edition you can read of the exploits of the **school cross country team**, progress with the **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, the launch of the '**young dragons**', various **humanities competitions**, and the **Year 10 work experience** programme.

The latest edition of our award-winning student newspaper—**The Reason**—is hot off the press and selling quickly. Once again, I am astonished by the quality of the publication. I doff my cap to all involved. Very well done.

The **new bouldering wall**, which has been funded via a generous donation from the Parents' Association, has now been installed in the Sports Hall. It extends from one end of the building to the other and will enable many generations of pupils to test their skills (and nerves!) along various routes. My thanks to the PA.

Have a great weekend everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJE.' with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Michael Evans
Headteacher

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County Champions

Ermysted's athletes punched well above their weight as two individuals claimed titles at the North Yorkshire Schools' Cross-Country Championships. Year 7 George M and Year 13 Alex T both won over a flat firm course of a combination of playing fields and grassed farmland. In fact the conditions were pretty ideal for running with an overnight frost firming up the ground and early fog clearing to leave a cold but windless day. The runners had all qualified by virtue of a top 12 finish in November's Area Championships held at Giggleswick. There are four regions of North Yorkshire each supplying a team of 12 with guests, meaning there were up to 50 or so runners in each race. The races are mainly an individual event where the runners try to win titles, medals or selection for the North Yorkshire County teams. County selection for an inter-county match, at Middlesbrough on 5 February, relies on runners finishing in the first 15 (or 12 in the Year 7 race). In addition, anyone finishing in the top six is automatically selected for the English Schools' Championships to be held this year at Hop Farm, Kent in March with the final two places decided following February's inter-counties match.



Ermysted's impressively carried Craven's challenge in the Year 7 Boys race. The school had five representatives in the Harrogate & Craven team with three being well



placed from the cavalry charge start. Will O led on the first lap but schoolmate George M took over on the full lap to claim a gold medal and win Craven's first title.

Will O ran on well for bronze, whilst Will P worked hard to the line to ensure a top 12 place and qualification for the North Yorkshire team. Will F was 28th and Dan H 34th who gained area colours but didn't make the county Team.

The Junior Boys' event saw fierce rivalry between Tom H and schoolmate Ewen W as they battled for 6th place and automatic selection for the English Schools team. Ewen looked like he had done enough as he had a slender advantage entering the long run in to the finish.

However Tom finished strongly and just pipped Ewen as they finished 6th and 7th respectively. This means Ewen is favourite to be selected after the inter-counties match at Middlesbrough but will have to run well again to guarantee selection. Both Tom & Ewen will be joined by another runner from Ermysted's, Daniel R who ran well for 11th place to make the county team.



The Inter Boys saw Dougie S challenge at the sharp end and he ran on strongly to secure 4th place. He was the first of five athletes from Ermysted's who all made the county team. Sam B also had a great race to finish 5th and qualify for the prestigious team for the English Schools Championships in March, whilst Lachlan W 10th, Samesh C 12th and Oscar S 14th all qualified for next month's inter-counties match.

The Senior Boys race had favourite Alex T who was hoping to improve upon last week's bronze medal in the Yorkshire U20s clubs race.



The three and a half laps that the older athletes competed over meant a more tactical race as a group of seven went clear

early on. This pack thinned out over the successive laps before Alex made his break on the last lap. He gained a lead which was just enough to secure victory despite a late charge from Hambleton's Charlie S. Ermysted's once more had further county success as Robert M 9th and Andrew R 12th both qualified for the North Yorkshire team.

The Ermysted's representatives should be rightly proud of their achievements, as they underlined the strength of running at school, which resulted in Harrogate & Craven winning all eight of the team awards ahead of York, Scarborough and Richmond districts.



Fourteen runners from school will now look forward to representing their County at Middlesbrough on Saturday 5 of February, where some will have unfinished business as they try to cement selection for the National Championships in March.

Mr Speak

Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme

The last couple of months have been very productive for a large number of the boys who are progressing through the scheme. The vast majority of this year's 112 new recruits have embarked on all three of their chosen activities (volunteering, physical and skills), which require sustained commitment over at least 3 months (Bronze), up to 18 months (Gold). Planning is underway for the summer expedition season and the boys are working through their expedition training programme to equip them with the skills necessary for a successful qualifying expedition.

