

# THE ELLESMERIAN



2009







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## VOLUME CXIX

2009

### Captains of School

Head Boy: D. G. Anders-Richards

Head Girl: E. V. H. Boffey

### School Prefects

A. J. Cooper

E. W. Crispin

T. O. M. Evans

C. A. Fergusson

H. R. L. Grosvenor

H. J. Hackett

E. M. Johnson

C. O. Lewis

J. P. Norman

H. M. Phillips

Y. Rahbari

T. A. Roberts

D. Al-Romhein

H. Scheer

P. A. Sole

C. P. Tan

A. V. Whittle

C. E. Wignall

M. Wojtynia



**[www.ellesmere.com](http://www.ellesmere.com)**

The College Website is updated regularly with information on sports fixtures, what's on and news items.

*The Editor wishes to thank all contributors, and in particular Suzanne Hutchinson for her considerable support.*

*Cover Picture:  
Scene from Jane Eyre, the US Tour play,  
also performed at the Bronte home  
in Haworth, West Yorkshire*

# Speech Day 2009

## The Headmaster's Speech



Custos, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report on another successful, busy and – very often – exhausting year at Ellesmere. It has certainly not been dull.

If it has been an interesting year at Ellesmere, it has been an even more “interesting” year, in the sense of the traditional Chinese curse (May you live in interesting times), in the outside world.

The College was opened in 1884, and the coming academic year is our 125th anniversary. There have been many changes in the world in that period, although it is interesting to note that the “great panic of 1884” saw a depletion of gold reserves in Europe and the crash of a number of US banks – and over 10,000 companies – which only stopped with a bail-out of the banks from the New York Clearing House, now part of the US Federal Reserve. Things sometimes change less than we think.

We have lived – it now seems clear – through a period of profligacy. One of the consequences of that profligacy has been that governments around the world have felt it possible to increase regulations affecting our lives (if not the banking system, or – in the UK - politicians) and to pay – through our taxes – for the staff to develop ever-more rules and then police them zealously. This has led to a loss of common sense in favour of a regulation-based system, which has had deeply harmful consequences for society.

When even the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents feels it necessary to criticise health and safety “extremists” for preventing children from enjoying normal play and preparing for adult life, it is clear that this trend represents a serious social problem. I think it is fair to say that we have resisted the harmful consequences of this social trend at Ellesmere, but we have certainly felt its consequences in terms of increasing paperwork and bureaucracy.

This coming Monday we will have a visit from the UK Borders Agency, who will be inspecting our admissions systems as part of their new visa checking system, designed to prevent the importation of terrorists into the UK. The aim may be praiseworthy, but the methodology is classically bureaucratic at the expense of sense or effectiveness. Treating Ellesmere and other major independent schools in exactly the same way as the many dubious adult ‘language colleges’ that undoubtedly provide visas on flimsy grounds, is typically foolishly bureaucratic, wasting resources in the name of a completely pointless equal treatment of all educational establishments – because uniform treatment is easier than applying some common sense and concentrating attention and resources where they are obviously needed.

To be fair, although I suspect we are one of the world-leaders in this

particularly harmful trend of substituting rules and regulations in favour of intelligence, we are by no means unique, as this letter to the New Zealand Herald demonstrates:

*Sir,*

*My brother-in-law recently went through security at Auckland airport, and witnessed a passenger having to fish out her nail scissors from her handbag and leave them behind. He passed through security and then boarded his plane.*

*After being seated, he realised that he could smell petrol. He knew that you shouldn't be able to smell petrol on a plane, because planes don't use petrol. The smell got worse, and eventually he attracted the attention of one of the flight attendants, who started to look around to see where it was coming from. After a short search of the overhead compartments, the attendant found a chainsaw in a bag that was leaking petrol into the compartment.*

*The plane was delayed while the owner was identified, and the chainsaw was removed and put with the main luggage. The owner of the chainsaw said security had stopped him and asked him about it, but had let him through because it wasn't one of the things on their list to confiscate.*

Despite these forms of idiocy we live in genuinely interesting and exciting times, and I am sure we can look forward positively – so long as we are properly prepared for the future. A crucial part of our job at Ellesmere is to prepare our pupils for that future – which goes way beyond preparing them for examinations.

At an institutional level, given the frenetic and expensive building programme over the last few years it is not surprising that this year has been a relatively quiet one on the buildings and development fronts.

Nevertheless the start of this academic year saw a major extension of the social facilities in St Oswald's, the Girls' Sixth Form House, to accommodate increased numbers. Work in the Biology Department was undertaken over the Summer holiday to reorganise things so as to provide an additional classroom. During the year New Block has enjoyed a new boiler and a major facelift by way of new windows to make it a much more pleasant learning environment – and one which is cheaper to run!

On the subject of economy, the lighting throughout the College is currently being replaced as part of a £50,000 scheme – supported by grants in some cases – which will improve the carbon footprint of the College and reduce our electricity costs considerably. There are a number of other energy efficiency schemes in the wings which we will be undertaking in the coming year, including the solar heating of the swimming pool.

Looking back over the year something which loomed large in advance, but in the end I think it is fair to say was tackled by everyone as a fairly routine event, was our double inspection by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate and Ofsted, who were looking at our boarding provision and child safety.

The Independent Schools' Inspectorate reports to the Government on the quality of education in independent schools, and their comments are always interesting and valuable as we are being inspected by people who have professional experience of independent schools and are, therefore, not easily fooled by splendid facilities and small classes per se.

Nine Inspectors spent four days at the College, having previously received significant – if not vast – quantities of information on the life of the College in preparation for their visit. They also received



a sizeable response to a questionnaire that was sent out to all parents.

I am pleased to say that no area of activity at the College was judged at less than good and a significant number of the aspects of Ellesmere life were rated as “outstanding”.

I suppose it says something about our commitment to continuous improvement and, therefore, our inherent underlying dissatisfaction with whatever we achieve (because we feel we can always do better) that when, at the end of the inspection feedback to the Senior Management Team and Governors, a couple of the Inspectors said to me: “You must be delighted by the Report”, while I was not in any way ungracious, I hope, I was relatively grumpy and replied: “Must I?”

They went on to tell me that this was the best report they had been involved in writing, which mollified me somewhat, but I have to say that I was more focused on why the good areas were not outstanding than simply being pleased with what we had achieved. Distance gives me a slightly more mellow view of events now and I am prepared to accept that to achieve such a report from the Independent Schools’ Inspectorate was a considerable achievement . . . but we can always do better.

The Boarding and Child Safety Inspection was conducted at the same time as the ISI Inspection, and involved two Inspectors spending time in the College, a questionnaire to boarding parents, a questionnaire to pupils, formal group and individual meetings with pupils and visits to all boarding houses and meals with the pupils.

It is by no means unheard of for an independent school to fail a Boarding and Child Safety Inspection, so there was a certain amount of trepidation in advance, as there is a considerable focus on very technical issues of bureaucracy around child safety in such inspections; frankly, very little of which has anything to do with genuine child safety. I am pleased to say that of the six categories that we were inspected in we were found to be good in three categories and outstanding in three. The three outstanding categories were “helping children to be healthy”, “helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do” and “helping children make a positive contribution”.

We hope to move some of the “goods” into “outstandings” for our next inspection but, to be honest, given the level of bureaucracy and intrusion that is expected of us – some of which I think borders on a violation of individual rights – I am not sure that I would want us to be more than ‘good’ in some of the categories in which we were inspected.

It always seems strange to look back on the examination results of last Summer at this time of the year, but I am pleased to report that they were as good as ever. Our true focus must always be on the individual performance of the pupils we have, but in headline terms I am delighted to report that well over a third of all grades at GCSE were A\* or A and that the vast majority of departments recorded one hundred percent pass rates.



*GCSE Results Day: from left, Josh Boswell, Rebecca Britten, Zoe Haynes and Joe Dapling*

At an individual level particular mention must go to Zoe Haynes, who achieved eight A\*s, one A and one B grade; Josh Boswell and Freddie Herzog, who each achieved seven A\*s and three As. Chris Johnson’s six A\*s, two As and two Bs and Rebecca Britton’s four A\*s and six As also stand out as splendid individual achievements. There were some really pleasing results around the individuals who were not aiming for high grades, and – as always – we measure our success by individual achievement, and it was a particularly good year for pupils reaching – and in some cases appearing to exceed – their potential.

At ‘A’ Level 98% of grades were passes, and just under a third were at the top A and B grade level. Last year saw our first cohort of results from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and we were pleased with the standard achieved. In particular, Johannes Beil achieved 39 points which is equivalent to just under 6 Grade As at ‘A’ Level; Jamie McBrien and Rachel Harrison both achieved 36 points, which equates to just under 5 Grade As at ‘A’ Level.



*Nathaniel Thomas (Prefect) and Alex Dellar (Head Boy) on ‘A’ Level Results Day*

The IB has continued to thrive and grow and to draw pupils from diverse countries, and much of this success is down to Mrs Scarisbrick’s work as IB Coordinator. Mrs Scarisbrick relinquishes this responsibility at the end of this year, and Dr Tompkins will take it over. I am very grateful to Mrs Scarisbrick for the excellent work she has done in this area.

As a result of IB and ‘A’ Level results the majority of Sixth Formers achieved their desired places at university. As ever, this covered a wide range, running from the Russell Group Universities such as Durham, Edinburgh and London to universities as geographically diverse as Aberdeen, Bath and Plymouth. A reflection of the international focus of our Sixth Form saw candidates accepted into universities in Barcelona, Lucerne, Maastricht, Munich and Salzburg. As always, the choice of courses which Ellesmerians followed ranged widely, and covered traditional courses such as Law, Medicine, English and History and more modern courses such as Digital Modelling, Leisure and Culture and Zoology with Animal Behaviour.

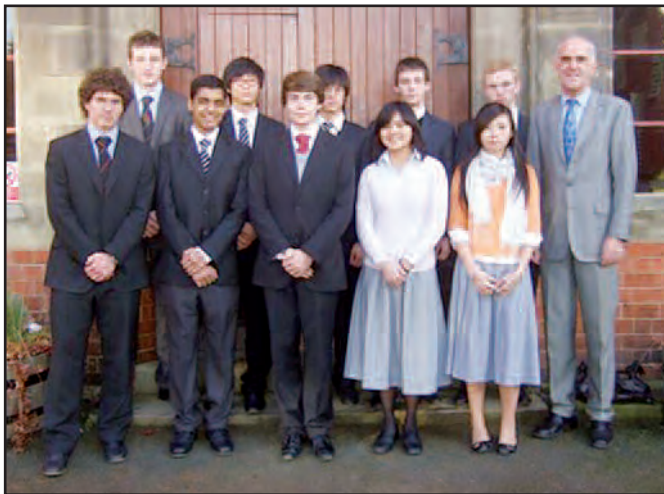
The Scholars’ Programme introduced last year is now a well-established feature of Sixth Form life and features increasingly lower down the age-range of the College. Through the programme of discussions, lectures, exhibitions and performances those whose gifts lie in the academic side of life at the College have plenty of opportunities to develop their interests and talents. We are lucky to have the enthusiastic support of a School Council member, Professor Steven Eisenstein, who has a special interest in this aspect of the school. Earlier in the year Professor Eisenstein spoke to a Sixth Form Scholars’ meeting on the subject of academic ambition, and later in the year helped to host an evening for pupils, teachers and parents on Gifted & Talented pupils from all year-groups. Those returning in the Autumn will be able to take advantage of lectures on major literary figures, presentations by leading scientists and trips to theatrical and musical performances in Manchester and Birmingham.





*The Ellesmere contingent at the Interactive Language Day at Aston University*

Continuing on the academic theme, fifty-four students have been successful in the UK Mathematics Challenge Programme during the academic year. Gold certificates were awarded to James Haigh, Jun Tao, Christian Cieslik and Joseph Haigh, with Joseph also qualifying for the next stage of the competition.



*Senior Maths Challenge Team*

*Back row: Laurence Walters, Victor Zeng, Jun Tao, Oleksiy Sorochinskyy, Tjark Dreyer, Head of Maths John Cowley  
Front row: Todd Evans, Apparajit Basu, Joshua Boswell, Cui Ping Tan, Wendy Tsui*

There have been many individual developments at a departmental level – too many to mention in any detail – but one note of interest is the new Geography Department weather station. It is situated on the Library roof where it receives minute-by-minute data on a variety of weather features. A link to this weather station will shortly go on the College website, and I am sure – given that many of us have a very English fascination with the weather – that it will prove to be a popular feature.

There has been the usual vigorous programme of trips out to support academic activities. Day trips out would be too numerous to mention, but longer trips have included a GCSE Business and Media Studies trip to Euro-Disney, and a History Battlefields trip to Normandy where the GCSE historians were able to follow in the footsteps of Barack Obama and Gordon Brown, just a week after they had commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. History also provided an expedition for Sixth Form historians who visited Berlin at Easter to help with their understanding of contemporary German and cold-war politics. They especially appreciated being shown around the Secret Police Museum by someone who had herself been subject to a Secret Police record. The Spanish trip to Madrid – our first Spanish trip – also proved a considerable success.

Public Speaking and Debating activities have been strong this year, both internally and externally with some excellent ESB results, which contribute to success in GCSE English and give additional UCAS points for university candidates. More importantly they provide a real training for adult life, when many of our pupils will need to have competence in such areas. A particular mention on the competitive front of public speaking should go to Stephanie Newport-Booth, who was voted best giver of thanks in the Business and Professional Womens' Public Speaking competition.



*Winners of the Senior House Debating Competition: Woodard team David Anders-Richards, Elizabeth Boffey and Josh Boswell*

Drama has been exceptionally vigorous this year. The House Play Festival in the Michaelmas Term saw its strongest productions so far, with *Boeing Boeing*, *Tartuffe*, *Sleeping Cutie* and *The Butler Did It* entertaining friends and members of the College over two nights. The Year 10 Pantomime – an annual fixture now in the community life of the College – proved to be extremely popular at the College Staff Childrens' Party and on tour in various primary schools in the area. Shakespeare had a good airing this year with *Midsummer Night's Dream* being performed early in the year as part of the school Shakespeare Festival at The Lyceum Theatre, Crewe. The Lent term saw an outstanding performance of *Hamlet*, and particular mention should be given to Josh Boswell who, amongst a very strong cast, stood out as an exceptional Hamlet.



*Hamlet - from left: Nick West, Elizabeth Boffey, Jennifer Eckhoff, Josh Boswell*

Early this month saw an extremely entertaining Middle School Play in the form of *The Anonymous Blog of Adrian Mole* – the classic character updated for the 21st century. Younger pupils also featured as strongly as ever with the Key Stage 2 performance of *Christmas Around the World* and the Year 7 *A Grimm Evening* – which it certainly wasn't.



A real highlight of our drama this year was the Senior School production of *Jane Eyre*. I am sure a personal highlight for those involved was the tour which followed performances at the College. During the Easter holidays the cast packed up and took off for the East coast of America where they performed at Tabor Academy and Boston, before returning to perform at Charlotte Bronte's former home, the Bronte Parsonage in Haworth, West Yorkshire, on Easter Monday. They performed to a very international audience who were appropriately appreciative of the performance, which I am sure came as a bonus to them on their Easter Monday trip to Haworth.

On top of all the formal productions there were activities linked with examinations, including a Year 11 and Lower Sixth improvisation night and various exam performances for GCSE and A Level and IB candidates. Only this week the Arena Arts programme produced a mini-version of *The Little Shop of Horrors*, in preparation of the full version as next year's school musical.

Staying with performance I am pleased to report that Beth, Caro and Charlotte Hulme, along with Angelo Daniel, have been selected by the English Youth Ballet to perform in *Sleeping Beauty* in Shrewsbury next September.

On the musical front the Chapel Choir has gone from strength to strength this year, numbering over forty voices. In the Carol Services both sides of the Choir stalls were filled for the first time in several years. Having finished second in the Oswestry Festival for the last three years, this time first position was achieved.

The Lower School Choir has matched the Chapel Choir for numbers and has sung at events both in and out of College, including the Age Concern Concert in Ellesmere Town Hall and the Leonard Cheshire Home in Dolywern. At the Oswestry Festival it was awarded a Distinction but was narrowly beaten for first place.

Staying with matters choral, the College Choral Society has also seen its membership rise this year. This year's major work was Handel's *Messiah* which was performed to a Big School audience well in excess of a hundred and fifty. The Choral Society's social activities are also developing rapidly, and regular walks, dinners and even golf events have been a feature of the year. Next year's music will feature Faure's *Requiem*, amongst other pieces.

All of these Choirs came together in the second annual Three Choirs Concert which tested Big School's capacity to its limit. There were many memorable performances, and the finale featured a hundred and twenty voices crammed on to the stage for two songs by Abba. Following on from that successful concert a group of singers from the Three Choirs toured Lake Garda, Italy, performing three very successful concerts organised by local musicians. They deserve particular commendation for mastering *The Chorus of The Hebrew Slaves* in Italian. In fact, this was a combined Music and Classics trip and there was the opportunity for classicists and musicians to visit Verona, Brescia and Mantova, and the remains of Roman villas at Desenzano and Sarmio.

The College Orchestra has been very full and has sported even a harp and a double bass as key instruments this year. The College Scholars' Ensemble, a new innovation for 2008-2009, has been meeting on a weekly basis to learn and perform a more challenging range of music. In their first year they have already performed Vivaldi's *Spring*, *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint Saens, and the themes to *Mission Impossible* and *The Simpsons*, all to great acclaim.

There were the usual musical festival successes. The College was by far the largest entrant of any school in the area at the Oswestry Festival and saw a record number of first places on the podium. Afra Ekert won the U19 Woodwind and reached the final, the second year running that an Ellesmere woodwind player has achieved this; Henry Maybury won the U19 Vocal Solo, Ami Takahashi U19 Piano Solo, and Luke Taylor and John Paul the U15 Duet class. At Chester our pupils achieved two first and second place finishes with George Fradley winning the U14 Piano Solo and John Paul finishing second, and in the advanced strings John Paul finishing first and Luke Taylor finishing second. Naomi Craig also achieved two second places against much older opposition.



*Successes at the Oswestry Music Festival*  
From left: Henry Maybury, Afra Ekert, Luke Taylor, John Paul, Ami Takahashi, Catherine Wignall

It has been another strong year for the visual arts, as has been evidenced by the many exhibitions of pupils' work around the College. This year, Lower School, GCSE, 'A' Level and International Baccalaureate pieces have all been given prominence. I am very pleased to report that a number of College artists – both past and present – have been selected to have their work presented on the Saatchi Gallery website.

An innovation this year – which I think falls under the heading of 'cultural' – is the introduction of the College Wine Appreciation Society. It has proved unsurprisingly popular, and I believe there is a waiting list to join it. Those fortunate enough to attend have enjoyed both theoretical and practical aspects of the activity, which has included a tour of Tanners Wine Cellars.

While I am not sure if a Wine Society does strictly count as a cultural activity, I can, at least, be confident that it doesn't fall under the heading of 'sport' (we are certainly not encouraging competitive drinking). This year has been another excellent year for sport at the College. Over twenty different sports have been offered at various standards and there have been eighteen different sports competed for at inter-House levels. In total over five hundred and thirty inter-school fixtures have taken place throughout the three terms and over eighty teams have represented the College.



*The Wine Appreciation Society learning about wine production at Wroxeter Vineyard*

There has been County, Regional and National representation in ten sports, and this year Golf has been added to those sports that we offer to a particularly high standard, with two professionals coaching at the school, and a rapidly developing fixture list. Our team of Constantin Straub and Rodri Fieldhouse made it to the Regional final in the Independent Schools Match Play Tournament in their first year of entry. Rodri has also been training with the



Welsh Golf Squad which included a practice week in Portugal. Another new sport introduced this year has been Archery, following the installation of a new Archery facility in the old Sports Hall.

The College sporting year began early, with the Rugby and Hockey tour to South Africa last summer. Boys' Rugby and Girls' Hockey sides played matches in Cape Town and Durban, with each playing against a township team in Durban and spending a day in a township.

There were some excellent sporting performances and I am confident that a good time was had by all. I felt privileged to accompany the tour and even allowing for my partiality as Headmaster, I was delighted by the behaviour and attitude of the Ellesmerians on tour. They were excellent company at all times and behaved impeccably – without in any way being stuffy. We met a number of other school touring teams on our travels, and I would have been very embarrassed to have been associated with any of them. The contrast between the friendly but self-disciplined behaviour of the Ellesmerians and the less satisfactory behaviour of others throws into sharp relief the expectations that we have of our pupils, and – I am pleased to say – how often those expectations are met and exceeded.

Hockey followed on from its successes in South Africa with an excellent season. There was the usual crop of County representatives at different ages, with Ellie Halstead, Emma Greville (who captained her County team), Vicky von Hoven, Emily Lewis and Vivian Grudde achieving that distinction. Emily Lewis and Vivian Grudde also played Senior County Hockey alongside one of our games teachers, Miss Anwen Pugh, playing in a Shropshire squad that finished third in the Womens' National County Championships.



*Emily Lewis, Games Teacher Anwen Pugh and Vivian Grudde playing in the Shropshire Squad that came third in the National County Championships*

Our Hockey teams were North Shropshire Champions at U13 and U16 level, with the U16s also winning the Shropshire Schools' Tournament and reaching the semi-finals in the Midlands Tournament. That team also won the U16 tournament hosted at the College.

At a senior level the 1st XI enjoyed its best-ever season, finishing unbeaten, having played nine matches and won seven with two draws. They scored sixty-six goals during the season and qualified for the Midlands stage of the English Schools' Tournament. The U14s also had an unbeaten season and the U12s lost only one match all season.

Netball enjoyed a successful season with the first team finishing runners-up in the U19 North Shropshire Tournament. The U12s also finished runners-up, with the U16s going one better and winning that tournament. Tara Goodwin was selected for the U14 Shropshire Netball Academy squad.

Tennis continues to be exceptionally strong. A Year 8 girls' team won the Regional final and finished second nationally. Our U19 Boys', Girls' and Mixed teams all won through the Regional finals and qualified for the National finals, and Ellesmere was the only

independent school to have three teams in the National finals. All the three teams finished in the top six in their categories. This term the Year 8 and and Year 10 girls' teams have won through the County stages of the National competition and will go on to the Regional stage in September.

Athletics is not a major sport at the College, but we continue to achieve individual successes and this year Emma Greville, Ellie Halstead, Hannah Cumpston and Martin Jones all finished first in their events in the Shropshire Schools' Championships and were selected to represent the County in inter-county competitions later in the year.



*The College team at the Shropshire Schools Athletics Championships in Telford  
Back row: Moritz Vergler, George Cave, Martin Jones, Gabriel Fashanu, Josh Sambrook-Jones  
Front row: Ellie Halstead, Ella Walker, Emma Greville*

Swimming, in the form of The Ellesmere College Titans, continues to make astonishing strides – to use a somewhat odd metaphor. We are already far too strong to swim against other schools and swim instead in the National Speedo Leagues. In the 2008 North West Speedo League The Titans finished third and were promoted for next year.

We have already been awarded the Swim 21 accreditation and Club Mark status which recognises the quality of the Ellesmere set-up, and as a result of our success over the first twelve months we have been awarded a £10,000 National Lottery-funded Sports England grant to further develop the provision for swimming at the College and beyond. As a result of this we will be establishing a Junior Development Squad to offer further opportunities to Ellesmere swimmers from September.

At an individual level Alfie Pardoe and James Wilson have both qualified for the British National Age Group Championships which take place in Sheffield next month. Eight members of The Titans



*Alfie Pardoe and James Wilson of the Titans Swimming Academy*



team qualified for the Midlands Championships – which make up the best swimmers from ten counties. In this competition Alfie won the bronze medal in the 11 and Under Boys' 200m Backstroke and James took the bronze in the 11 and Under Boys' 100m Freestyle. Naomi Craig took one gold, three silver and two bronze medals in the Welsh National Championships held in Swansea.

At a team level – as one might expect given all this success – The Titans are Shropshire County Champions just ten months after being established. Two all-time County records were smashed and a total of twenty-four individual gold, twenty-nine silver and fourteen bronze medals – along with eight silver relay medals – were won.

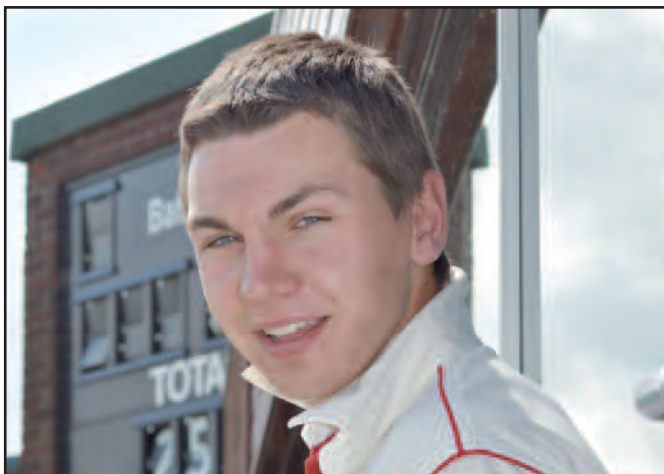
As we have come to expect, it was another excellent season for our Rugby teams, with successes genuinely too numerous to mention. At a First Team level there was a very pleasing run of success in the Daily Mail Cup, with wins over local rivals Wrekin College of 64 - 0 and Adams' Grammar School 33 - 0. The season started well with a very pleasing victory over the Old Ellesmerians. We were helped in that two of the three OEs who had gone on to professional contracts last year were prevented from playing by their Clubs to protect them from injury.

On the subject of those OEs, James King deserves a particular mention. James completed his 'A' Levels last summer and signed up for The Ospreys, and he distinguished himself in the U20 Six Nations Championships – it was good to be able to watch him perform live on television. This week he has returned from Japan where he represented Wales in the U20 World Cup.

County selections really are too numerous to mention with twenty-eight boys selected at that level, a number of those then going on to the North Midlands team. However, special mention should be made of Mark Padgett and George Baxter, who both went on to Midlands representative standard.

Football continues to develop at the College following its reintroduction and eight teams were fielded this year with just over a hundred boys representing the school. Despite a demanding fixture list, mostly playing against schools where football is the main sport, College teams recorded exactly half their matches as wins. The 1st XI deserve special mention, having had an exceptionally successful term winning seven of their nine matches and during the second half of the term – once they had really got going – recording six wins out of six and scoring thirty goals against one (which was against the Old Ellesmerians).

The Cricket season is not yet over. However, at the time of writing this speech the 1st XI has enjoyed a winning streak of six games in a row, including a victory over the MCC by eight wickets. It has been a good season for all age-groups.



*Jordan Evans, Cricket Scholar  
Top scorer in the 1st XI Cricket team*

Jordan Evans deserves particular mention for the Firsts as he scored centuries in two successive matches, 108 versus Oswestry and 120 versus the Old Ellesmerians, the first time this has been achieved in twelve years. More recently he scored 117 not out against the MCC.

Matthew Macintosh and Sam Owen represented the County in Cricket to follow on from their County representation in Rugby. Sam Phillips also played for Shropshire and Tom Owen for North Shropshire District; Fraser Murdoch played for North East Wales and then Wales at U13 level.

Shooting continues to go from strength to strength. The U14 A side were unbeaten in Division 2 of the National League and finished as Champions. Richard Belcher qualified for England and shoots with the Great Britain Junior Squad, while also attending – as a guest – Welsh Squad training.

Ryan Williams in Year 10 and Jacob Roberts from Year 7 are members of the Welsh Air Rifle Squad and were fortunate enough to attend a training camp in Switzerland in May. Earlier in the year Jacob participated in Holland at the Netherlands Inter-Shoot where he achieved a personal best score. Samantha Williams and Joanna Fawke have also recently joined the Welsh Air Rifle squad. Richard Belcher and Ryan Williams will be competing in the Junior International taking place at Bisley this August.

On the subject of things military the CCF have enjoyed another very good year. The most frequent adjective to describe the Easter Camp at Skye was "brilliant". The RAF Easter Camp to High Wycombe was particularly interesting as this is the Military Centre for Administration of the RAF. Looking at individuals, Martin Jones has won a prestigious RAF Flying Scholarship, and Matthew Steggles and Nick Steggel successfully gained their Level 2 RYA Sailing qualifications. Seven other students achieved RYA Level 1.

The highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the Biennial Inspection. We were pleased to welcome Lt Colonel Guy Chambers of the Rifles, an Old Ellesmerian, to conduct the Review. He concluded his report as follows:

*"The Review allowed me to witness a very well-run, well-supported enthusiastic and efficient CCF that is providing exactly the leadership and development opportunities for which the CCF is mandated. Lt Colonel Hutchinson and his staff are to be congratulated on the organisation of the day but more particularly for their dedication throughout the year and on the visits to establishments. The enthusiasm and professionalism of the cadets was a reflection on the excellence of the staff and in particular of Lt Colonel Hutchinson who shows great leadership and encouragement. The CCF staff, the Headmaster and College staff have all played their part in supporting the CCF and the result is very impressive. This is an excellent CCF."*

Adventurous and Leadership Training is not confined to the CCF, of course, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to be a popular activity at the College, with Bronze, Silver and Gold award candidates coming forward every year.

The usual Gold award canoe trip to the Dordogne occurred last Summer, and Mrs McCarthy describes the trip as particularly 'golden', as I gather that – even by Ellesmere standards – the company was excellent.



*A Duke of Edinburgh Bronze group preparing dinner on their test expedition*





*Successful Duke of Edinburgh candidates with their tutors after the presentation of certificates by Anna Turner, High Sheriff of Shropshire (centre back)*

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is not just about adventurous training, but also service, and a variety of service activities have taken place this year. Particular mention should be made to the Gold group's work with dyspraxic students in the mornings before school starts. It is good to see such commitment taking place and to think that those providing the assistance and those receiving it receive genuine benefits from the activities.

Service is something which features large in the life of the College, be it our non-uniform days for charities or more focused events such as the Sixth Form pupils' bag-packing at Stan's Superstore in St Martins, which raised over £500 for Hope House. Members of St Aidan's House raised considerable funds for Breast Cancer Awareness through a cake sale and a very well attended 'Pink Party'. The Young Enterprise Group raised funds for local charities through a continental style 'Christmas Market' in December.

Last weekend two teams ran in relay from Ellesmere to the summit of Snowdon in aid of Chernobyl Continuity and Cancer Research. One team reached the summit of Snowdon in under twelve hours while the other – because they got lost – took a little over thirteen hours. No runner covered less than nineteen miles and Caleb Thomas deserves particular mention for covering twenty-four miles. In total a little over £1,000 – we are still counting it – was raised for these very worthy charities. Of course, service does not need to be about money and I am pleased that the College – as an institution – has also provided a good service to the community this year. There have been various events where the College has provided facilities for local groups, and on the educational front there was a Kwik Cricket Festival for local primary schools and – as



*Where did it go? An experiment in rocket science at the Science is Fun Day*

always – our Science is Fun Day, which this year involved pupils from five local primary schools visiting the College, proved to be a great success. Dr Gareth particularly reported that Science is Fun presents (and I quote) "a fantastic opportunity for all the children to listen to Dr Gareth".

