

NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



Isaac and Zak competing in the Rotary Young Chefs Competition at Craven College, February 2024

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. A short half term, but we seem to have crammed in a lot of activities nevertheless.

Thank you to all the parents and alumni who returned to put Year 10 through their paces in the **mock interviews**. A formative and extremely valuable experience for many of our pupils, as confirmed by one returning alumni who still had his feedback sheet from when he was on the other side of the table.

Congratulations to our **chefs** and our **scientists** on their recent successes. You will be able to read of several **sporting achievements**, which we managed to complete before the snow arrived. The spring term sees an overlap of some of our winter sports winding up and preparations underway for the summer events. It has been wonderful to see 30-40 lower school pupils turn up each week for winter crickets nets after school, especially when you watch them being coached and encouraged by the equally enthusiastic Year 12 helpers.

May I wish you all a restful and restorative half term. I hope you have a lovely time with your families and I look forward to seeing the pupils on their return.

Michael Evans
Headteacher

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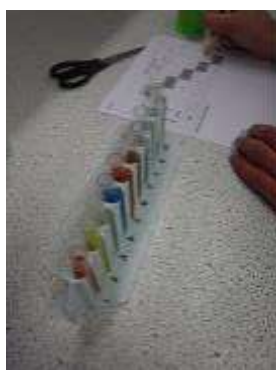
ROTARY YOUNG CHEFS

AND MUCH MORE!

Top of the Bench Competition



Isaac J, Ming Kai L, Hengda L, and Alfie S represented the school in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition in York on Wednesday, 17 January. They took part in a variety of practical challenges as well as theoretical quizzes, and came a very respectable 5th place – only eight points behind the regional champions. Well done to all the boys.



Dr Sobala

King Henry VIII Relays



On Wednesday, 31 January, our Cross-Country team had a fantastic performance at the Coventry relays in the War Memorial Park. Since 1972 King Henry VIII School has hosted what is now regarded by many as the national Inter-Schools Cross Country Relay Race. Boys and girls compete in their own categories: the Boys' Race is 6 x 2.3 miles; the Girls' Race is 4 x 2.3 miles. The

course is over pavement, grass, woodland – and usually quite a few puddles – and is largely flat with no significant elevation. Schools enter their best runners, regardless of their age, although this will usually include predominantly runners in the Sixth Form. The race has a strong legacy, boasting former competitors of the calibre of Seb Coe, Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee, and Richard Nerurkar.

Conditions were not perfect, wet in the woods and a strong wind, which meant fast times (unless you have carbon fibre shoes) were always going to be difficult. Ermysted's have another good crop of athletes at the moment with the school competing well at national level in both cross-country and over the fells, however, this flat relay is a far cry from the mud and hills they are used to. The students had aspirations of a high single figure placing and Mr Speak did remind them that there are cups for the first four teams home and that might be possible if they all ran well.

Tom H set off in determined fashion and wasn't far behind when coming back in sight half way around the course. He slipped a few places and came back 15th but actually ran a good time. The first leg often has the best runners and was certainly true again this year as four of the five fastest times for the day were recorded on this leg.

Year 11's Ewen W was next and lifted the team well inside the top ten before Year 9 George M took over. We have school best times for each age group round this course and George was gunning for Tom Blanchard's Year 9 record. Sure enough he did beat that time and now holds our best times for Years 7, 8 and 9, as he brought us back in 6th place.

Nathan H was next and maintained our position beating his time from last year by nearly a minute. Samesh C was our penultimate runner and was battling with a string of runners, all within 20 seconds of 4th place. That left Sam B on the last leg within sight of that coveted 4th place and a chance of a cup and medals for the team. By half way Sam had caught 4th but still had company and although hopeful the cup was only assured when he came back down the finishing straight well ahead having run our 5th fastest time ever at this event.

