

NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



Hello everyone,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the year. A bumper edition with lots of photos to celebrate the many, many achievements of the pupils.

Having safely navigated the heatwave, this edition contains updates on recent activities including Speech Day, Enrichment Week and the final surge of DofE expeditions. Particular mention should also be made of Matthew Connell's exceptional performance in the recent Cambridge Chemistry Challenge—see page 7. Terrific work, Matthew!

Hot off the press and following the exertions of our athletes in the annual Sports' Day, the results of the House Competition have been announced. For the first time since 1492 (probably), it is a TIE! The plaudits and the glory is shared equally between Hartley and Toller. Very well done, everyone.

We bid farewell this year to some of our colleagues. Ms Killip and Mr Lane depart for their well earned retirements; Ms Herring moves on to another school; and Mr Steward and Mr Carnelley, both in the Sixth Form this time last year, depart to take up their places at medical school. Thank you and good luck to them all.

Michael Evans
Headteacher

IN THIS ISSUE

SPEECH DAY

ENRICHMENT WEEK

CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

SPORTS DAY

AND LOTS MORE!

Speech Day



On Tuesday, 5 July, we hosted our annual Speech Day celebration. This year, Years 7, 9 and prize winners from all year groups were invited to attend, along with parents, teachers and VIP guests. The guest speaker was Dr Motaz Qadan (pictured above with Mr Worts, Chair of Governors and Mr Evans, Headmaster). Dr Qadan graduated from Ermysted's in 1997 and went on to become a cancer surgeon at Harvard University in the USA. The ceremony began with a welcome from Mr Worts, followed by the Headmaster's account of the year to date. The presentation took place this year by key stage, with intermissions for two musical performances from pupils, Tomasz McCormick (Year 7) and Caleb Shaw (Year 11). Dr Qadan gave an inspirational speech about how he came to study at Ermysted's, his time at school and life after leaving (you can read this [here](#)).

It was a fitting end to what was a wonderful celebration of the year's achievements. The day concluded with a thoughtful vote of thanks from the Head Boy 2021-22, Musa Majid, and the official handover of the Badge of Office to Benedict Curtis, Head Boy 2022-23.

Mrs Tamsons

Enrichment Week

For one week this term, normal timetables were suspended and pupils were offered the opportunity to experience new activities, learn new skills and have fun. Pupils chose from a huge range of pursuits, including trips to Thornthwaite Activity Centre, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Beamish, the Royal Armories and White Scar Caves, plus workshops and other activities at school ranging from falconry to

rocket building. A great week was had by all. Here is a taster of what went on...

Falconry



Beamish





...and woodland management



'Green Careers' in the Yorkshire Dales National Park—
building a footpath...

Rocket building



The Royal Armouries



On Friday 15th June, Year 9 GCSE Historians went to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds as part of their Enrichment Week programme. This year, students in Year 9 have studied Warfare Through Time c.1250-Present and this trip supported their studies. Year 9 were able to engage in an 'Object Handling Activity' where they were able to pick up, wear and learn about the weapons and armour that they have been studying in the classroom, from Medieval Plate Armour to contemporary Kevlar. After this, students were taken on a tour around the Armouries by the museum staff, with staff particularly relating the tour to the battles that they have studied such as Agincourt and Waterloo. After lunch, students were able to conduct a self-directed study pack throughout the museum which tied together everything



they learnt in the morning and this year. Students greatly enjoyed the day and those that sampled the gift shop at the end, unsurprisingly, bought replica swords and other warfare-related gifts.

Mr Barrett

Lego Engineering

During enrichment week all of Year 9 became engineers



for the day designing and constructing an autonomous vehicle out of Lego. In groups they created their vehicle before completing a number of challenges, including having to programme, on iPads, their vehicles to successfully navigate certain coloured routes on the ground. At the end of the day they had to pitch their vehicles to the room, making them as inventive as possible, who wouldn't want a swimming pool or cinema room in their car! All of the boys did an amazing job, working together to create some excellent inventions, well done!

Miss Coombes

Thornthwaite Residential

A fabulous week was enjoyed by Year 7, all spending 3 days and 2 nights residential at Thornthwaite. The trip was packed full of activities, including rock climbing, mountain biking, archery, raft building and fencing. Everyone spent a night under canvas and a night sleeping in dormitories. Alongside their woodland ecology studies, the pupils built friendships with each other, spent time away from home, with many particularly enjoying a water fight in the hot weather, forming memories that will last forever.



