

# NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



*Year 8 enjoying their Gaelic Football lesson on a snowy day in March!*

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the term. It has been a busy few weeks, as evidenced by this bumper edition, and everyone at the school seems quite ready for the break. Pupils in the exam cohorts have been working particularly hard in the run up to the exams, so I hope they find time to relax and recuperate too.

On reading this edition, I was struck by the incredible diversity of the pupils' efforts and achievements. We have seen strong performances in the scientific and mathematical Olympiads, more sporting success, and the debating teams and Young Enterprise groups have made us proud in the recent competitions.

School trips are once again in full flow: our Sixth Form students have been inspired by the recent UCAS careers event; our poets and scientists have enjoyed their subject conferences; and it was so lovely to welcome the German exchange students to our school once again. Good luck to those going to Berlin next week and we can all look forward to the other trips planned for the summer.

I do hope you have a restful break and I look forward to seeing the pupils when they return.

My best wishes to you all.

**Michael Evans**

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## Youth Speaks 2023



On Thursday, 2 March, we competed in this year's Youth Speaks debating contest organised by Skipton Rotary. Debates this year were based on the monarchy, the environment and economics.

The competition is intended to support and encourage effective speaking skills, individual research into the chosen subjects and formulating ideas on topical subjects.

Teams comprised a Chairperson, Proposer and Opposer. Each team had 15 minutes to talk about their chosen subject before questions were invited. Penalties were given for going over the time limit by a system of coloured lights. A panel of three judges from a professional background adjudicated.

The winning Senior team's (Vincent, Sebastian and Nathaniel in Year 12, pictured above) chosen subject was "Should we have Limited Government Intervention in the Economy".

The winning Intermediate Team (Yusuf in Year 7, Sachin and Elias in Year 8, pictured right) discussed the question "Should Carbon Emitting Vehicles be Banned?".



Sebastian won the Senior Best Speaker honours and Rishi (Year 8) the Intermediate Best Speaker prize. His team's subject was "Is Keeping Pets Ethical?". Other subjects were "Is the Monarchy no Longer Necessary?" and "Everyone Should Strive to be Rich".

Representatives from Skipton Rotary were impressed by the standard of speeches this year. Well done to all who took part!

**Ms Davies**

## World Book Day



World Book Day was enthusiastically celebrated on 2 March with students from every year group participating.

Thank you to everyone that brought in books for the book swap; it was a lively lunchtime with over 100 books on offer. The 'books in a bucket' competition proved very popular as did the 'Guess the reader' quiz.

Thank you to all the staff that were photographed reading a book and congratulations to 11CS, they managed to identify all 54 readers, which was quite a feat.



**Mrs McCabe**



## Sponsor a Book



Our 'Sponsor a Book' wishlist remains live, so if you'd like to purchase a book, you can do so by clicking [here](#). Thank you so much to everyone who has taken part in the scheme so far.

**Mrs McCabe**

## Science Live!

I recently attended the Year 10 trip to GCSE Science Live in Bradford, and it was a fantastic experience. The event was well organised, with a variety of talks from professors and scientists from multiple fields.

My personal highlight of the day was the presentation on quantum computers and how they will revolutionise science & technology – it was a truly inspiring and thought-provoking experience. Additionally, there were two talks on exam technique, which provided us with invaluable advice on how to answer questions correctly and to the right standard.

The speakers were knowledgeable and engaging, one of which studied at Cambridge University & she told us her story of swimming the entire English Channel! It enabled me to gain a great deal of scientific understanding from