Ermysted's 'B' team also ran a fast time and finished 28th of the 56 teams. They were actually 4th B team ahead of

many schools' A teams. Lachlan W showed he should have been in our 'A' team as he ran fastest, with our retiring Captains of Cross-Country Jack A and Dougie S-S both recording fast times in their final outing at this event. Will O, Seth B and Noah S all did well against much older opposition and will no doubt be back to run faster times for the 'A' team as they move up the school.



With the school not losing any runners from the 'A' team for next year's race, it could well be an opportunity to go even better as they are all a year older, bigger, stronger and hopefully faster!

Mr Speak

Year 9 make Pretzels



Year 9 Germanists enjoyed making pretzels during a cross-curricular lesson this week. Thank you to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Reynoldson for enabling this rewarding activity to take place and to GCSE German and Food Nutrition pupils Joe and Oliver for being on hand to support!

Frau Warburton



1st XI at Bootham— County Cup Quarter-Final

This was a chance for us to progress and still have a shot at some silverware. We were playing on a great school grass pitch with a tremendous backdrop of York Minster. The surface was good but a bit sticky due to storms Isha and Joselyn. In spite of that it was a really great game of football with both teams playing some good stuff.

The game could not have started much better for us as within three minutes we had the lead. Nathan H started well as he won a ball in midfield and played Nathan J in. Nathan J tried to beat the advancing keeper but his shot was saved, however, the ricochet bounced to Aryaan G in the inside left position who calmly swept home from 12 yards (0-1).

On six minutes we thought Nathan J had doubled the lead. He was set free again by Nathan H and rounded the keeper but inexplicably having done the hard bit he hit the post from not a bad angle.

We were soon to regret that miss as on nine minutes with pretty much their first attack we conceded. They gained a throw-in about level with the left corner of our

box. The long throw was missed by Max in goal and the resulting melee was finished with a low hard shot from the six-yard line (1-1).



There followed a decent passage of play with some good battling in midfield and some good wing play on both sides. On 18

minutes Bootham scored a good goal as a ball from the centre of the park was played over the forward's left shoulder. He held off a challenge and sweetly passed the ball past Max (2-1).

Bootham's lead didn't last long as on 23 minutes Boe K and Freddie S worked a good situation on our right wing, resulting in a corner. Boe's delivery from set pieces has got better as the season has gone on and he struck a good cross to the far corner of the six-yard box. Aryaan met it well and directed his header back across goal and just under the bar (2-2).

So a hectic start and four goals shared in the first quarter of the game. We did put the ball in the net twice more before half-time, but both were disallowed for offside. The first a header back across goal following a Boe free-kick which was gleefully hammered home was touch and go offside. However, Freddie S was seething as his run and excellent near post shot into the roof of the net was harshly/incorrectly ruled out. It could have been worse at the break as Bootham were awarded a soft penalty but their striker pulled his shot wide of the left hand upright.

We started off the second half and whoever said 'lightning doesn't strike twice' hadn't played watched us play Bootham as on 54 minutes they were lining up another spot

kick. This time they made no mistake as the ball was stroked calmly past



Max (3-2). Aryaan had a decent shout for a penalty within a minute of the restart but the ref saw nothing.

The goal of the game came on 59 minutes as Max R had a good run down our left before squaring a ball to the middle of the pitch. From fully 25 yards Boe K struck a sweet low drive just inside the right post for a well-deserved equaliser (3-3).

We kept pressing and Aryaan was again calling for a penalty. The ref gave a corner claiming the defender got the ball first. It was a toss up as to who might win and we were talking about making sure we had the right eleven on the pitch at full time for penalties. However, on 73 minutes Nathan H had other ideas. He has an excellent engine, having recently qualified for the NY Cross-Country team and he picked up a loose clearance in the centre of the park from where he carried the ball around the centre-half and right back to drive in on goal. He looked like he had run out of impetus but still got a shot away which was cruelly deflected past their keeper for what looked like the winner (3-4).



Three minutes into added time Boe K delivered another great far post cross which Joe R headed back across goal for Nathan H to cap his MoM winning performance with a shot from point blank range (3-5). There was another five minutes of play but we saw out the game without incident and we still have the chance to final to finish the season off in style with the possibility of silverware.