I mentioned earlier the initiatives that the College has taken this year to reduce its carbon footprint, but I am pleased to say that our vision for helping the environment goes well beyond Shropshire, and our commitment to the Monduli Green Project, which aims to reforest an area near Monduli in Tanzania, continues to be strong. A Monduli Christmas Bazaar – which featured Mr Sampson as a very effective Santa – saw twenty-five stalls run by Lower School students and food provided by Upper School to raise funds. A plant sale and hanging basket service, arising out of the gardening activity in the Lower School and organised by Mrs Nicholson, raised over £900 for Monduli Green while an earlier hanging basket sale raised £300 for a local charity.



*Amy Odunaiya (left) and Georgia Edwards prepare hanging baskets to order to raise funds for Monduli Green*

Unfortunately Monduli has experienced drought this year which meant that the first lot of seedlings for the reforestation died. However the May to July rainy season has arrived and seeds have been planted again. It is good to see us developing links with a community in Africa, and helping to solve their pressing local issues of water scarcity and deforestation.

Staying with the things green the College wildlife garden, managed by members of the Lower School, continues to thrive. It has been helped considerably by members of the Parents' Society – both



practically and with a generous grant – which has enabled a fence to be built, along with a native hedge all around the garden and a small woodland area to be created. Bee-keeping is a possibility next year, I understand.

The spiritual life of the College continues to be as vigorous as ever, particularly under the guidance of Father David. In October Confirmation candidates went on a Pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral, as part of a Woodard Schools' Pilgrimage. This proved so successful that the whole of Year 7 went on a Pilgrimage to Hereford Cathedral, again as part of a wider event organised by Woodard Schools. However, College pupils have looked beyond the founding faith of the College and there have been trips to a Mosque, a Synagogue and a Buddhist Temple this year, as part of our efforts to encourage an awareness of other cultures and the wider community that is the world.

The Parents' Society form a valuable part of the wider College community and their Christmas Ball was as enjoyable as ever. This week has seen a Ladies' Luncheon addressed by distinguished Old Ellesmerian, Andrew Collinge, and the weather was kind enough to allow us to reinstate the Parents' Society Summer Picnic earlier this month. As always I am hugely grateful to the Parents' Society for their contribution to the vibrancy of the life of the school.



*Andrew Collinge (right) at the Parents' Society Ladies' Lunch, with Carol Main of the Parents' Society and the Headmaster*

Also very much part of the wider College community, the Old Ellesmerians continue to be exceptionally supportive. This year they have provided material support in many areas of the College, and have been particularly generous with a number of developments relating to the Chapel.

A major feature of Old Ellesmerian activities was the Dinner to mark the 125th year of the opening of the College, which was held here in May. Ellesmerians from all over the world converged on Ellesmere and it was genuinely moving to talk to some about their feelings – I am glad to say very positive – on returning to the College, often for the first time in many years. Two of my predecessors also returned to the College and the evening was a great success, topped off with a spectacular and extraordinarily expensive firework display.

It was a great sadness that one of my very distinguished predecessors, Mr David Skipper, Headmaster at Ellesmere from 1969 to 1981, was not at the celebrations as he passed away in April. David served for twelve years as Headmaster at the College before moving on to Merchant Taylors' School in London. Following his retirement from Merchant Taylors' he returned to Ellesmere and lived in Welshampton with his wife Brenda. He was an active member of the community and he will be greatly missed by many people who knew him. There will be a Memorial Service for David at the College on 13th September.

This year has been a very quiet year with regard to staff turnover and we have no full-time staff leaving.

We say goodbye to Miss Cindy Wei who joined us from Jiangsu in China for a one-year placement. Cindy has fulfilled a variety of roles including Resident Tutor in St John's, working in the English Department as an Additional Language Teacher and helping with Lower School duties. I know that Cindy has taken the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United Kingdom and I know also that she will be very much looking forward to returning to her family.

Miss Helena Kocourkova joined us for one year last September from the Czech Republic. Helena joined us to help with our language teaching and has taught Spanish and French, but she has also had an enormous impact in supporting The Ellesmere College Titans' swimming. Helena is a member of the Czech Republic National Fin Swimming Team and the skills she has acquired in that area have proved extremely useful in our training programme. Helena returns to the Czech Republic to resume her teaching career in Prague, and I am sure that she will be a great success in the future.

Mrs Maureen Ollier joined us in September 2005 to teach German, arriving just as the International Baccalaureate was launched. Maureen has done a fantastic job and helped establish the IB course, and the German teaching aspects of it in particular, and I am very grateful to her for all her hard work.

Mrs Elizabeth Lewis joined the Learning Support department as a part-time teacher in 2002 and has assisted greatly with the development of that department over the last seven years. She leaves us with all our very best wishes for the future.

I hope you will join me in thanking these teachers who are leaving us for all that they have done this year.

As I commented at the beginning of this speech – some time ago, admittedly – we live in interesting times, and I do not anticipate them getting any less interesting, in either the promising or the threatening sense, in the future.

To borrow from a very famous YouTube presentation:

*We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet.*

We are not so different from the United States that we can imagine a radically different future from that country so far as the economy and employment goes. The US Department of Labor estimates that pupils currently in school will have ten to fourteen jobs . . . by the age of thirty-eight.

It should be very clear that an education which focuses solely on passing exams – which I fear is the increasingly dominant mode of education in the UK – is clearly failing to prepare students for the exciting challenges that lie ahead of them.

I believe that an Ellesmere education goes way beyond the standard version of education to which the majority of schools have succumbed. If this speech has been over-long (and it could and should have been much longer if I had mentioned all the pupils worthy of mention for their achievements) it is at least a demonstration of the breadth and richness of life at Ellesmere, and our commitment to a fully human version of education in the widest sense.

That commitment is shown – and lived – by the teachers at Ellesmere every term-time day, and many days outside of term-time. I am immensely grateful for the incredible hard work of my colleagues and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of them for their efforts – I have no doubt that they change lives.

For once, I will leave the principal final words to someone else. The Independent School Inspectorate's report concluded:

*by the time they leave pupils are mature fulfilled individuals who are comfortable with themselves and relate well to others. They are well prepared for adult life.*

This sounds like a pretty good outcome, and I am proud of the many achievements of members of the Ellesmere community both in their time at the College, and beyond. None of this could be achieved independent of the existence of an extremely positive and mutually supportive community of pupils, parents, staff, Council members and OEs, and I am personally very grateful for the support that I have been shown throughout the year that is now coming to an end.

# Prize List 2009

## Year 7

Georgia Bruce English  
Zackary Greenaway History  
Joe Hughes French  
David Powell Mathematics  
Emily Roberts Art  
Sam Squires Science  
James Thomas Geography  
George Watkin Spanish  
Charlie Whitehead Latin

Frederick Herzog History  
Emmie Hughes French  
Christopher Johnson Biology, Chemistry  
Martin Jones PE  
Cameron Milne Politics  
Xiaonan Peng EAL  
Katrin Scharf Music  
Matthew Steggles Media Studies,  
Performing Arts (Drama)  
Yaroslav Storozhik Information Technology  
Caleb Thomas Geography  
Lawrence Walters German  
Nicholas West Theory of Knowledge

## Year 8

Tabitha Bardsley Art, English, Science  
Peter Nelhans Latin, Mathematics  
Ellie Osborne French, History  
Hanna Swan Geography

## Upper Sixth

Dania Al-Romhein German  
David Anders-Richards Chemistry  
Elizabeth Boffey Performing Arts (Drama)  
Amy Cooper Design & Technology  
Virginia Cooper PE  
Stephanie Edwards General Studies  
Todd Evans Physics  
Colin Fergusson Geography  
Dan Hopwood Music  
Jennie Maywald Spanish  
Stephanie Platt Art, Business Studies  
Eike Reinosch History,  
International Baccalaureate

## Year 9

Louis Bostock-Williams Information Technology  
Rory Bothwell Art  
Joseph Haigh Biology, Geography, Physics  
Bethany Lyttle History, Religious Studies, Spanish  
Georgina Ottaway Performing Arts (Drama)  
John Paul Chemistry, English, French, Latin,  
Mathematics, Music  
Joshua Smethurst Design & Technology  
Luke Taylor Music

Yasmin Rahbari  
Tomos Roberts  
Hendrik Scheer  
Jun Tao  
Wendy Tsui  
Ashley Whittle  
Catherine Wignall

## Year 10

Christian Cieslik PE, Physics  
Vladimir Dumitrescu EAL  
Jennifer Griffiths Graphical Communication  
Wing Man Ho Information Technology  
William Jackson Spanish  
William Mapstone Biology  
Sophie Osborne Business Studies, Chemistry,  
English, History  
Ruslana Rashchupkina Performing Arts (Drama)  
Collette Riggs Music  
Raphaella Ring Latin  
Grace Tomlinson Media Studies  
Freya West Art, French, Mathematics  
Ryan Williams Geography  
Yevgen Zalisky Mathematics

## Special Prizes

Alex Clewlow James Merrick Cup  
Stephanie Platt Art  
David Anders-Richards Drama,  
Talbot/Woodard Science Prize  
Catherine Wignall Drama, Lovel Prize for English  
Literature, Services to Choir  
Tristram Thomas Services to Drama  
Frederick Herzog Keith Smith Historical Essay  
Peter Nelhans Jebson Shield  
Henry Maybury Instrumental Music  
Charles Butt/ Tony Churnside Prize  
Dan Hopwood for Music Technology  
Jay Rowland Garnett Prize for Creative Music  
Afra Ekert Marsh Cup for Musician of the Year  
Emily Lewis GCSE Science Coursework Prize  
Molly Dingwall Colin Russell Prize for Endeavour  
in Biology  
Colin Fergusson Mark Willis Science Prize  
Yasmin Rahbari The Woodard Board Prize  
Harry Clewlow Information Technology Cup  
Cui Ping Tan Contribution to the International  
Life of the College  
Emma Johnson Sportswoman of the Year  
Mark Pearson Sportsman of the Year  
Elizabeth Boffey Gledhill O.E. Prize for Leadership,  
Initiative and Excellence  
Headmaster's Prize: Head Girl  
David Anders-Richards The Old Ellesmerian President's Cup,  
Headmaster's Prize: Head Boy

## Year 11

Douglas Allsop Mathematics, Physics  
Joseph Cauchi Biology  
Harry Clewlow Information Technology  
Melissa Evans Media Studies  
Zoe Evans Business Studies  
Douglas Forster Chemistry, Religious Studies  
William Goodwin French  
Valentina Horst EAL  
James Leahy Classical Civilisation, English,  
History, Music  
Emily Lewis PE  
Enya MacLiam Roberts Geography, Graphical  
Communications  
Charlotte Shearer Performing Arts (Drama)  
Ella Walker Art  
Ludwig Schinzing Latin

## Lower Sixth

Toby Blake Design & Technology  
Joshua Boswell Economics, General Studies,  
Spanish  
Thomas Carr Business Studies  
Wilson Chan International Baccalaureate,  
Mathematics, Physics  
Elizabeth Evans Art, Media Studies, Sociology  
Zoe Haynes English



# Common Room Notes 2008/09

New arrivals for the start of the academic year 2008/09 were noted in our last report. As the year progressed a number of teachers came in for longish stints in order to cover for colleagues who were absent for one reason or another. The longest stay was by Ottilia Nyakatawa, who made a lasting impression in the History Department and who proved to be a very lively addition to the community whilst Louise Paton was on maternity leave. We congratulate Louise, Zoe Fisher, Tim Bongers, Martin Clewlow, Emma John and their families for the new arrivals that blessed all of their households during the year. Having reported last year that we had said farewell to the last Antipodean Gap students we expected for a while, it was a delightful surprise when Aaron Somerset arrived from Australia after Christmas, bringing his constant cheerfulness into our midst. We wish him well for the rest of his stay.

Cindy Wei, Helena Kocourkova and Richard Briggs all finished their Gap year placements with us in July. They have each contributed much to the professional life of the College through their enthusiasm and competence. Each has also played a full part in the social life of Common Room and we will remember them with fondness as they embark on their careers elsewhere. Two longer-serving part-time colleagues also departed in the summer, with Elizabeth Lewis moving on from Learning Support and Maureen Ollier of Modern Languages drawing a close to her very distinguished teaching career. Both are blessed with a lively sense of humour and we shall miss them. Emma John has decided to teach part-time now that she has become a young mother, which has entailed a move of school in order to achieve the most convenient time-table. She has been a very effective teacher in the Business Education and IT departments for six years, as well as coaching girls' games. In particular her presence in the Common Room Hockey XI will be sorely missed. We wish our leavers all good fortune for the future.

In September 2009 it was delightful to be able to welcome back a number of colleagues after enforced absences, but we were saddened by the continuing illnesses of Marilyn Amako and Ann Hendriksen. We hope that they are fit and healthy soon. New arrivals at that time included Jane Fellows (Business Education), Dagmar Lensing (German), Takako Parsons (Japanese) and Montserrat Tarega (Spanish). Li Lin has come on secondment from the Republic of China and James Bell is the new Gap Student in Tech. Support.

**GH**

## Departures

**Emma John**



Emma Williams (later John) joined Ellesmere in September 2002 as a NQT in the Business Education Department at Ellesmere. She quickly proved herself to be a committed, lively and passionate teacher who always put her pupils to the top of her agenda. Emma worked very closely with the EAL department and made significant steps in helping the College's overseas students access the subject through a wide variety of teaching methods and activities. As well as being a Business teacher, Emma was also involved in the delivery of ICT across Key Stages 2 and 3.

Emma was also an active member of Common Room who coached Girls' Hockey and Netball. She spent some time in the RAF section, the Young Enterprise programme and recently the Lower School Survive and Thrive activities. Emma played a key role in the Department's excellent report from the school's ISI inspection despite being seven months pregnant at the time.

Emma went on maternity leave at Christmas 2008 and later she and her husband Richard became the very proud parents of Harry. Emma's desire to spend more time with Harry resulted in her changing jobs and schools in September 2009. She has now gone to work part-time at Christleton High School in Cheshire and everybody wishes her and her family every success for the future.

**SBM**

**Maureen Ollier**



Maureen Ollier joined the Modern Foreign Languages Department at Ellesmere College in September 2005 to teach French in Lower and Middle School. Her impressive academic achievements and professional experience of working as Head of Department in a variety of other private schools benefited the department in numerous ways and she excelled as a teacher of all ages and abilities, with a genuine fondness for children and young people. One of Maureen's most significant contributions to the department was the introduction of the A1 German Literature course taught as part of the International Baccalaureate programme. Her infinite enthusiasm and passion for the great works of literature have continued to inspire many of our Sixth Form students who can now confidently quote Goethe, Flaubert and Tennessee Williams. It has been a privilege for us to work with Maureen and we will miss her sharp wit, sense of humour and practical advice. We wish her a happy and long retirement and look forward to seeing her regularly when she returns to College to enjoy House Plays and other theatrical performances.

**CW**

## Arrivals

**Liam Bambridge**



Liam joined the College in September 2008 as the new Head of Modern Foreign Languages. After four years at the University of Hull, followed by a PGCE at King's College, London, he began his teaching career at Rydens School in Walton-on-Thames. From there he moved to Kings College School, Wimbledon, where he spent four years before being appointed Head of Spanish at Brighton College. After eight years on the south coast he opted to move north, with his wife Alison and daughters Sophie and Katy. As befits a linguist he is a keen traveller, and particularly enjoys spending time in Spain and the United States. His other great passions are music and sport, especially Football.

**Susan Bogue**



Susan joined Ellesmere College in June 2008 as a teacher of Mathematics. She had previously taught in a State comprehensive in Wellington after moving to the county from Devon where she had taught in both the Torquay Grammar Schools. Susan is currently a Year 10 Tutor in St Aidan's as well as taking on the role of the Co-ordinator of the UK Maths Challenge competitions. She has an Open University Degree in Mathematics and a Diploma. Her interests outside education include singing for her local choir in Wellington, gardening, walking, foreign travel and watching Cricket, Tennis and Rugby. She is married to Keith and they have a son studying Law at university.

**Helen Coney**



Helen was educated at another Woodard school, the school of St Mary and St Anne, Abbots Bromley, and then studied Drama at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She subsequently specialised in Technical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. She has previously worked at the Italia Conti in London, Tech Productions in New York, Centre Stage in Singapore, and on numerous language camps for the Belgian company, Roeland. She has travelled solo around South-East Asia going through Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Helen wishes to train as a drama teacher and hopes that Ellesmere will give her the experience that she is looking for. She plays clarinet and saxophone and enjoys singing, reading, and travelling.

**Richard Curtis**



Richard arrived at Ellesmere in September 2008 to teach Design Technology and take the role of third in St Patrick's. He is also involved with Archery, Mountain Biking and the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh scheme. After growing up in Wolverhampton, Richard moved to Loughborough in 2002 for six years to study Engineering and Industrial Design and Technology. He exhibited his design work in London and came close to commercially developing some of his work. He completed a PGCE, also at Loughborough, in order to inspire young people to take up design and be creative.

Richard enjoys designing products and messing about with electronics. He gets outdoors whenever possible to hike and go Mountain Biking, and enjoys playing Football, Badminton and Ultimate Frisbee in his spare time. He is a member of Barnabas Church in Shrewsbury, and enjoys travelling, recently spending a month in India teaching and working with slum children.



### James Donaghy



Jamie was born and bred in Shrewsbury and started playing Tennis at the age of eleven, inspired by the Bjorg-McEnroe Wimbledon final of 1981. Jamie competed in Tennis tournaments around the country, regularly up until the age of twenty representing Shropshire at junior and senior level, playing No. 1 at West Midlands U16 Regional level and U 18 County Week, and also gaining experience at satellite senior level.

Jamie became a fully-qualified LTA licensed coach in 2002, and started coaching at various clubs and schools within the County. He has since developed County Champions and National players and has also been lucky enough to captain junior County sides in a number of different age categories.

Jamie's favourite player of the modern era is Roger Federer and he was fortunate enough to be present at the 2008 Wimbledon final between Federer and Nadal, though unfortunately Federer didn't win. Despite this it was described as the greatest final ever. One day he hopes to discover his own Federer at Ellesmere College (you just never know!).

### Oliver Gold



Ollie James Gold was born in London in November 1982. At the age of six he moved to Shrewsbury, where he developed his passion for sports. Ollie represented Shropshire at Football during his early teenage years and was on Stoke City's books, but turned his attention to Tennis after badly breaking his leg playing Football aged fourteen. At Tennis he represented Shropshire on numerous occasions and also travelled the length and breadth of the country competing in many tournaments.

Ollie developed a keen interest in Modern History during his school days and this was the subject he studied at the University of Liverpool, graduating with 2nd Class Honours in 2004. Away from Tennis and History his other key interests lie in his beloved Liverpool Football Club and his obsession with Manchester band 'The Fall'

Before joining the College in Summer 2007 as a qualified LTA licensed coach, Ollie coached at a number of State schools in Shrewsbury including Holy Cross, Greenfields and St George's Primary School, and this gave him some crucial experience of working within the school environment. Ollie has enjoyed his two years at Ellesmere College thus far and puts this down to working with good friendly people who have made him very welcome, as well as the excellent school meals; he regularly enjoys going back for two puddings.

### Elena Griffiths



Elena Griffiths joined Ellesmere College in September 2007 as a part-time Russian Literature teacher for IB students. This year she has taken over Basketball training and become a Games Coach as well. She achieved her Masters Degree in Physical Education, Sport and Safety at Chelyabinsk State Pedagogical University and started working as a teacher in Russian schools. In 2006 she moved to England and continued her career as a teacher in Concord College. Elena's interests include reading books, music and cooking, but sport has dominated her spare time. She enjoys playing Basketball and Tennis, and recently joined a local Tennis club.

### Robert Heaton



Rob took the post of teacher of Biology in September 2008 directly after completing his PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University. He did his Masters in Genetics with a year in industry at York University followed by a Masters in Science Culture and Communication at the University of Bath in 2006. His love of Biology came from numerous short-term jobs in his teens, including working at Chester Zoo with the large carnivores. Rob has numerous hobbies, including radio and archery, which he is hoping to bring to the College. Alongside these he undertook a PADI course in diving recently and enjoys travelling.

**Liz Killen**



Liz is currently teaching English to Years 7 - 10 and helping out with Girls' Games across the age range. She is also assisting with the running of St Oswald's. She is originally from Surrey but moved up to Shropshire ten years ago, when she took up a position teaching PE and English at Moreton Hall. She plays in goal for Oswestry Hockey Club but enjoys many social sports as well. She enjoys travelling, and would very much like to return to Ecuador at some point to visit areas she missed the first time around! During the school holidays she likes to visit various friends and family who are scattered across the country, particularly her young niece and nephew who live in Liverpool.

**Michael McCarthy**



Mike McCarthy joined Ellesmere College as Director of Operations in September 2008. The Operations' remit covers a diverse range of activities which include Maintenance, Grounds, Catering, Portering, Housekeeping and Nursing. Mike joins us having spent the last five years managing several conference and entertainment venues in Yorkshire, including the prestigious Scarborough Spa Complex where Mike hosted a visit from (then) Prime Minister Tony Blair and Prince Charles (thankfully not on the same day!)

Mike's previous jobs have included the posts of Commercial and Operations Director at Glasgow Science Centre; General Manager of the Riviera International Centre, Torquay; Manager of the Newport Centre; and several venues in London.

Mike is married to Mary, whom he met at University in London, and they have three sons, James, Alexander and Sebastian, all of whom attend Ellesmere College.

Mike's extra-curricular activity generally involves sport – often watching but preferably participating in a wide range of sports - and he has an eclectic taste in music.

**Mark Roberts**



Mark joined the Mathematics Department following twenty-three years in the Royal Air Force. He left Machynlleth as a 17-year-old to undertake an engineering apprenticeship, and went on to serve at ten bases at home and overseas. During his service the Ministry of Defence supported his education as he studied for a Degree in Mathematics and Computing followed by a Masters in Education. A keen sportsman, he played Rugby at Shrewsbury for ten seasons and went on to coach the club. He also played for Shropshire and represented the RAF at Inter-Services. With family settled in Shrewsbury he now enjoys a daily commute rather than spending his week away from home.

**Paul Rudd**



Up until about three years ago Paul and his wife owned an Italian Restaurant (170 seats) in Newcastle-under-Lyme, in Staffordshire, called Pinocchio's. His wife ran the business for about twenty years and he helped on occasions, but was also employed as Executive Chef at the British Potters' Manufacturing Federation Private Members' Club. Several years before that he was employed by the music industry, catering at pop festivals backstage, also at Press receptions for record releases at Abbey Road Studios, and functions at most of the London theatres.

His main interests are classical music and going to the theatre, and he loves swimming and clay pigeon shooting. He likes to ski but does not think he is very good; they have recently purchased a penthouse ski apartment in Bansko, Bulgaria, and he now hopes to get more practice.



**Jessica Smith**



Jessica arrived at Ellesmere in September 2008 as a teacher of History and Geography and Year 7 tutor. Her other roles at the school include an involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze scheme, teaching Swimming and coaching the Pre-Titans Swimming Team. Before joining Ellesmere College Jessica taught at Christleton High School in Chester.

Jessica was brought up in Llangollen and moved to Manchester in 2001 where she completed her BA Hons degree in Politics and Modern History. She then took the decision to move back home to be near family and friends and worked for a year as a Swimming teacher and lifeguard. In September 2005 she began a PGCE in History and Citizenship at Liverpool Hope University College, which she completed in 2006. She is now firmly settled in Llangollen and makes the most of the beautiful surroundings as much as possible by walking and bike riding. Her other interests include Badminton and Swimming.

**Colleagues for One Year Only**

**Richard Briggs**



Richard joined us from Manchester Metropolitan University on a one-year placement as an IT Technician. This one-year placement forms part of his degree and helps him gain valuable experience in the workplace. Richard's year here was very successful and he was well-liked by everyone he met. Richard's hard work and dedication earned him excellent placement marks from his university. He will be missed by all here at Ellesmere, and in particular all of us in the IT Support Team. We wish him well in his final year studies.

**AH**

**Cindy Wei**



Cindy Wei adapted to life in the UK very easily and settled in to her new job here quickly. Within a short time she had developed many roles within the College. Her primary job was to help many of our Chinese students both with native Chinese and with understanding English in the classroom. But Cindy was also very involved with the Lower School, especially the youngest students, and thoroughly enjoyed her time with them. She participated in many of our activities, including Navy trips and Green Team tree planting. She was an invaluable assistant in the Survive and Thrive cookery classes with Judith Hibbott. Cindy made the most of her time in the UK, travelling widely with her friends both in the UK and in Europe. She had a great time with us, but was undoubtedly overjoyed to return to China where her husband and three- year-old son were awaiting her.

**CA**

**Helena Kocourkova**



Helena arrived at Ellesmere for a one-year work experience placement in the Modern Languages Department. She quickly settled in and showed herself to be a very adaptable teacher, taking on not only language teaching and a residential role in St Oswalds, but also teaching games, and is most notable for her enterprise shown in the swimming arena. She arrived at a time when our swimming programme was just getting under way with the covering of the new pool allowing greater opportunity for participation. Helena, being an accomplished fin swimmer herself, embraced the whole school swimming programme. She showed excellence in her swim coaching to a variety of abilities. She was brilliant in encouraging young swimmers to take a more competitive training approach to their swimming. She herself was drafted in to the Titans team and swam competitively for them. She took on the organisation of galas, and of swim club which has been very successful. It was a pleasure to teach alongside her and we wish her the very best of success in her future career.

**ILW**

# Focus on Ellesmere College Medical Centre

Ellesmere College has an eleven-bedded Medical Centre. It is staffed by three qualified nurses and a nursing auxiliary. There is a nurse on duty twenty-four hours a day during term time. College Surgery is open 7.30 a.m. - 7.30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Outside these times there is a Sister on call. If pupils feel unwell during the school day they can be admitted to the Medical Centre and monitored by the nursing staff. Boarders, if unwell, are kept in the Medical Centre overnight, and return to school only when the nurse is happy that they have recovered.

All boarding pupils are automatically registered with the Ellesmere Practice unless parents request that they stay with their own GP. The school doctors hold three surgeries a week at the College. These are on Monday 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday 8.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. If a Sister has any concerns or questions about any pupil we can phone the Ellesmere surgery and speak to a doctor or triage nurse. They will also see a pupil in an emergency appointment at the surgery if required. In an emergency the doctors will see any pupils that the Sisters are concerned about even if they are not registered with the school practice. All pupils registered with the Ellesmere Practice who suffer with asthma are monitored regularly and reviewed at the Asthma Clinic every six months. All day pupils with asthma who use inhalers are requested to keep a spare inhaler in the Medical Centre.

The College can provide on-site physiotherapy if required by a doctor. Although there is a charge for the physiotherapy it does mean that your child need not miss school or wait for a NHS appointment. There is also a School Counsellor who is in school every Thursday afternoon.

The Ellesmere College Medical Centre is there to provide nursing care and support as part of the pastoral care of all pupils.

## Senior Sister Joy Slim



Joy arrived at Ellesmere College in 2002 to take up the post of Senior Nursing Sister following successful careers in both the Health Service and Education. She is married, with four daughters and two grandchildren. In 2008 her husband, who had been a parish priest, joined the College staff as Chaplain. This meant that they moved into a house in College grounds, bringing the two loves of her life, her family

and her job, into the same location. Joy really enjoys working and living at the College; it is like living in a small village.

The main thing Joy loves about her role is the variety; she never knows what is going to come in through the surgery door. One moment she may be dealing with a nose-bleed or grazed knee, the next it could be managing a life-threatening allergic reaction, the next teaching PSHE to Year 10 boys. It certainly keeps Joy on her toes. She finds it a great privilege working with the College pupils and enjoys the good relationships she builds with many of them. It is wonderful dealing with boys after twenty-nine years of dealing with four daughters! She also enjoys meeting and getting to know the parents.

School terms are always very busy, but the long holidays allow Joy to catch up with family and friends, to read, walk and recharge her batteries. She feels that her role at the College has given her a

happy and fulfilling career. When asked recently what she would change about her job if she could she replied that there was nothing she would change; it is her ideal job.

## Sister Maria Haynes

Maria left her home town of Wem in 1978 to study general nursing at Kidderminster General Hospital. After qualifying and working there for a year she moved to Oswestry to specialise in orthopaedic nursing at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. Still looking for a challenge, she went on to join the Royal Air Force. Her time in the RAF gave her experience in orthopaedic, trauma and acute medical nursing. She also enjoyed the social life, and it was while she was in the RAF that she met her husband Bob, who is a Flight Simulator Engineer. After travelling and having their four children, Steven, Amy, Abigail and Paul, they came back to sunny Shropshire to settle their children into school. She then began to work in local hospitals, both in clinics and in Minor Injuries units. She started working at Ellesmere College in the summer of 2004.

## Sister Mary Moore



Mary is originally from Co. Tipperary in Ireland but she did her nursing training in Liverpool. Her nursing career has been varied, working in both the NHS and the private sector. She has also worked in a military boarding school in Germany. She began her career at the College as a relief nurse and took a permanent post two years ago. She thoroughly enjoys working in the school environment, which is very varied and challenging.

Mary is married to Alan, who is an officer in the British Army, and they have two daughters who both attend Ellesmere. When time allows, Mary likes to travel, garden and attend the theatre.

## Jeanette Pleavin, Health Care Assistant



Jeanette is employed to assist the nurses in the Medical Centre, and enjoys every aspect of caring for the pupils and working alongside the nurses. She joined the College in 1999 after moving from North Wales to Colemere, the intention being to renovate a small cottage with her husband, Peter.

Unfortunately the size of the garden was such that the cottage took a back-stage role, and ten years on the renovations are still ongoing. (The garden is looking good, though!) Jeanette has a keen interest in animal welfare, organic gardening and music. She lives in a quiet country location with her husband, two stray cats and a multitude of semi-tame, very demanding, wild birds.



