

NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



Pupils attend an England Rugby Union Men's Team Open Training Session, March 2024

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the term and its eclectic mix of pupil achievements. There have been successes in **technology** and **debating** competitions. The sports teams are going well: the **Year 10 football** team have reached the final of the Harrogate Schools Cup; our **athletes** have collected more silverware; and the Lower School **cricketers** are looking increasingly sharp in the winter nets programme. All of which bodes well for the next term.

We have seen several trips in the past few weeks and had the pleasure of welcoming our visitors from Simbach on the **German exchange**. Thank you so much to Mrs Warburton and everyone who has worked so hard to make this trip happen.

We have been revamping our social media presence—please take a look and follow us for regular updates from the school. Our **Facebook** page is [here](#) and our **Instagram** page is [here](#).

It has been a challenging few weeks for everyone but I have been greatly encouraged to see the warmth and support being shared from across the school community. I hope the coming holiday will provide everyone with a much needed opportunity for rest and recuperation. I wish you all well and I look forward to greeting the pupils on their return on 8 April.

Michael Evans
Headteacher

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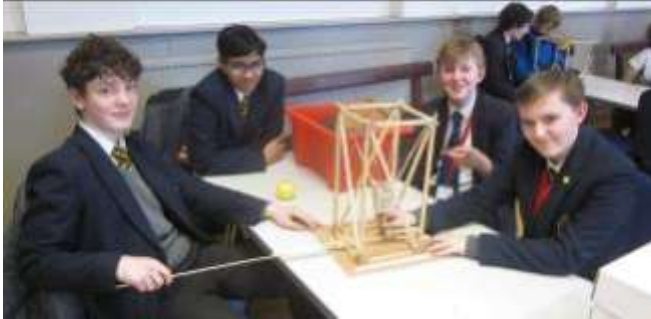
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Rotary Technology Tournament



The Rotary Technology Tournament is an annual engineering event funded and run by a collaboration of local rotary clubs, including Skipton's.

This year, the tournament took place at Gargrave Village Hall, on Tuesday, 5 March. Pupils from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, from local schools, come together to compete,



and they are given a problem or task to solve using engineering based solutions. We took three teams of four from each Key Stage and our Key Stage 3 students came first in their category! Our Key Stage 5 students came third.

They all had a great time and represented the school wonderfully. Well done everyone!

Mrs Flash

England Rugby Union Men's Team Open Training Session

On Friday 1st March 32 excited students went to the LNER Stadium in York to watch the England Men's Rugby Union Team train.

The training session was being held during a rest period in this year's Six Nations, the England team had just come



off a disappointing performance against Scotland. The boys were able to see first hand the intensity that elite athletes train at and discuss the principles of training and training methods being shown. Our students were seated three rows from the front so were able to spot their favourite players straight away.

After the training session the players spent half an hour despite being wet and cold from their session going around the stadium talking to fans, taking selfies and signing autographs.

This was easily the boys favourite part and they were buzzing for the entire journey home. We even timed it perfectly to meet the last few England players getting onto the team bus, this included captain Jamie George, Maro Itoje and Manu Tuilagi!

Mr Stubbings

U14 Hockey Team Triumph at Yorkshire Schools Hockey Tournament

The Ermysted's U14 Hockey team have triumphed in their inaugural outing at the Yorkshire Schools Hockey Tournament.

On Tuesday 12 March, the U14 Hockey Team travelled to Weetwood, where they beat five other teams, the first time in 10 years an Ermysted's hockey team has entered a competitive tournament.

The first match vs Driffield saw a convincing 6-0 win, with goals from Alec Skelton, Phoenix Graham, and Alex Francis.

Matches against Silverdale followed, with another goal from Alex Francis, and then a convincing 5- 2 victory against Ilkley Grammar School, again with goals from Alec Skelton, as well as Seth Box getting on the scoresheet.