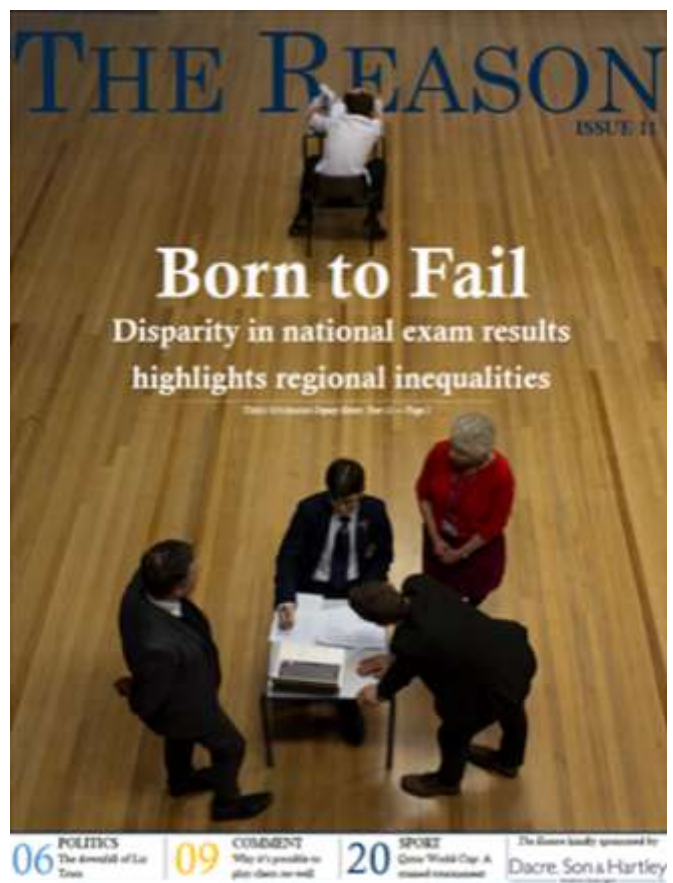
the event.

Personally, I found the event to be highly engaging and informative. All in all, I would highly recommend this trip to any GCSE student looking to broaden their horizons in the field of science.

It was a worthwhile experience that I will definitely remember as it was an incredible opportunity to expand my scientific understanding and I'm so glad that I was able to attend.

**Mohamed Badawi, Year 10**

## The Reason Issue 11: Out Now!



The Editorial Team, led by Editor-in-Chief Jacob Newby and Deputy Editors Simon Chan, Gurdith Singh and Theo Stuman, have worked exceptionally hard to publish the latest edition of The Reason. Pupils from across the school have written pieces ranging from Putin's war in Ukraine, to developments in AI and to TikTok's relationship with the music industry. Parents and

students can purchase a copy of *The Reason* from the online ParentPay Shop here: [Ermysted's Grammar School Shop \(parentpay.com\)](https://parentpay.com), where it will be delivered to students in form time. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Barrett (email [gbarrett@ermysteds.uk](mailto:gbarrett@ermysteds.uk)).

**Mr Barrett**

## Maths News

### ***British Maths Olympiad Round 2***

Congratulations to Matthew Connell Year 13 who gained a distinction in round 2, following his full marks achieved in Round 1. Well done! An amazing achievement!

### ***Intermediate Maths Challenge***

A selection of students in Year 10 and Year 11 sat the UKMT IMC and successfully achieved 7 Gold, 26 Silver, and 17 Bronze Awards. Special congratulations to Samesh (Y11) who qualified for the Maclaurin Olympiad, and to Joe (Y10), Joe (Y11) and Harrison (Y11) who qualified for the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round in which Joe (Y11) achieved a Merit. Super!

### ***March Mathness***

The "[March Mathness](#)" competition has run in the library every school day in march where students have been set the challenge of solving a puzzle each day. A remarkable number of detailed student answers have been submitted each day, with winners from every year group, all in the quest to win a daily chocolate bar. Great to see so many hungry curious minds.

**Dr Needham**

## GCSE Poetry Live

On Thursday, 2 March, thirty-six Year 11 students, along with Miss Gorman, Mrs Titterington, Mrs White and I, hopped on a coach and made the journey to Bradford for the 'GCSE Poetry Live' event.

Hundreds of students from schools in the local area assembled to see and hear some of the poets from the GCSE Poetry Anthology, as they recited and talked about their poems, gave insights into their creative practices, and answered questions from the floor.