# HEAD BOY and HEAD GIRL and PREFECTS



*Elizabeth Boffey and David Anders-Richards*



*Amy Cooper*



*Euan Crispin*



*Todd Evans*



*Colin Fergusson*



*Hugh Grosvenor*



*Henry Hackett*



*Emma Johnson*



*Charlotte Lewis*



*James Norman*



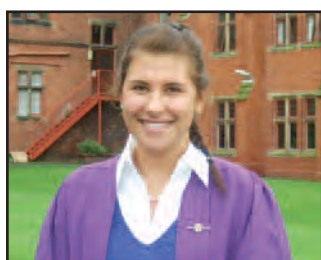
*Hannah Phillips*



*Yasmin Rahbari*



*Tomos Roberts*



*Dania Al-Romhein*



*Hendrik Scheer*



*Pippa Sole*



*Cui Ping Tan*



*Ashley Whittle*



*Catherine Wignall*



*Max Wojtynia*

## University Destinations 2009

Name	University	Course
Adams, G.H.	Nottingham Trent	Sociology
Anders-Richards, D.G.	UCLA (California)	Bio Chemistry
Boffey, E.V.H.	Hull	Psychology
Brereton, G.D.	Bristol West of England	Property Development and Planning
Butt, C.W.	Leeds Metropolitan	Music Technology
Chen, S.	Dundee	Financial Economics
Christie-Bennett, H.C.	Kent	War Studies
Chun, K-M.	Northumbria	Business and Finance
Clewlow, A.M.	Liverpool John Moores	Business Studies
Cooper, A.J.	Derby	Commercial Photography
Cooper, V.E.	Bristol West of England	Criminology and Law
Courage, T.J.	Bristol West of England	Property Development and Planning
Crispin, E.G.	Bristol West of England	Property Development and Planning
Davies, R.B.	Bristol West of England	Media and Cultural Studies
Denham, J.E.	Cumbria	Early Years Education
Dhanak, A.A.K.	Cardiff	Business Management
Dingwall, M.F.	Napier	Festival and Event Management
Edwards, S.A.	Newcastle	English Literature
Evans, T.O.M.	Harper Adams	Off Road Vehicle Design
Fawcett, T.A.	Nottingham	European Politics
Fergusson, C.A.	Durham	Geography
Fieldhouse, R.O.	Myerscough	Golf Performance
Forgrave, G.	Aberystwyth	Geography
Gore, E.J.	Leeds Metropolitan	Events Management
Griffiths, L.J.	Bangor	Art Foundation Course
Grosvenor, H.R.L.	Newcastle	Countryside Management
Hackett, H.J.	Bath	Sport (Sports Performance)
Hinzpeter, K.K.B.	Innsbruck, Austria	Geo-Sciences
Hopwood, D.	Central Lancashire	Music Production
Johnson, E.M.	Leeds Metropolitan	Clinical Language Sciences (Speech and Language Therapy)
Leilich, T.	Halle (Germany)	Management of Natural Resources
Lewis, C.O.	London School of Fashion	Fashion Design
Lewis-Bolton, A.V.	Liverpool	Geography (Science)
Li, K.C.	Durham	Accounting and Finance
Maywald, J.	Cumbria	Primary Education
Milne, D.A.G.	Liverpool	Marketing
Norman, J.P.	Durham	Physics
O'Neill, H.M.J.	Manchester Metropolitan	History
Pearson, M.A.	Northumbria	Business Studies
Phillips, H.M.	Glyndwyr	Art and Design
Rahbari, Y.	Loughborough	Business Economics and Finance
Roberts, T.A.	Manchester Metropolitan	Medieval and Early Modern History
Rodda, C.	Bristol West of England	Real Estate (Valuation and Management)
Scheer, H.	London School of Economics	Government
Sole, P.A.	Cardiff (UWIC)	Sport Conditioning, Rehabilitation and Massage
Sorfleet, N.R.	Bristol West of England	Politics
Sorochinskiy, A.	London Business School	Business Management
Suckley, O.	Bangor	Zoology
Symonov, R.	Northumbria	Estate Management
Tan, C.P.	Kent	Financial Mathematics
Tao, J.	University College London	Mathematics
Thomas, T.L.B.	Leeds Metropolitan	Events Management
Tsui, S.M.	Durham	Business
Wantling, A.J.	Leeds Metropolitan	Business and Management
Wignall, C.E.	Warwick	English
Whittle, A.V.	Birmingham	Law
Wilcox, M.A.	Northumbria	Criminology and Sociology
Wojtynia, M.	Aachen	Electrical Engineering
Wynn, A.C.	Plymouth	Mechanical Design and Manufacture
Zheng, Y.	City	Civil Engineering



# Pupil Notes

## Middle School Notes

We are pleased to welcome anyone to visit and experience what goes on in Middle School at Ellesmere. However, you have got to be on the ball, as things move on at such a pace it's difficult to keep up. It is amazing to see what has been achieved in one academic year. One of the strengths of the Middle School is that there is so much to do; from a wide and varied programme, everyone can find a niche.

The Year 10 and 11 groups returned in September ready to prepare for important GCSE examination phases. It was pleasing to see how quickly the Year 11 group settled to business and began to develop a sound work ethic. The Year 10 group took a cue from them as they made themselves ready for important modular examinations. We hope that their endeavour has paid off when the results are published. It was also pleasing to see national acclaim as Joseph Haigh (Year 9) gained a Silver award and William Jackson (Year 10) gained a Bronze award in the Biology Olympiad which assesses Biological knowledge through a series of tests. Twenty-five thousand pupils entered nationally and Joseph and William were placed in the top two thousand entries. It was also good to see a large number of work prizes and improvement prizes awarded for academic studies as the year developed.

Traditionally sport is very strong at Ellesmere and this year has been no exception. The College First Hockey and Rugby teams returned in September to relate stories of a successful tour to South Africa. Many pupils in Middle School are strong performers and earn places in the First Team squads. The Middle School players in both sports enjoyed an intensive but informative pre-season training programme. Both the tour and the pre-season preparation set the tone for the successful season to follow in both sports. In all sports there have been County and Regional representations with pupils chosen to play for Shropshire County in two sports on some occasions. Music has been vibrant too. There have been a number



*U16 Rugby players selected for the County this season:  
From left: James Whittles, Bryn and Iwan Phillips,  
William Goodwin, Mike Brown, Hugh Wignall*

of notable concerts which provided a forum for our talented musicians to shine. The Oswestry Music Festival and the Chester Festival allowed a large number of Middle School musicians to compete and gain accolades. The Autumn Scholars' Ensemble and the Three Choirs Concert were superb events which demonstrated the extent which this particular area has developed over recent years. All Middle School pupils performed in the House Singing competition which was fun and a huge success as always. The Christmas Carol Services were once again atmospheric events. The Chapel Choir sang beautifully and I am sure many will remember these evenings with fondness when they eventually leave the School.



*Chapel Choir in rehearsal*

Drama in Middle School continues to amaze. There have been wonderful performances this year. In October a talented group of Middle School actors took part in a production of *Jane Eyre*, and the cast also toured in the USA with the production. It was also a huge honour for the cast to be invited to perform at the Bronte Parsonage in Howarth, West Yorkshire. Middle School actors also held key roles in the dramatic depiction of *Hamlet*, the Senior School play for 2009. *The Anonymous Blog of Adrian Mole* completed a very successful year of dramatic production for the performers in Middle School.



*'The play's the thing': Middle School actors in Hamlet*

The competitive programme of House events has also provided a focus for performance for a large proportion of the Middle School pupil body. Events such as House Cross-country, Debating, Shooting, Tennis, Swimming, Rounders, Rugby, Football, Cricket, Netball, Basketball, Sailing, Volleyball and Athletics have ensured that all pupils are kept very busy indeed.

It has been a good year for academic trips too and once again Ellesmere pupils have been fine ambassadors for the College. It has been pleasing to receive the reports from outside agencies and speakers who commend our pupils on their respectful behaviour on such trips. Historians have recently travelled to Normandy, France in an attempt to appreciate the Second World War events with greater clarity. The Year 11 Business Studies group visited Disneyland, Paris and explored issues facing large multi-faceted industries in the present economic climate. The Music and Classics groups toured Verona, Italy to expand their experiences and to share performances. Linguist groups visited Madrid over the Easter break to enrich their language and cultural experiences.



*The Y9/10 History trip to the Normandy battlefields; the group outside the Museum of the US 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions*

Therefore, when one looks back at all that has been achieved, it is with great pride that individuals are warmly welcomed to visit us and take a look at what we achieve in Middle School. Indeed we welcomed two Inspection teams to try to take in the breadth of the experiences that pupils experience. I am sure the pace, depth and quality certainly would not have gone unnoticed. Indeed they did note this and it led them to report that they saw a 'broad academic curriculum being enhanced by outstanding extra-curricular opportunities, in many of which pupils achieve exceptional standards'. This is why we have been rightly proud of the achievements of Ellesmere Middle School pupils in 2009.

**SO**

### **Year 9 Short Story Competition**

Pupils in Year 9 were invited to enter a short story competition. The competition was judged by Mr Stephen Purcell, Head of English. The winning story is published here.

#### **The Cliff Edge by Bethan Porter**

The car was hot and I was starting to feel drowsy. The air conditioning was broken which didn't help the fact that it was probably the hottest day of the year. We were travelling to Cornwall from Glasgow as we always do. Every year. Every summer. Every 7th July. But this year it would be different. It would be me, Mum, Dad...no Elizabeth. You see she died in the ocean last summer. Well, almost. She is in a coma now, neither dead nor alive. I can't help but feel what happened to her was my fault. I had heard her shouting, screaming, but I didn't go down to the beach. I just thought it was one of those jokes she always loved to play, trying to scare me. I had ignored her. Left her there.

"Charlie. Charlie, come and look!" Elizabeth had called from the cliff edge.

I wasn't really in the mood for one of Elizabeth's discoveries but she had that smile on her face that always lifted my mood. She was waving her arms frantically to signal where she was; her face was just like mine. Pale and covered in freckles, with curly ginger hair. I've always wondered why I'd never been that close to her: we share everything: birthdays, looks, a room. But the truth is, I was never that close to her. I suppose we just did not get along.

Once I had finally got to her, she had given up on waiting and had lain down in the beating sun. She didn't bother getting up to greet me or explain why I had to urgently rush over to see her. Instead, she just lay there, plugged into a pair of headphones. Her face was red from the sun and her freckles were as dominant as ever. Her eyes change colour in the sun, just like mine do. They are deep green in the sunlight, a beautiful green, a green anyone would feel envious of. As she rolled on to her stomach, she glanced up at me, stared into my eyes for a second and then went back to sunbathing. I had rushed up here and she was just ignoring my presence.

"Lizzie! Could you be any more frustrating?"

She turned over and pulled out a headphone. "What? What on earth have I done this time?" she asked sharply.

"You insisted on my coming up here and they you just ignore me as if I shouldn't be here."

"Oh. I thought I saw something. But I didn't. It doesn't matter. You can go now." She plugged herself back to her headphones and re-applied a new layer of sunscreen. She always did this; she knew that she could get me to do anything she wanted. Sometimes, I could not stand her; she always took advantage of me in this way.

I decided to leave her to her sunbathing and find something else to do. I can't stand being alone; I feel isolated and bored and occasionally resort to something stupid to get attention. Sometimes I wonder if it is because I am a twin, but nobody's ever explained that to me. So I strolled down the beach and focused on the feel of the hot grains between my toes. I didn't realise that a group of people were walking straight towards me. I bumped into one of them, not realising what I had done. I looked up at her, stared into her eyes. They were familiar. As if I had met her before. I carried on walking but I couldn't get that face out of my head: friendly and familiar. I needed to know exactly who she was.

It was starting to get dark and supper was nearly ready. Elizabeth wasn't back yet; mum and dad started to pace up and down the dining room. She was always home before dark on holiday. All she ever really did was sunbath so, once the sun had gone in, she would start walking home to be entertained by the family. We all had routines on holiday and we never changed them. We were an hour into dinner and she had still not turned up. Mum was calling her mobile every five minutes and dad was packing so much he could have worn out the carpet. Even I was starting to worry a bit. It wasn't like her; she was never out after dark. She always eats so much, never puts on weight.

"That's it! I cannot take anymore. We are all going to look for her. What if she is hurt? Dead even! We need to find her! Now!" Mum belted out.

After this outburst, we all found ourselves searching for Elizabeth. I wasn't really paying attention to the fact that I should be out looking for her. All I could think about was the face, the friendly, familiar face I had seen earlier. I was still confused about how I recognised that face.

As we were out looking for Lizzie, I found myself wandering away into a wood. I had not noticed it before; I had never really been past the cliffs' edge. The wood was slightly eerie as all of the trees were curved over, forming an arch over the pathway, stopping the light from getting in. Behind me, I heard a twig snap. I turned my head sharply to see who was there. Nothing. I started to speed up, this place was terrifying and I did not want to spend any more time there than I had to. All of a sudden, I heard a surge of laughter. I started to retrace my steps. I walked a few metres only to discover Elizabeth with the girl I had seen earlier. They were in fits of laughter, pointing at me as I stood with tears in my eyes. My face burned with anger. I could not control myself.

"Bloody hell, what on earth are you doing here? You had me terrified. That's it! I am going home!" I turned and stormed back to the house.

"Did you find her? Did you see Elizabeth?" Mum was still anxious. "No, I couldn't see her anywhere," I replied bitterly. "I am going to bed. Night!"

### **The Middle School Year 11 Prom 2009**

Traditionally the pupils in Middle School enjoy an evening of music and food at a social event to commemorate the end of the GCSE preparation phase, ready for the examination phase that follows. Ideally, the event would be held at the end of the examination phase. However, due to the complex nature of the GCSE examination programme and the large distances that some of our pupils live away from school, it is difficult to bring everyone back to College to ensure all pupils can attend the evening.

The 2009 Prom was a super event this year. The evening is organised by a committee of representatives from the Middle School



Houses and coordinated by Mrs Owen and the Year 11 tutor team. This year special thanks must be given to Sophie Halstead, Megan Bray, Ella Walker, Alex Sloan, Tom Lee, George Baxter, Max Higginson, Jeremy Wright, Nathan Brenninkmeyer, Nikolaus Fugger-Babenhause and Isabella Kolb. This group formed the Prom Committee and they attended several lunchtime meetings to organise the event.

A sophisticated 'Hollywood' theme was given to the essentially 'black tie' event. The College Arts Centre was transformed by swathes of silk and helium balloons. Pre-event drinks were served after entry on the 'Red Carpet', complete with photographers from the society magazines and a splash of paparazzi who also jostled to cover the event.

A pre-event cocktail was enjoyed in the Arts Centre Foyer and the Year Group photograph was taken in Big School. A finger buffet of exquisite food was served all evening. The music was provided by a specialist team of visiting DJs, 'Fly by Nite', who mixed original dance tracks and produced all of the special dance room effects. Special thanks must go to them, as they usually only produce music for large music events such as V concerts and the music festival in Abersoch. The quality of the music was superb and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Once again it was wonderful to see the Year 11 pupils transform themselves for the evening. It is always a treat to see how superb they all look in their evening wear.

The Year 11 tutor team and myself wish them all the very best in their chosen studies at Advanced Level and in their future vocations. It is always good to see them again when they return for visits to Middle School and certainly the evening provided a few good memories to recollect on such occasions.

**SO**



*Red carpet treatment; Head of Business Studies Stephen Mullock is tasked to protect the young ladies from the rain. Polly Russell, Sydney Collison and Nellie Mihaylova take advantage!*



*Mum and Dad! Head of Middle School Sharon Owen and her husband Gareth, Housemaster of St Patrick's*



*A Hollywood theme*

### Gifted and Talented at Aston University

Nine Lower Sixth students, joined by Modern Foreign Language teachers Liam Bambridge and Christina Westwood, recently attended an 'Interactive Language Day' held at Aston University as part of the College's Gifted and Talented Provision. Students of Spanish experienced the Spanish Civil War as seen through the eyes of a child, students of French introduced British products to the French market place and students of German discussed the effects of reunification and the fall of the Berlin Wall. All sessions were taught in the target language and were considered a huge success. Lisa Niklas, currently studying French as part of her International Baccalaureate course at Ellesmere College, said that "it was very interesting to test my proficiency in French in a marketing situation – I learnt lots today!" German AS student Lawrence Walters added: "A thoroughly worthwhile experience that has boosted my knowledge of modern German history and my confidence in interacting with others in German." Joshua Boswell, who has recently completed his Spanish AS Level examinations, agreed that "this was an informative and exciting series of workshops with engaging lecturers."

**CW**



*The Ellesmere group at the Interactive Language Day at Aston University*

### High Sheriff's Young Citizens Award

An Ellesmere College Sixth Former, Freddie Herzog, was recently awarded a High Sheriff's Award for his outstanding display of good citizenship. He had the certificate presented to him at the first Headmaster's Assembly of the term since he had been at a Woodard Schools' Masterclass Course at Oxford University when the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Anna Turner, held her presentation evening recently. Alongside studying for his A levels, Freddie is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. It was the teacher who runs the Duke of Edinburgh programme at the School, Ros McCarthy, who originally nominated Freddie for the Young Citizens Award. She commented, "Freddie is a stalwart senior member of the Pupil School Council and has for many years patiently supported individual pupils, giving them additional support for learning, listening to them reading and helping with prep. I was delighted to give Freddie the opportunity for this external recognition of his good citizenship."

**HJW**



*Freddie Herzog with his Citizen's Award*



### County Players

Matthew Macintosh in Year 10 and Sam Owen in Year 9 have both played County Rugby and County Cricket recently. During the Winter months they have been representing Shropshire at Rugby while undertaking winter net sessions for Cricket in preparation for the Summer. This double Shropshire representation is quite a unique achievement by Matthew and Sam as they have been successfully combining playing in two sports at County level over the last few months.

HJW



Matthew Macintosh (left) and Sam Owen: County players twice over

### Jo Bowen Wins U16 Weltri Junior Open Tennis Championship

Jo Bowen, Year 10, took part very successfully in the Weltri Junior Open Championships, which attracted over sixty entries. Jo won her six games in the U16 class against opposition which included Regional and National players, and after a challenging final was presented with the winner's cup. Jo then went on to reach the quarter-final of the U18 competition.

HJW



Jo Bowen with the U16 Champion's Cup at the Weltri Junior Open Championships

### Richard Belcher Joins English Schools' U18 Shooting Team



Richard Belcher, England U18 shooter

Year 9 pupil Richard has been selected by the British Schools Small Bore Rifle Association to join the England U18 Schools' Shooting team. Fourteen-year-old Richard has been chosen to represent his country in the forthcoming international matches against the Home Countries school teams from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands. He will also be representing England in an international match against New Zealand. Richard has been shooting at Ellesmere since Year 6. He is already a member of the GB Junior Rifle Squad and has shot a number of times in international competitions at Bisley, the UK Headquarters of Small Bore Rifle Shooting.

JQ

### Two Ellesmere College Shooters join the Junior Welsh Squad



Jacob Roberts (left) and Ryan Williams, Welsh International shooters

During the recent Welsh Open Airgun Competition held at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff, Ryan Williams in Year 10 and Jacob Roberts in Year 7 shot personal bests. Following this success the pair participated in a Junior Welsh Squad training session in Henley-in-Arden and exceeded these personal bests. Ryan and Jacob were then selected to represent Wales as part of the Welsh Air Rifle Squad travelling to The Hague, Holland in March to participate in the European Inter-Shoot.

JQ



### Nick Steggel's Amazing Field Day

A keen yachtsman for many years, Nicholas Steggel, a student in the Lower Sixth and member of the Navy Section of the Ellesmere College CCF, had the opportunity on the Lent Term field day to take and pass his Level 2 Royal Yachting Association qualification. The attainment of this sailing qualification confirms Nick's dexterity and commitment to sailing. He had to demonstrate a range of sailing techniques including tacking, gybing and negotiating a triangular course, as well as rigging and rescue procedures.

**DJB**



*Nick Steggel gained his Level 2 yachting qualification*

### Hockey Successes

Two Ellesmere College pupils and their Hockey coach have had much regional success during their County season. Vivian Grudde and Emily Lewis were both invited to attend Midlands trials following their outstanding performance during the Midlands U17 Hockey Tournament. Unfortunately, Shropshire U17s lost to Derbyshire in the semi-finals. However, further success was obtained when Vivian and Emily were invited to join Miss Pugh playing for the Shropshire Ladies at the annual Northern Counties' competition. The Shropshire Ladies faced a tough challenge with matches against Cheshire, Lancashire and the Isle of Man. Having displayed cohesive and supportive unity throughout, the team reigned supreme as they obtained comfortable victories all weekend. Miss Pugh commented, "Vivian and Emily both worked extremely hard in each match".

The Shropshire Ladies then progressed to the National County Championships on the 30th and 31st May where the team hoped for another fabulous performance.

**HLG**

### David Anders- Richards: Leaving Speech

During the course of my nine years at Ellesmere I have seen many things change. For instance, the grass lawns you drove past on the way into school have been built upon, the trees that once stood where you parked your car have long since disappeared, and perhaps the biggest indicator is the College food now being almost bearable. Indeed, almost everywhere you look in the school there has been change, from the construction of the sports hall to the new 'Saints' boarding houses. But despite these changes some things still remain the same. There is still that familiar, and ever-annoying, sound of the clock bells striking 6 a.m. There is still the same smell of the red bricks and the feel of the Ellesmere summer breathing across the terraces.

When I first came to Ellesmere I was a very different person. I remember being amazed by the size of the school and the height of the trees (and coming from a small school in Oswestry the fact that there were actually trees in a school was quite astonishing on its own!). A few months later I was sitting here in this very building at my first school assembly. Half a lifetime later I am standing in the same

place, having experienced everything that the school has to offer.

Ellesmere has given my fellow students and me every single opportunity we could ever ask for. Thanks to it we have acted across continents, argued in international competitions and scrummaged our way to unbeaten seasons. One of Ellesmere's greatest strengths is its ability to provide for you to pursue whatever you want to do and to support you from novice to professional along the way. In sports, academics, the arts, whatever! But most importantly it allows for you to do all of these things at the same time. Where else would you find cricket-playing debaters who shoot for Wales? I believe that having taken part in as many activities as I could have and sticking to them helped to develop me in countless ways, and if there was one piece of advice I could give to the younger Ellesmerians in this room it would be to do the same. Grab all the opportunities that are available and shake everything you can from them. You would not believe how much it will help you in life.

There are so many people I would like to thank that it is impossible to fit them all on this page. My speech would end up more like the Headmaster's in length. Many in our year have been together since the very beginning and I would like to thank them all for the way in which they made our school time such an incredible experience. I think it is worth noting that we have within our ranks the longest-ever-serving Ellesmerian in the form of Alex Wantling. The teaching and non-teaching staff also get my greatest thanks for everything they do and the atmosphere they create around College. They are figures who will stand out when I think back on this time. I would also like to thank my family; for always offering a shoulder to lean on and supporting me in any which way even across multiple continents. Without them all I would never have gotten to where I am today or achieved any of this. One person who does obviously get her name shouted out is Lizzie. Lizzie and I have been friends since Year 8 and she has always been an inspiration in her consistency and calm nature (which comes in handy when she has to work with an extremely erratic and stressed Head Boy). I've loved having her as a friend and it has been such an honour to walk alongside her this year. I wouldn't have wanted it to be anyone else.

I have been through the best and worst moments of my life at Ellesmere. The influence of its role models, and the friendships I have experienced here will last forever and no doubt so will the memories. The key events of my life have happened within its walls. And yet I have come to realise that once I leave, the Ellesmere I knew will no longer exist. Yes, these red bricks will hold firm for another 125 years I'm sure, but I can never again return to the same place that I have enjoyed for so long. The interactions that existed this year and the eight before it will not be the same. Buildings will change, as will the systems and the people. But I am not sad about that. The Ellesmere that exists is no longer my Ellesmere, it is the Ellesmere of the people who will be sitting in this room again next September and the year after that and the year after that. It's your time now. And I wish you the very best of luck. Thank you for a fantastic time.



*David Anders-Richards enjoying Adventurous Training in Skye: another item to be ticked off on his list of opportunities to grab!*



# The Sixth Form Ball





# Portrait Gallery





# In and Around

## Continental Christmas Market

To add to the festive atmosphere at the annual Ellesmere College tree-lighting event, this year the school held its first Continental Christmas Market in aid of Hope House. Besides the traditional carol singing by the Lower School Choir before the tree lights were switched on, there was also an array of Christmas stalls where pupils, staff and parents could purchase presents and festive foods. Overseas pupils shared a flavour of their countries' customs and traditions with the sale of numerous Christmas crafts as well as foods from around the world. Local parents joined the throng of pupils and staff and a total of £210 was raised for Hope House. Committee members from the Ellesmere College Parents' Society organised a raffle of a home-made Christmas cake and the catering team did a sterling job of producing German bratwurst and sauerkraut for all to sample.

Kate Sampson and Christina Westwood, co-organisers of the Christmas Market event, were delighted with the response received. The cold weather added to the atmosphere and everyone enjoyed the evening.

HJW



*The Lower School Choir, conducted by Rebecca Paul, in full song at the Christmas Market*

## Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a time when every Chinese family gets together to celebrate - it is to China what Christmas is to the UK. Sadly, our students are always far from family at New Year, so we get together and celebrate as a group on the nearest available weekend to New Year. This year we had a delicious meal in Manchester. It was wonderful to see three of our previous students



*Current Chinese students, old Ellesmerians, Cindy Wei, Judith Hibbott and family, Marilyn Amako and Cathy Allen celebrate with a meal together in Manchester*

at the celebration - Carrie Zhang, Anabel Koldijk and Mark Cheng all rejoined us for the day.

Cindy Wei, the Chinese exchange teacher from Jiangsu, made sure the College saw in the Chinese New Year in the proper manner. The Spring Festival is the most important festival for the Chinese people. All family members get together to celebrate it. It is also a special time to remember members of the family who have died. Before the New Year comes, people are busy purchasing drink, food, decorations and new clothes, and also presents for the elderly, friends and relatives. Houses are cleaned from top to bottom. The aim is to sweep out any bad luck from the old year and clear the way for good luck. On New Year's Eve banners made from red and gold paper are hung down the doors, always in pairs. These are marked with messages of good fortune such as happiness, prosperity and long life. The colour red is chosen for two reasons; firstly because red is a lucky colour and secondly because it is supposed to frighten off the monster Nian who is thought to come on New Year's Eve. The colour gold represents wealth. All the doors are pasted with Spring Festival couplets which express people's wishes for a bright future and good luck for the next year. It seemed an appropriate gesture to wish such good fortune on the College family, and Cindy hung the paper decorations on doors around the College. Where more important than the Headmaster's office?

CA and CW



*Chinese Spring Festival couplets on the Headmaster's door*



*Xiaonan Peng and Deren Kong celebrate the Chinese New Year*



### St. Valentine's Day Enterprise

To raise funds for the Sixth Form Ball a team of Sixth Form students led by Head Girl, Elizabeth Boffey, took orders for St Valentine Day flowers. The students organized the preparation of over one hundred red roses and white carnations which were distributed to pupils and staff on the last Friday before Half Term.

HJW



*Tomos Roberts and Elizabeth Boffey prepare the flowers for Valentine's Day*



*Ready to deliver: from left, Cui Ping Tan, Emma Johnson, Tessa Fawcett and Charlotte Lewis*

### Energy Efficiency at Ellesmere College

Ellesmere College has completed a £50,000 scheme to make the lighting around the School more energy efficient. The College received a grant for more than half of the cost from Shropshire County Council through its 'Low Carbon Communities for Business' scheme, and support and advice from the Marches Energy Agency on where to source the most appropriate government funding and where the optimum efficiencies could be found. In some parts of the school this simply meant replacing light bulbs with a more efficient type of bulb, but in areas such as the Chapel all light fittings have been changed, with the result that each light now has a 125 watt bulb compared with 500 watts previously. It is estimated that this scheme could save the school up to £15,000 per annum in electricity costs and is forecast to save nearly 200 tonnes of CO2 per annum.



*David Lunt, the College's long-serving Senior Electrician, who implemented the energy efficiency project*

As an educational establishment it is important that the College sends out the right message. Mike McCarthy, Director of Operations, project-managed the scheme, which was implemented by David Lunt, the Senior Electrician, and his team, and hopes it will be the first of many environmental improvement schemes as 'he school seeks to improve its "green credentials", whilst also reaping the financial benefits to the business as well.

MJM

### Public Speaking

A high standard has been reached this year with some admirable public speaking from pupils across the school. Years 7 and 8 participated in Public Speaking as an activity on a Wednesday afternoon where much obvious talent was spotted. The Year 9s excelled this year: they are extremely keen and are fast developing into a vocal force to be reckoned with. A group of particularly gifted speakers participated in this year's Oxford Union Debating competition. This is political debating in which hundreds of schools participate. They were not daunted by their Sixth Form opposition and were highly commended upon their efforts. It was a very successful meeting which left the entire group determined to win next year.



*The winning Wakeman-Lambart team of Andrew Main, Georgina Ottaway and Mark McBrien*

The senior pupils have also flourished. Stephanie Newport-Booth, Charlotte Shearer and Alex Sloan took part in the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking competition held at Moreton Hall. It was a tough competition so we were very proud when Stephanie won the trophy for the Best Giver of Thanks on the evening. Josh Boswell and Raj Basu took part in the English Speaking Union Mace competition in which they strongly defended



the motion: 'Animal Experimentation cannot be justified'. Although they did not win, their arguments were strong, convincing and beautifully delivered.



*The Woodard team of Daisy Clarke, Leon Nussbaumer and Nicholas Crow*

As always, the Inter-House Debating competition was strongly contested by all Houses. It was a gruelling competition: a real battle of the tongues. Eventually, the Senior round was won by the Woodard Wonders comprising Elizabeth Boffey, David Anders-Richards and Josh Boswell. They were truly awe-inspiring speakers. The Junior round was won by the Wakeman-Lambart team of Andrew Main, Mark McBrien and Georgina Ottaway.

Congratulations to all for their ongoing enthusiasm and the steadily improving standard of Ellesmere College Public Speaking.

**PF**

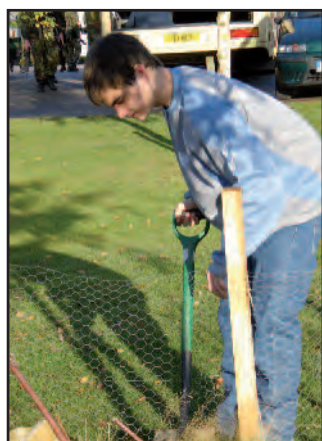
### Green Team

It was a busy year for Green Team. We worked a little on the wildlife garden, doing the hard labour of fence building and hedge and tree planting, but mostly we worked on projects outside the school. Birch Road Reservation benefited from Ellesmere College's clearing abilities and our excellent bench-erecting services. At the Mere, we cleared undergrowth during the Autumn and Spring; at Colemere we built fences, cleared mere edges and worked on the wetland; and at Ellesmere Plantation we built steps, cleared and developed paths, trimmed hedges and planted spring bulbs. All this work was done in conjunction with Shropshire Countryside Services and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. One of our most long-standing members of the Green Team, Tim Leilich, has gone on to study Environmental Management at university.

**CA**



*Xiaonan Peng puts his fence building skills to good use*



*Tim Leilich a leading member of Green Team, now studying Environmental Management in Germany*

### Joyce's Cake

During the year in a Senior Boys' House it is inevitable that some boys dodge life's pitfalls and make it to the ripe old age of 18 - a truly memorable milestone for so many reasons. This year Joyce, on a request from St Luke's, decided that she would display both her baking skills and artistic flair by producing a cake to celebrate each 18th birthday in the House. Her excellent cake was devoured with great haste and she is already taking orders for the next one.