Two further matches followed, with Ermysted's beating Oakwood 8-0 with Alex Francis, Phoenix Graham, and Alec Skelton as scorers this time and then another win (5 -0) over Mercia, with goals from Alex Francis, Phoenix Graham, Seth Box and Jamie Gokhale.

Mr Stewart, who runs the Ermysted's hockey club, and

who accompanied the boys to the tournament said, "I was approached by Alec Skelton and George Marsh in September who asked if they could set up a hockey team, as both boys are active members of local teams and wanted to re-introduce the sport to Ermysted's. The club has proved popular both with boys who already play and those who wanted to give a new sport a try.

"Given the team have only been playing together for such a short time, and this is only their second competitive match, winning this tournament is a fantastic achievement. The team put in a brilliant performance, beating schools who have established teams. They are already looking forward to their next matches."

Ermysted's hockey club meets every other Friday night after school. Any boys who are interested are welcome to join. The only equipment needed is a gum shield and shin pads, all sticks and other equipment is provided. Please speak to Mr Stewart, or Alec Skelton (9KO) or George Marsh (9ST), if you are interested.

Alec Skelton, Year 9

Youth Speaks—A Debate



Ermysted's had the pleasure of hosting the Youth Speaks—a Debate competition which is organised and run by the Skipton Rotary club. The event took place after school in the library on Thursday, 7 March and involved two teams entering from Ilkley Grammar School, and five teams from Ermysted's Grammar School to the intermediate category (Years 7 to 9). Our youngest two teams were Proposer: Joseph W, Opposer: Lucian M and Chair: Yusuf K who spoke on the topic "The government needs to do

more to tackle the obesity crisis” and Proposer: Aashaz Z, Opposer: William B, Chair: Lewis M who chose the topic “Organic farmer should be compulsory”.



The three teams representing Year 9 were Proposer: Zac S; Opposer: Dylan R; Chair: Jamie G debating “The government’s priority should be on scientific advancement rather than conservation of the environment”;



and Proposer: Sidaarth C, Opposer : Hanzalah A, Chair: Theo M on the topic, “The Government’s strategy to restrict the use of cigarettes does not go far enough”. The winning team for the intermediate stage was Proposer: Sachin D;

Opposer: Stanley D; Chair: Rishi H who debated the topic “Animals should be placed in captivity” Best speaker award went to Sachin D.

The senior category was won by Ilkley Grammar, as the only group in this category.

The groups were formed from the School debating clubs that are held at lunchtime, led and supported by Gurdith Singh and Amey Tripathi in Y13 and Will Reynolds and Tom Sykes



in Year 12. With guidance and support from our Sixth form debating leaders, the pupils put in considerable work to plan, write and perfect their speeches. The

results were very impressive. Our Year 9s showed that they are in a strong position to succeed in the Senior category next year.

The event was very well attended by pupils, parents and rotary club members superbly under challenging circumstances as they faced a live audience and a panel of three judges. They were also filmed throughout their debate and were expected to stick to the time limit. Each pupil in the group spoke for a five minute duration, and at least two pupils from each group had to respond to an impromptu question asked by a member of the panel.



A buffet at the end of the competition provided pupils and staff an excellent opportunity to socialise and network with the other schools, and parents and Rotary club guests enjoyed



speaking to the pupils. The representatives of the Rotary club commented on what a tough decision they had faced due to the impressive standard and confidence of all of the pupils. They said the speakers had made them feel “safe, informed and challenged” and that a huge amount of knowledge and research had been shown. Judges gave special mention to Theo M for his impressive role as chair, and to Aashaz Z for his “excellent performance”.

Our teams did Ermysted’s proud; the general consensus was the entrants were all winners!