We were all thrilled to hear the moving words of former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, the quirky verse of Daljit Nagra, the mellifluous tones of Imtiaz Dharker and the practical advice of an examiner.



Alas, current Poet Laureate and 'Poetry Live' stalwart Simon Armitage was unable to attend: probably detained by King Charles on Coronation-prep duties, so we had to make do with a recorded Zoom message. Saving the day, however, was the inimitable, 'legendary' John Agard, whose entertaining, show-closing on-stage antics meant that we left the St George's Hall in a raucous atmosphere akin to a popular music concert. Poetry lives!

**Mr Hodgson**

## Physics Olympiad

Alex Oliver Year 13, as well as being selected in the final 24 (of over 3500 entries) of the British Physics Olympiad to go forward to Round 3 and British Team selection at Oxford University, which certainly makes him one of the most talented young physicists in the country, has also been selected to attend the BPhO prizegiving ceremony at the Royal Society in London.

**Mr Baker**

## German Exchange

Our German exchange students, 26 girls and 17 boys, arrived at Aireville park on Saturday afternoon after a long 24-hour trip on coach and ferry. This is the first time in four years that we are able to arrange reciprocal visits with the Tassilo-Gymnasium in Skipton's twin town of Simbach, an exchange programme which has existed since 1983! After a short rest, a group of families met up at Billy Bob's diner, not exactly traditionally British, but a good location to break the ice over a burger and get moving in the hay barn play area.

For many English students, the Germans' knowledge of the English language was surprisingly good. (The equivalent of a Year 5 British pupil receives 3 hours 45 minutes of English teaching a week in Germany!) Fortunately, there is a bit of time left to work on our German before we go to visit them in July!

The next day several exchange students and their partners jumped on a train to Leeds, enjoyed a meal at Nando's and explored the city centre.

On Monday morning our German pupils joined in a variety of lessons with their exchange partners - thank you to no less than 20 Ermysted's teachers for helping to facilitate this; it was much appreciated by the German staff! The weather confirmed all the assumptions Germans have of England in being rainy, cold and windy, especially on the trip to Malham Cove on Monday afternoon, from which the exchange students returned soaking wet. Still, they seemed to embrace and enjoy English culture. One of the parents, Mrs Ruth Hall, kindly organised a further visit, to the Grassington Fire Station, as several of the German pupils are members of the



Junior Fire Brigade in their hometown. This was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff!

Tuesday saw the German party heading off to Liverpool with Miss Waudby for a tour of Anfield (a particular request from them, as it had been so successful in 2019). On Tuesday evening a large group of students arranged a night at the bowling alley, for many a highlight of the week. At least at bowling the Ermysted's students seemed, on average, to do better!

York was the destination on Wednesday, focusing on the City Walls, the Minster and the Shambles, due to its links with Harry Potter. The German pupils then had some time to explore the city for themselves, and several expressed that it was their favourite place.

Wednesday night was celebrated with Fish 'n' Chips in the Memorial Hall, excellent live music from Josh Warburton and a challenging and fun quiz. A big thank you to everyone who organised it, particularly Mrs Rigarsford and Ermysted's Friends' Association who provided refreshments!



On Thursday, after exploring Skipton and its castle, Ms Collins led a discussion with the German party on the Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme. Frau Toldrian and Mrs Warburton had submitted a joint application for funding from the UK-German Connection, their chosen project being a comparison between the two towns' approach to the flooding of recent years, and they have been successful in securing 4000 Euros to subsidise the exchange costs.

The German students gathered again on Thursday afternoon in Aireville park to board their coach. There



were hugs all round - and some sad faces having to say goodbye ...or rather tschüß!

Overall, the visit was a great experience for all concerned (and not as awkward as some had anticipated!) It has been described as “eye opening” ... in a positive way! Not only did we learn more about their language & culture, we found new friends. We were also impressed by how good they were at handshakes and look forward to our daps when we will visit them in Simbach in July!

A huge THANK YOU to Mrs Warburton who invested an incredible amount of time and effort organising this exchange!