**JJB**



*Joyce's cake for St. Luke's*

### Summer Open Day

The poor weather on the day did not deter record numbers of families visiting Ellesmere College for the Summer Open Day, keeping staff and pupils busy escorting visitors around the school. A considerable amount of academic work from pupils at different stages was on display, together with stands demonstrating the range of extra-curricular possibilities available to pupils. Visiting children had the opportunity to participate in a number of sports activities, including tennis and golf exercises and cricket net practice. There were science experiments, crafts and a quiz to occupy younger visitors as families progressed around the school. Mr. Richard Walsh, a parent and keen organist, played the Chapel organ whilst Music Scholars provided the background music during afternoon tea, served in Big School to over six hundred visitors. The Open Day is aimed at the local community who are interested to visit the College, current and potential future parents and, a particularly enjoyable aspect, former pupils who decide to return with their families to catch up with the many recent developments at their old school.

**HJW**



*Tea being served in Big School*



# Out and About

## Berlin Easter History Trip



*The Ellesmere historians in front of the Reichstag with teacher Philip Wood (centre)*

Early this April in the Easter break a group of ten Sixth Form historians took the opportunity to visit historic Berlin. The German capital is undoubtedly one of the most important cities for European history (from the Prussian capital in the 18th century to the showplace of the downfall of the Iron Curtain in the late 20th century), but it also provides the opportunity to experience the cultural vibe of a modern, exciting, yet relaxed capital which has recovered from the devastation of war.

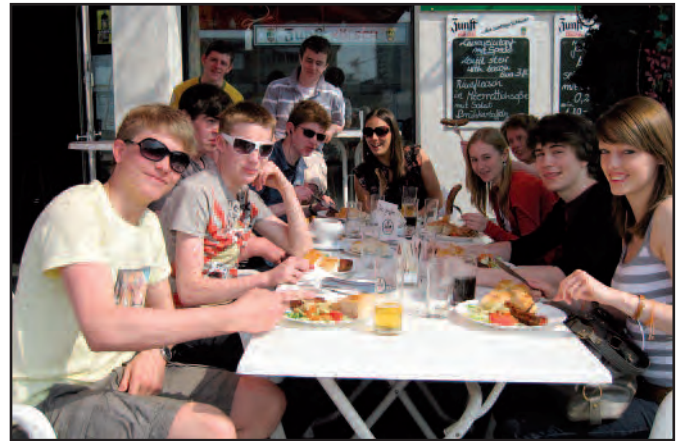
The party's first stop was the Reichstag, which gave us a splendid night view of Berlin, followed by a visit to a traditional German restaurant in the Potsdammer Platz. On the second day we visited the Brandenburg Gate and a series of other sites, including the spot under which, seventy years ago, Adolf Hitler's bunker was – now partly a car park and a playground. These two sites in particular show how much the city has changed – from the capital of Nazi Germany and the centre of the Second World War, to the divide between the superpowers in the Cold War (where the area around the Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate was effectively No-Man's Land) to a vibrant, beautiful city dubbed by some as the new party capital of Europe. Many of the leading architects of the twentieth century have contributed to this transformation.

Two sites that affected me in particular were the Stasi Museum and the 'Neue Wache' or New Guardhouse, which is the neoclassical war memorial next to the Humboldt University in the old Prussian centre of the city. The statue of the 'Mother With Her Dead Son' by Käthe Kollwitz is a stark reminder of the cost of wars and makes the sufferings of civilians under war and tyranny unforgettable. The Stasi Museum was highly interesting because it showed how the population of Eastern Germany was put under inconceivable surveillance, pressure and terror – the tour guide, an elderly lady, said she only had a small file because she did nothing wrong and was merely a worker in a chemical factory. When we asked her how big her file was, she said "Oh, only sixty pages or so". She also added that it had not all been bad in the old days - before going on to show us hidden cameras and microphones that could easily have come out of a James Bond film.

Being German I thought I knew Berlin pretty well, but this excursion has opened my eyes a great deal more,

and I can now fully appreciate the history behind the city and its people. All our thanks are due to Mr Wood for his organisation and knowledge in planning our visits to so many varied sites.

*Niko Wojtynia*



*A typical Berlin lunch*



*Inside the Stasi Museum*



*The party at the Brandenburg gate (with Berlin Bear)*



**On Tour with Jane Eyre**

The end of the Michaelmas Term saw the coming together of a dedicated company of actors and technical crew who began several months of rehearsals and planning for the College's production of *Jane Eyre* which was to tour to our American partner school, Tabor Academy, near Boston, Massachusetts. After being well-received by packed audiences on two nights in College, the first week of the Easter holidays saw the company heading for America for a week to stay on campus at Tabor Academy, learning about life at an American school and performing in the Academy's Black Box Theatre. Other performances took place at a neighbouring school, Portsmouth Abbey, as well as a huge Borders Book Store, but there was also time for visiting the local attractions of Cape Cod and Boston itself.

The final leg of the play's journey came after our return to England when some of the group travelled to Charlotte Bronte's former home in Haworth, Yorkshire, to perform scenes from the play in her garden for its Bank Holiday visitors. Fortunately the weather was warm and sunny and the cast impressed audiences of people from around the country and the world with their performances. Speaking personally, it was a genuine pleasure for me to work closely with such a dedicated and talented group of young people, and I was extremely proud of each and every one of them.

**MEH**



*The touring group on the beach at Cape Cod, USA*

**Year 9 Spanish Trip**

As part of their Spanish studies, a group of Ellesmere College Year 9 pupils spent the weekend sampling the delights of Madrid. The group of fourteen pupils and two teachers enjoyed activities which ranged from trips to the Reina Sofia Art Gallery and the Royal Palace to an evening spent taking in a Primera Liga football match at Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon Stadium. The sun shone brightly throughout and the behaviour of the pupils was also of the highest order. The visit to Madrid's main theme park was much deserved and enjoyed by all. **LB**



*The group in the Plaza de Oriente, opposite the Royal Palace*

**Junior Historians' Battlefields Trip**

Following in the footsteps of Barack Obama and Gordon Brown, a party of Ellesmere junior historians recently visited the Normandy beaches sixty-five years after the D Day landings. Visits were made to the British sites at Arromanches and Pegasus Bridge, and also to the American memorials at Omaha Beach and Ste Mere Eglise. The trip was intended to complement the GCSE studies of the students concerned and to give them an insight into the difficulties in logistics of the operation planned to liberate Europe from Nazi control. The party toured some of the remains of the Atlantic Wall, and was also able to enjoy some Normandy specialities in their free time.

**PAW**



*Charles Coppinger and friends pay serious attention to History teacher Philip Wood on the Normandy beaches*



*Chaos battery at Longues-sur-Mer*



*Joe Haigh behind the wire*



*Oliver Langton, Ben Kelly and Tom Hunter Johnstone at La Cambe German Cemetary*



### Classics Trip to Verona

This year's Classics trip was combined with the College Choir's trip to Northern Italy. A number of our pupils who study Classics had the opportunity to visit Roman sites in the area as well as some of the beautiful Renaissance cities to be found there. Our base at Desenzano on the shore of Lake Garda gave us easy access to a well-preserved Roman villa in the middle of the town as well as the nearby villa on the promontory of Sirmio that juts out into Lake Garda, which was once praised by the Roman poet Catullus. We



*Peter Nelhans and Declan Roberts on a bridge over the Adige River in Verona*

used the railway network to visit the cities of Brescia and Mantova, the birthplace of the Roman epic poet Virgil. Along with the choir, we also visited Verona, whose amphitheatre is still home to the performance of operas. The trip gave our pupils the chance to visit some very well-preserved Roman sites and to widen their

knowledge of the Roman world, and was very much enjoyed by all those who took part.

**IGT**



*The Roman villa at Sirmio on Lake Garda*

### Woodard Master-Class at Trinity College, Oxford

The University of Oxford is one of the most distinguished and learned educational establishments, not just nationally but also internationally. So it was with a great deal of excitement that eight Ellesmerians (along with seventy other like-minded students from seventeen other schools) set off for the three-day Woodard Master-class at Trinity College. Two pupils went on each of the four subjects: English (Josh Maddock-James and Nick West); Biology (Jenny Eckhoff and Chris Johnson); Maths (Raj Basu and Joe Dapling) and History (Josh Boswell and Freddie Herzog). We all arrived not knowing what to expect but were thrown straight into the Master-class (with tea breaks along the way). Biology headed straight off to the Botanical Gardens to look at pink bananas (I didn't think they existed either!), English began to look at the history of the English language, History explored the question of what history actually is and Maths did some very difficult equations (I was very glad I wasn't on the Maths course).

The food was of an exceptional quality with three-course meals being served every evening and a full cooked breakfast. The lessons were demanding but also intellectually stimulating with many different topics being looked at. The part of the course that everyone was least looking forward to was the interviews, which were to be conducted either by the tutors or by admissions staff. Certainly for the eight of us the interviews went very well but some useful tips were learnt if any of us get to the interview stage at Oxford or Cambridge. The Woodard Master-class was a stimulating opportunity and well worth the two-and-a-half hour train journey!

**Freddie Herzog**



*In the Chapel Quadrangle at Trinity College: from left; Joe Dapling, Nicholas West, Christopher Johnson, Joshua Maddock-James, Jennifer Eckhoff, Philip Wood (History teacher), Aparajit Basu, Freddie Herzog*

### A Glass or Two...

On six evenings throughout this year, the Wine Appreciation Group met to discover the wonders of wine tasting with Jonathan Hislop, who was kind enough to share his expertise with us. From Chardonnay to Riesling, he taught us the A-Z of wine; the history of wine, the shape and size of the glasses, the process of wine making, characteristics of different wines, grape varieties and the origins of wine from the traditional wine-making nations as well as those from the New World.

However, the students made sure that they put their knowledge into practice; each meeting we tasted six different wines, always noting their appearance, bouquet and taste. We experienced a variety of aromas and flavours; from pineapple to honey through to liquorice. Fortunately, due to Jonathan's extensive wine cellar, we were able to sample wines from Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Australia, New Zealand and Chile, to name a few.

The real highlight for the group was our field trip, which involved an outing to the Wroxeter vineyard in Shrewsbury. Here we witnessed the process of wine making in action and were able to taste English wines – a first for some! After enjoying a delicious lunch, we spent the second part of the day visiting Tanners, the authentic and expansive wine cellar, where we were given a tour followed by 'degustation' of various wines and were able to purchase our favourites. The Wine Appreciation course proved to be an enjoyable experience for both the amateur and the connoisseur! Thanks are due to Mr Wood for organising the course.

**Emmie Hughes**



*Jonathan Hislop and the Wine Appreciation Group*



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



*Dominick Coppinger receiving his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award from Anna Turner, the High Sheriff of Shropshire, with the Scheme Co-ordinator Dionne Walker-Smith in the background*

### Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2008 – 2009

The first half of the Michaelmas term is always spent in preparation for the Autumn Expeditions. Thursday afternoons are mainly spent by students with OS maps and compasses out in the local fields and footpaths, endeavouring to match what they see on the map with what they see in front of them. This is not always successful but it is felt that the experience has prepared them a little for battling with the more unfamiliar terrain in the region of Loggerheads and Moel Famau.

At the start of Expeditions this year the walking groups were dropped off at the Afon Wen craft centre, laden with rucksacks. It became immediately apparent even before setting off that some advice in rucksack packing was going to be necessary before the next expedition. As none of the group had packhorses they were committed to carrying their excessive loads up steep hills and for long miles. They eventually arrived at the campsite at Loggerheads, put up tents, cooked a meal and slept soundly.

The next day took them to the top of Moel Famau, from which the word "folly" was probably derived, judging by the stone construction that sits atop a very steep climb. Apart from one group getting hopelessly lost, having taken an inexplicable U-turn at the top, the day was a success. The group returned to College, pausing to savour the culinary delights of Mr. MacDonald en route. And so to Half Term.

Map reading and hiking took a back seat for the next few months as the group embarked on the service aspect of the Award. A variety of activities took place that included helping in a primary school, work at the National Trust at Erdigg and pursuing a Sports Leaders Award.



*En route back to College – the Bronze Award group stop for a break at Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall.*

The Summer Term was then spent preparing for the final expedition. This involved two long walks in the region of Glyn Ceiriog and a good evening ten-pin bowling in Wrexham, courtesy of Eugene Zalisey's 16th birthday and his father's generosity. A short trip to the waterfall at Pistyll Rhaeadr in glorious sunshine rounded off the expedition and then it was back to College – via MacDonald's – of course!

**JHC**

### Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Expedition



*Matthew Hobbs, Sam Phillips, Alex Allsop and Hugh Wignall above Ullswater*

In June 2009 we set off on our three-day expedition to the Lake District, hoping for better weather than we had had on our practice expedition. Luckily for us, the weather stayed fine throughout the three days. However, it was so hot that it caused other problems in that we had to keep up our fluid intake in case of dehydration and smother ourselves in sun cream.

**Day 1** - We arrived after midday and began our walk around the lake at Ullswater. Our backpacks were heavy, full of food and equipment, but after the long journey it was good to stretch our legs. It was so hot, my group decided to go for a quick dip in the lake before eating our packed lunches. Our first task was to find the campsite. So, armed with a map and compass we set off on our way and arrived early evening with sore, tired legs. Once the tents were put up it was time for supper – my favourite – pasta!

**Day 2** - All of the group were up early ready for the long day ahead. The majority of tents were pitched on a slight slope which meant our group had ended up in the same corner of the tent all night! After a breakfast of porridge and croissants I was ready for the next part of the expedition. It was a tough route, lots of uphill walking, made more difficult as the sun got hotter. Once we reached the top we had a quick snack and a drinks break before making our descent down the other side of the mountain into Ambleside. The scenery was amazing - with no buildings for miles and miles. Maybe it was the scenery that took our attention away from the map-reading because we spent some time getting back on track after taking a wrong turn.

We thought we had packed enough drinks for the day but, by early afternoon, our supplies were running low as the heat increased. We were relieved to find a freshwater stream where we refilled our bottles and were able to cool off. Once we had conquered Loughrigg it was a relief to arrive in Clappersgate, and we were all glad to reach the campsite that night. We made sure our tents were on flat ground this time!

**Day 3** - Last day of our expedition, and we were glad to pack our tents away for the final time - at least our rucksacks were a little lighter as our food supplies were diminishing. Our walk for the day was shorter and today we managed to keep on track and arrive on time, even though the blisters were spreading around the group. The minibus was a welcome sight and the journey home was good, as there was no walking involved!

On saying that, the expedition was great fun and if necessary I would do it all over again. heat, blisters and all!

**Sam Phillips**



### Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition in France

As we headed down the infamous “S Bend Rapid” all I could hear was the noise of gushing white water and the screams of my boat partner behind me. This rapid was particularly nerve-racking for us as the boat before us had capsized in a spectacular fashion. But with a few bumps and knocks from surrounding rocks we made it down the rapid. We were not so lucky with one of the weirs that we had to shoot. Everyone else had cleared it successfully so we were feeling confident. Of course this meant that we capsized midway down the weir and the boat was stuck on a large concrete wall. Thankfully our fantastic instructor, Ben Scholes, was on hand to help – although he couldn’t prevent our lunch getting very wet.

Of course the complex (and very wet) rapids (especially as we would all inevitably capsize at some point) were only one part of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Expedition to the Allier and the Dordogne in the South of France. Cooking was another important element. We would arrive at the new campsite each night and realise that we had to cook ourselves a “healthy and nutritious meal”. Difficult when we had to rummage around in our dry-bags and hope that some of the food that we had packed that morning was relatively dry. Luckily it was and we did not just cook

ourselves the instant pasta that is found on most Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Curry, stir fry, linguini, sausages, and vegetables were all to be found on the various menus of the groups, accompanied with fresh fruit salad, apple pies or chocolate mousse. The culinary skills of everybody definitely improved.



*The Gold Group in France*



*Lawrence Walters (front) and Mark Padgett (rear) shooting the rapids*

One of the things that I was most surprised by was how far you could get by in France by shouting a lot and pointing at the things you wanted to buy. Chris von Hoven found this technique particularly useful as he did not speak a word of French.

This trip would not be possible without all the hard work that Mrs Cowan and Mrs McCarthy did before and on the expedition and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both. Thanks also must go to Ben Scholes who taught us all sorts of useful tips that saved us from capsizing many times, Ruari McCarthy our assessor (we all passed by the way), and Phil Heath, without whom we would not have reached France at all.

**Freddie Herzog**

#### D of E Gold group 2009:

Rebecca Britton, Zoe Haynes, Julie Kennerley, Aparajit Basu, Nick West, Toby Blake, Chris Johnson, Freddie Herzog, Mark Padgett, Lawrence Walters, Francis Killick, Aaron Somerset, Chris von Hoven and Joe Dapling



*Instructor Ben Scholes watches Freddie Herzog (front) and Julie Kennerley (rear) negotiating the chute*

### First German Pupil Completes Gold Award



*2008 leaver, Ferdinand Wollenberg, pictured on his test expedition, is the first German student from Ellesmere College to complete his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.*



# House Notes - Meynell

**Housemaster:**

Mr I L Roberts

**House Tutors:**

Mr R P Boswell, Mr S B Mullock, Mrs S Phillips,  
Mrs S Owen, Mr R J Heaton, Mr I L Williams,  
Dr I G Tompkins, Miss A C Durrant, Mr P J Hayes,  
Dr J K Ripley, Mrs D Walker-Smith, Miss H Kocourkova

**Captains of House:**

C O Lewis and H R L Grosvenor

This year saw Meynell winning several competitions. There was an excellent turnout for all the competitions and several pupils were awarded their House colours. Our first competition was the Senior Girls' Swimming, where we were very competitive but in the end could only manage fourth place, an excellent effort none the less and a great attitude shown by the girls who took part, which set a bench-mark for the rest of the House to follow. The girls' competition was swiftly followed by the Boys' Swimming, and again a valiant effort was shown by the boys that competed but we could only manage fourth place.

From House Swimming we swiftly moved on to the House Football 6-a-side competition in the sports hall. This has always proved a very popular contest and with several football players in Meynell we were feeling confident of dominating this competition. Our Senior Girls' team won their semi-final on a tense penalty shoot-out, Zoe Evans and Rhian Davies holding their nerve to score the winning penalties. The opponents in the final were Talbot, always tough opponents, but we played some wonderful football to win the final 2 - 0, the scorers being Zoe again and Luana Nanu - well done to the girls! The Junior and Senior Boys played their matches over three rounds. The Senior Boys won their first-round match 6 - 0 against Woodard, Hugh Grosvenor grabbing a hat-trick. Unfortunately we could not repeat this in the final two rounds, losing 2 - 1 to Talbot and 3 - 0 to Wakeman-Lambart. However, our Junior Boys' side proved a strong team, winning their first match against Woodard 5 - 2, Saajan Kandola grabbing four of the goals; they then beat Talbot 1 - 0 and finally Wakeman-Lambart 5 - 0, so Meynell were Champions!

With the conclusion of the Football the attention turned to the stage and the annual House Play Festival. This year we were producing a play called *Boeing-Boeing*. It is a testament to the hard work that the cast put in to the play that we were told (unofficially) that we produced the best play of the four Houses. Catherine Wignall did an excellent job directing the play and also acting in it too; well done to her and also to the cast who were magnificent on the night.

The term ended with the annual Hockey and Rugby House matches. Our Junior Girls were excellent and ended up overall winners in a tough competition. Our Senior Girls were not quite so lucky; they lost the first two games against Wakeman-Lambart and Talbot, but managed to beat Woodard in the final game - and did so without a keeper! Excellent effort on the girls' part.



Meynell girls in the House Hockey

The Rugby was as good as ever; we fielded Junior, Inter and Senior teams. Our Juniors beat Wakeman-Lambart in their semi-final 48 - 0, Sam Thurmer grabbing five tries, with Cam Murdoch and Luke Taylor also scoring two apiece. They then went on and beat Woodard in the final 36 - 0, final statistics 84 points scored, 0 conceded, an excellent display of rugby and looking good for the future. The Inters team unfortunately lost their semi-final to Talbot 5 - 40 and so contested the third and fourth play-off with Woodard, which they won 17 - 12, so third place overall. Finally, the Seniors were feeling confident they could regain the title back from Talbot, but it was not to be as they lost their semi-final 17 - 33, which meant they also played in the third and fourth play-off, where the opponents were once again Woodard whom we beat 32 - 7.



You didn't tell me they were that big!!

After Christmas we had the House Basketball competitions in the sports hall. The Junior Girls' competition was a very close-fought competition; we beat Wakeman-Lambart in the semi-final 8 - 2 and then played Talbot in the final whom we also beat 4 - 2 in a close-fought match. The Senior Girls' competition saw us play Wakeman-



Meynell - Junior Rugby Champions!

Lambart in the semi-final, which we lost 4 - 8, and then drew 10 - 10 with Woodard in the final, so third overall. The boys again played over three rounds. Our Junior Boys played Talbot in the first round and drew 4 - 4, then played Wakeman-Lambart in Round Two and beat them 6 - 2 and finally beat Woodard 5 - 3 in Round Three, but they could only manage second place overall as Talbot had a better points difference. The Senior Boys lost 6 - 12 to Talbot in Round One and came back in Round Two to beat Wakeman-Lambart 6 - 3, but a lack of players in our final round match meant we lost heavily to Woodard who were eventual winners in this age group; we had to settle for third overall.

House Debating was much earlier this year and we entered a Junior and a Senior team into this competition. Both teams did well in their semi-finals and reached the final, the only House to have two teams in the Debating finals! However, our Juniors came up against a good Wakeman-Lambart team and our Seniors were out-debated by a very



good Woodard team. However, second place overall is good and all the pupils who took part should be very proud of their efforts.

Just before Half Term we had the House Cross-country event. Again the format meant there were four separate competitions, the Junior, Inter and Senior races and the Merit Competition based on which House had the most runners out. We came second in the Junior and Inter competitions and third in the Senior and Merit competition; overall we were third placed, the same as last year. Special mention should go to George Cave who was the first runner in at Inter level.



*Meynell's Lloyd Hayes leading the way*

Another competition that was held just before Half Term was the House Singing. This year the theme was musicals, and we sang *We Will Rock You* from *Queen the Musical* for our Unison and *Greased Lightning* for the Part-song. Unfortunately on the night we couldn't quite produce the best performances and we were fourth overall, but well done to all who participated and spent time rehearsing.

The Lent Term competitions ended with the Boys' Hockey, Girls' Netball and Boys' Football competitions. Our Junior Boys Hockey team lost their semi-final to Talbot 1 - 4 but came good in the third and fourth play-off against Woodard, beating them 5 - 1. The Senior Boys went one better in their semi-final, beating Woodard 2 - 0 to set up a final against Wakeman-Lambart, narrowly losing 0 - 1 against a good team. For Netball we fielded an A and a B team, which were made up of girls from Years 9 to 13. Our A team won two of their three matches and finished second overall in their group, while the B team also won two out of three to finish second in their group; overall we were second, narrowly losing to Talbot. Finally in the Boys' Football we fielded a Junior and a Senior team. Our Juniors beat Talbot 2 - 0 and Woodard 5 - 0 to set up a tense final match against Wakeman-Lambart, some good football was played, and we eventually drew 1 - 1, but because we won our first two matches we were overall winners. The Senior Boys also won their first two matches, beating Woodard 5 - 0 and Wakeman-Lambart 2 - 0, thus setting up a tense final match against Talbot. In windy conditions we played out a 0 - 0 draw and because of a better goal difference we were also winners in this competition, making us overall Football Kings of 2008/09!



*Meynell Senior Football.....*

Just after Easter we had the House Dinner, which again was well-attended and a good night was had by all. Colours were awarded to: Hannah Clarke, Charles Coppinger, Bethany Lyttle, Luke Taylor,



*.....and Junior Football - simply the best!!*



*A tense moment*

Saajan Kandola, Jack Smith, Jamie Stokes, Douglas Forster, Dominic Lam, Tom Lee, Carlo Leilich, Toby Madaus, James McCarthy, Olivia Dingwall-Fordyce, Tjark Dreyer, Lloyd Hayes, Josh Maddock-James, Matt Steggles, Georgina Adams, Todd Evans, Rhodri Fieldhouse, Tim Leilich, Mark Pearson, Hannah Phillips, Tomos Roberts, Max Seemueller, Henry Walton, Ashley Whittle and Alex Wilcox.

The Summer Term saw us compete in the House Athletics, where our Junior team were fourth, our Inters first and Seniors third. Following on from the Athletics we had the House Volleyball competition, in which we won our semi-final against Talbot, winning two sets to one. This set up a final against Woodard, which we also won two sets to one, well done to everybody that played. The House Cricket competition saw us losing our semi-final to Talbot, but only on a bowl-off as we did not get time to finish the match, which was a shame; but great effort from the boys. The other main sporting competition was the House Tennis, where we proved to be the best House by miles. The Senior Boys, led by Scott Wagner, demolished the other Houses, as did our Girls who were led by Luana Nanu. This set up a final mixed competition and with so many strong players in our House we easily won this to make it a clean sweep in the Tennis. Well done to all of you! The final competition was the House Golf, which we won comfortably.

The year ended with Speech Day and the Headmaster's prize-giving speech. From Meynell the following pupils were awarded work prizes:- Joe Haigh, Bethany Lyttle, Luke Taylor, Christian Cieslik, Mel Evans, Zoe Evans, Douglas Forster, Wilson Chan, Emmie Hughes, Matt Steggles, Nick West, Steph Edwards, Todd Evans, Tomos Roberts, Ashley Whittle, Catherine Wignall. The following were also awarded special prizes:- Catherine Wignall, Henry Maybury, Charlie Butt, Jay Rowland, Mark Pearson.

I want to finish by thanking my House Captains Hugh Grosvenor and Charlotte Lewis for their excellent work this year; they made my job much easier and were very good at organising teams and getting the members of the House to the various competitions. I want to wish them luck for the future and also take this opportunity to wish the new House Captains Lloyd Hayes and Luana Nanu good luck for 2009/10. Meynell continues to be the best House in the school and it is you the pupils who make it the House it is. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this year. Well done to you all!

**ILR**



# House Notes - Talbot

**Housemaster:**  
Dr R Chatterjee

**House Tutors:**  
Mr M Coats, Mrs A M Hendriksen, Mrs V M Howle,  
Mr G Hutchinson, Mrs E J John, Ms E Killen,  
Mr R J Macintosh, Mr D J Morgan, Mr G Owen, Mr H B Orr,  
Mrs J E Purcell, Mrs M Thomas, Mrs C Westwood

**Captains of House:**  
Ewan Crispin and Emma Johnson

Another year gone, and it is time once again to reflect on how we performed as a House. The question mustn't always be, 'did we win?' but 'did we take part to the best of our abilities?' Were we successful in our personal performances, despite our overall standing? Did we fight for success and not just expect it? Being able to answer yes to these questions is what makes us Talbot. Having said that, we were also once again successful across the board and if there were an overall House Cup it would certainly be ours, just as it would have been last year. Our new Captains this year were just as fiercely competitive as previously and led by example from the start. Ewan and Emma quickly organised and motivated the House, ably assisted by other senior members who were just as keen for Talbot to do well.

Indoor 6-a-side Football saw our Juniors setting a high standard for the Seniors to follow. They overcame all opposing efforts to win the tournament with superior ball skills. In the games Jayson Towers was solid in goal with Vlad, Todd and Hugh cleaning up the points. Our Seniors' direct approach saw them get to the final but fall at the final hurdle, but there were some good performances from Jake, Tim, Felix and Nick. The Junior Girls didn't concede a goal in their tournament, with two draws and a win. The Senior Girls also put in some great performances, winning the first round 2 - 1, but losing in the final. Yasmin and Emma performed well up front and helped to seal the first victory.



*Talbot House Play; the whole cast*



*I presume the butler did it, or maybe not?*

The first major event of the year was the House Play, with rehearsals getting under way close to the start of term. Will Bevan directed the twists and turns of *The Butler Did It*. Raj was the hapless detective, pitting his wits against the inscrutable butler, played by Jonny Pescod. Adam Brahim had a great performance, which was taken to greater height thanks to a 'lift' from Ferdinand. Ioana and Charlotte added a touch of class, but Dan Hopwood stole the show as the 'self' murderer.

Swimming was a new event in the sporting calendar with the Seniors going first. The girls put in a sterling performance and managed to hold onto second place. The boys followed suit and also held onto second. Not a bad start to a new event.

Girls' Field Hockey was always going to be tough, but Talbot were up for it. The first match saw Emily rip the Meynell defence apart and score three excellent goals with a variety of different shots. Amber and Sophie were solid in defence and helped keep a clean sheet. The second match was much tighter, and hard work from



*Emily Lewis in action*

Emma eventually let Harriet loose who was able to sweep in the only goal of the match. Early on in the final game Wakeman-Lambart went one up and despite three short corners in the last few minutes we were unable to draw level. This meant that once again we had to settle for second place.



*The Senior Hockey Team*

House Rugby was going to be a hard-fought contest this year as a lot was at stake. Henry Hackett, George Brereton, Alex Wanting, Nick Sorfleet, Tim Courage and Euan Crispin had never lost a game right through the ranks in Talbot. The Seniors were not to disappoint and they cruised to victory with remarkable ease, even winning one game by nearly fifty points. Some of the Inters hold a similar record for wins and Inters captain Todd Dobie, aided by Ben Brooks, Ollie Brereton, Matt Macintosh and



Owain Roberts also powered their way to victory to keep their future dreams alive. With two first places overall victory was ours.



*Victorious Senior Rugby Team*



*Henry Hackett leads the way to victory*

The Christmas Carol Service was again well-attended. Readers included Owain Roberts, Emily Lewis and Ewan Crispin. Many members of Talbot were also in the Choir and added their vocal enthusiasm to the whole event.

House Singing is an event for every member of the House and on the night every voice counts. This was never truer for the Unison as their performance of *Consider Yourself* earned them first place. The Part-song, *Any Dream Will Do*, was excellent, but this year the opposition were equally good and it was difficult to distinguish between the top three, even for my biased ear. Once again we were pipped at the post and had to settle for second overall.

In the House Basketball the Junior Boys led the way. They easily outmanoeuvred all in their way to win the competition. The Junior Girls made an equally good start, beating Woodard 6 - 4 in a tight contest. The final was again a two-point difference, but not in our favour. The Senior Boys were captained by Marco Li who took them to a tie for first place, but we had to settle for second due to goal difference. The Senior Girls showed Woodard a clean pair of heels in the first round with some excellent running from Stella and Yasmin. In the final the match was much tighter and eventually led to a sudden death penalty shoot-out. The pressure told and both sides made unforced errors, until Emma finally sealed victory for Talbot.

The Netball tournament is now well established as an A and B fixture, with all Talbot girls able to play in any of the teams. Once again it was a tough decision to decide teams, due to the sheer talent that exists within the Talbot girls. Considering Stella Lesch was playing Netball for the first time this season, she was able to make it into the A team and made a significant contribution as goal keeper. Good defence from Eve Davies and Charlotte

Shearer prevented the opposition from getting too many shots on goal. Centre Emily Lewis worked tirelessly and linked up well with Emma Gore and Captain Emma Johnson. Fantastic shooting from Ellie Hobbs enabled them to win overall, despite a defeat by one goal in a match where we make the most of our opportunities. Just to prove that the Bs were just as good, if not better, Harriet Tomlinson led them to an undefeated and impressive goal difference victory over all the other Houses.