Since my last Newsletter report I am pleased to confirm that many boys, who have been working through their award for some time, have managed to complete all required elements. Well done to Matthew Peace, Caleb Lister, Tashfeen Mehmood, Brinley Pratt, and Harry Garnett who have gained their Bronze award, to Bramwell Tuck, Charlie Rigarlsford, Jack Healey and Reuben Johnson who have gained Silver, and to Zak Shepherd, Joe Cernelley and Jamie Burgess who have managed the fantastic achievement of the Gold Award.

Mr Lane

Young Dragons



Inspired by a conversation with my auntie about the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Big Garden Bird Watch and needing to produce a product to sell for Young Dragons. The idea of producing bird boxes

was made after some brainstorming with our Young Dragons team members, which consists of George K, Jake B, my brother Jason C, and myself, production of the boxes began, with a little help from Mr Mangham.

The first day back of the spring term found us all queuing outside the Sports Hall for a Covid 19 lateral flow test, my brother and I were no exception, carrying a bird box ready to show Mr McWilliam, the Young Dragons Coordinator, along came members of staff asking, "What have you got there?" a discussion followed and this got us thinking, the next weekend we set to work, producing more bird boxes and some fat balls (bird feed) for the Ermysted's grounds. Our aims to increase the bird population in the school grounds.

Our bird boxes can be purchased for £10 each alongside our other products in our range.

On Saturday 28 February, between 10am and 12 noon our Young Dragons team will be holding a product launch and coffee morning at Lothersdale Village Hall, we hope you can all make it!

Isaac C, Year 7

Competitions in the Humanities Faculty

Lower school pupils have been writing letters to the Prime Minister advising him on the future of Government policy regarding a variety of aspects linked to the environment and the Humanities Faculty prefects have selected letters written by the following pupils to be sent to Number 10: Jerry Fernandes, Sam Cheung, Oscar Fox (Year 7), Sam Shoard, Zachariya Vaseem, Max Swain, Harry Bilby, Oliver Hardcastle and Josh Dodgson (Year 8).

Why not enter a national competition?

The University of Sheffield has launched its annual competition to write essays on a wide variety of topics linked with Humanities subjects.... History, Geography, RS and Philosophy.

History Competition: Every year students from Year 12 enter the [Sheffield History Essay Competition](#). The criteria to enter are pretty simple - you need to write a 1500 word essay (including footnotes but bibliography is

excluded from the word count) on one of the questions on the link (below). The winning essay wins £100 cash and the two runners-up win £25 cash.

Philosophy Competition: This competition is open to all Year 10-12 students and involves writing an essay on any of the following topics:

1. *Should we believe in free will?*

Suggested resource: www.theatlantic.com

Online podcast: www.theguardian.com

2. *Can climate campaigners justifiably engage in acts of uncivil disobedience?*

Suggested Resource: www.justice-everywhere.org

3. *Can we distinguish between different cultures? If so, how?*

Online video: www.youtube.com

Please contact either of our Humanities prefects: Luca Curini or Dylan Rowley or Mrs Suter for more details.

Mrs Suter

Non-uniform Day

We are pleased to announce that a total of £1720.07 was raised at our non-uniform day before the Christmas break! The proceeds have been donated to SELFA and the Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Network.

Work Experience

Year 10 pupils have been working hard to complete their first CV and were then invited to attend a virtual mock interview earlier this week. On Wednesday, 26 January we were pleased to welcome volunteers (via Teams) from a variety of different industries who generously gave their time to interview pupils on their skills, experience and ambitions. It was a great day and both the pupils and interviewers gained a lot from the experience.

They are now ready to apply for work experience placements if they haven't done so already. In the past, Ermysted's pupils have gained placements at different departments in Skipton Building Society, Keelham Farm Shop, Airedale hospital (non-medical placements for under 18), Yorkshire Dales National Park, JN Bentley engineering, admin offices, primary schools, architects, pharmacies, solicitors, media companies, hospitality, sport centres, bakeries, and MP offices.

Pupils should contact a few employers with help of parents by email or phone call. Once offered a placement, they should complete Placement Form and return it to school. Each placement requires parental consent.

Year 10 Work Experience takes place 11-15 July 2022.

Mrs Rose

Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
GCSE Options Evening	1 February 2022	Zoom
'Wear Red Day' (non-uniform day)	4 February 2022	School
PA Meeting	7 February 2022	Library

Thanks for reading...

This newsletter was compiled by Ermysted's Grammar School. If you have comments or anything for inclusion in future newsletters, please email ktamsons@ermysteds.uk