**Written by Year 10 pupils**

## Match Report:

### Ermysted's v St John Fisher



Snow was falling and the sky was darkening as the match kicked off on 8 March but early breaks from Dylan C brightened affairs. Ermysted's pack was led by Captain Joe H playing at Hooker and he took responsibility from a 5-yard penalty tapping to himself and battering to within a yard of the line and Bilal N followed in his wake and picked up and popped the ball down for the opening try after 5 minutes. The wide out conversion from Dylan just missed the uprights.

St John Fisher decided it was now time to 'get off the bus' and they produced a solid 10 minutes of possession. With a penalty advantage their fly half attempted a speculative kick through the Ermysteds back line and the bounce of the ball favoured the onrushing centre who scored under the posts and the conversion followed. It was 5-7 after 15 minutes.

The kick off was recovered by the home team and forward pressure kept the ball around St John's 22. An

excellent break from Dylan found Joe in support on his left shoulder who with speed and strength powered over from 10 yards just right of the posts. The conversion attempt slipped by the right hand post and the score was 10-7.

The to-and-fro nature of the games continued with the travelling team making it two tries a piece after just 25 minutes by exploiting the blind side and sneaking into the corner with an unconverted try to recover the lead at 10-12.

Ermysted's continued to dominate in the forwards and Will H-S and Joe made a 30 yard break from a lineout with beautiful interplay that resembled a move the Harlem Globetrotters would have been proud of but an unfortunate penalty allowed St John Fisher one more chance on the stroke of half time and from a scrum their influential 10 ghosted through the defence and made it 10-17. The conversion was missed and that was the half time score.

Both teams had produced some excellent play in difficult conditions in the first half and if anything the weather worsened for the second half which saw Ermysted's continue to dominate but this was met by stoic defence from St John Fisher. After 18 minutes of stalemate the rugby game was halted as a boxing match broke out. A vigorous carry into contact from Finlay W caused exception amongst the away team and Jack M was first on hand to calm matters but a right hook from the opposition No 8 which would have been applauded at Madison Square Gardens only saw red at Sandylands as he received his marching orders. Jack received a yellow.

Ermysted's produced some training ground excellence with a catch and drive from the lineout around 30 metres out on the right and then swift hands along the back line took the ball to the left wing and within 10 metres of the line. Three pick and drives from the base of the ruck ended with Bilal appearing to both the naked eye and photographic evidence to have scored his second. But, no try, the referee deemed the ball to have been knocked on and short.

With seven minutes remaining the one man advantage saw Ermysted's camped in the opposition 22 and the determination of the half was finally rewarded as the catch and drive from the lineout was, once again, taken to within a yard of the line, by Joe. Henry G picked up

and found a gap on the blind side to score with the final play of the game. The score was 15-17 and only the conversion attempt remained, but wide out on the left. A draw would have been a fair result for both teams as they had both produced some very good rugby in difficult condition. However, the excellent attempt from Dylan into the wind and snow just missed the left post and the opposition had their victory.

**Declan Hayes**

## National Reading Champions Quiz



Well done to the two teams that represented Ermysted's in the Yorkshire heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz. It was a fiercely fought competition with Team A, comprising Will H-D, Quillan A, Jason C and Hanzalah A, narrowly missing out on the Yorkshire Champions title by one point. Team B comprising, Rishi H, Isaac J, Ben R and Stirling S put in a strong performance and were placed 14th out of 24 teams. The year 7 reserves Baasit S, William C and Edward L, gained competition experience and enjoyed being part of the event. It was a great celebration of readers and reading and the Ermysted's teams can be proud of their impressive literary knowledge.

**Mrs McCabe**

## Music News

### *Music Workshop*

On Wednesday, 8 March Thomas Merrall came in and did a workshop for GCSE Music Students here and at SGHS. He talked to them about how he had started his career as

a professional composer, talked about significant moments in his life and work and played some of his



music. He told all of the students how to follow in his footsteps if they wanted a career in writing music, and gave them a practical task to do on computers using some of his music. The talk was very well received by both sets of students, and Mrs Chilvers from SGHS said how much they appreciated being invited to it.