In the Football the Seniors put out a strong side and, never ones to give up, stuck at it and went through the competition without conceding a goal, but due to goal difference ended up second. George scored two inch-perfect goals while Nick, Jake, Charlie and Felix never put a foot wrong. The Juniors did equally well and also finished second with Vlad, Hugh and Adam pushing the side on. Boys' Hockey has never been our strong point, but the Seniors were much closer this year, thanks to the efforts of James Walker and Chris Johnson. In both games we were narrowly defeated. The Juniors fared much better, winning through to the final with a hat-trick from Jayson Towers, but having to settle for second after a hard-fought contest. Maybe next year.

In the cross-country the whole House takes part in the Merit Cup. This was a close battle, but we had to settle for second. The fastest runners were very competitive this year, with the Inters taking first place and the Seniors second, despite Alex Wantling coming first overall. A strong performance by Sam Owen saw him win the Junior section, but they were placed third. This meant that Talbot were second overall.

The inaugural Inter-House .22 Shooting competition was held at the end of the Lent Term. Four shooters from each House took part, but despite an impressively high score from Ferdinand, the other Houses were too strong and we had to settle for third place.

The Summer Term got off to another great start when the Girls' Tennis team were placed a close second. The boys could not follow this and they were placed third. However, a strong Mixed team brought us back into contention and Talbot finished second overall.

The House Dinner remains as popular as ever and it was a pleasure to meet many of our new Year 9 parents. After a good meal, wine and conversation it was great to listen to the Captains of House give their speeches. Emma and Ewan both spoke confidently and were a real credit to the House. It was also a highlight for many pupils as they were presented with their House Colours, which had been hard-earned over the year.

As exams are getting earlier and earlier, so has the House Athletics as it is now hosted in mid-April. There were a number of strong performances across the age ranges. In the Juniors Vlad Dimitrescu and Sam Owen proved to be the better sprinters and headed up the win in the 4x100 relay. Not to be outdone a fine last leg by Hannah Cumpston secured victory for the Girls' Relay team. We were also strong in the middle distances, with first places from Mike Kelly, Hannah Cumpston and Owain Roberts. Strong performances from everyone in the team gave the Juniors a well-earned win overall. The Inters were equally impressive with Felix Mueller taking a number of track and field wins. Mathew Hobbs was first in the discus and Charlotte Shearer was first in the high jump. Second place overall for the Inters was a good result. The Seniors had notable success across the board, with Martin Jones winning the blue ribbon event, along with the 200m. Tim Courage, Yasmin, Euan and James Walker also won their events. The girls and boys won the 4x100 relays, which meant they ended the day in second place, only four points short. On the day the overall winners were Talbot. For their individual performances Emily Lewis and Felix Faller were Victor Ludorix and Victor Ludorum respectively in the Inters. In the Seniors Martin Jones was Victor Ludorum.

The pool once again saw some action, this time with the Juniors putting in a great performance. The girls led the way with nearly all their events gaining first or second places. The boys also



worked hard, and were equally successful. The Juniors, just like the Seniors, were second overall.

The first round of the House Cricket saw us easily through to the final, but poor weather meant this was a limited-overs indoor match. We fielded a strong side, but the tactics for indoors were very different to the real game. A number of easy wickets went for a similar number of runs and it was not until Matthew



*Yasmin and Hannah lead the way for Talbot inter and senior victory in the 800m.*

Macintosh arrived at the crease that the ship was steadied. However, 50 all out did not seem to be a winning total. Enter Wakeman-Lambart, who proceeded to throw their wickets away in a similar fashion to Talbot, but without anyone to steady them. The aggressive bowling of Tim Courage and the rest of the team hastened their early exit, giving Talbot what at first seemed an unlikely victory.

The House Volleyball attracted a lot of talent from within Talbot, but in a straight knock-out competition it was not to be our day. After losing heavily to Meynell in the first set, the team made a strong reply, levelling the score at one all. Chris Rath played exceptionally well, as did Emma Gore who had to endure a number of vicious spikes. In a tense deciding set Talbot succumbed to a stronger serve from the opposition.

The Senior House Golf was heavily contested this year and despite fielding a good team, with Michael Kuepper going round in 34, it was not enough to challenge for the top spot and we had to settle for second. House Sailing was once again back on the agenda and with Jeremy Wright and Nicholas Steggel crewing for

us we were in with a shout. In all four events we took first place, from sailing theory and ringing, down to Topper sailing and Bosun sailing.

Talbot made a poor start to the Academic Cup and for most of the year we languished near the bottom, but a late surge in the last half term of the year saw us put on 124 points to our final total of 291. This saw us leap up to second place, which was a great result. Next year we need a more solid start.

In the International Baccalaureate, Yasmin Rahbari and Eike Reinosch performed exceptionally well with 38 and 36 points respectively. These were matched at 'A' Level with great results from Tessa Fawcett, Arjun Dhanak and Jun Tao. Top grades at GCSE went to Charlotte Shearer, Joseph Cauchi and Megan Bray. Special prizes went to Stephanie Platt, who won the Art prize; Daniel Hopwood, who shared the Tony Churnside Prize for Music Technology; Emily Lewis, who won the GCSE Science Coursework Prize; Yasmin Rahbari, who won The Woodard Board Prize; and Emma Johnson, who won Sportswoman of the Year.

Talbot goes from strength to strength each year and despite saying we have had our best year ever, I have to repeat myself again and again. The drive and determination that exists in the House has been built up over the years and Senior members pass down this loyalty to the Juniors, ensuring that it continues year on year. The team spirit is what makes us successful and Talbot has once again produced another all-round performance. The continued success this year is down to everyone taking part and giving it their all. I must once again thank all the Seniors and especially the House Captains for their tireless efforts in organising and making sure that teams turned up for all events. I would also like to thank the team of tutors that make up Talbot for their continued support and advice. We sadly say goodbye to Mrs John, who is now working part-time as she looks after her young family. Finally, I would like to wish all our leavers well in their future careers and endeavours.

**Leavers:** Benjamin Brooks, Felix Faller, Matthew Hobbs, William Hutchinson-Smith, William Ihle, Emily Lewis, Polly Russell, Robert Teanby, Jeremy Wright, Alina Dumitrescu, Nicholas Steggel, Nina Wegert, Dania Al-Romhein, George Brereton, Timothy Courage, Ewan Crispin, Arjun Dhanak, Nina Fangmann, Tessa Fawcett, Emma Gore, Henry Hackett, Daniel Hopwood, Emma Johnson, Amber Lewis-Bolton, Marco Li, Maximilian Mahn, Stephanie Platt, Yasmin Rahbari, Eike Reinosch, Nicholas Sorfleet, Alexey Sorochinskiy, Jun Tao, Harriet Tomlinson, Alexander Wantling, Ferdinand Wollenberg, Victor Zheng

**RC**



*Happy smiles- before the cross-country!*



# House Notes

## Wakeman-Lambart

**Housemaster:**

Dr M T Gareth

**House Tutors:**

Mrs D Joynton-Brooke, Mr M P Clewlow, Mrs J Cowan,  
Mr J H Cowley, Mr D W Crawford, Miss H L Goss,  
Mr S F W Purcell, Mr P E Swainson, Mrs E Lewis,  
Mr P A Wood, Mrs M E Hutchings, Ms S M Abbots

**Captains of House:**

K K B Hinzpeter & P A Sole

After the disappointment of the cancellation of the House Football for the Junior Girls, the first round of the Boys' competition was the first battle of the new school year to be fought in the gym. The Senior Boys got off to a fine start with a 3 - 3 draw against Talbot, and in another fierce contest the Junior Boys narrowly lost their match against Talbot 3 - 2. The second round of matches saw the Juniors regain their confidence with an impressive 6 - 1 victory against Woodard. This was matched by an even more impressive 7 - 0 victory for the Senior team, leaving both our teams in a strong position. For the Seniors, a win against Meynell would be enough to clinch the title and for the Juniors, a win would put our fate in the hands of Woodard and their performance against Talbot.

House Swimming has resurfaced as an annual competition and the girls showed great spirit and determination in their event, finishing in third place by one point behind Talbot with Woodard in first place. It then fell to the boys to do their best to improve our overall standing. Much was expected of them due to the presence of James Norman, Ross Tattersall and Andrew Main, all of whom have coaching in the sport. However, what made the difference in the end were the fine performances of the rest of the team backing up the three superstars. We were victorious in nearly every race and finished the competition overall winners by five points and had the honour of accepting the Cup.



*The victorious team - Kilian Hinzpeter, James Joule, Jordan Evans, James Norman, Andy Main, Konstantin Gerlach, Hendrik Scheer and Ross Tattersall*

*The Sleeping Cutey*, directed by Alice Denham and stage-managed by Amy Cooper, was chosen as the House play this year. Alice writes: "It is an adapted version of *Sleeping Beauty*, and in my mind far more comical, engaging and magical. At the early stages of the process most people wanted to be fairies or queens but it

was soon obvious who was fairy material and who wasn't. Freddie Herzog landed the role of lead fairy and, after much persuasion, put on a tight-fitting leotard to join the five other fairies, Pippa Sole, Lucy Forgrave, Chloe Minshaw, Ella Walker and Sophie Halstead. The King and Queen, played by Joe Dapling and Jenny Eckhoff, were performed with grace along with their obedient old servant Scratchquill played by Andy Main. Anna Cooksey, Enya MacLiam-Roberts and Sydney Collison were prim-and-proper ladies-in-waiting. Although they did not have large roles they played them with energy, which added a comic level of its own. The nurse and carer of Princess Mirabel was changed at the last minute and Vivian Grudde took the role. She did an excellent job in learning her lines and blocking in the short time available and I was glad of her contribution to the production. The job of narrator was given to Vicky von Hoven who provided energy and a good comical edge, keeping the audience wanting more. Kilian Hinzpeter gave an enchanting performance as Prince Zartan, a comic reprise from last year's performance of Zartan, and he was matched up with Princess Mirabel who was played very enthusiastically by Georgina Ottaway. For me, Konstantin Gerlach stole the show with his witty performance of Germs the witch, keeping the audience and cast alike entertained throughout rehearsals and the performance".

A cold but sunny Wednesday afternoon two weeks before the end of term saw the annual Battle of the Boys that is the House Rugby. Our Junior and Senior teams both lost their semi-final matches



*Junior Rugby team*



*Senior Rugby team*



against Meynell and Talbot respectively. The Junior team went on to take a very convincing third place in their match against Talbot and the Senior team lost a hard-fought game against Meynell in their play-off. This year, a strong Inters team ground out a good semi-final victory against Woodard before being beaten by a very strong Talbot side in a thrilling match. Well done to all who put their bodies on the line for the House – including those spectators who braved the freezing cold at the end of the day.



*Wakeman-Lambart Inters in action*

The Senior Girls' Indoor Football competition was held on the Thursday before the last week in term and proved to be as enjoyable as ever. After a 2 - 2 draw against a good Meynell side, we lost the penalty shootout 2 - 1. This put us in a play-off against Woodard and we shared the honours with a 3- 3 draw. The final Wednesday of term saw the Girls' Senior and Junior Hockey teams do battle in what has become a fiercely-contested competition over the last few years. The Senior team beat all three Houses (Woodard 3 - 0, Meynell 1 - 0 and Talbot 1 - 0). The final match against Talbot was a thrilling affair, not without controversy at the end due to some robust defending of a Talbot short corner by Vivian Grudde who was the player of the tournament. However the three wins were ours and we ended up deserving victors in the Senior competition. The Junior competition was no less of a contest and with a win against Woodard 3 - 0, a draw against Talbot 1 - 1 and a defeat against the final victors Meynell (0 - 1), we ended the competition in second place.

A cold January saw the indoor House Basketball competition begin on Wednesday afternoons. In their first match the Senior Boys' team narrowly lost 10 - 14 against Woodard. They followed this with another narrow defeat (2 - 6) against Meynell. The Junior Boys' team did not get off to a good start by failing to field a team for their first match against Woodard and then losing narrowly to Meynell in their second. This pattern was repeated in our matches against Talbot. Better luck next year. The Junior Girls' team lost to Meynell 2 - 8 and then went on to lose narrowly to Woodard in the play-off. The Senior Girls' team was more successful and ended the competition in second place after a hard-fought and very close final.



*Junior Debate Winners Andrew Main, Mark McBrien and Georgina Ottaway, with Freddie Herzog at the back*

House Debating proved to be as strong as ever as the Senior team (F Herzog, J Eckhoff and L Ottaway) lost by one point to the Meynell team in their semi-final but victory went to the Junior team (A Main, M McBrien and G Ottaway) in their semi-final (pictured with F Herzog). The final the following week was again of an excellent standard and our opposition of the proposal 'This House would abolish all school examinations' was very well-constructed. After an excellent team display we emerged victorious. As all three pupils are in Year 9, I am hopeful for the double next year.

After a very cold and snowy early February the sun almost came out for the House Cross-country. Conditions were perfect for all the athletes and expectations were high. We were not to be disappointed. Excellent running by the Juniors and Seniors meant they were first in their races, resulting in Wakeman-Lambart becoming Champion House overall. We were also the winners of the Merit cup which is awarded to the House with the most runners. The highest-placed runners for the House were: W Mapstone (2nd) and J Brewitt (3rd) for the Junior team; E Walker (6th) and H Gwilt (11th) for the Inters; and J Evans (3rd) and G Forgrave (6th) for the Seniors. Special mention must go to Ella Walker, who was the fastest girl in the lintermediate race and was 6th overall, and also to Vivian Grudde who was the fastest girl in the Senior race and 28th overall.



*Victorious Vivian*



Boys' Hockey took place on the last two Tuesdays of the term and we fielded strong teams at both Junior and Senior level. The Junior team gave a superb display against a Meynell side in the semi-final and emerged comfortable victors 4 - 1. The Seniors, in an even more one-sided match, beat Woodard 4 - 0. With both teams in the finals there was much call for celebration, even more so when both teams beat their opposition comfortably, giving our House a clean sweep of victories. The Junior team beat Talbot 2 - 0 and the Senior team won 1 - 0 against Meynell. It was a superb performance from all the boys. If only it could be repeated in the House Football and Netball the following day.



*The Invincibles!*



*Guess who?*

It couldn't. However, both the A and B Netball teams gave it a good shot and were beaten into fourth place overall by goal difference. The Boys' Football followed a similar pattern with the Senior team finishing third after beating Woodard 4 - 0 and the Junior team propping up their competition in fourth place.

The House Basketball results followed a similar trend apart from the Senior Girls who were narrowly beaten in the final in a shoot-out against Talbot.

On the first Wednesday of the Summer Term, Sports Day was upon us (to enable the whole school to take part before examinations and subsequent festivities took up the remainder of the term). Expectations were high given the success of previous years. With the House top (minus the black flies of last year) shining out, battle

commenced and we were not disappointed. In a very close-fought afternoon and with House positions changing almost with every event, the mighty Wakeman-Lambart machine rolled on. This year it came down to the final 4x400m relay to decide the Champion House and the honour of having the House name engraved on the board in Big School. In the end it was an easy victory for Wakeman-Lambart, thanks to strong running from all four boys in the team. No one should be singled out from the afternoon because, as always, it was the team effort that gained us the victory; however George Hymes was awarded the Victor Ludorum for the Junior Boys and the Victrix Ludorum for the Senior Girls went to Vivian Grudde, which deserves special mention.

The Senior Boys began the Tennis competitions on the first Friday back and they finished runners-up with their points being carried forward to the overall competition. The Senior Girls managed a creditable third place and, after the mixed matches the following week, we ended the competition in third. Sailing was the competition the following Wednesday and Arthur Pistorious and Sam Chewins represented us and managed a respectable third place overall. Going one better and achieving second place (one mark short of first) in the House Shooting competition were G Cooper, R Belcher, A Bueschler and G Ottaway. The Volleyball semi-final was against Woodard and was a close-fought affair. Unfortunately we lost by a narrow margin in the third and deciding set. Junior Swimming also took place in the same (very busy) week and we struggled to field a full team. However, all who took part put on a good show and were placed third overall. We also managed to squeeze in a House Golf competition in the last week before Half Term. M McBrien, J Dapling, H Gwilt and S Chewins (with E Crispin as caddy) represented the House in fine fashion and managed a very close third. Freddie Herzog showed excellent sportsmanship by offering to make up the missing player in the Woodard team. He recorded the highest score of the competition. We were also placed second in the Senior Cricket after a rather disjointed competition which ended with a six-a-side final in the sports hall due to the weather.

The House Dinner was attended by a number of parents, some of whom had travelled a long way to be there, and that was very much appreciated. The food was excellent and the awarding of House Colours took a great deal of time as there was much to celebrate. My thanks must go again to the two excellent House Captains, Pippa and Kilian, both of whom made very moving speeches and have been of great support throughout the year.

To cap another outstanding year, Wakeman-Lambart House were the worthy winners, for the third year in a row, of the Academic Cup. Congratulations to the whole House for this excellent achievement and for a great year overall.

**MTG**



*A winning team - Wakeman-Lambart Cross-country squad*



# House Notes - Woodard

**Housemaster:**

Mr C R Davies

**House Tutors:**

Mr K J Paul, Mrs H T Scarisbrick, Mr R J Curtis,  
Mrs J Evans, Mrs R McCarthy, Mr D M Roberts, Mr R C Paul,  
Mr T C Howitt-Dring, Mrs R J Nicholson, Mr J J Baggaley,  
Mrs O Nyakatowa, Mrs S J Bogue

**Captains of House:**

D G Anders- Richards and E V H Boffey



*Woodard House Captain for Boys, David Anders-Richards, and Vice Captain, Max Wojtynia. A formidable partnership which resulted in a fantastic year for the House.*

The House Swimming contest got the Competitive House calendar off to a thrilling start this year. The Senior boys and girls produced excellent teams. The girls put in a terrific effort and stayed well ahead of the opposition in most heats. Even when things got a little too close for comfort Kate Parry swam like a dolphin and soon regained the lead for Woodard. Cui Ping did well to fend off cramp half-way down the pool, and she fought to complete the length. Woodard won the Senior Girls' contest overall. A win well deserved, ladies! The following Senior Boys' event did not disappoint either. So enthusiastic was the cheering that the referee had to call a stop to it so that the starting whistle could be heard. An over-athletic launch from David Anders-Richards during the back-stroke saw him cutting downwards towards the bottom of the pool instead of towards the surface. After losing some distance to other competitors he eventually resurfaced half-way along the pool without having made a single stroke. Moritz Verleger put on an impressive show of speed at precisely the right moments, gaining Woodard a lot of ground and a definite advantage. I was most impressed to see Callum Trent of the Juniors pitting himself against older boys from other House teams. To his credit, at no point in the races did Callum appear tired or indeed lose any ground to them. Woodard boys made second place in the overall tables.

This was quickly followed by 6-a-side Indoor Soccer. It began with the Senior Boys' match against Meynell. Unfortunately this match ended in a win for Meynell, but there was ferocious play from both teams, which made it thoroughly entertaining to watch. There were some fearful tackles from Harry McElwee, but this seemed fair as Meynell allegedly fielded seven players against our six. Play was entertaining but no team members seemed confident enough to strike from a distance so some reasonable chances were missed. The Junior side were well-supported by a highly vocal series of Senior boys and girls screaming for their team from the crowded balcony above. Together they gave the Meynell side some stick

especially when they felt their tackling was less than acceptable. There were a number of substitutes who kept the Junior team fresh throughout the game. The Captain (James Fisher) did well to ensure that all of his players were on time and in full Woodard colours. Unfortunately Woodard went 1 - 0 down at the start, then we came back by two, then Meynell got three more goals in quick succession at the end. We had a couple of promising rushes at goal and even had one goal disallowed after the ref's whistle was blown. Happily, after a team briefing during House assembly, the Junior Boys managed to come up with a strategy which caught Talbot out in their final match – some powerful blasts at goal from outside the box found the back of the net with a resounding thud. It was good to see the Juniors learning from mistakes made by the Seniors during their games. The final Junior score ended Talbot 0, Woodard 4. I cannot end this passage without mentioning the excellent goal-keeping skills of Cui Ping Tan who played in the Senior Girls' Soccer. This very tough young lady dealt with some fierce shots from opposing teams and was so focussed on her job that at one point she collided head first with the sports hall wall whilst making another great save. The spectators feared the worst, but Cui Ping simply stood up and continued without complaint. Suffice to say that sturdy sporting characters of this calibre are only to be found in Woodard!

House Play performances were another staggering achievement by all concerned. Their ability to recall their lines spontaneously appears effortless, but this is of course a common feature of raw talent. I do not believe that one would witness a more impressive or rewarding evening's entertainment if it were delivered by a professional theatre company. I am once again humbled by the 'awesome' talents of Woodard pupils. Tristram Thomas (Director) coped with a great deal of pressure in order to keep his cast 'well trained'. His ability to ensure that cast members learned their lines is commendable. The show ran for one hour and five minutes and in all that time the fast-paced script was reeled off with hardly an interruption. A remarkable feat of directing, Tristram – well done! Each individual cast member was exemplary in their professionalism, so to single out individual performances would seem pointless. Collectively however, what can be safely said is that the effect overall was one of high impact entertainment that made us all proud to be part of Woodard House. However I will mention Andy Couborough, who surprised us all by emerging from a large chest after no less than forty-five minutes in what can only be termed solitary confinement. Our stressed (but often well-composed) Director was ably supported by Lauren Griffiths co-directing. As I write this I am re-living the 'feel good factor' that the House Play generated and if future performances manage to improve on this one then I must admit that I will have truly exhausted every compliment in the book! Need I say more.

House Hockey and House Rugby were again played in desperately cold conditions as the afternoon light faded and heat loss became a problem for spectators as well as teams. In the Girls' Hockey Alex Sloan did a sterling job in goal, especially as she had never before played in that position, and Rosie Mack put in a terrific performance given that she is not a hockey player at heart and she was in the process of recovering from illness. Our Rugby teams fought hard against the weather and the opposition. The Juniors (captained by James Fisher) did well to make the final but did not quite manage to deliver the goods at the end. The Inters (captained by Niko Wojtynia) and the Seniors (captained by David Anders-Richards) drove hard all afternoon but Talbot pulled off some clever deceptions in order to pass between Woodard players. A solid effort, boys, nevertheless! Another memorable and very festive Carol Service followed by two excellent Christmas dinners rounded off the term.

The Basketball contest followed shortly after the Christmas break and produced some very entertaining play from the boys and the girls. Initially the Woodard teams made some energetic and potentially threatening breaks at high speed towards the opponents'



basket but our attempts at a decent shot were regularly thwarted by their defences (not to mention some very tall players). I always like to comment on the levels of determination that are visible during matches and I feel that I should compliment Terry Tsai for his contribution. During a match against Talbot there were regular scuffles under the baskets at both ends as players fought hard to score. From the sports hall balcony it became difficult to see the ball as it was lost amongst the mass of players, but Terry's arms repeatedly reached up for the basket. I counted no less than seven attempts from him before his grit and determination won through, accompanied by a loud cheer from the Woodard supporters. Terry triumphed in this fashion for another four baskets. What an effort!



*Junior Rugby team looking aggressive after their series of matches*



*Senior Boys' Hockey team looking calm and confident*

The Debating contest always involves a level of commitment which remains largely invisible for much of the time. Pupils engage in relevant research activities long before the event and although our Junior debaters prepared their arguments well, illness on the night took its toll until only Daisy Clarke remained to represent the House. Instead of backing down, Daisy decided to see it through on her own and take on the whole of the opposition! Thankfully this was not necessary as Leon Nussbaumer and Nick Crow came to the rescue only minutes before the team were due on the floor. The Woodard House Captains literally plucked the two boys from their rooms during prep and informed them that they were going to debate for the House there and then! A frenzied episode of discussion and last-minute planning followed as the boys were briefed on the way over to the Arts Centre. It almost seemed as though we deserved to win the debate after such a terrific and team-spirited response to unforeseen and desperate circumstances, but sadly it was not to be. I have to say that the whole evening remains as an example of what the House can achieve when pupils collaborate so successfully. Not to be outdone completely, the Senior Debating team, Liz Boffey, David Anders-

Richards and Josh Boswell, put in a terrific performance which saw them through to the final. The final itself seemed to be a close match. We were up against Talbot and there were some striking debates coming from both sides. David and Josh brought their own debating



*Junior Girls' Basketball team*

style to the evening (which must be seen to be appreciated) and Liz won recognition for 'Best Speaker'. Needless to say the evening belonged to Woodard, as did the final.

Only two nights after the House Debating came the House Singing contest. This is a highly-charged evening of entertainment which never fails to generate an electrifying atmosphere inside Big School. It is widely known amongst Woodard House pupils and staff that I have been eager to regain the House Singing trophy since we lost it three years ago. Our main Unison song this year was *Footloose* from the movie of the same name, and the Part-song was *Electricity* from the movie Billy Elliot. Niko Wojtynia did a great job of keeping the whole House in time as our conductor (aided by Molly Dingwall, who kept the House moves in time during the choruses). Due to the increasingly short time space that we seem to get each year for rehearsals I was unable to attend both sets of rehearsals for Unison and Part-songs. Therefore, for the first time I had to trust completely in the organisational skills of the House Captains to select their own Part-song and run rehearsals entirely under their own steam. This worried me more than a little, as I knew that I was taking a chance that may easily come back to bite me on the night of the performance. Any fears that I had were quickly dispersed when, for the first time, I heard the Part-song performed shortly before the contest got under way. It is impossible to even begin to describe the quality of what I heard. One may be forgiven for thinking that I am overdoing the praise here, but I was only one of many listeners on the evening who felt that the Woodard Part-song should have been made into a recording. Am I to learn from this experience that the absence of the Housemaster in future rehearsals will result in high quality performances every time? Our only serious competition on the night came from Talbot who put over a solid Unison song, and Wakeman-Lambart who performed a strong Part-song. When the final scores were read out by the judges their decision was met by an explosive and collective celebration from Woodard who had at last gained the trophy once more.

As if to use up every last drop of competitive energy and spirit the House Cross-country followed only a couple of days later. Once again this year the weather was cold and the ground muddy, making the running difficult in areas of the course. Woodard had given so much to the Debating and the House Singing that I think the House was suffering from a general lack of fitness as we had peaked during those previous events. Sarah Wicks of the Juniors did well for the House by gaining first place amongst the girls and was hailed as the fastest Junior girl on the day. It was a terrific effort by all but unfortunately it was not our day and we had to accept fourth place overall. This was disappointing given that some members of the House did run well.

Finally comes my inevitable apology for the many 'House moments' that are missing from this report. It just is not possible to record everything that the House does during the course of the year. Furthermore I am indebted to my House Captains and Vice Captains for their seemingly tireless support and professionalism in helping to organise the troops and keeping the House moving like a well-oiled machine through the competitive year. Thank you all.

**CRD**

# Chapel Notes

I ended Chapel Notes last year with the suggestion that if readers wanted to find out how God had eventually got me into a corner and convinced me that I should be an Anglican priest they would either have to wait for the next edition of *The Ellesmerian* or they should speak to me personally. I am pleased to report that several people have undertaken the latter. It takes time to get to know someone and even longer to learn to trust them, yet as far as my Chaplaincy is concerned this process has gained pace from month to month as both staff and pupils have met with me to find a listening ear and to share confidences. When anyone shares their life situations with you it is a responsibility and a privilege and I am grateful to those who have found the confidence to approach me for pastoral reasons. The fact that I am a visible presence around the College is largely due to the position of my office, near the Chapel but at the opposite end of the College to the Common Room, and some distance from Lower School, where I teach Religious Studies. Walking my dog in the College grounds twice a day also gives people the opportunity for seemingly casual meetings. 'It's all good' as the saying goes.

Life in and around the Chapel has been increasingly busy too. The regular pattern of worship continues and with a lot of advice and help the liturgy of the Eucharist and Evening Prayer has been reviewed and standardised to help with participation, and the order and liturgy of special services has been carefully developed to reflect the needs of particular occasions.

During my incumbency there have already been three baptisms, a wedding, and three memorial services. Other services conducted during the year include annual Harvest services for Senior and Lower Schools and a Remembrance Day service at which the ashes of the late Revd Maurice Gray, (Chaplain of Ellesmere College for almost thirty years) were interred in the Chapel wall and a memorial lectern given in his memory was dedicated for us.

The Bishop of Shrewsbury visited the College in February to conduct a Confirmation Service for the eight candidates who had been prepared by attending weekly classes over a period of

several months. As part of the preparation for Confirmation the candidates were taken on a one-day Pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral organised by the Woodard Foundation, at which they experienced a blend of traditional and modern worship as well as some exciting activities in the Cathedral invented and supervised by the Cathedral's education department. Encouraged by the success of this Pilgrimage I took the whole of Year 7 on another Woodard-organised Pilgrimage to Hereford Cathedral in the Summer Term.

During the year three services have been held outdoors to dedicate trees to the memory of a deceased pupil, a member of the Catering staff and a much-loved friend of the College respectively. I also presided at four traditional Carol Services which included one for the local community and guests.

A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of the College was held at the end of May and this included a specially adapted Eucharist in Chapel which was well-attended by past and present members of the College.

Several items that have been presented to the College Chapel over the years have been in need of a little tender, loving care and repair. Prominent among them is the Woodall Processional Cross and the Acolyte Candle Holders that usually accompany it. Thanks to the skill and generosity of the Lamputt family these items have been beautifully restored and are now on show in the Chapel and ready to be used again on special occasions. The Chapel has also benefitted from the generosity of the Old Ellesmerian Association. The OEs are currently helping to fund new choir robes, helping with the adaptation of display cabinets and processional cross brackets, and helping with the restoration of an original College prayer desk. At present there is no definitive record of artefacts and equipment, plaques and other items of interest to be found in the Chapel. Photographing them and producing descriptive documentation is a huge but necessary undertaking and one that I will be pursuing as a 'Chapel Project' during the next year or two.

*Father David Slim*

## Candlelit Carol Services Support Charities

Each year, over a five-day period, the Ellesmere College Chapel of Saint Oswald King and Martyr becomes the venue for a series of Candlelit Carol Services. The first of three services of nine lessons and carols is the Community Carol Service. The school's Chapel Choir, conducted by Roger Paul, Director of Music, led the singing with the first verse of the opening hymn, *Once in Royal David's City*, being sung by a soloist. Individual pupils representing their year were selected to read the lessons alongside members of the academic team.

This year a total of £1,352 was collected in the retiring collections and has been distributed to both local and national charities. The charities which benefitted were Hope House and Barnardo, Crisis at Christmas which provides food and shelter for the homeless, destitute and lonely during the Christmas period, and Action Medical Research for their 'Touching Tiny Lives' Appeal for research on how to prevent premature births.



*The Confirmation candidates with the Bishop of Shrewsbury (centre back) and Father Slim (right)*





*The Chapel Choir, Candlelit Carol Service*

### **Year 7 Pupils' Pilgrimage to Hereford Cathedral**

Towards the end of the Summer Term Year 7 pupils made a pilgrimage to Hereford Cathedral with the school's Chaplain, Father David Slim, and six members of the teaching staff.