Ms Davies



Year 11 Rugby Sevens Tournament

Following a great year of rugby, our Year 11 boys competed in a sevens tournament at Wharfedale RUFC earlier this month. Thank you very much to Upper Wharfedale School for hosting the event. The team (pictured above) showed excellent commitment during an afternoon of horizontal driving rain. Following two confident and try-filled victories against Ilkley Grammar and Bingley Grammar, Ermysted's went on to edge their final match against Upper Wharfedale 10-7 and so win the tournament with three victories and no losses. All the players played their part, but a special mention must go to Will S, whose relentless pace in attack and defence was really impressive. A big thank you also to Mr Bevan (formerly of Ermysted's) who refereed all six matches back-to-back in the most challenging conditions.

Mr Allen

Year 10 Work Experience

The Year 10 work experience deadline is approaching fast! Congratulations to those students who have already secured work placements, but we still have a long way to go. I appreciate that it can be difficult to find placements, but don't feel disheartened and please keep trying. Ask parents, friends of parents, aunts and uncles as well as researching websites of companies you are interested in.

Thomas Edison said: *"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."*

Once you have secured your placement, enter it on

Unifrog by clicking "Add Placement" in the placements tab.

I am hopeful that most students will have completed this task by the end of Easter holidays.

Mrs Rose

Ramadan and Friday Prayers



On Friday, 15 March, Ermysted's Grammar School held their first congregational prayer within the Muslim community. As a year group, Year 13 were more than happy to organise the Jummah prayer for the Muslim population at school and we were glad to see it go so well.

Friday prayers known as Jummah during Ramadan holds special significance for Muslims as it is an opportunity for reflection, communal worship and seeking forgiveness. Ramadan is extremely important as Muslims engage in extra prayers, fast and strive to develop, and it

strengthens their connection with Allah. Friday is the holiest day of the week in Islam, where Muslims gather as a community for congregational prayers and strengthening their bond as a community.

With the help of the Senior Leadership Team and with support from the school we were able to spread the word and provide an area and equipment where we had over 100 students attend, allowing us to enhance the sense of unity among us students during the Holy month of Ramadan. As a year group we want to leave a reminder to the younger Muslim pupils to embrace our religion and unite with the support of the school.

Habil Alam, Year 13

Ermysted's Year 10 vs Queen Ethelburga's U15

We arrived at a sunny Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate with hopes of a victory in the quarter finals of the Harrogate Schools Cup after a victory over St John Fisher's in the previous round. We looked in awe at all of the professional standard football pitches and wondered which one we were playing on.

We began the game brightly with some through balls from the midfield running on and not being capitalised on. The game then started to settle, but that quickly changed when a defensive mix up led to an unfortunate goal putting the Ermysted's lads 0-1 down. The half continued the way it started with chances for both sets of players, but none put away. The first half ended Ermysted's 0-1 Queen Ethelburga's.

The second half began how the first half ended with chances for both sides. This quickly changed when a well taken left footed shot by a Queen Ethelburga's midfielder found its way into the bottom corner for Ermysted's 0-2 Queen Ethelburga's. The Ermysted's lads did not let their heads go down and they persevered to get a goal back. This perseverance was rewarded by a well worked goal from an Ethan cross to a Tawseef headed goal to make it Ermysted's 1-2 Queen Ethelburga's. We continued to attack, but this left us open at the back and this showed. A poor clearance from the Ermysted's defence went straight to a Queen Ethelburga's midfielder who played a through ball to the striker who calmly passed it into the

bottom corner to make it Ermysted's 1-3 Queen Ethelburga's. Still the Ermysted's lads continued to pile pressure onto the Queen Ethelburga's defence and were rewarded by a scrappy goal where Ethan's cross to Tawseef was saved and then Edward managed to force the ball across the line making it Ermysted's 2-3 Queen Ethelburga's. And still the Ermysted's boys probed for an equaliser, and it came through a clearance by the goalkeeper (Sam) that went straight to Edward upfront who played the ball through to Tawseef who placed the ball into the bottom corner passed a rooted Queen Ethelburga's goalkeeper to equalise the scoreline at Ermysted's 3-3 Queen Ethelburga's, taking the game into 10 minutes of extra time: five minutes each way.