### *Sixth Form Concert*



On Wednesday, 15 March talented Sixth Form students (from both EGS and SGHS) took part in our concert at Alexander's. Parents sat around café-style, nibbled and drank while they watched the performances. It was very well received, and Alexander's have already asked about a follow-up in the future!

**Dr Cloke**





## 2023 Rotary Technology Tournament

On 7th March the DT Department took three teams of pupils to compete in the first “post-covid” technology challenge. A team of four pupils in each group were tasked with the challenge of creating a battery powered cable car to carry aid across a ravine, they had to design their solution first and submit a portfolio of sketches and plans for assessment, then the building and testing began.

Year 9 had to get the vehicle across with a weight on board, Year 10 had to get the weight across and drop the cargo in the drop zone, Year



12 had to take the weight across, drop it in the drop zone and return to base. With each school participating having at least three teams, Gargrave Village hall was a busy hive of activity. The Rotarians were on hand to advise and judge their efforts. There was a great atmosphere amongst all the students and the Ermysted's pupils were chatting amongst themselves and with other teams discussing successful attempts and those that needed refining.

The Year 9 Team made up of: Joshua, Haaziq, Oliver and Ethan were the first team to be called to compete and they calmly walked to the front of the hall and set their vehicle off, it went straight across the ravine without a

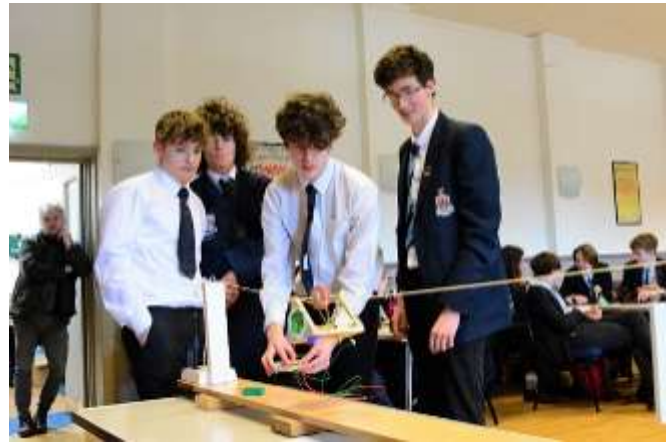


hitch – earning them 2nd place overall in the Key Stage 3 competition.

The Year 10 team Michael, George, Nicolas and Philip

worked brilliantly together. They created a very innovative vehicle which worked without fault early on in the testing phase, they even had time to embellish their design with graphics! The team won best portfolio for Key Stage 4 and owing to a minor fault in their final test –

came away with 2nd place for Key Stage 4, very impressive.



The Year 12 team of Jack, Charlie, Freddie and Nathaniel pushed themselves to fulfil all parts of their complex brief, they battled on through testing and refining right to the end of the challenge, but unfortunately their final adjustments didn't quite pay off for them and they didn't secure a win. They did value the experience, and gained some key knowledge about undertaking such a challenge and the pitfalls that can arise.



All three teams represented EGS with pride, and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. We will go back next year with renewed vigour and an even greater desire to win! Special thanks must go to Mr Mangham for his preparation of materials and equipment, for driving us there and for giving key coaching to the newly formed teams prior to the event.



**Mrs Diccox**



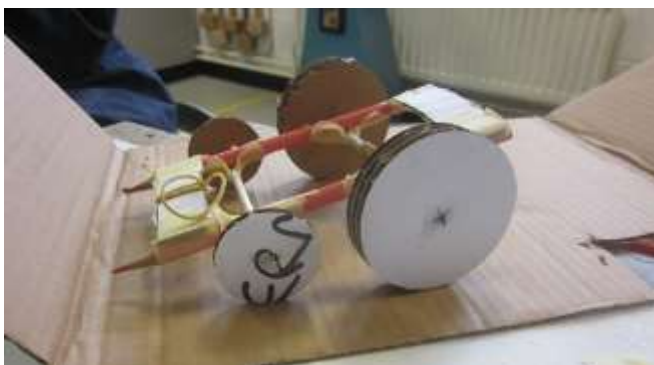
## What can you build in one hour?