Dr Needham



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme



All participants have been taking on the challenge of their assessed expeditions. This has been the culmination of several months of preparation which began in January with the training programme which covered map skills, expedition safety and first aid, the Countryside Code, preparing a menu and route planning. The mapping tool on the eDofE website enabled the boys to devise route cards which broke each day into a number of segments and calculated the distance, altitude gain and duration of the walk.

A total of fifty four boys set out on their two day Bronze expeditions, and for the vast majority this has been their first real expedition experience, camping out overnight. Each day they were out for more than six hours, navigating routes in excess of 14kms, centred around Wharfedale. About half the boys set up camp near Appletreewick and the rest at Kettlewell. Once tents



were pitched the boys were able to cook their meals on the camp stoves. The assessors kept an eye on the teams, offering useful tips when necessary. Bronze is a massive learning experience and the boys were judged to have worked well in their teams. All teams showed greater proficiency on the second day. It is pleasing to read the assessor reports which reveal how well the boys met the challenge.

For the thirty two Year 10s tackling their three day Silver qualifying expedition, two teams started from Pateley Bridge and finished at Blubberhouses, whilst the other three teams headed in the other direction. Routes were challenging, but rain through the first night did little to dampen the spirits. Teamwork and skills developed over the three days and all teams managed to finish ahead of schedule on day three.



Twenty members of Year 12 completed their Gold assessed expedition. Full credit to all three teams who chose to round off their DofE expeditions in the more testing environment of the Lake District. Each team planned their four day circular routes starting from Windermere, with one of the teams choosing to wild camp for one night. Teams encountered changeable weather, which tested them further. The feedback has been very complimentary about how the boys conducted themselves throughout. They showed excellent campcraft and navigation, working brilliantly in their teams.

The expedition section is just one of four sections (five at Gold) that the boys work through to gain their full awards. Assessor reports from volunteering, physical and skills sections reflect the determination and commitment the boys have put in over several months. Most boys still

have some sections to tie up before completing their award. Already however some twenty one Year 9s have completed their Bronze award. At Silver eight have so far managed to complete all sections. At Gold it takes a minimum of twelve months to work through the various sections, so hopefully awards will be gained in the autumn.

This brings to an end my three years of managing the award scheme at Ermysted's so I thank the vast number of staff who have supported me during this time, and wish my successors, Mr Allen and Mr Stubbings, all the best as they take over the reins of this wonderful scheme, which sees the boys develop in so many ways. Also thanks to all parents who have encouraged their sons through the various challenges and dropped them off and picked them up at the end of the expeditions.

Mr Lane

Biology Olympiad

Well done to all the Year 12 Biology students who took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. Particular congratulations to Nathan Howard-Birt and Cole Bateson who were both awarded Gold Medals, George Wycherley and Luther Hall who were awarded Silver medals, and Haris Hussain, William Morrison, and Hanaan Qureshi who were awarded bronze medals.

Mr Herring

Chemistry Cambridge Challenge

The following boys have given up one of their lunchtimes to study for the chemistry Cambridge Challenge. The awards are as follows:

Matthew Connell—Roentgenium

Alex Oliver—Gold

Cole Bateson—Silver

Aston Burdett—Silver

George Wycherley—Copper

Of particular note is Matthew Connell, who has become the first student in Ermysted's long history to be awarded

the top Roentgenium Award. This means he was in the top 0.71% of entrants in this highly academic competition. As a result, he has been invited to a residential summer school at Cambridge University. An outstanding achievement. Well done to all of the boys!

Mr Fearnley

Readers of the Term

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 Readers of the Term!



Mrs McCabe

Sports Day

“An athlete cannot run with money in his pockets. He must run with hope in his heart and dreams in his head”

Emil Zatopek

After many years in education, I didn't think I would ever wake to the welcome sight of Embsay crag shrouded in an early morning mist and the outside chance of a light sprinkling of cooling rain and temperatures in the 20's as a positive. This week may go down in History as Coniningsby reached the dizzying temperature of 40.3 degrees and we all must consider the effects of planetary warming, but for many of the boys who took part in sports day today they have formed their own lasting memories for this historical week that will last longer than the now dissipating heat.