So a great game and all 15 players did themselves proud with a never say die attitude and no little skill!

Mr Speak

House Update

The House competition has never been closer. Half way through the year and only 115 points separate 1st from 4th so it is literally all still to play for!

House	Points total	Position
Petyt	985	1st
Toller	945	2nd
Hartley	910	3rd
Ermysted	870	4th

Winter Cricket



Year 7 and Year 8 cricketers have been making good use of the school's nets this term, ably supported by our Year 12 students. Over 30 have turned up every week, happily intermingling the year groups, to turn over their arms and practise their cover drives. This term we have been very fortunate to receive a brand-new mat for one of the nets (pictured), which has been very kindly provided by the Ermysted's Old Boys' Society. Although much longer and heavier than the threadbare offering it replaces, the mat has transformed the consistency of bounce for the awaiting batsman, and will no doubt go a long way to helping the lower school squads become the all-conquering champions of future cricket seasons!

Mr Evans

Year 10 Mock Interviews



On Wednesday, 7 February, Ermysted's was pleased to welcome nearly 30 representatives from different careers to support the mock interview process with Year 10. Our pupils had prepared CVs in advance and spent 30 minutes talking about themselves, their achievements and their plans for the future. This was a really useful experience for the pupils and there was a lot of positive and constructive feedback from the interviewers. Some pupils impressed the interviewer so much that they were offered work experience with them.

A number of our volunteer interviewers were ex-pupils, parents and governors. This included Gabriel Benny who brought in his feedback sheet from when he completed his interviews in year 10. He said he had found the experience incredibly valuable when he was a pupil and wanted to contribute to this event now that he has found employment.

For those pupils who have not yet organised work experience for the week commencing 8 July, we are hopeful that this will have given them the confidence to contact employers and gather some ideas about how best to share their skills and strengths.

Once pupils have received the offer of a work experience placement, they should register the details with Unifrog. This allows the employers to record work experience tasks and provide school with the necessary documentation.

Ms Davies and Mrs Rose

Biology Olympiad

Year 12 and 13 biologists took part in the Biology Olympiad this week, competing against thousands of students across the country. We await their results with interest, hoping to see some medals being awarded.

Mr Herring

Rotary Young Chefs Competition



On Thursday, 1 February, Zak A and I competed at the Craven District Rotary Young Chefs Competition held at Craven College, Skipton. There were seven contestants competing for 1st prize which I won with a main and desert of hake with bouillabaisse and profiteroles which are both traditional French dishes.

In March, I will be competing in regional finals in Cumbria representing Ermysted's.

Isaac C, Year 9

Natural Sciences Society

The second meeting of the Year 7 Ermysted's Natural Sciences Society has taken place this week. This is a lunchtime club run by Year 12 students. The topics discussed so far have been the sizes of things in the Universe from the smallest to the largest, and the origins of life on Earth.

As part of our efforts to reduce our environmental

impact and help with the high cost of living, we have a revision guide shop in the library where we are stocking donated GCSE revision guides for nearly all subjects. If you have revision guides at home that are no longer needed, please send them in to school where our volunteers in the library will check them and add them to the stocklist. If your son wishes to purchase any of these revision guides, please ask him to visit the library. All revision guides are 50p each and payment is made through ParentPay.

Mr Herring

Christmas Jumper Day



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day 2023. We raised a whopping £1069.90! This was split between two charities—Martin House Children's Hospice and The Principle Trust Children's Charity. We received the following message from The Principle Trust:

'You have enabled a family to receive a free week long respite holiday to one of our holidays. Thank you so much! This amazing contribution will help a child from Yorkshire who may be underprivileged, disadvantaged, have disabilities or additional needs, face life-limiting conditions, or have experienced poverty, trauma, or abuse. This will help that child and their family to improve mental welling and family relationships at a time when their circumstances may prove difficult or challenging. Thank you for the bottom of our hearts for choosing to support us and helping make memories that last.'