### *Year Nine Design Technology Students Build Alternative Vehicles in the "Smallpeice Trust STEM Sessions 2 - the Rubber Band Car challenge"*

On Monday 20 March, selected year nine pupils were given the challenge of building a rubber band powered vehicle in just one hour using resources that were available in the stationery cupboard. The pictures show some examples of what they came up with. The challenge was run in conjunction with the Smallpeice Trust, who are an educational charity that inspires young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths through events and workshops. The trust also work alongside the Arkwright Scholarship programme. Ermysted's DT Department successfully bid for a place on this national event. The trust used a live



able to post questions in the chat and contribute to the live discussion. The rubber band used is anchored to the car at one end then wrapped around the axle as many times as possible and released. Cars were judged by how



far the vehicle travelled unaided in a straight line with the most successful ones typically travelling a distance of around four metres. Laws of physics were explored applying engineering, science and maths principles to a

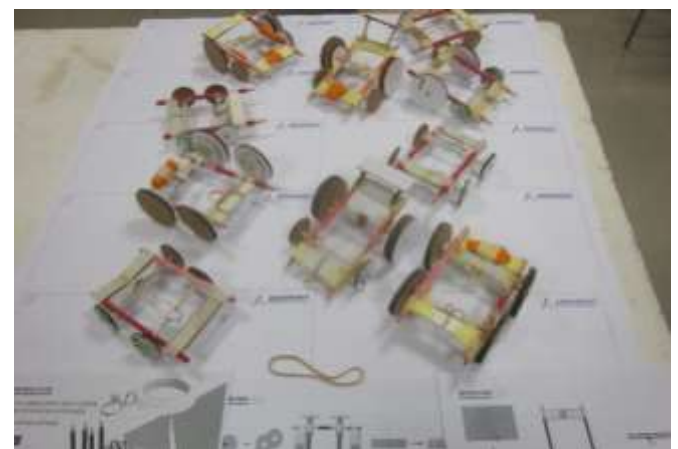


practical challenge. The vehicle demonstrates the law dealing with conversion of energy from kinetic, to potential and back to kinetic again and

students were able to see the real life practicalities involved in employing it and highlights in a small way the growing need to power vehicles in imaginative but environmentally friendly ways. So well done to the year nine pupils involved and keep an eye out for



other similar environmental engineering challenges around the school and within the DT Department.



**Mrs Diccox, Mr Gardiner and Mr Mangham (supported by former pupil Oliver Firth)**

## Non-uniform Days

### ***DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal***

We are pleased to announce that following our non-uniform day on 10 February, we managed to raise a whopping £1992 for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal!

### ***Comic Relief***

We also raised a fantastic total of £528 for Comic Relief from our non-uniform day on 17 March.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed!

## Keighley & Craven Schools XC League Award Winners

### **Year 7/8 Team**

Ermysted's were Champions with the best 5 runners gaining Gold Medals;

George M	30pts
Will O	24pts
Will P	22pts
Seth B	18pts
Harry R	16pts

### **Year 7/8 Individuals**

Champion	George M	30pts
Runner-up	Will O	24pts

### **Year 9/10 Team**

Ermysted's were Third Team with the best 5 runners gaining Bronze Medals;

Lucas S	30pts
Oliver F	21pts
Thomas N	19pts
Seth L	15pts
Max S	14pts

### **Year 11-13 Team**

Ermysted's were Champions with the best 5 runners gaining Gold Medals;

Sam B	30pts
Samesh C	23pts
Lachlan W	18pts
Nathan H	17pts
Dougie S-S	8pts

### **Year 11-13 Individuals**

Champion	Sam B	30pts
Runner-up	Samesh C	23pts



## American Football Experience



The drier, spring-like weather has coincided with our annual American Football experience in Year 8. There are no helmets or pads in this version though, just tag belts to make sure that the game is skill-based and strategic rather than purely physical.