Both halves of extra time consisted of chances for both sets of players, but neither getting any goals leading to a penalty shoot-out to decide who went through to the semi-finals of the Harrogate Schools Cup.

The penalties began with Queen Ethelburga's taking first and missing wide. Then Ermysted's striker Edward stepped up to take, but his penalty was well saved to the keeper's bottom right corner. Ermysted's 0-0 Queen Ethelburga's. The second two penalties for both sides were scored with Ermysted's captain Theo scoring with conviction. Ermysted's 1-1 Queen Ethelburga's. The third round of penalties for both sides were scored with



Tawseef sending the Queen Ethelburga's keeper the wrong way. Ermysted's 2-2 Queen Ethelburga's. The fourth round of penalties began with Ermysted's keeper Sam guessing the correct way and saving the penalty. This is followed up by Jacob sending the Queen Ethelburga's keeper the wrong way. Ermysted's 3-2 Queen Ethelburga's. The final round of penalties began by the Queen Ethelburga's penalty take hitting the cross bar, leaving no need for Ermysted's to take another

penalty, winning the Harrogate Schools Cup quarter final Ermysted's 3-3 Queen Ethelburga's after extra time and Ermysted's 3-2 Queen Ethelburga's on penalties.



Since the writing of this match report, the team have progressed to the final, beating Outwood Academy, Ripon.

Sam S (Ermysted's goalkeeper), Year 10

Imperial College London Science and Innovation competition

Theo Sturman, Joseph Barrows, Finlay Petrucci and Benjamin Swain (Year 12) entered the Imperial College London Science and Innovation competition where their innovative ideas around mitigating water contamination have earned them a place in the final next month. Their entry can be seen at <https://youtu.be/TSj6OmdJ0G0>. Well done to the team!

Dr Sobala

Sailing Qualifier

Congratulations to Fred Buckley, Year 11, who did extremely well in the qualifying races at the Noble Marine / Sailingfast ILCA 4 UK Qualifier 2 at the Weymouth Portland National Sailing Academy, coming 4th overall and 3rd boy!

Fred was then honoured to be asked to write an article for the Yachts and Yachting magazine. You can read the article [here](#).

Well done!

American Football



It's that time of year when the Year 9's re-visit the American Football work from Year 8. Stanley, Dan and Umar have been giving a Quarterback Masterclass whilst Kai seems to be able to pop-up with interceptions out of no where!

Mr King

Comic Relief

Thanks to everyone who took part in our non-uniform day last Friday for Comic Relief.

Your generous contributions raised **£1460!**

Mr Speak

Physical Challenges

We have awarded [73 Physical Challenge Awards](#) so far this year. These are for a variety of physical endeavors but mainly runs, walks, cycles or swims and have been mainly one-off activities such as a park run for Bronze or walking the 3 peaks for Gold. The boys receive a certificate, House points and it can 'tick a box' for the physical component towards an Ermysted's Award. Boys in Year 8, Year 10 and Year 12 may well be gathering their portfolio evidence for the Ermysted's Award right now, as it is due in the first week back after the Easter break (Friday, 12 April).

Mr Speak

Ilkley 7s Report: Fighting Spirit Earns Second Place for Year 9 Squad



The Ilkley 7s saw a valiant effort from a young inexperienced Year 9 Rugby 7s team this past week. Despite boasting limited experience on the pitch in this exciting format, the determined squad battled their way to a well-deserved second-place finish.

Throughout the competition, the team displayed a remarkable fighting spirit. Their inexperience was countered by a relentless work ethic and a never-say-die attitude. In the pool stages, they showcased their grit, pulling off some close victories against more experienced teams from Harrogate Grammar School and Ripon Grammar School in the group stages.