Well done everyone.

Craven College XI v Ermysted's 1st XI



Ermysted's enjoyed a friendly against Craven College on Wednesday, 7 February. Recently we have comfortably beaten College but historically we used to play some close matches. College have been looking better of late and certainly turned up for this fixture. There was an even start with both sides probing without much end product. The only meaningful action in the first ten minutes resulted in a regulation save by Tashfeen M in our net. On 11 minutes Sam A was caught retaliating after an elbow from College's centre forward. Our complaints only let College steal another ten yards so a long shot free-kick was now in range. It still needed a quality strike from well outside the box and that's exactly what it got as the ball arrowed into the top corner before Tashfeen could move (1-0).

We then played our best football of the half as Nathan H and Cassian C got hold of the ball in midfield. On 17 minutes, Cass played a great ball to Nathan J who controlled on the right of their box. Nathan still had loads to do but turned inside and struck a sweet low shot into the bottom right from the edge of the box for a really well taken equaliser (1-1). Five minutes later we thought we had the lead as Boe K's free kick was headed back across goal by Nathan H for Aryaan G to knock home. Unfortunately Aryaan had just drifted offside so the goal was chalked off.

College then came back into the match and were rewarded with another well taken goal as good interplay got them into the box and saw the ball drilled home into the right corner again giving Tashfeen no chance (2-1). Not much happened for the last 15 minutes of the half

but Ermysted's did look second best at times to a side that were really up for it.

We restarted with a much hungrier attitude and within four minutes Boe K looked to have got us level with a good strike from 25 yards. However, their keeper made the save of the day as he just managed to turn it over the bar. The resulting corner was right on the money and Aryaan G met it sweetly to power a header home from six yards (2-2). We now looked the better team and to be honest College looked a bit tired. Rhys P and Aryaan looked threatening on the flanks and the ever-industrious Nathan H kept driving forward with real intent. We are becoming a bit of a set piece specialist team and once more Boe K's delivery was exceptional. Our third came on 60 minutes with a repeat performance by Aryaan from Boe's corner. This time the header was down and bounced into the roof of the net just inside the left-hand post (2-3).

On 69 minutes Rhys P made the game safe with our best finish of the day. Good work down the opposite flank by Aryaan and Nathan saw a ball break across the box from left to right. Rhys came in from our right and lifted a firm side foot finish into the top right from about 15 yards (2-4).



That left us 20 minutes to play but we controlled the match really well with College, hardly having a shot. Charlie R and Henry M, our full backs hardly put a foot wrong and contributed to our second half clean sheet as did Noah P who had a pretty good 30 minutes out of position. Our centre half pairing of Joe R and Sam A both had good second halves meaning Tashfeen had little to do in net.

The biggest question was whether Aryaan would complete his hat-trick but it was not to be and he had to settle for a brace and a 'Man of the Match' performance.

This was a great result having to come from behind to win and a game that kept our season ticking over. We play Giggleswick and Settle the first week back after half term in a three way competition for the inaugural 'Craven Cup'. And we also have a County Cup semi-final to look forward to so we could yet end the season with some silverware!

Mr Speak

Rugby Report

Wednesday 7 February

EGS 32-10 Notre Dame College



In a season full of inconsistency, the 2023-24 campaign was drawing towards a close and the sun was shining on Skipton Rugby Club in eager anticipation of a First XV rugby match against an opponent the boys knew very little about. It was the inaugural meeting between the two sides and with the pitch holding up well during a rainy fortnight it was bound to be an entertaining game. Ermysted's wanted to finish the season strongly coming off the back of a disappointing loss away to Crossley Heath in the Yorkshire Cup seven days earlier. The previously pivotal, this season, Ed W had been reduced to a managerial role due to an injury picked up on the weekend. As a result, flanker and ever-present Dan A-H competently filled the void of captaincy.