**Mr King**

## Easter Antics

Ermysted's Exams team had their very own Easter Bake Off, very kindly hosted by Mrs Taylor and Mrs Reynoldson in the Food Technology room.

There was mixed success amongst the hot cross buns but plenty of laughter before the serious business of exam season begins next term!

**Mrs Barnes**

## Young Enterprise

On Tuesday, 21 March our two Young Enterprise teams ('Threads' and 'Opus Noctis') took a trip to Ripon Grammar School to take part in the Area Final. Below is a report from team 'Threads'.

Our Young Enterprise journey was a full of bumps and roadblocks however each one only strengthened the group. Our company is called "Threads" and we sell T-shirts, we started off selling bland printed T-shirts with simply our company logo on them, but we soon realised that T-shirts like that are a dime-a-dozen and we wanted

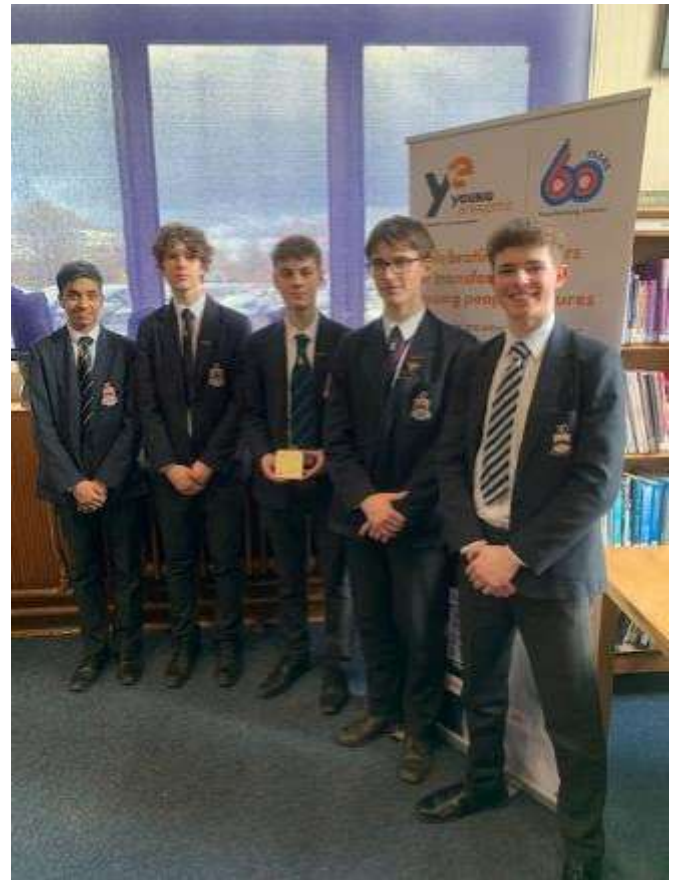


to create something more unique. We ended up creating spray painted T-shirts with designs created by boys for boys. We are immensely proud of the product we created with each T-shirt being slightly different (whether that be colour, design or merely the slight differences that come with spray painting the design), and we are eager to sell our product. Even though at the Young Enterprise final we did not win any prizes we are happy with our performance and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. We learnt valuable skills and experiences throughout the experience such as our CEO Charlie H gaining leadership skills, our Head of Finance James H solidifying his ideas of university courses in the finance world or my experience engineering and designing for other people's needs and wants. We would like to thank Mr Evans, Mrs Barnes, and our company advisors for all the arduous work they put in to make this experience as enjoyable as it was.

**Nathaniel S, 12AH**



### *Opus Noctis*



## Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Whole School Photograph	26 April 2023	Front field
Sixth Form Taster Day	28 June 2023	School
Year 13 Leavers' Event	30 June 2023	Quad (or Refectory if wet)
Speech Day	4 July 2023	Sports Hall
Open Evening	4 July 2023	School

## 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](mailto:ktamsons@ermysteds.uk)