However, the real turning point came in the semi-final against the Ilkley Grammar School. The crowd roared with anticipation as the underdogs took the field. Yet, the young squad remained unfazed. They dominated possession, showcasing their quick passing and impressive support play, utilising the tactics that have been developing through the group phase, with influential Danial acting as a pivot in the midfield to release the explosive power of Herbie, Kia and Dan and the speed of Phoenix on the wing. Their defensive efforts were equally impressive, shutting down the hosts' attacking threats and Josh turning the ball over at key moments. The final whistle blew with a resounding scoreline in their favour – a convincing four-try victory over the home team. This emphatic win sent a shockwave through the tournament and propelled them into the cup final with immense confidence.

The culmination of their efforts arrived in the cup final. Coming face-to-face with a more experienced team, they refused to be intimidated. The final score may not have reflected their dominance throughout the tournament, but their performance was a true credit to their determination.

This second-place finish is a significant achievement for this young squad. It signifies the immense potential they possess and the exciting journey that lies ahead. With more game time and experience under their belts in the coming years, they are sure to become a force to be reckoned with on the 7s circuit.

Mr Stewart

EGS Relays

On Tuesday we finished off our season in style with a clean sweep as we hosted our invitational relays in Aireville Park. These were small scale with only a few local schools but with Ilkley Grammar School and Harrogate's St. Aidans there was still some fierce competition. In addition to the four team victories we also had three of the fastest individual times for each of the four races. It was no surprise that it was our three County Champions, George Marsh (Year 9), Tom Hooper (Year 11) and Sam Bentham (Year 12) that recorded the fastest times in their respective age groups. Congratulations to the runners on another stellar year!

Mr Speak

Activities galore in the library



It has been a term packed with literary activities in the library. World Book Day saw over 100 students getting involved with the competitions and the Book Swap. Thank you to everyone that brought in books, there were an incredible 305 available to swap.

The following day, 10 students represented Ermysted's at the Yorkshire Heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz. Both teams, and our two reserves, demonstrated an impressive literary knowledge, resulting in a third place win with a prize of National Book Tokens. Well done to Ben, Hanzalah, Hasan and William; Baasit, Edward, Finn and Lucian, and our two year 7s Aashaz and Edward.



Next came the launch of the Carnegie Reading challenge and the excitement that accompanied the delivery of the 72 books. We have also had an amazing response to our

'Sponsor a Book' request. Thank you to all the parents, carers and friends that have purchased books.



And finally --- our two new clubs have gone from strength to strength, with a

knowledgeable and enthusiastic group of sixth formers leading Dungeons and Dragons and War Hammer.

Mrs McCabe



Cross-Country

On Saturday, eight Ermysted's pupils (that is one third of the County Team!) ran for North Yorkshire at Pontefract in the English Schools Cross-Country Championships. These races have about 450 runners in each race and all of our runners did themselves proud. Best placed was Year 9's George Marsh who came 31st. North Yorkshire's intermediate boys team were 6th which for one of the smallest (in number) counties was an excellent finish.

George Marsh (Junior)	31st
Will Oakden (Junior)	146th
Dan Hood (Junior)	276th
Ewen Wilkinson (Inter)	78th
Tom Hooper (Inter)	87th
Sam Bentham (Senior)	80th
Samesh Chotai (Senior)	219th
Nathan Hird (Senior)	276th

Mr Speak

German Exchange—1st Leg

Last Thursday saw the arrival of 16 pupils from our partner school in Simbach, Bavaria on the first leg of the annual German exchange for Year 10 pupils.

After an introduction to the School by Mr Barrett on Friday morning, our visitors, including three members of their teaching staff, were given a comprehensive tour by some of our Year 12 and 13 pupils, before experiencing first hand a sample of lessons. Some were disappointed that our pupils weren't in school uniform, due to it being a non-uniform day, as this is something very different from Germany, where every day is a non-uniform day!

As usual, the weekend was spent in host families, giving the pupils a chance to experience British family life. Some arranged group outings to Leeds, whilst others attended football training or went on family outings to other places of interest, such as the Royal Armouries or the seaside. They enjoyed sampling different foods and



hopefully found some favourites to introduce their own families to.