As a Woodard Corporation School, Ellesmere College was invited to send representatives to connect with other schools within the group, to learn about the significance of the cathedral to Christian life as well as to witness and experience the Eucharist in an exciting way. A previous pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral by Confirmation Candidates had been so successful that it was decided to give more pupils the opportunity to enjoy the pilgrimage experience.

The Year 7s and their teachers enjoyed the Eucharist at Hereford, which combined modern worship, music, congregational participation and the 'smells and bells' of high church ritual, as much as the smaller group had enjoyed it at Lichfield. The worship took the best of our Anglican traditions and used them in a modern setting, and in doing so employed an ancient building for its primary purpose.



*Year 7 pupils in Hereford Cathedral*

Other features of this pilgrimage included a picnic in the Cathedral Close, an opportunity to speak with stonemasons who were working on the building and the chance to follow 'The Gargoyle Trail' around the exterior walls. It was a long journey to and from Hereford and a very full day for pupils and teachers, but everyone agreed that this pilgrimage had been an interesting and unexpectedly different kind of religious educational experience.

### **The King and I – Part Two**

For those people who have been unable to speak to me about my faith journey but are still interested, I concluded Part One of my testimony at the point where God had begun to take the place of my earthly father, the latter having died of cancer at the age of fifty-eight. God was unable to replace my father in my life until such time as I was able to treat my spiritual Father in heaven as I had treated my earthly father. Eventually, conversations that I would have had with my earthly father during which I would have shared what was happening in my life became prayerful conversations with God, and God began to converse with me through the words of Bible passages that I read, through the situations that I was presented with and through the words of other people through whom God had chosen to speak.

As a new and enthusiastic Christian I entered into the life of the church I attended believing that I was doing what God wanted by serving as social secretary, by being a member of the Parochial Church Council and by being a rather inexperienced Church Warden. Eventually all this business began to feel rather hollow as I realised that I knew very little about God himself and hardly ever engaged in worship. This led me to give up all that I was trying to do in my own strength to serve God in the hope that I could spend more real-time with him and by doing so learn to worship him. It was during this period of spiritual rather than physical activity that I received what is known as 'The Call'. The church I attended was often visited by vagrants and various other people who seemed bent on disrupting Sunday morning services for one reason or another. Many were very noisy and as Church Warden I had been used to dealing with them compassionately but firmly. In the service on that particular day it was time for prayers. We were praying silently for the needs of those known personally to us and the congregation was hushed. Suddenly, someone said the word "You!" very loudly and I looked up and around thinking that someone had entered the building and was about to be disruptive. No-one had and everyone else seemed to be intent on their prayers. As I looked forward again it was as if I was in a tunnel and all I could see were the robes of the vicar at the end of it as the word was repeated. "You!" it said. It was a something of a shock.

Normality returned but I was much shaken. Was it my imagination? Was it something I had eaten disagreeing with me? Was I going mad? If I told anyone about it they would certainly think I was mad. If, however it was what I thought it might be, I was sure I didn't want to know. I tried to put it out of my mind. I carried on trying to put it out of my mind but it kept coming back until it was all I could think about. I couldn't sleep, I didn't enjoy my food, I was irritable with my family and my work began to suffer. It seemed that God had me in a corner.

I decided to tell my wife about it. She would laugh and say I was being foolish and that would be the end of it. She didn't laugh. She looked me in the eye and told me to go and see the vicar. I felt very foolish but I told him and waited for him to laugh but he didn't laugh either. The bishop's representative didn't laugh and neither did the bishop when I was sent to see him. They all believed that God had spoken to me and a little later the bishop decided to send me to train for the priesthood. This enabled me to accept that God had called me for his purpose and somehow I found the courage to begin what has turned out to be a great adventure. A year later, at the age of thirty-eight, I had resigned my teaching post and had begun training at theological college in Lincoln. My wife and four children moved to Lincoln with me and were very supportive even though we had no idea of what would happen in the future.

Time and events have proved that God moves in mysterious ways but once I stepped out in faith I found that he was ready to sustain me and mine through all the ups and downs, and we have been able to live a wonderful life far and away beyond my imagination. I think the Prophet Jeremiah, speaking for God, just about sums it all up: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Part Three is a work in progress.

**Father David Slim**



# Arena Arts Drama

The Arts are alive and well and flourishing at Ellesmere! There is wonderful work going on in lesson time in each of the Arts departments and their results and the quality of their output speaks for itself. In addition there is the extraordinary range of extra-curricular Arts activities that range from pantomimes to Scholars' ensembles and from whole school productions to individual exhibitions.

Added to this feast of artistic delights is the Thursday afternoon Arena Arts session. Having inaugurated *Survive and Thrive* in the Lower School, I wanted to see a similar programme in action for senior pupils. Arena Arts has developed into an extremely popular and vibrant activity and its output is as varied as its eighty or so participants. Over the last year pupils have created CD recordings of their own music, original radio dramas, huge sprawling collages, situation comedy scripts, lighting designs for imagined productions and complex tap dance routines. What imagination and creativity!



*Inside the Globe Theatre*



*Expedition to London: The London Eye;*

and Gold Awards. Arts Award gives a nationally recognized accreditation to the creative endeavors of our pupils. Watch this space!

**RPB**

## House Play Festival 2008

Every year the pupils at Ellesmere College put on their very own festival of plays. From each of the Competitive Houses steps forward a pupil director willing to shoulder the responsibility, the challenge and the glory of producing this year's hit play. This year the challenge was undertaken by Catherine Wignall, who directed a 60's romantic farce; Will Bevan, who gave us the mystery whodunit *The Butler Did It*; Tristram Thomas, who produced a modern rewrite of a French classic; and Alice Denham, who made the Christmas season start with a fun-filled pantomime. The end of the festival was rounded off with a celebratory commentary from professional director and actor Kevin Tomlinson and the now famous "Ellies" Awards ceremony.

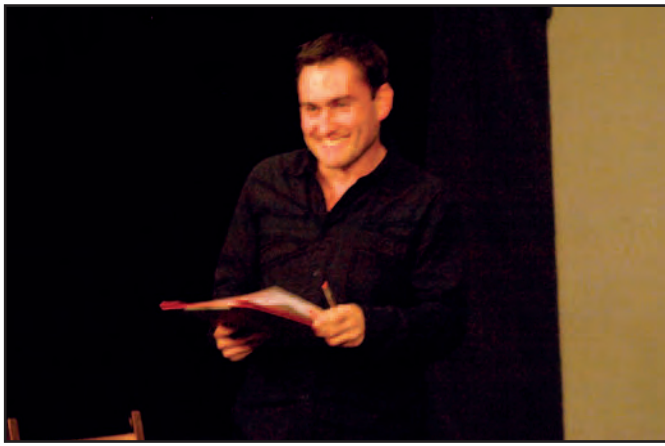
Our expeditions for 2008-09 included another fantastic trip to London. The city's cultural highlights were sampled by pupils who attended a workshop at the Globe Theatre, the bright lights of the West End and the street theatre of Covent Garden. Meanwhile, back at the College pupils travelled to Manchester for a fascinating visit to the Imperial War Museum North and to the Lowry theatres and art gallery. The Summer Expedition involved the pupils putting on a mini-version of the Little Shop Of Horrors with music, dialogue, lights, set, costumes and publicity all created in three days of hard work and hilarity!

In Summer 2009 we decided to take up the Arts Council Arts Award Scheme. From Michaelmas 2009 all pupils taking Arena Arts will have the opportunity to do Bronze Arts Award. As they progress through Arena Arts so they will be able to access the Silver



*Directors from left: Tristram Thomas, Catherine Wignall, Alice Denham and Will Bevan*





Commentator Kevin Tomlinson

**Meynell: Boeing-Boeing**

**Cast**

Sarah Richardson, Matthew Steggles, Dominick Coppinger, Luke Taylor, Becky Britton and Catherine Wignall

**Director:** Catherine Wignall



From left: Luke Taylor, Dominick Coppinger, Rebecca Britton

**Talbot: The Butler Did It**

**Cast**

Dan Hopwood, Megan Bray, Charlotte Shearer, Johnny Pescod, Adam Brahim, Aparaj Basu, Emily Lewis, Ewan Crispin, Daisy Clarke, Dominic Simpson

**Director:** William Bevan



From left: Megan Bray, Ioana Stoica, Emily Lewis, Jonny Pescod, Joe Pescod and Dan Hopwood

**Wakeman-Lambart: The Sleeping Cutey**

**Cast**

Vicky von Hoven, Alex Allsop, Jennifer Eckhoff, Andrew Main, Georgina Ottaway, Kilian Hinzpeter, Enya MacLiam-Roberts, Pippa Sole, Ella Walker, Sophie Halstead, Lucy Forgrave, Sydney Collison, Freddie Herzog, Nin Cooper, Anna Cooksey, Jennie Maywald, Katie Smith, Dominic Ryder, Joe Dapling, Luke Ottaway, Julie Kennerley, Konstantin Gerlach and Charlotte Fischer

**Director:** Alice Denham



Queen of the Fairies Jenny Eckhoff and her minions

**Woodard: Tartuffe**

**Cast**

David Anders-Richards, Molly Dingwall, Max Wojtynia, Zoe Haynes, Charlotte Boffey, Caleb Thomas, Niko Wojtynia, Lizzie Boffey, Jenny Griffiths, Josh Boswell, Alex Fogg, Callum Dwyer

**Director:** Tristram Thomas



Joshua Boswell as Tartuffe and Lizzie Boffey as Elmire

**Potted Pirates**

Johnny Depp Live at Ellesmere College (kind of...)

Inspired by Pirates of the Caribbean and all things pirate-ical! Many of us had enjoyed the hilarity of Potted Potter and came to see the sequel!

After the hilarious success of Potted Potter, the delightful double act Dan and Jeff returned with a new compressed caper. In search of talking parrots and mysterious buried treasure, they swapped wizards for walking the plank and trading Hogwarts for the high seas. On the way they told us tales of the seven seas, from Long John Silver to Blackbeard, plus a couple of notorious lady pirates. They also gave us a full-scale re-enactment of the Spanish Armada, featuring thirty actors in full costume – kind of!



Dan persuaded Jeff to let him play Jack Sparrow! And Jeff kept things ship-shape even with the scallywag Dan aboard. Shanties aside, Potted Pirates hit all the delightful notes you'd expect from this superbly shambolic duo. It was truly a show for all ages - even those who didn't know their skull and cross-bones from their pieces of eight!

Special pirate cocktails were even available at the bar thanks to Jayne Griffiths and Hazel Wakefield!



Scenes from Potted Pirates

**Wounded**  
**A Reminiscence Theatre Piece**

**Cast**

Charlie Butt, Catherine Wignall, Lizzie Boffey, Pippa Sole,  
Alice Denham, Tristam Thomas

Ellesmere College Upper Sixth drama students devised, wrote and performed a funny, moving and stimulating piece of theatre for a very specific audience. The students contacted Age Concern in Ellesmere town and asked if they could create a play for those who attend the Day Centre at the Town Hall. The students spent time chatting to their future audience and listening to stories of their lives. The piece they created is set in Shropshire during the Second World War, and involves two wounded soldiers, two sisters and an evacuee. This piece of reminiscence theatre was greatly appreciated by the audience that inspired it. It prompted many more memories and reflections on our changing lives. The students concerned felt very privileged to be able to share in the memories of their audience's lives and both gave and received a great deal from the project.

**RPB**



Ellesmere College drama students with members of the Age Concern Day Centre in Ellesmere

**Cinderella**

**Year 10 Pantomime**

**Cast**

**Cinderella:** Grace Tomlinson **Buttons:** Adam Brahim

**Fairy Godmother:** Ryan Morley **Jack:** Felix Mueller

**Baron Jones:** Jayson Towers

**Mrs. Joy de Palma:** Sarah Richardson

**Prince Hugo:** George Shelley **Lymphida:** Jacob Edge

**Cloaca:** Jamie Stokes **Sam:** Jenny Griffiths

**Queen Charlotte:** Chloe Prydden **King James:** Kallum Johnson

**Lord Chamberlain:** Ruslana Rashchupkina



Cast of Cinderella





*Cinderella on tour!*

### Senior School Production of *Jane Eyre*

A cast of ten Senior School pupils with Director Margaret Hutchings and technical crew put together a production of *Jane Eyre* during the Easter Term, and following two performances at the school's Arts Centre, the group toured the play in the USA during the Easter holidays.

After the success of this exciting USA tour, the Year 11 and 12 students travelled to West Yorkshire to the Bronte Parsonage in Haworth for a final day of performances. At the invitation of the Bronte Society, scenes from the play were staged in the Parsonage front garden on a surprisingly warm and sunny Easter Monday to large and appreciative audiences throughout the day. It was an exciting experience for the pupils to bring their production of this much-loved book back to the author's own home and share it with visitors from as far away as Japan and Canada. The whole experience of touring a play from Ellesmere to Boston and back again to Yorkshire has really taken the cast's drama skills and confidence to a new level as well as broadening their cultural horizons.

Polly Teale's adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's 1847 novel was first staged by the Shared Experience Theatre Company in 1997. The play is staged in two Acts, and in keeping with its original staging a total of twenty-six characters are played by only ten actors, with minimal set and props, allowing the audience's imagination to create the various locations and settings portrayed in the novel. Central to Teale's adaptation of the novel was the idea that hidden inside the sensible, frozen Jane exists another self who is passionate and sensual. This second self becomes the character of



*Charlotte Boffey as Jane Eyre and Ben Lingard-Lane as Mr Rochester*

Bertha Mason. Mr Rochester's mad wife, who is trapped in the attic of Thornfield Hall, embodies the fire and longing which Jane must lock away in order to survive in Victorian England. At the climax of the novel, therefore, when Jane comes face to face with Bertha, she is in fact also coming face to face with her own passionate nature.

MEH



*Playing to a rapt audience of tourists at the Bronte Parsonage in Haworth*

### The Company

**Jane Eyre:** Charlotte Boffey

**Edward Rochester:** Ben Lingard-Lane

**Bertha Mason:** Charlotte Shearer

**John Reid/Richard Mason/Man selling fruit:**

Dominick Coppinger

**Bessie/Grace Poole/Rosamund Oliver/Woman:**

Anna Nilsson

**Abigail/Adele/Mary Rivers:** Luana Nanu

**Mrs Reid/Blanche Ingram/Pupil/Girl:** Victoria Leadbeater

**Helen Burns/Mrs Fairfax/Diana Rivers:** Megan Bray

**Mr Brocklehurst/Clergyman:** Callum Dwyer

**Teacher/Lord Ingram/Man/St John Rivers:**

Matthew Steggles

**Director:** Margaret Hutchings

**Stage Manager:** Helen Coney

**Lighting:** Tristram Thomas

**Sound:** Alex Fogg

**Costumes designed and created by:** Silvia Nanu (parent)

Margaret Hutchings and the Ilkley Playhouse



*The cast on the steps of the parsonage*

**The Anonymous Blog of Adrian Mole**

- Adrian Mole:** Dominic Ryder
- George Mole:** Luke Taylor
- Mrs. Lucas:** Sarah Carr
- Nigel:** Dominic Simpson
- Bert:** Lewis Allsop
- Doreen:** Grace Tomlinson
- Matron:** Freya West
- Electricity man:** Andrew Main
- Dog:** Hannah Clarke
- Singers:** Daisy Clarke, Clara Edwards, Jenny Griffiths, Sofia Khan, Luca Kuhn.
- Dancers:** Alex Brooks, Eve Davies, Clara Edwards, Lauren Gough, Jenny Griffiths, Sofia Khan, Bethany Lyttle, Kate Norman, Kate Parry.
- Pauline Mole:** Georgina Ottaway
- Mr. Lucas:** George Shelley
- Pandora:** Bethany Lyttle
- Grandma:** Hannah Clarke
- Queenie:** Alex Brooks
- Barry Kent:** Ryan Morley
- Mr. Scruton:** Charles Coppinger
- Schoolgirl:** Daisy Clarke



Bethany Lyttle as Pandora and Dominic Ryder as Adrian



George Shelley as Mr Lucas and Georgina Ottaway as Pauline Mole

*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* hit the twenty-first century with Middle School's recent take on the 13-and-three-quarter-year-old. *Secret Diary* became *Anonymous Blog* and the wonderfully spotty Adrian – played to perfection by Dominic Ryder – hit the keyboard to the accompaniment of extremely talented actors, singers and dancers. From kung fu fighting to doing the Mole family's housework, the dancers moved with ease and gave a particularly spirited performance of disco dancing, choreographed and led by Lauren Gough. Key moments of Adrian's teenage life were echoed in the songs, and Daisy Clarke sang very movingly at Adrian and Pandora's reunion after their holiday.

Against the backdrop of singing and dancing, the strong Adrian Mole cast performed the comedy excellently. Dominic Ryder as the eponymous hero rarely left the stage and he was more than ably supported by all his fellow actors. Lewis Allsop really made Bert come alive with his great sense of comic timing and his lascivious laugh. Georgina Ottaway and Luke Taylor contrasted delightfully with each other as Adrian's battle-scarred parents, while Bethany Lyttle as a coolly confident Pandora provided a superb foil to the nerdy Adrian. Dominic Simpson proved to be a natural comedy actor in his portrayal of Nigel, judging pauses to great comic effect, and Hannah Clarke was able to slip between Grandma and Dog with scary ease.

The success of the show, ambitious in its combination of acting, singing and dancing, was down to the extraordinary commitment and hard work shown by all the cast and crew. The stage tech crew showed great expertise and the makeup crew worked hard ageing characters and creating some very authentic spots for Adrian. The director, Sighile Abbots, and the choreographer, Aaron Somerset, were extremely pleased with Middle School's success at breathing new life into *Adrian Mole*.

**SMA**

**Lower School Perform A Grimm Evening**

The tales of the notorious Brothers Grimm, that have captivated the imaginations of the young over hundreds of years, were presented by Ellesmere College Lower School pupils. The Year 7 and 8 pupils took to the stage to perform six of the Brother Grimms' stories. These included some well-known ones like *Little Red Cap*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Rumpelstiltskin* and *Ashputtel* (Cinderella) with some of their lesser but equally as good ones like *The Mouse, the Bird and the Sausage* and *Clever Hans*.

The cast comprised over twenty pupils. There were three performances over two nights which were well supported, and the children did themselves and the school proud with their hard work and enthusiasm. College staff involved in the production were Joanne Davies, Rae Nicholson and Helen Coney.

**JMD**

**A Grimm Evening**

**Cast List**

- Wilheim Grimm:** Peter von Hoven
- Jacob Grimm:** Ben Williams

**Hansel and Gretel**

- Hansel:** Craig Tattersall
- Gretel:** Amber Cauchi
- Mother:** Sophie Sheldon
- Father:** Ioan Parry-Jones
- Witch:** Molly Venner

**Little Red Cap**

- Little Red Cap:** Tabitha Bardsley
- Mother:** Sophie Moore
- Huntsman:** Harvey Rickett
- Voice of wolf:** Ed Shelley

**The Mouse, the Bird and the Sausage**

- Mouse:** Jennifer Pegg
- Bird:** Angelo Daniel
- Sausage:** Andrew Bolton
- Lark:** Ellie Williams
- Dog:** Huw Roberts



### **Rumpelstiltskin**

**Rumpelstiltskin:** Ed Shelley  
**King:** Charlie Whitehead  
**Miller:** Max Beardmore  
**Daughter/Queen:** Ellie Osborne  
**Messenger:** Annabelle Martin-Jones

### **Clever Hans**

**Hans:** Hayden Edge-Roberts  
**Gretel:** Alice Tow  
**Mother:** Hannah Swan

### **Ashputtel**

**Ashputtel:** Rachel Griffiths  
**1st sister:** Annie Hill  
**2nd sister:** Ffion Davies  
**Stepmother:** Tabitha Bardsley  
**Prince:** Craig Tattersall  
**Father:** Harvey Rickett  
**Mother Spirit:** Emma Greville  
**Page:** Peter Nelhans  
**Bird:** Ellie Williams



*Tabitha Bardsley as Little Red Cap being threatened by Ffion Davies as the wolf*

### **Little Shop of Horrors**

This year the different facets of the Ellesmere College Arena Arts Programme came together to put on the funny and eccentric musical *Little Shop of Horrors* as part of a three-day project. The story follows Seymour Krelborn as he dreams of his co-worker Audrey, and the disastrous consequences of his discovery of an unusual plant and its frightening appetite. Pupils aged from 14 - 18 years old shouldered the responsibility of acting, singing, dancing, and designing the overall aesthetic features of the set, with only a limited amount of time in which to polish and perfect their work. They took on this exciting challenge during the school expeditions,

and gave their first and last performance of the abridged work on the 24th June in the Ellesmere College Arts Centre.

On the 23rd day of the month of September....in an early year of a decade not too long before our own...the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence. And this terrifying enemy surfaced, as such enemies often do...in the seemingly most innocent and unlikely of places.

**HC**

### **Cast**

**Seymour:** Henry Maybury, **Audrey:** Luca Kuhn, **Mushnik:** Dan Hopwood, **Orin I and II:** William Bevan, Joshua Boswell  
**Voice of Audrey II:** Special Guest, **Chorus Girls:** Afra Ekert, Katrin Scharf, Ruslana Rashchupkina  
**All other characters:** Charlie Butt  
**Directed by:** Miss Helen Coney,  
**Musical Direction:** by Mr Roger Paul



*Luca Kuhn as Audrey and Henry Maybury as Seymour in the Little Shop of Horrors*

### **Hamlet**

#### **Director's Note**

Academics and other authors have written more books and articles about Shakespeare's *Hamlet* than about any other work of fiction. There are thousands of different interpretations of the play. Shakespeare poses so many questions in the plot and answers very few of them. Is Hamlet really mad? Does Gertrude know about the murder of her former husband? What is the history of the relationship between Ophelia and Hamlet?

The dialogue spoken by the characters in the play is also full of questions. The play begins with a question: "Who's there?" King Claudius is a man in conflict with himself: "But O what form of prayer can serve my turn? Forgive my foul murder?" Gertrude is alarmed at her son's irrational actions: "What wilt thou do? Thou wilt not murder me?" Hamlet constantly asks questions about mortality: "Alas poor Yorick...Where be your flashes of merriment?" And of course, that line we all know..."To be or not to be: that is the question".

As a director the first question you have to ask is, "Do I have the actors to pull this off?" I was delighted to find that the answer was an emphatic "Yes!" It was a great treat to work with a cast of such talented students. Although many questions remained unanswered in the process of rehearsing and performing our production of *Hamlet*, yet my actors revealed to me many facets of this extraordinary play. The strength of the ensemble playing was formidable and I felt every single actor fitted their part and warmed to it through rehearsal and performance. It was a privilege to have shared the experience with all those who made their vital contributions backstage; with all those who took minor roles and gave them such life and colour; with the core cast of exceptionally talented actors; and with a very special Prince.

**RPB**

**Cast**

**Claudius** *King of Denmark*  
**Gertrude** *Queen of Denmark*  
**Polonius** *Councilor to the King*  
**Laertes** *son of Polonius*  
**Ophelia** *daughter of Polonius*  
**Hamlet** *Prince of Denmark*  
**Horatio** *friend of Hamlet*  
**Old Hamlet**, *Ghost of Hamlet's father*  
**Rosencrantz** *in the pay of Claudius*  
**Guildenstern** *in the pay of Claudius*  
**First Player** *leader of a troupe of actors*  
**Fortinbras** *Prince of Norway*  
**Osric** *a courtier*  
**Gravedigger**  
**Francisco** *a soldier*  
**Barnardo** *a soldier*  
**Marcellus** *a soldier*  
**Voltemand** *a courtier*  
**Cornelius** *a courtier*  
**Reynaldo** *a servant to Polonius*  
**A Captain** *in the army of Fortinbras*  
**Ambassador** *from England*  
**A Priest** *at Ophelia's funeral*  
**Yorick**, *the old king's jester*  
**Young Hamlet**  
**Young Horatio**

David Anders-Richards  
 Elizabeth Boffey  
 William Bevan  
 Caleb Thomas  
 Jennifer Eckhoff  
 Joshua Boswell  
 Aparajit Basu  
 Nicholas West  
 Rebecca Britton  
 Zoe Haynes  
 Freddie Herzog  
 Max Wojtynia  
 Thomas Phillips  
 Michael Brown  
 Konstantin Gerlach  
 Alexander Allsop  
 Sean Johnson  
 Thomas Lee  
 Luke Ottaway  
 Ludwig Schinzing  
 Ferdinand Wollenberg  
 Luke Ottaway  
 Jonathan Pescod  
 Charles Butt  
 Eoin Murtagh  
 Alistair O'Brien

**Young Laertes**  
**Young Rosencrantz**  
**Young Guildenstern**  
**Young Ophelia**  
**Gentlewoman**, *attending Ophelia*  
**Player King**, *an actor*  
**Player Queen**, *an actor*  
**Lucianus**, *an actor*  
**Prologue**, *to the actors' play*  
**Messenger**  
**Lady**  
**Danes**, *supporting Laertes*

Guy Lloyd  
 Tianna Williams  
 Katie Stokes  
 Emily Stokes  
 Emmie Hughes  
 Jonathan Pescod  
 Thomas Phillips  
 Freddie Herzog  
 Simona Dumitrescu  
 Niko Wojtynia  
 Sara Papert  
 Sara Papert  
 Konstantin Gerlach  
 Alexander Allsop  
 Sean Johnson  
 Niko Wojtynia  
 Konstantin Gerlach  
 Alexander Allsop  
 Sean Johnson  
 Niko Wojtynia  
 Ellen Jagenberg  
 Harriet Tomlinson  
 Gesa-Marie Fischer  
 Ludwig Schinzing  
 Tessa Fawcett  
 Carolina Bange

**Soldiers**, *in the army of Fortinbras*

**Courtiers** *at the court of King Claudius*



*Cast in rehearsal*



*William Bevan as Polonius*

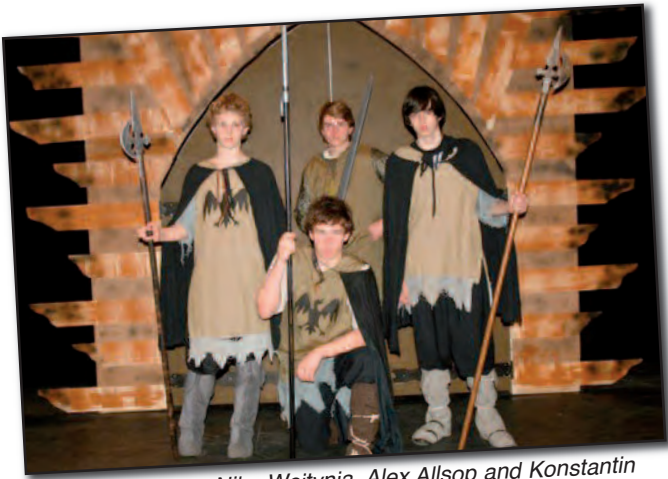


*Dan Hopwood, composer for the production*



*Caleb Thomas as Laertes and Jennifer Eckhoff as Ophelia*





Sean Johnson, Niko Wojtynia, Alex Allsop and Konstantin Gerlach (front); Soldiers of Elsinore



Apparajit Basu as Horatio



Josh Boswell  
as Hamlet,  
Prince of Denmark



David Anders-Richards as King Claudius and Elizabeth Boffey as Queen Gertrude



Cast and Production Team of Hamlet



# Music

## Autumn Concert

Modern and classical numbers were combined on the programme for the Autumn Concert. The audience enjoyed solo and ensemble performances from Lower School and Senior School pupils. The concert was well-attended by both parents and students supporting family and friends. The pieces ranged from a Vivaldi cello sonata to a rendition of *Viva La Vida* by Coldplay. The School Scholars' Ensemble played the first movement from *Spring* by Vivaldi and the theme to *Thunderbirds*, and the school orchestra, which included members from Lower, Middle and Senior School, performed the *Radetsky March* with audience participation.



*Grace Edwards, Bethany Lyttle and Elizabeth Walsh tuning up for the big night*

## Christmas Concerts

Ellesmere musicians were again invited to perform in the community at Christmas. They visited the Town Hall and Dolywern residential home. Both audiences were very welcoming and the pupils enjoyed themselves too. Lower School Choir sang a variety of pieces, including an alternative version of *Away in a Manger* by Alan Woods. The orchestra played and there were many volunteers for solos, including Angelo Daniel's *Theme from Dad's Army* and Alice Tow's rendition of the *Pastorale Symphony*. Henry Maybury (Year 12) joined the performers at the Town Hall, singing two numbers by Elton John with Mr Paul.



*From left: Samantha Williams, Hannah Swan, Bryony Webster, Molly Venner, Sophie Sheldon, Alice Tow and Peter Nelhans with residents of Dolywern Residential Home*

## Let Battle Commence!



*Some of the band members who took part. Back, from left: Lewis Bostock-Williams, John Paul, Josh Smethurst, James Fletcher. Front, Johnny Pescod and Josh Boswell*

Battle of the Bands came early in the year, at the end of September. However, many groups took part with the usual wide variety of songs and styles.

## Music Scholar Achieves Diploma

Afra Ekert achieved a German Organ Diploma during the October half-term break. Afra joined the College in September to study the International Baccalaureate. To achieve the diploma she performed and conducted a sacred choral piece and undertook aural training. She trained and studied hard for two years. She plays the Chapel organ and the Schultz organ regularly, is a member of Chapel Choir and part of the newly formed Scholars' Ensemble.



*Afra Ekert on the organ*

## Peter Messenger Concert

Music Scholars performed a variety of instrumental and vocal pieces in front of a packed audience at the Peter Messenger Memorial concert in February. The concert featured much-loved classics and show tunes and the Scholars' Ensemble performed themes from *The Simpsons* and *Mission Impossible*. Individual performances included Debussy's *Clair de Lune* played by George Fradley on the piano and Beethoven's *Sonata in D* played by John





*John Paul, Henry Maybury, Matthew Dewhirst and Luke Taylor*

Paul on the cello. It was a great evening and the audience was impressed by the high standard of music. There was also a collection in aid of the Peter Messenger Memorial Fund on the evening which raised £100.



*Roger Paul and Alto soloist Gaenor Ellis take their bow*

Scholar Tabitha Bardsley the violin, and Year 9 pupils George Fradley the timpani, John Paul the cello and Luke Taylor the violin. The performance, after the months of hard work that the Society had put into the rehearsals, was another musical success for the College with lots of spectacular moments.

Numbers are growing in the Choral Society, and members are able to gather for a variety of social events outside the rehearsal room. These include visiting Verona with the School Choir and regular walking days. New members are always welcome and rehearsals take place in the Arts Centre at 7:30 pm on Mondays.