Throughout the proceeding week school had heaped contingency plan upon plan to ensure that sports day in the fullest form possible would go ahead. In the end meteorological web sites and cooling winds from the north ensured that the tried and tested plan of a full day of House based competition could go ahead.

Sports day is put on every year as a celebration event for all of the pupils in school. On Tuesday afternoon the PE dept worked in the searing heat to organise the sporting arena. To turn our little patch of brownish green grass into an athletics amphitheatre is no mean feat. Standing on the top field ready to head home I looked out on the Cononley Moors over the roofs of Skipton and hoped that like the hills that surround us, it would all be there the next day. On arrival at school I headed to the top where some boys were already congregating with a football. I asked them if they could help by leaving and without a question they did. It really does lift the heart when boys give back without question. Throughout the day there have been countless examples recounted by colleagues where the young men of the school have helped this event to go ahead. From helping to transport equipment, sharing kit with friends, filling in for

those not in school and especially giving full and heartfelt support for those boys who although may not be gifted sportspeople have been willing to have a go.

Athletics, under the guidance of Mr Stubbings has undergone a resurgence this year, with boys competing at district, county and at the English Schools level. Allied to the continuing input for Cross Country and fell running from Messrs. Speak and Needham the high end of athletics is booming. Last year we reported a bumper year with two records broken. This year a further one, the 400m for Year 9 was smashed by Tom Hooper (39 seconds (Toller)). Earlier in the school year the following records were either broken or created by athletes in district or county events: Will McDonnell Year 8, 80m Hurdles 15.3 seconds; Ben Horsfield Year 10 80m Hurdles 12.5 secs; Nathan Joseph Year 10 300m 42.0secs, George Marsh Year 7 1500m, 4 mins 58 secs, Oliver Hardcastle Shot 9.89m and Freddie Brown Year 10 100m 11.4 seconds (the latter competing alongside Alex Thompson, Year 13 at the English Schools Athletics finals at Sport City Manchester in June). A big thank you must go to Alex for all he has given to athletics in school and we wish him well as he heads to University in the USA on an Athletics scholarship.

As I have regaled in previous years the high achievers rightly deserve applause for the dedication they put in to reach such dizzying heights. But it is the many that take part in sport day that are the true heroes. We have several running, jumping, and throwing superstars in school. To know that you are entering an event for your house where the probability of positional success is limited demonstrates a truly strong character trait has to be both recognised and applauded. With many schools moving away from competitive sport is humbling to observe that the family at Ermysted's, students and staff, get behind this event and make it the success it is every year.

To all of the boys who took part and supported others thank you.

The Creative Arts Faculty (PE)

Year7	
H	41
P	29
E	26
T	17

Year8	
T	48
H	23
E	22
P	19

Year9	
P	34
E	31
T	25
H	23

Year10	
P	49
T	31
H	21
E	20

Results Overall	
P	144
T	134
H	116
E	109

New School Records							
Field Events				Track Events			
Zeb	Proctor	TripleJump Year	8.39	Tom	Hooper	400M Year9	53.41
						Relay Year7	58.75
						Relay Year7	1.02
						Relay Year7	1.04

Skipton Fire Service



In the morning sun of Monday 18th July, the Skipton Fire Service visited Ermysted's to give a demonstration on how they would rescue somebody from a traffic collision.

In the exciting demonstration, the firefighters used their tools to safely remove a volunteer student from a car without injuring him by cutting off both doors and the entire roof in under 10 minutes.

Students were able to try some of the tools and wear the protective gear.

A firefighter then gave a road safety talk, advising students not to drive recklessly during the summer or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Questions followed with some students enquiring about careers in the fire service and others asking more general questions about the experiences of a firefighter.

Robbie P, Year 12



Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
New Parents' Evening (Year 7 & 12)	22 September 2022	School
Year 11 Parents' Evening	6 October 2022	Online
Year 13 Parents' Evening	20 October 2022	Online
Year 8 Consultation Day	30 November 2022	Online
Year 12 Parents' Evening	7 December 2022	Online
Founders' Day	9 December 2022	Holy Trinity Church
Christmas Concert	14 & 15 December 2022	Memorial Hall

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