Dominant tackles were made from the kick-off, Notre Dame kept inside their own half by a show of improved defensive line speed, something that had been practiced for hours in training. It was the home team who broke the deadlock first, George S powered over the whitewash from close range after a series of carries from the forwards inside the Notre Dame 22. 5-0. Despite this pressure being sustained, Notre Dame replied swiftly

afterwards. An Ermysted's knock-on preceded a clever Notre Dame inside offload, their centre receiving the ball off the scrum and breaking the line to score well despite being tackled over the line. 5-5. The next tries of the game came soon after with Israel H and captain Dan A-H both scoring after a number of phases with ball in-hand. There has been a struggle to find stability from the kicking tee this year, but up stepped hooker Tom S who drop-kicked the extras - Ermysted's fired themselves into a 17-5 lead. On the stroke of half-time winger Finlay P speedily beat defenders on the overlap on the left wing leaving the home team with a cosy 17 point lead at the change of ends.

It was a good half of rugby from Ermysted's, who looked unafraid to shift the ball and to put pressure on the Notre Dame attack. Ben H had transitioned seamlessly into the fly-half position, despite months on the sideline through injury, linking nicely with Sam E at 9. There was superb connection between forwards and backs in both defence and attack.

Despite the deficit, Notre Dame did not drop their heads and they were first to score early in the first half. A few missed tackles and the same centre who had scored in the first half danced through the Ermysted's line to give the away side some hope. 22-10. This hope did not come to fruition though, a strong tackle of the Notre Dame scrum-half over his own try line, when he was indecisive with the ball, gave Ermysted's a five-metre scrum. A steady scrum was followed by a number of pick and goes under the posts before the ball was shipped wide for Bilal N to add his third try of the season. Israel H also added another try, to his growing tally, on the right wing. The game was as good as won after an hour. Tiredness had crept into the legs of both sides and the contest fizzled out with Ermysted's the victors for the third time this season. Consistent performances all round, including from the bench, left the First XV with an impressive scoreline of 32-10.

Lineup – 1. George S, 2. Tom S, 3. Nicholas H, 4. Eoin B, 5. Will B, 6. Henry G, 7. Dan A-H ©, 8. Bilal N, 9. Sam E, 10. Ben H, 11. Finlay P, 12. Charlie H, 13. Israel H, 14. Will B, 15. James H.

Replacements – Vincent T, Ezra G, Oscar S, Alfie C, Aaron D, Mikey S, Finn M.

By Nicholas Hall, Year 13

Apprenticeships

This term, Ermysted's has been pleased to welcome a representative from the local branch of Rolls Royce to talk to pupils in all year groups during assembly time about the range of apprenticeships available both within their company and in general. This has been followed up this term by the second of four talks provided by the ASK apprenticeship information programme to Year 11 pupils and Year 12 students. These will continue into the summer term.

Ms Davies

Save the Date!

The Music Department is busy organising a Swing Band gig on Thursday, 25 April at 6:30 pm at St. Margaret's Church in Ilkley. This event will be raising money for the charity MND. Tickets will be on sale soon. Save the date!

Dr Cloke

ERMYSTED'S FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

MARTINEZ WINES
Family Independent
Est. 1972

Wine Tasting Social
Friday 8th March 2024 at 7:30pm
Ermysted's Grammar School Refectory

WINE TASTING FOR BEGINNERS

I'M GETTING A WET NOSE I LOVE THE AMOUNT I COULD TELL IT WAS IN MY MOUTH

Tickets cost £20
Includes welcome fizz, 2 whites, 2 reds, a dessert offering & nibbles
Book Here : bit.ly/3UqJl6k

All welcome (over 18's only) - come on your own, or as a team.

We welcome non-drinkers to join the socialising (for free) - there will be a range of soft drinks available.

Bring cash for the raffle, and £1 coins for the bottle game

Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 29 February	Online
EFA Wine Tasting Social	Friday, 8 March	Refectory (details above)
Year 7 Consultation Day	Wednesday, 20 March	School
EFA Meeting	Tuesday, 16 April	School
EFA Meeting	Tuesday, 11 June	School
Speech Day & Open Evening	Tuesday, 2 July	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