*The Scholar's Ensemble in performance at the Peter Messenger Concert*

### **Choir to Hail Messiah**

In March the Ellesmere College Choral Society performed Handel's Messiah, to a packed audience in Big School, with Director of Music, Roger Paul, conducting, for its 125th Anniversary performance. School singing teacher Gaenor Ellis performed the contralto solo with three other local singers: Glyn Aubrey, Tenor; Cathy Benton, Soprano; and Richard Paul, Bass. The orchestra was drawn from the professionals of the Ellesmere Baroque Ensemble but also included Music Scholars from the College. Afra Ekert, winner of the Oswestry and District Arts Association Cup at the recent Oswestry Music Festival, played the oboe, Year 8 Music



*The Choral Society walking group on one of their outings*

### **Chester Festival of Music**

A group of Ellesmere College Music Scholars participated in the annual Chester Festival of Music. George Fradley, Year 9, won the U14 Piano Solo and the Jerston Cup, with fellow Year 9 pupil, John Paul, taking second place. John then went on to win the Advanced Strings class, with another Year 9 pupil, Luke Taylor, achieving second place. Year 7 pupil, Naomi Craig, achieved two second places. She played her violin in the Intermediate Strings section and the saxophone in the Intermediate Woodwind section. Luca Kuhn, a Year 10 pupil from Munich, Germany, achieved third place singing *Over The Rainbow* in the Light Opera class.

### **Pupils Celebrate Festival Success**

As one of the best-represented schools at the Oswestry Youth Music Festival, Ellesmere College celebrated some great achievements.

First place, and The Harry Moore-Bridger Memorial Cup, was won by the Chapel Choir in the Youth Choir Ages 19 and Under. Year 12 student, Afra Ekert, came first in the Woodwind Solo Ages 19 and Under and 25 and Under classes. Afra, an oboe player, also won the Oswestry and District Arts Association Cup. Year 12 pupil, Henry Maybury, won the Vocal Solo Ages 19 and Under. Ami Takahashi in Year 11 won the Piano Solo Ages 19 and Under class. Year 9 boys John Paul on the cello and Luke Taylor on the violin were the winners of the Instrumental Duet Ages 15 and Under.



*Messiah soloists Glyn Aubrey, Richard Paul, Gaenor Ellis and Cathy Benson with Music Director Roger Paul*





Chester Festival winners from left: Naomi Craig, George Fradley, John Paul & Luca Kuhn

Second places went to Michael Brown in the Vocal Solo Ages 15 and Under class; and Naomi Craig in Year 7, saxophonist and violin player, Solo Beginners Ages 12 and Under, as well as the Solo Strings Ages 12 and Under. Alice Tow in Year 8 came second in the Solo Piano Ages 15 and Under, and Elizabeth Walsh came second in the Solo Strings Ages 9 and Under. The Scholars' Ensemble came second in the Instrumental Ensemble Ages 19 and Under, as did the Lower School Choir in the Youth Choir Ages 12 and Under. Afra Ekert, Daisy Clarke, Tabitha Bardsley, Emily Roberts and Naomi Craig achieved third places. As well as performing, the Ellesmere pupils enjoyed meeting and listening to performers from other schools. It was hugely useful too for them to receive such encouraging feedback from the adjudicators.



Oswestry Festival Certificate winners from Lower School  
Back from left: Tabitha Bardsley, Charlie Whitehead, Alice Tow  
Middle: Beth Hulme, Emily Roberts, Elizabeth Walsh,  
Hannah Ward, Naomi Craig  
Front: Richard Walsh, William Ainge

### Three Choirs Concert

The Three Choirs Concert was a huge success again this year. Lower School performed the Eurovision favourite *Love Shine a Light* by Katrina and the Waves, along with *The Rhythm of Life*. The Chapel Choir gave a touching rendition of *Bohemian Rhapsody* and the Choral Society's individual item was a medley

from *South Pacific*. Abba's *Money, Money, Money* and *Thank You For The Music* were the combined items. These were enjoyed equally by performers and the audience. Many of the audience commented on how much they enjoyed the evening and the Music Department would like to thank the one hundred and thirty performers who took part and made it an evening to remember.



Roger Paul conducting the combined choirs at the Three Choirs Concert

### Music Tour to Lake Garda, Italy June 2009

#### Saturday June 20th

The first concert on the tour was at the Centrale Sociale in the middle of the town of Desenzano, our base for the week. It was organized by Franco Masseroni, one of our local contacts. Franco runs the Amici della Musica, a series of concerts which run all through the year, and it was clear he had been very busy putting up posters and flyers all over town. One of the town officials was also there and welcomed us on behalf of the local council.

We then performed our programme (see below) to an appreciative and knowledgeable audience of around seventy people. The choir and soloists sang and played beautifully in very warm, humid conditions and it is to their credit that they maintained their focus for the whole show. The audience particularly enjoyed the pupils' solo items; music is not officially part of the Italian curriculum so they are not used to seeing young people perform as they do in the UK. At the end our hosts presented the girls and ladies with a single red rose each and we posed for photographs with Franco and his team. Our hosts had one more surprise for us – a reception with drinks and local food to sample.

#### Sunday June 21st

Cascina Capuzza is a unique place in Italy. In the past it was the battlefield where the Italians fought against the French and the Prussians to form what is now the unified state known as Italy. The battle is marked by a commanding tower which can be seen for miles around, proudly flying the Italian tricolour. We were fortunate enough to be singing there in the very week they commemorated the 150th anniversary of these events. Nowadays Cascina Capuzza is a vineyard (the wine is excellent by the way!), restaurant and hotel.

We were welcomed with another drinks reception and a short programme sung by the choir of Desenzano Cathedral. We then performed in the courtyard to a large audience made up both of locals and at least two bus-loads of visiting British diners, finishing with both choirs singing *Va Pensiero* together. After the concert we were ushered into a room where we were treated to a fabulous meal accompanied by several bottles of the aforementioned wine, and music from our soloists. All of this had been set up by Gigi Tagliapietra and Alberto Cavoli, who run the local 'Scoula di Mozart' after the regular school day has ended. They were very keen that we treat the whole evening as a party rather than a concert, so at the end of meal we took them at their word. With myself at the piano providing the juke-box, everyone jumped up



and started dancing (including our hosts). By this time our driver had been waiting for about one-and-a-half hours, so Luca (the owner) and Gigi went to smooth things over with him. Once again our hosts had exceeded our expectations and everyone had a great time.

### Monday June 22nd

This evening we performed for the Hotel Europa where we had been staying. Again posters were up advertising our show and an audience of guests, staff and locals came to listen. By now voices were beginning to wear out and several crazy pupils had braved the Lake for what was a very cold swim, but when it was time to sing everyone switched on and once again performed well. The owners of the Europa had not had a school party for twenty-five years, so it is to the credit of all those who took part on the tour that they will happily host us again in the future.

### RCP

#### Lake Garda Tour Programme

<b>Choir</b>	Sanctus	Ramiro Real
	Locus Iste	Bruckner
	Steal Away	arr. RC Paul
<b>Will Ainge</b>	Petite Berger	Absil
<b>Vic &amp; Tess Hyde</b>	Said the Spider to the Fly	
<b>George Fradley &amp; John Paul</b>	March Militaire	Schubert
<b>Hannah Ward</b>	Andante alla Siciliana	Mercadante
<b>Choir</b>	Love Shine a Light	
	Money, Money, Money	Abba
	Thank You for the Music	Abba
<b>Angelo Daniel</b>	Into the West (Lord of the Rings)	
<b>Clara Edwards</b>	Carrickfergus	Irish Traditional
<b>John Paul</b>	Hollow Years	Dream Theater
<b>Alice Tow</b>	Ballad Improvisation	Agay
<b>Tabitha Bardsley</b>	Charming Chloe	Edward German
	Green Finch & Linnet Bird	Stephen Sondheim
<b>George Fradley</b>	Clair de Lune	Debussy
<b>Choir</b>	Va Pensiero	Verdi
	The Best of the Beach Boys	arr.Lojeski

Speramo che li ha piacevuto il nostro concerto

### Desenzano

After a fairly long trip on plane and bus we arrived at our destination – Lake Garda! The weather was bliss and, almost instantly, we escaped to the beach where we stayed until dinner. At the Hotel Europa, which we inhabited for the five lovely days, we were fed well and couldn't ask for better service and hospitality. The

town was picturesque, with its little wooden shutters, tiled roofs, balconies enveloped in summer flowers and the tea-stained architecture – many perfect photo opportunities! And, of course, the shopping was fabulous! Desenzano is a beautiful place to visit and if it weren't for the Ellesmere College Choir trip I, amongst many others, would not have been given such an opportunity as this.

### Tabitha Bardsley, Year 8

The bus left at 7.15 from school. I suspect that everyone was very excited. It was nice to get away from the rainy British weather. When we were on the plane I remember saying "Goodbye England, hello Italy". The flight from the East Midlands Airport went very well. We arrived in Desenzano in about one hour. I couldn't wait to get in the Lake (Lake Garda) and try out the pedalos. However we needed to rehearse for the concert for the next day. We needed to practise our Italian because we were singing a song by Verdi all in Italian. One day we visited the Roman Arena and saw them setting up for the Opera that evening. I had the best time of my life.

### Andrew Bolton, Year 7

When I was in Italy, every single day people just brought five Euros down to the beach to go on a pedalo. It was hilarious watching people swimming and chopping and changing pedalos. It was just the thing needed after a long concert on Saturday to a big Italian audience – that was my favourite bit of the trip. On Sunday we visited a huge villa in Sirmione that was built for the poet Catullus, but Dr. Tompkins said it was actually built later.

### Taylor Arnold, Year 6

#### Cascina Capuzza

Cascina Capuzza is a vineyard and restaurant built on the grounds of a battlefield. The battlefield was where the Italians fought the Prussians and French, resulting in the forming of the present day Italy.

Having arrived at 6.30 pm we stumbled off the bus after a fifteen-minute drive through the Italian countryside. The people were extremely welcoming and we were eager to sing to them. An Italian choir sang first and even though we couldn't understand half of what they said, the music was enjoyed by all of us. Then we 'took the stage' and successfully sang two pieces from Abba, The Beach Boys and *Love Shine a Light*.

As the evening progressed, some of us sang solos which were performed over dinner, which was kindly provided by the members of Cascina Capuzza. The solos were greatly appreciated and applauded. After dinner, Mr Paul played the piano and we all danced – English and Italians together. We departed on the bus back to Desenzano with many farewells. Overall a truly fabulous night!

### Tabitha Bardsley, Year 8 and Kate Parry, Year 9



The tour group in relaxed mood





*Morning Rehearsal in Desenzano*



*Pizza in Verona*



*Alice Tow practising her solo*



*Mr. Paul working hard in Verona*



*George Fradley and John Paul rehearsing their duet*



*Latin lesson inside the arena*



*Busking in Desenzano Town Square*



*The Choir was presented with flowers after its first concert*



*Outside the Verona Amphitheatre*



# Art

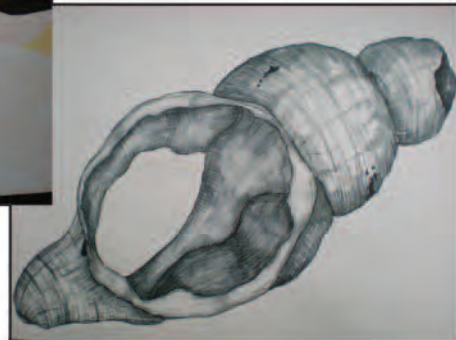
## International Baccalaureate Work



Nina Fangmann



Hannah Phillips



Charlotte Fischer





## A and AS Level Work



Amy Cooper (A)



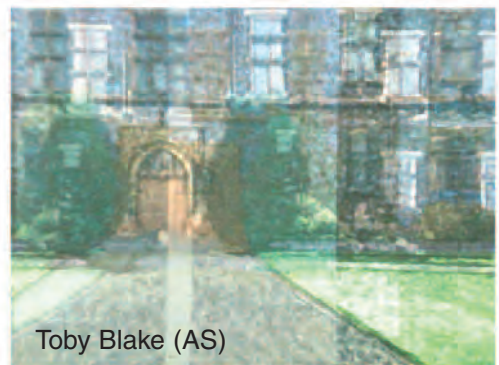
Amy Cooper (A)



James Walker (AS)



Amy Cooper (A)



Toby Blake (AS)



Alice Denham (A)



Stephanie Platt (A)



Stephanie Platt (A)



Emma Gore (A)



Georgina Adams (A)





William Bevan (AS)



William Bevan (AS)



Alice Denham (A)



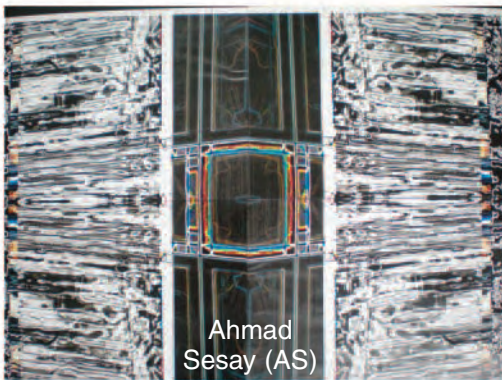
Lauren Griffiths (A)



Emma Gore (A)



Tatannia Renner (AS)



Ahmad  
Sesay (AS)



Ailsa Jackland (AS)



Elizabeth Evans (AS)



Tristram Thomas (A)



Elizabeth Evans (AS)



# GCSE Work



Charlotte Sharer



Rosie Rickett



Ella Walker



Victoria Leadbeater



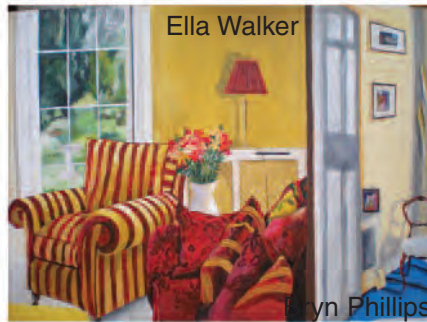
Iwan Phillips



Shannan Walker-Smith



Viola Grosvenor



Ella Walker

Iwan Phillips



Polly Russell



Alexandra Sloan



George Cave



Douglas Allsop



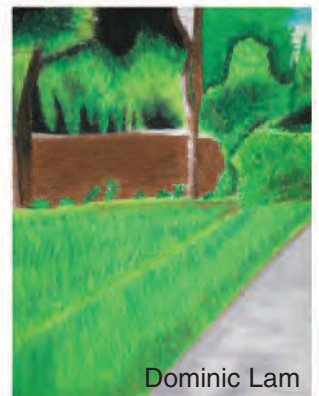
Enya McLiam-Roberts



Megan Bray



Sergio Arjona



Dominic Lam



# Combined Cadet Force Report 2008/9

**CO: Lt Col G Hutchinson**  
**2IC: Maj M P Clewlow SSI: Sgt C M Collins**

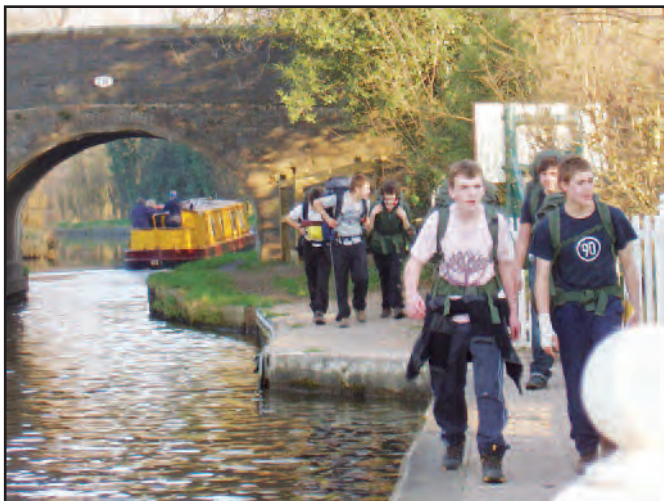
**Navy Section**  
 Lt F R Brooke, Sub Lt M Coats

**Army Section**  
 Maj M P Clewlow, Capt M T Gareh, Lt K B Hilton,  
 Lt M A Digby, Lt R Chatterjee

**RAF Section**  
 Flt Lt D Joynson- Brooke, Flt Lt J K Ripley, Flt Lt F S Williams

Adult strength has been at establishment this year, although this does not mean that we have not been stretched by the demands of our very busy programme. We require different groups of cadets to experience a wide variety of activities and to develop many life skills. This requires adult supervision, but much still depends upon the rapid development of competent instructors and NCOs amongst the cadets themselves. Once again we have been blessed with an excellent set of seniors in the Army Section, whilst the Navy and RAF Sections have both benefited from the availability of more competent seniors this year.

Cadet strengths have been at satisfactory levels, with the Army just below establishment, whilst the Navy and RAF Sections have been at two-thirds strength. This has enabled us to fulfil all the compulsory training elements of the Service syllabi, plus delivering additional qualifications where possible. In addition to their Service training all Year 10 cadets have completed components for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Life Saving in the swimming pool and First Aid.



*On their way; walking along the LLangollen Canal on the first day of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze overnight expedition*

This has prepared the ground for them to enrol for the EDEXEL BTEC First Diploma in Public Services qualification, when they are in their sixteenth year. A number of senior cadets have completed, or are near to completing, all of the components for this. During the year Distinctions have been awarded to Harry Christie-Bennett, Virginia Cooper, Hugh Grosvenor, Martin Jones, Matthew Steggles, Harriet Tomlinson, Tomos Roberts and James Webb. Separate Service reports can be seen below.

Adventurous Training Camp during the Easter vacation was based at the Torrin Outdoor Centre on the Isle of Skye. This was an excellent week, and there is also a separate report on this.

The Biennial Review took place in May 2009, when Lieutenant Colonel Guy Chambers (OE), of The Rifles Regiment, inspected the current state of the Contingent. The day was blessed with



*Lt Col Chambers (far right), accompanied by the Headmaster, watches a lesson being given. Cpl Callum Booth outlines the plan using a model*

excellent weather and Colonel Chambers was able to review a wide variety of training, including Year 9 enjoying a circuit of activities provided by an Army Outreach Team.



*Year 9 pupils being put through their paces in the Command Tasks by the Army Outreach Team*

At the closing parade he awarded Best Cadet Trophies to James Walker (Navy), Harry Christie-Bennett (Army) and Martin Jones (RAF). Harry Christie-Bennett also won the R Blake Hartley Memorial Trophy for his long and valuable service to the contingent.

**Lt Col G Hutchinson**



*From left: Cdt Sgt Tomos Roberts, Under Officer Harry Christie-Bennett and Able Seaman Jeremy Wright after receiving their BTEC Awards at the Biennial Review*



# Navy Section

This year has seen the Navy cadets increase their flotilla of dinghies by two Picos and renew some very old Toppers, courtesy of the Royal Navy. We have also gained a number of RYA Level One and Two qualifications and hopefully will progress next term to formidable racing levels.

A number of our cadets have taken the opportunity during their holidays to attend Naval courses. Cdt Elliot Rogan attended an Ocean Diving course as well as a Level 2 Sailing course, and Cdt P O Matthew Steggles gained a Level 2 Sailing qualification and joined a course run by the Royal Marines. Both boys thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and reported back to their peers.

We are looking forward to another year starting with welcoming our sister ship, HMS Manchester, back to our shores. Some of the cadets will get the opportunity to meet the crew and help the Freedom of the City parade through Manchester.

**Lt F R Brooke**

## Navy Section Field Day

Field day was an interesting day for our Naval cadets; whilst some went to complete their Bronze D of E expedition, Nick Steggel and Matthew Steggles attended a Royal Yachting Association Level 2 course at our local sailing club, Whitemere. The day consisted of completing set courses and demonstrating their natural ability in a Fever sailing dinghy. My thanks must go to Mrs S Turana who ran the course and Mr B Johnson from the sailing club. The boys had a very enjoyable day and successfully gained their Level 2. Now they look forward to achieving the next level.

**Lt F R Brooke**

## Navy CCF Summer Expeditions June 2009

We arrived at school and were straight on to the bus for our tiresome six-hour journey down to the sunny south coast, Portsmouth. We arrived at the entrance to Whale Island where we had a long wait because Cindy, the Chinese teacher, was not allowed in "because she might be a spy."



*Spot the spy! The Navy Section in front of HMS Alliance*

After a short safety video we were all shown to our mess, which was small, hot, and loud (air being forced around the ship) but gave us an idea of what being in the real Navy would be like. Despite all this it was comfy and had a television. Other facilities on the ship were football, pool and table tennis tables. Outside there was AstroTurf and a Spar shop.

After a surprisingly comfy night's sleep we were woken by tannoy announcement at 06:30. We then had to march in uniform all the way to the dining room on the other side of the island. The food was really good.



*Summer Expeditions: Navy Section cadets visit HMS Victory, with Lt F Brooke (right)*

We visited an old submarine (HMS Alliance) and were shocked at the cramped conditions. There were eighteen of us on at the time (including teachers and the guide), we were squeezed in, but I cannot imagine what it would be like with seventy men onboard, for six months at a time under water. After that we went to HMS Victory, the flag ship of Nelson, it was huge, yet despite this we had to keep our heads low, or else we would have banged them. At the same place was the Mary Rose. It is now four hundred and fifty seven years old and is kept preserved by having wax sprayed over it.

Finally, after another short coach journey, we arrived at Fort Nelson. It was built to defend Portsmouth from attack by the enemy, from the land. Just walking around it, without being an expert at that kind of thing, we could see some of the amazing design features. At 15:00 every day they fire a gun, a 25lb gun. This makes a hell of a racket; I was underground at the time and the whole place shook!

After tea we discovered the local cinema, where we enjoyed the new film, *Transformers 2* (all three hours of it!) We got back just in time for lights out; and the next day travelled home.

**George Shelley (Year 10)**



# Army Section

Once again the officers and senior cadets of the Section have done sterling work in delivering an intense programme this year. Capt Gareh and Lt Chatterjee were supported in their work with Year 9 by CSM David Anders-Richards and CSM Colin Fergusson, whilst CSM Max Wojtynia flitted between them and the Year 10 Army group. The Year 9 October Expedition took them to Halton Training Camp, where they were able to complete a number of adventurous training packages. Under Officer Harry Christie-Bennett took responsibility for the Year 10 training programme, in support of Major Clewlow, whilst Sgts Harry O'Neill and Tomos Roberts helped Lt Digby with Year 11. The fifteen newcomers in the Sixth Form were prepared for their first Expedition by SSI Collins, with the assistance of Sgts Christian Rath and Ferdinand Wollenberg. All the Army groups went to Nesscliffe in October for a sixty-hour exercise designed to improve their personal field craft and unit tactical efficiency. Year 11 concentrated on the command of small sub-unit operations.



*Not just for the boys! Georgina Ottaway, Year 9, on exercise at Summer Camp*



*Lt Col Guy Chambers (second from right) watching preparations for a patrol through Yarnest Wood at the Biennial Review*

From November to March Year 10 completed modules in Drill, Navigation, Life Saving, First Aid and a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition. Year 11 and the new Sixth Form completed a Methods of Instruction cadre, followed by a shooting programme or a Light Support Weapon cadre early in the New Year. They all went to Llansillin range for Field Day in March, where the LSW cadre completed their qualifying shoot. For their Field Day, those Year 9s planning to stay in uniform were provided with acquaint exercises and activities by outreach teams from the Army and RAF, with an additional session of swimming and under-water skills based in the College indoor pool.



*The silver medal-winning team in the Marksmanship*

*Back row: UO Harry Christie-Bennett, Cpl Jamie Whittles, L/Cpl Guy Cooper, Cpl Leonard Schmid, Sgt Christian Rath  
Front row: Cdt Sam Chewins, Cdt Sam Dapling, Sgt Ryan Williams, L/Cpl Sam Thurmer, Cdt Matt Dewhirst*



Summer Term began with rapid preparations for the Biennial Review, with the Section carrying out operations that included camouflage, observation posts, contact drills, a sniper lane, giving and extracting orders and a section attack. Cadets, NCOs and Officers are to be congratulated on the high level of enthusiasm and skill that was displayed on the day. Minds then turned to the Summer Expedition at Swynnerton, which was designed as a Company-level exercise that greatly assisted preparations for Summer Camp week. From late May onwards all year groups train together in order that younger cadets learn field craft alongside



*Deluxe accommodation on Swynnerton Training Area*

those more experienced than themselves, whilst older cadets have a better opportunity to develop leadership skills that augment their instructional abilities.

The success of both the Swynnerton exercise and Summer Camp confirm the efficacy of this system. The latter was based at Crowborough Training Camp and included some excellent packages. Personal Development took place at the Bewl Water

complex, and included archery, bike-ability (for which all were awarded certificates), climbing and sailing. The range day, which included full bore, small bore, laser quest, shot gun and paint-balling, was terrific fun for all. Military skills and field craft took place in the beautiful wooded hills and valleys of Pippingford Park, where the Contingent held its own overnight exercise at the end of the week. The mist rising up the valley between 4.30 and 5 am on a sunny Saturday was a stunning sight for all as we stirred for dawn operations.

The Camp held a Competitions Day in which the Contingent did well in most elements, including being runners-up in Marksmanship. L/Cpl Guy Cooper won the Richmond Shooting Trophy for his efforts here. Amongst a number of other awards Bethany Lyttle won Best Newcomer on Camp, Callum Booth won Best Junior NCO, whilst Nick Crow was awarded the Tom Wootton Memorial Trophy for Best Cadet on Camp.

***Lt Col G Hutchinson***



*Lt Col G Hutchinson, OC Ellesmere College CCF*



*The Ellesmere College contingent at Crowborough Training Camp*



# RAF Section

This current academic year has brought a lot of opportunities for Ellesmere College RAF cadets. We have plenty of Air Experience flying for which I owe my thanks to FLt Lt F Williams, who gave up his time to accompany those who wanted to take to the skies. Congratulations must go to Cdt Flt Sgt Martin Jones and Cdt Sgt Douglas Forster, young men who gained a flying scholarship and their silver flying wings. Martin also went on to a Leadership course at Cranwell and gained a great deal of valuable experience with the RAF which will stand him in good stead as he moves closer to his goal of becoming a pilot in the RAF on leaving the College next year.

During the Summer the unit welcomed a new officer, P O Rob Heaton, who will be an asset to both Flt Lt Kim Ripley and me as well as encouraging our cadets in the many facets of being an RAF cadet.

**Flt Lt D Joynson-Brooke**



*Fancy footwork; the RAF on parade at RAF High Wycombe*

## RAF Easter Camp

Our base was at RAF High Wycombe, the station which delegates all that the RAF is tasked to carry out. The station hosted us extremely well and we had opportunities to fly the Grob Tutor at RAF Benson. Our cadet Flt Sgt Martin Jones did the College credit as his flight was the best in the whole camp. Whilst on camp the cadets travelled to RAF Uxbridge for a night exercise and then visited the underground bunker where Churchill commanded the D-Day landings, after which we went off to RAF Halton for the swimming competition, and then to RAF Brize Norton. There was a lot of travelling around but the cadets had a great time and culminated their camp with a parade in front of the Commanding Officer of RAF High Wycombe. She was very impressed with their fancy footwork and even said that she felt that this would have been beyond her. My thanks must go to Lt F R Brooke who accompanied us.

**Flt Lt D Joynson-Brooke**

## Gliding Wings

The RAF offer gliding scholarships to cadets on a regular basis, and Flt Sgt Martin Jones and Cpl Douglas Forster were both able to accept their offer during the Easter holidays. They spent a week learning how to fly, together with the aeronautical knowledge required. Martin went to VGS 632 Squadron, Ternhill, and flew solo in a Viking glider, while Douglas attended VGS 621 Squadron at Hullavington and flew solo in a Vigilant glider. They both gained their Silver flying wings. The week-long course was intensive and both boys enjoyed their experience. This is a significant achievement for the two cadets and they are now looking forward to improving on the number of hours they have in the air.

**Flt Lt D Joynson-Brooke**



*Flying high: Cpl Douglas Forster (left) and Flt Sgt Martin Jones*

## RAF Summer Camp

At the end of the Summer Term Lt F Brooke, three eager but young cadets and I left for RAF Boulmer, on the outskirts of Newcastle -On-Tyne. Cdt Eaton, Cdt Britton and Cdt Taylor were in for a treat. Their camp was the hub of safety in our skies. The Bunker proved to be a highlight of the week, as we were able to see the amount of air traffic in the air at any one time. Domestic, military and the Royal flight paths were followed and if they deviated then the alarm bells rang. It was reassuring to know we are being observed even as we fly off to our exotic holiday.... As well as the military aspect of keeping their uniform in pristine order and shoes so that you can see yourself in the shine we had a number of down-time sessions including a day trip to Alnwick Castle, Water World, and the local beach, where we had a sandcastle competition and an excellent evening BBQ. Everyone had a marvellous time and our young cadets learned a great deal from the older, more experienced cadets on the camp. They are eager to find out where we are venturing next year.

**Flt Lt D Joynson-Brooke**



*Fire practice—putting out the blaze in airline disasters*





*Very wet! Luke Taylor emerges from the decontamination shower*

### **Navy and RAF Sections at Yeovilton**

The Navy and RAF section once again joined forces for a collaboration of military events at Yeovilton. We had a very informative visit around each of the operational flying sections which was led by our PELO Cmdr Al Reid, a helicopter instructor and the commander of the Black Cats Aerobatic Display Team, and CPO Kevin Whitely. The cadets had a hands-on look at a number of helicopters and got first-hand information about how they worked in the various theatres where the troops are now deployed. The cadets also were able to visit the Air Fleet Museum adjacent to Yeovilton, and had a chance to look at life on board the old Ark Royal, where you needed to duck when the planes came into land; extreme reality. The cadets and staff had a great time and we had our own personal chef called Andrew, who made very nice biscuits and cakes for the cadets as an evening snack.

**Lt F R Brooke**



*Big beast! The RAF Rescue helicopter visited by RAF cadets on Summer Camp*

### **CCF Adventurous Training Easter 2009 Torrin, Skye**

The last Skye trip was in 2004, and this year the main party was again billeted in the Torrin Outdoor Centre owned by the Scottish Education Authority, which is sited by the Red Cuillins and has a wonderful view across the loch of the stunning Bla Bheinn. The overspill was housed just up the road at Marble Hollow, an establishment that lies adjacent to one of the two marble mining locations on Skye. The party was truly mixed, with ten male and two female cadets drawn from Year 13 down to Year 9. Fourteen

adults filled a variety of administrative, driving and instructional roles that are all essential to mount a demanding and successful AT camp. The four winter-qualified instructors included OEs Bruce Poll and Major Huw Gilbert (TA), both of whom hold the MIC qualification. John Harvey (another of the five OEs present) was Base Administrator.

The weather report for the week was for dry and slowly improving conditions, which meant that the snow remained on the tops throughout. Day One proved the most testing, with strong winds and gusts causing three of the five parties to give up their intended routes. The CO's party found themselves very exposed on Glamaig, and beat a retreat to the Sligachan Hotel to await the other party that found a more sheltered route up. The Year 13 party got up Sgurr nan Gillean, but the Red Cuillins party also found themselves too exposed for progress beyond the first peak. Huw Gilbert's party also abandoned their ascent and did some rope work on Sgurr nan Each. Day Two was much calmer and all parties had successful days on Bla Bheinn and The Storr. Day Three was equally calm, with successful ascents of Bannadich, Sgurr Alasdair and The Inaccessible Pinnacle by different parties, although visibility on top was very limited. For the 48-hour expedition it was decided to split the party in order to set different objectives for the different skill levels. The older group debussed in Glen Brittle in order to bivouac overnight in Coir a Ghrunnda, which gave access to Sgurr Dubh Mor and Sgurr nan Eag, as well as an opportunity for more cadets to ascend Sgurr Alasdair. Their second night was spent at the beautiful Coruisk Bay.