On Sunday morning, we had Badminton tournament organised by Linda and Peter Wilkinson, who are known by several of our pupils as Badminton coaches at Sandylands. This was well-attended and involved German and English pupils, teachers, host parents and younger siblings partnering each other. Trophies generously provided by Mr Brian Philipp, a former mayor of Skipton, who co-founded the Skipton-Simbach twinning 41 years' ago were presented to the two winners, one from each school, Louis Sturman and his exchange partner Allegra Damböck, and these will be displayed in our schools and used for future collaborations.

Excursions involved, amongst others, visits to Skipton Castle, York Minster, Bolton Abbey and Anfield Stadium, where it was very evident that fans are sad to be losing their German manager, Jürgen Klopp. The pupils were treated to a rousing rendition of "You'll Never Walk



Alone!” by the coach driver, who was clearly a fan of the Club!



On the final evening of the visit 63 of us enjoyed a meal at Oakley’s, during which some of the German pupils made a speech in English to thank staff and the host families for giving them such an amazing, unforgettable experience. It was lovely to see everyone mixing so well; evidently many new friendships, between pupils and parents alike, have been formed.

The return visit will take place during Enrichment Week in July, and I am sure our pupils will be treated to the same hospitality and an array of new experiences, as in previous years. Indeed, the first exchange visit between the Tassilo Gymnasium and Ermysted’s took place in 1983, and, unlike in many other schools, the programme is still going strong!

Thank you to all the host families and pupils, staff who welcomed our visitors into their lessons, tour guides, the Wilkinsons, Mr Philipp, our Finance team, Mrs Tamsons and The Old Boys’ Society.

Mrs Warburton



House Chess

This year's House Chess saw a shootout between Toller and Ermysted in the final round of matches. Ermysted won giving them the overall victory with Hartley sneaking through for second ahead of Toller and Petyt taking the wooden spoon.

HOUSE	Matches			Games			Competition	HOUSE
POSITIONS	W	D	L	W	D	L	Points	POINTS
Ermysted	2	1		14	1	9	7	75
Hartley	1	2		13	1	10	5	50
Petyt			3	8	1	15	0	20
Toller	1	1	1	11	1	12	4	35

Congrats to all who took part and in particular to Ed Thornton (E), Samesh Chotai (E), Alex Francis (H), Shaaf Badshah (H) & Patrick Hinton (E) who won all 3 of their matches.

Overall House Competition

The overall competition has never been closer with 2nd, 3rd & 4th separated by just 20 points. Ermysted, Toller & Hartley all trail Petyt who have extended their lead with a flurry of Physical Challenges. However, it is only like being top of the Premier League at Christmas and 2500 points are usually required to win the year's competition to be crowned Champion House.

So lots of sporting competitions to compete in throughout the summer term as well as completing any Physical Challenges or Ermysted Award Portfolios. Every little helps and we'll see who is top after Sports Day!

<u>1180.0</u>	<u>1160.0</u>	<u>1455.0</u>	<u>1175.0</u>
<u>2nd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>3rd</u>

Mr Speak

Swing Band Charity Concert

Ermysted's Swing Band are putting on an exciting concert at Skipton Town Hall on Wednesday, 24 April at 6:30 pm. In light of recent events, the pupils involved in this charity concert have decided to donate all proceeds to Cruse Bereavement Support.

Tickets are now available to purchase on the ParentPay Shop at £10 for Adults and £7 for Concessions and Children. [Please find the link here](#) or QR code for the ParentPay Shop below.

We hope to see you there!



Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
EFA Meeting	Tuesday, 16 April	School
Swing Band Concert	Wednesday, 24 April	Skipton Town Hall
EFA Meeting	Tuesday, 11 June	School
Speech Day & Open Evening	Tuesday, 2 July	School
Summer Concert	Thursday, 4 July	School
Enrichment Week	Monday, 8—Friday, 12 July	Various

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