The Year 9 cadets concentrated on improving their micro-navigation by taking the Sligachan Glen route to Camasunary Bay. Cadet L/Cpl Emily Lewis was asked to lead this party under the tutelage of two of the instructors. Her excellent performance earned her the Adventurous Training Trophy, with which she was presented by previous winner, Cadet CSM Colin Fergusson. The second day of this expedition included an ascent of Bla Bheinn South Top. On Friday morning all groups walked out to the pick-up point via Camasunary, leaving time for a shopping trip to Portree for most of the party. A hardy group of instructors decided

to go climbing on some coastal cliffs, as a more interesting alternative, where they were joined by Colin Fergusson, who plans to make joining a climbing club his first act of Freshers' week at university. Meanwhile Bruce Poll took the opportunity to go on a training jaunt over the Red Cuillins, to add to the 20 km run he had completed earlier in the week, after scaling Bla Bheinn.

The week was very enjoyable, but also very demanding physically on the cadets, who all completed every endeavour that was asked of them. There was an excellent spirit within the party, which can be attributed to their positive approach to life and shared sense of adventure. On their behalf I would like to thank all the accompanying adults for their hard work in making this invaluable week possible for them.

**GH**

#### **The Party:**

Lt Col G Hutchinson, Major M P Clewlow, Major H Gilbert, Major D Gilbert, Lt M A Digby, Lt R Chatterjee, Fl Lt J K Ripley, SSI C M Collins, Mr I Carter, Mr P Dilworth, Mr P Gale, Mr J A Harvey, Mrs S Hutchinson, Mr B Poll, D Anders-Richards, S Carr, S Chewins, H Christie-Bennett, T Evans, C Fergusson, E Lewis, E Morris, Jonathan Pescod, Joachim Pescod, J Whittles.



# Easter Camp 2009, Skye





# Sport

Michaelmas Term

Ellesmere College



1st XV Rugby

20

08



A.J. Wantling H.E. Wignall G.W. Baxter J. Smithers M.A. Wilcox M.W. Mahn E.G. Crispin

I.L. Williams Esq. R.L. Hayes M.T.W. Brown C.J.M. Milne L.T. Walters M.N. Padgett C.P. Thomas P.A. Goodwin Esq.

M.D. Jones M.A. Pearson D.G. Anders-Richards H.J. Hackett (Capt.) G.D. Brereton A.K. Sesay M. Wojtynia

## Summary of Results

v Old Ellesmerians	Won	13 – 3
v Old Swinford	Lost	27 – 17
v Wrekin College (Daily Mail Cup R1)	Won	64 – 0
v Warwick	Lost	11 – 41
v King Edward VI Stratford	Won	52 – 6
v Bishop Vesey's	Won	36 – 19
v Adams Grammar School (Daily Mail Cup R2)	Won	33 – 0
v Newcastle (Daily Mail Cup R3)	Won	25 – 10
v Denstone College	Won	22 – 10
v Nottingham (Daily Mail Cup R4)	Won	12 – 5
v Birkenhead	Won	47 – 10

### Ellesmere College 1st XV v Old Ellesmerians

Although James King and Joel Galley, the 'professionals', were not given permission to play the OEs side was extremely strong and well-organised by Nat Thomas and Sam Lewis. With ten 1st XV players that had played all through last season in an unbeaten side this was a tough undertaking for a largely inexperienced side. We started well with few mistakes and this allowed the confidence to grow. When we moved the ball we made ground and looked the

more likely team to score. We had some chances, but all too often finished moves and runs isolated and then gave a penalty away, so missing out on continuing play. When we gained field position, similarly we gave the opposition an easy option by infringing at the breakdown.

A good first half saw us going in at the break 3 – 0 in the lead. While we restricted the penalty count the OEs came back strongly in the second half and kicked well for field position, putting us under pressure. They tried running the ball but we defended well, particularly on the wing, and also with cover tackling by the pack. After the OEs had come close we managed to clear our lines and then force a mistake to fly back through and score a breakaway



Alex Wantling challenges Richard Greensmith in the OE match





*George Baxter beating Mason Gascoigne in the OE match*

try by Martin Jones. This now left us in a strong position and we largely controlled the game. We eventually scored a further try with a good break through the outside centre channel by Lloyd Hayes to run out 13 – 0 winners.

This would prove to be a good confidence-boosting performance as we had to compete for the full seventy minutes and it gave us experience having to work at that pace and pressure. There were still areas to work on, but there were some very encouraging signs of the team starting to find its way.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Old Swinford 1st XV**

This was a tough start to the term, just two days after getting back. We made a hesitant start, leaving gaps around the breakdown area and allowing cutback moves to cause damage and put us under pressure. Old Swinford kept us in our half and we gave penalties away under pressure to go 6 – 0 down, which is where it stayed for a while. Trying to move the ball in their half we threw a pass to ground for them to score on the pick up. We missed two or three penalties before eventually putting one over and then we scored a try from close range from Henry Hackett. At 16 – 7 against the wind, with half time coming up, things were not too bad but then we made a series of errors, allowing a further try and then a penalty on the stroke of half time. Being 24 – 7 down at half time and showing little rhythm left us feeling quite concerned. Incidentally, at the same time their coach thought we would click into gear and use the wind and he expected a very tough second half. We did after ten minutes start to exert pressure that resulted in a try and penalty while restricting them to one penalty. We also through the course of the game created two or three good scoring opportunities, mainly out wide; but we did not execute the passing and lines of running to take advantage of them.

A disappointing start; it always is to lose a game, but we were able to take some positives from it. We had potential to develop throughout the side and become successful. We were on a learning curve and it would depend on the speed at which we cut out turnovers and penalties, improved positional defensive play, body positions, tackling, lineout and passing. So there was plenty to work on.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Wrekin College 1st XV Daily Mail Cup Round 1**

After a shaky start to the game when Wrekin applied pressure through their kicking game, we soon gained control. We dominated possession and territory and by half time the result was never in doubt. The interchange of passing between forwards and backs was excellent at times and Wrekin could not control the ball for any period of time. We dominated all the contest areas and worked hard off the ball to keep our continuity.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Warwick 1st XV**

A very disappointing afternoon. We played some attractive rugby, but allowed Warwick to score off their first attack through a missed tackle. It then became contagious and we allowed a flow of tries through poor tackling. Warwick had more pace than us on the outside and so we failed to convert the opportunities we created, which were numerous.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v King Edward VI Stratford**

Unfortunate injuries brought in some youngsters, with Mike Brown and Hugh Wignall playing in the front row. Things looked ominous early on with the Stratford pack putting us under pressure and breaking strongly with a large Number 8. We looked a little livelier with the ball in hand but the match was even for the opening fifteen minutes. Stratford put us under pressure with a succession of rucks driving down the sides and eventually went over from 15 metres out. We began to move the ball with confidence and at the same time dealt well with their kicking game, which was either short to touch or gave us time to run it back at them, which we did repeatedly through our full back and wings. It became apparent at this stage that they were weak in the first-up tackle and we started to move the ball and create space out wide. This led to two tries being scored before half time for us to go in 12 – 5 ahead at the break. We had spent three minutes under pressure defending a dozen breakdowns in our 22 which left Stratford looking demoralized, and realising we were looking the better side. This was certainly the case in terms of fitness and tackling and so it was only a matter of running directly out wide that led us to begin to pile on the points in the second half. Alex Wilcox ran strongly in the centre and our wings and full back looked to have too much pace. Some superb back row play and inter-passing between George Brereton and Alex Wantling set up one of the more memorable tries down the blind side.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Bishop Vesey's 1st XV**

This is always a difficult trip against strong opposition, and after the journey we started slowly. For the first twenty minutes a number of penalties made it hard going and when they scored a soft first try we needed to wake up. We recovered and mounted some attacks with a number of phases, and Alex Wilcox ran well to open our account and make the score 7 – 5. Immediately we gave ground away from the kick-off through mistakes and we ended up defending a 5 metre scrum – badly – as they broke through tackles to retake the lead. From this point we began to play some good rugby. The last fifteen minutes of the first half saw us camped in their half and we scored two good tries as we stretched the opposition with attractive rugby. With Lloyd Hayes gaining in confidence we ran the ball well for him to score a try and set up the best try of the match when he was twice involved in a move that resulted in David Anders-Richards storming through the middle to claim the points. The other try from George Baxter came from support play after pressure had resulted in quick ball.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Adams Grammar 1st XV Daily Mail Cup Round 2**

We started the game very positively with some good runs and continuity. Adams attained some good field position but their back line was ineffective, particularly with the pressure that was applied through our controlled defensive line. Mark Pearson and Alex Wilcox proved a formidable partnership in both attack and defence all afternoon.

We looked threatening without actually scoring, and were lucky not to go behind when Adams shortened their lineout and we did not adapt in time. Only a physical covering tackle by Henry Hackett saved the score when the ball was lost forward. We rallied from this and the forwards gave us good field position close to their line. Slow ball was turned into a score as Henry dummied and drove over the line. This was converted by Lloyd, who had his kicking boots on all day. David Anders-Richards then stole the ball from their throw at a lineout, ploughed through one of their defenders and dived for the line, giving us a good 12 – 0 lead at the half.

The score perhaps did not reflect the pressure we had applied, and turning around going up the hill was going to be tricky. The attrition of our forwards towards the late part of the 1st half had taken its toll on Adams and they looked tired in the second half. We battled with what can only be described as baffling refereeing decisions for much of the second half. Our composure was tested again and we must question our ability to keep calm in the storm! However we didn't allow Adams to score despite the referee giving them some excellent field position. Some elusive work by the centres stretched



their defence and won a penalty in kickable range. (Should we have kicked considering the score line?) We decided to go for the lineout in the corner. We took a good catch and drive with Mark Padgett breaking off the back to cross the line only to be held up. The resulting 5 metre scrum gave George Brereton the opportunity to run from the base and he smashed over for the try, which was converted by Lloyd 17 - 0. From here in the result was never in doubt. Henry scored a second try, again from a good lineout possession. The forwards were beginning to exert real pressure at the scrum and ruck which gave the backs some excellent ball to run. The pitch was restrictive and I believe we would have scored several more had this not been the case. The last try summed up the day with forwards winning excellent first phase ball at the lineout. Lloyd linked with Alex, who made a good outside break, with Mark Pearson turning up on his shoulder to take the scoring pass. This was again converted by Lloyd 33 - 0. Adams were out-played in every area. Our defence was awesome, particularly 10, 12 and 13. The back three worked in concert whenever a kick was placed towards them. Euan was tremendously effective in running and kicking from deep. Our back row were everywhere causing disruption. The tight five were physical and gained the hard yards. A very pleasing performance and to hold a good team to a nil score was testament to our determination.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Newcastle 1st XV Daily Mail Cup Round 3**

Damp and muddy conditions made this a tricky encounter over at Newcastle. We started the match playing down the slope and after good pressure a penalty from 45 metres gave us an early lead. We wasted a lot of the advantages of playing down the hill, neither securing position by kicking, nor putting any phases together. When we tried to play continuous rugby we dropped the ball in the offload, got turned over or gave a penalty away at the breakdown. With our scrum and lineout fairly secure we were playing the better rugby and managed a score through the forwards after a drive, with George Brereton touching down. Newcastle got into our 22 very little in the first half but were looking to use their forwards when they did. We gave them that one opportunity as error, penalty, error saw us marched back up the hill from their 5 metre line to ours and from a lineout they drove over – or at least that was the rumour as there was no try line to provide actual evidence.

As against Nottingham we started the second half well, and scored a good try with Martin Jones out wide as we moved the ball without error to move into a 13 - 5 lead. Newcastle had little to threaten us with apart from kick and chase. This however is one of the most effective ways of playing rugby and hard to combat going up hill in wet conditions. Newcastle achieved their aim as they kicked for a lineout from another penalty. Again they caught, secured and then drove over, taking the score to 13 – 10 with fifteen minutes of play left. Rather than panicking and kicking aimlessly to close out the game, this led to one of our best periods. We mixed up tactics well with the driving maul, much better straight running and very careful offloads that saw us score two tries in the last period. The first was finished by Henry Hackett from close in and a sweeping move saw Ahmed Sesay go over in the corner.

This was never easy and, as with the last game, despite being the better side we could have lost the match. Our last three games had been very tactical and we were starting to understand the need for patience and error-free rugby. We were not quite there yet, but the coaching panel were working on the patience element!

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Denstone 1st XV**

We started brightly and looked as though we were going to enjoy the afternoon. After some storming runs we quickly found ourselves 14 – 0 up, playing down the slope. The early ease with which we scored led to complacency and we began to let errors creep into our game. Slowly and surely Denstone tightened up their defence and gratefully accepted our penalties to put themselves into good positions deep in our half. A late tackle led to a sin bin for a prop, we then decided to contest the scrum, and if we hadn't already made it hard enough threw the resulting possession on the floor in our in-goal area. Rather than touch it down we went in search of the

greatest number of consecutive errors ever recorded and tried a clearance kick that was toe-ended into the grateful arms of someone standing on our goal line who bent down and scored the try from half a meter out.

The 14 – 7 score-line at half time was not what we really had expected and going up-slope with a wet greasy ball was not going to be easy. After exchanging penalties Denstone were penalised for being offside when taking an interception that would have levelled the scores. We settled down to slog it out and by keeping the ball tight and driving through the forwards we eventually closed the game out, scoring a final try down the right-hand side.

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Nottingham 1st XV Daily Mail Cup Round 4**

This was a very good performance that saw us beat a talented Nottingham side, although it ended up closer than we would have liked. We made an excellent start and had pretty much all of the better play in the first half. We were rewarded for our efforts after fifteen minutes when Hackett took a quick tap penalty and George Baxter went over from close range. We then played attacking rugby using various moves, and gained territory with a quality kicking game. We created three golden opportunities to extend our lead, but the last pass went to ground on each occasion and when Nottingham had a perfectly good score denied because the referee was unsighted we went in 7 – 0 up at half time.

Facing the slope and a slight breeze we started superbly; with flowing rugby from side to side Crispin straightened the line and cut though to score. From here on we were up against it. We put pressure on ourselves as we malfunctioned often at scrum and lineout, and we were required to tackle over and over again to stem the tide. This was probably our finest feature as we lined up to put them down as they ran first, second and third phase possession. We managed to nullify their England full back again through our tackling and he eventually limped off.

As the second half wore on, although we conceded position and territory we managed to look solid and in control, and ran out winners. In the end the better team by some margin won, but our wasted opportunities left the game much more closely-balanced by the end than was comfortable.



*Daily Mail Cup team*

#### **Ellesmere College 1st XV v Birkenhead 1st XV**

We got over the initial errors from kick-off and subsequent throw-in and began to play the game that we were starting to develop. The forwards took the ball on well, and were rewarded with a drive from a lineout resulting in a score. We had to work hard in the first half and play to the interpretation at the breakdown, which we managed well. Birkenhead kicked a lot and pegged us back, but every so often we would put some passes together and make ground. We were still running across on occasions and failing to round off the passing moves, but still managed to turn round 22 – 0 ahead.

The second half was used to try and continue the game development for the Daily Mail Cup and it was pleasing to score off a scrum down the blind side when Henry Hackett went over.



Unforced errors continued to be our weakness and we allowed a number of opportunities to slip by. We kept the scoreboard ticking over and when eventually Ahmed Sesay received a decent pass we were able to round off a competent performance with a burst down the right wing and a dive into the corner.

**PAG**

**Squad**

D G Anders-Richards, J W Baxter, G D Brereton, M G W Brown, E G Crispin, H J Hackett (Captain), R L Hayes, M D Jones, M W Mahn, C J M Milne, M N Padgett, M A Pearson, A K Sesay, J Smithers, C P Thomas, L T Walters, A J Wantling, H E Wignall, M A Wilcox, I L Williams, M Wojtynia

**Colours Awards**

H Hackett  
D Anders-Richards  
G Brereton  
A Wantling  
M Pearson  
A Wilcox  
E Crispin

**Half-Colours Awards**

M Padgett  
M Woitynia  
L Hayes  
A Sesay  
M Jones

**1st XV Action Shots**



*George Brereton ploughing through the Wrekin opposition*



*David Anders-Richards takes on the Wrekin forwards*



*Hugh Wignall leads the charge against Wrekin*



*Max Wojtynia and Tom Davies scrum down against the OEs*



*Henry Hackett gets the ball away to Lloyd Hayes*



*Mark Pearson releases to the winger in the OE match*



*Lloyd Hayes begins an attack against the OEs*



*Mark Pearson looking unstoppable against Wrekin*





T.H. Dreyer H.E. Wignall T.O.M. Evans D.B. Phillips  
Mr I.L. Roberts H.G. Maybury J.P. Webb N.H.R. West J.A. Ewer J.J. Taylor A.T. Coubrough Mr D.J. Morgan  
C.R. Clutton J. Smithers E. Anderson J.M. Maddock-James (Capt.) C.D. Johnson O.D. Brereton W.J. Goodwin

### Summary of Results

v Old Swinford Hospital	Lost	19 – 27
v King Edward VI Stratford	Won	22 – 0
v Warwick	Lost	7 – 21
v Malvern	Won	36 – 15
v Bishop Vesey's	Won	26 – 10
v Denstone College	Won	54 – 0
v Bedstone College	Won	22 – 5
v Birkenhead	Won	58 – 0
v Wrekin College	Drew	10 – 10

#### Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Old Swinford Hospital

This was the first match of the term and we had trained for only one session before going into it. However, we were optimistic and the team were instructed just to do the basics right and enjoy the match. We started well and were competing with the opposition across all areas of the field. After 10 minutes or so we had a scrum on the opposition 22 metre line. Taking advantage of the new law that states that the backs now have to stand 5 metres from the back foot of the scrum, Josh Maddock-James, playing at Number 8, picked up and powered his way over for the first try, which was superbly converted by Freddie Anderson. After this score the opposition came back at us. Some good defending on our part saw us stay in the lead; however, they scored after some good passing and perhaps a lack of concentration from us. They did not convert their score though and we remained in the lead until just before half time when they scored again.

The second half saw us up our game and we were in control for the first 20 minutes or so. Some good link play in the backs and some

strong running put Freddie Anderson in space to score pretty much under the posts, and he also converted. We continued to threaten again after this, George Baxter making some good breaks from scrum half, ably supported by James Webb at fly half and Anderson and Charlie Clutton in the centre. Baxter eventually scored our third try from 5 metres out. We were now in the lead with 13 minutes to go! After this the opposition brought on some fresh legs and upped their game. Also we were tiring and this led to some missed tackles, which allowed the opposition to score three unanswered tries, and the final score saw them win 27 - 19. This was a good game on the whole, even though we lost, as everybody put in a 100% effort and did what was asked of them.

Man of the Match: Freddie Anderson

#### Ellesmere College 2nd XV v King Edward VI

Our second match of the term was against a team which we had lost heavily the previous year and we knew that we were in for a tough game. The team were very well prepared and told to hit the breakdowns at speed and to get the ball wide as much as possible. We received the kick-off and put ourselves under immediate pressure by not catching it cleanly. As a result we were stuck in our own half for the first five minutes until we eventually won a lineout ball and kicked for safety. After this we began to play a bit. The first time we moved the ball wide saw us break the gain line and almost score. This sustained pressure eventually led to a score. The opposition conceded a free kick on their 22 metre line. We took the quick tap and spread it wide, from where Charlie Clutton managed to score the try. The second restart was again a poor one from us as we did not win the ball cleanly. This time, though, we managed to clear the ball back to the opposition's half. We continued to play



some good rugby, our forwards working well to give our backs the ball, and if we had been a bit more clinical in our passing we could have scored a few more tries. Just before half time we did manage to score. Some good work by Heinrich Scheer saw him steal the ball on the opposition 22 metre line and find the pass to James Webb on the inside, who ran through and scored the try. By half time we looked in a very commanding position.

For the first twenty minutes of the second half we did not play with the same flair that we showed at the end of the first half, though some good defending across the park stopped the opposition from scoring on a couple of occasions. After this we started to play again. Our third try came from spreading the ball wide along the entire width of the pitch, with George Cave beating his opposite number on the outside and scoring in the corner. Cave went on to score again, an excellent individual try that saw him dance and sidestep around six or seven opposition players to score just wide of the posts. This time Freddie Anderson took the conversion, as Goodwin had come off injured, and his kick sailed over the bar for the two points. Todd Evans and Killian Hinzpeter came on late and immediately saw some action. Overall it was a very good display and a good win with particularly good performances from James Webb at blindside and George Cave on the wing. Man of the Match: George Cave

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Warwick**

This was likely to be our hardest match of the term, against a big rugby school. Some last minute cry-offs led to a change-around of players in the backs and the forwards. We had a very poor start; they immediately broke the gain line and, as we were guilty of missed tackles, scored and converted within the first two minutes. We almost let them in again two minutes later and only some last-ditch tackling kept them out. After this we started to play some rugby. We were competitive at the breakdowns, our back row covering a lot of ground and hitting the breakdowns well. The forwards actually worked very hard against bigger opposition, and were winning some good ball for our backs to run with. The first half was very even and both sides had chances to score. We eventually scored and levelled the match through an Alex Clewlow try, which was set up by a good break from James Webb. Will Goodwin successfully converted to make it 7 - 7 at half time. The second half was also very close; we made a couple of changes, Chris Johnson coming on for the injured Michael Brown and Ashley Wynn replacing an injured Alex Clewlow, and continued to play a fast tempo of rugby. We had chances to score when both of our wingers went close to the try line, only to be tackled at the last minute. They scored again, and about five minutes before the end scored another try to make it 21 - 7. Overall this was a very good performance against tough opposition. We played some good rugby and showed that we can compete with the bigger schools. We were in the end unlucky not to score more and on another day could well have beaten this team.

Man of the Match: George Baxter

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Malvern 1st XV**

We had some new faces making their debuts in the fourth match of the term against Malvern College; Ben Brooks, Andy Couborough, Lawrence Walters, Joe Ewer and Jake Smethers.

The kick-off saw us receiving the ball and we were put under immediate pressure and tackled into touch. The opposition forwards were to prove a handful at times throughout the match. However, we got ourselves out of danger and some lovely play saw us camped on their 5 metre line where we managed to get the ball wide to Couborough, who powered over for the first try of the game. This looked like being our day, but the opposition had other ideas. From the restart we were again tackled into touch and then when the ball came back into our 22 area we opted to run rather than kick for safety, which led to the opposition eventually scoring. For much of the half we were camped in our half, not getting the ball away and allowing ourselves to get frustrated by the opposition, who were guilty of many off-the-ball incidents and the referee, who did miss a lot of incidents. However, we managed to score another

good try through Walters, Will Goodwin converting to make it 12 - 7. The opposition replied again through a drop goal and then, just before the end of the half the referee gave the opposition a penalty 20 metres back on our 5 metre line, which he allowed the opposition to take quickly, even though he was talking to us at the same time, and they scored from this to make it 12 - 15 to them at half time. Not the best half from us.

For the second half the team were told to concentrate on their rugby, ignore the other players and the referee, and get the ball wide and run at the opposition. They took this on board and were the dominant team; the opposition did not even get into our half. We scored 24 unanswered points. Our first score came from George Baxter who chased a brilliant kick over the top from our half backs. The next try came from Goodwin, with some wonderful running in the backs, especially from Charlie Clutton, who had an excellent match, putting him into space to score under the posts, and he also converted. Next saw Hugh Wignall score, again put into space by some great running play, Goodwin converting again. The final try was an excellent piece of timing on the pass and the run; Couborough made a great run to join the line, while Goodwin supplied a precision pass to put him free to score in the right hand corner. Much better in the second half!

Man of the Match: Charlie Clutton

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Bishop Vesey's**

This has always proven to be a tough fixture and we were prepared for a physical match. We didn't get much time to warm-up, ten minutes in all, and this showed in the first ten minutes when we looked as if we were still on the bus. Early on we found out that they had a bigger pack than us and that they were keeping a lot of ball up front. We didn't make life easy for ourselves, opting to run from our 22 rather than kick it safe, and this eventually led to their first try, a soft try, their scrum half picking up some loose ball on the blind side and running in unopposed. At this point it looked as if they would run in some more tries but we defended well and did not concede any more points. After twenty minutes we made some substitutions, and James Webb came on to the pitch, obviously disappointed not to have started. He immediately had an effect on the game and we played much better and more fluidly. We started to control more of the ball, but our first try did not come from teamwork but from a great individual try from Andy Couborough, who caught a high ball on the half-way line and then ran through several players to score in the corner. Freddie Anderson then converted a difficult kick as well. This gave us confidence to attack and two minutes later some good play by our forwards allowed Webb to take an inside pass and score under the posts, Anderson converting again.

The second half was scrappy at times and our lineout was not always working. However, we persevered and were able to score two more tries, the first through Oli Brereton. Making his debut for the Seconds, he was put into space by a very well-timed pass from Ben Brooks and scored in the corner, Anderson again kicking a difficult conversion. After this we could have scored two or three more tries, but the last pass was never quite getting to hand for the decisive score. With five minutes left we sealed the game with Henry Maybury scoring our fourth try. Even though we then conceded a late try we ran in deserved winners in the end.

Man of the Match: James Webb

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Denstone College**

We were playing our first match in almost a month due to the half-term break and not having a fixture the first weekend back. We started well and within two minutes had put a score on the board through an Andy Couborough try. Then from the restart Joe Ewer caught the ball and subsequently ran through half of the Denstone team before off-loading the ball to Tjark Dreyer, on his promotion from the 3rd XV, to score under the posts. Freddie Anderson then added the conversion. After this we dominated the half, picking good running lines in the backs and hitting the breakdowns quickly, enabling us to play expansive rugby which stretched the opposition across the pitch and resulted in us running in four more tries in the



first half through Freddie Anderson, Charlie Clutton, Cameron Milne and a second for Dreyer. We went in at half time with a commanding 34 - 0 lead. In the second half we continued where we had left off. One change saw Bryn Phillips come on for Killian Hinzpeter. We were still first to every breakdown and the opposition eventually stopped committing players to this area, such was our dominance. We continued to get the ball out wide, but were guilty at times of trying to be too clever when the simple choices would have been the correct options. However, we ran in four more tries through Oli Brereton, Jake Taylor, Joe Ewer and Clutton's second. This made it 54 - 0 with still nine minutes to play in the second half, but under the laws of the game once you reach 50 points you should stop, and so being the sporting team that we are we stopped there.

Man of the Match: Joe Ewer

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Bedstone 1st XV**

We started poorly, with a clearance kick from our own 22 that we did not chase well, which allowed them to run back at us and led to them scoring in the corner. They missed the conversion. We continued to play on the back foot, slow to the breakdown and dropping ball that should have gone to hand. After twenty minutes we made a couple of changes and began to play a bit better. Ball was being passed out more and the forwards were beginning to hit the breakdowns quicker. We eventually scored through a big drive from the forwards that allowed Lawrence Walters to dive over for the try. The second half was all Ellesmere. We kicked to them and then immediately applied pressure, which eventually led to another try for Walters, again driving over from close range. Jake Smethers added the conversion to make it 12 - 5. After this we played some wonderful running rugby at times, coupled with good work in the loose and on our lineouts, to make life very difficult for the opposition, who began to get frustrated and answer back to the referee. This worked in our favour and we scored another try through Nick West, again from close range after we had driven the ball forwards. The fourth and final try for us was scored by Todd Evans, back on the field of play after an injury to Anderson, when he received the ball out on the wing and ran in to score. Shortly after this the referee blew for full time and we had run out deserved winners, the opposition not even getting into our half in the second half. This was a great credit to our defensive work, with some big tackles being made.

Man of the Match: Lawrence Walters

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Birkenhead**

When we arrived at Birkenhead on a misty and cold morning the opposition had only thirteen players, but as we had made the long journey to play at such an early hour we chose to start with fifteen players. We began well and after a few minutes were ahead through an Andy Coubrough try to which Jake Smethers added the conversion; 7 - 0 and looking comfortable. The opposition then began to wake up a bit more and make a game of it. We made life difficult for ourselves by not passing it through the hands and capitalising on our extra players, thus a few scoring opportunities were not converted into points. Our defensive line was not functioning well either, sometimes letting the opposition pass through gaps. However, as the half continued we scored three more tries. Our second was scored by James Webb, who powered over in the corner. The third came from Oli Brereton, finishing off some good passing to score, and then just before half time Bryn Phillips, who had an excellent game, scored our fourth.

For the second half we decided to take two players off and make it thirteen-a-side. This inspired us to work harder as the opposition were at times saying we were only winning due to our extra players. After two minutes of the re-start we were further ahead, Brereton scoring another try in the corner. About two minutes after this Brereton completed his hat-trick and we were now comfortably ahead. What made it even better was that when Brereton went over for his third try we only had twelve players on the pitch due to an injury! Once we had scored this try we ran amok and dominated the play in all areas. We ran in four more tries. Jake Smethers

scored our seventh, powering through three players to score just under the posts, and he also converted. Tjark Dreyer added another, an excellent solo run, dancing through several tackles to score. Charlie Clutton scored our ninth try and our last was scored straight from a re-start. Dreyer caught the ball and opted just to run from our 10 meter line and break every tackle to score under the posts for his second try of the game. Coubrough converted to make it 58 - 0. The referee then blew with ten minutes to go.

Man of the Match: Chris Johnson

### **Ellesmere College 2nd XV v Wrekin 1st XV**

The final game of the term saw us playing Wrekin College 1st XV at home. This was to prove our toughest fixture, against the second best team in Shropshire. We didn't start well, as no call for the high ball saw their kick go into touch and they immediately had a territorial advantage. They sustained this pressure and we were sometimes guilty of not finding touch when we tried to kick from our 22. After a good fifteen minutes of sustained pressure and some excellent defensive work on our part, the opposition somehow managed to score, also converting. We then tried to play a bit more rugby, but were still being pinned back in our half. However, we got a lucky break from our clearance kick and managed to get the ball through hands to Tjark Dreyer on the wing who ran half the length of the pitch and also broke about five tackles to score in the corner, though it was not converted. The second half was a more competitive affair, with both teams having scoring opportunities. We had a penalty awarded in front of goal and, in hindsight, should have perhaps kicked for the 3 points rather than go for the corner. Wrekin did have a penalty, chose to kick, and scored the 3 points. We were now 5 - 10 down and needed to up our game. We did this and eventually scored through Ahmad Sesay, who charged a kick and got hold of the ball to touch down. After this the game could have gone either way; Wrekin missed a kick, Dreyer was almost clean through just to be tackled at the last minute. However, in the end it was a draw, not a bad result considering the opposition we were playing.

The match marked the last game of the term. Overall we had a very successful term of Rugby, we scored easily the most points of all the teams in the school and the whole squad should be proud of their achievement. Well done and thank you!

Man of the Match: Tjark Dreyer

### **ILR & DJM**

#### **Squad**

F Anderson, O D Brereton, B Brooks, G Cave, A Clewlow,  
C R Clutton, A T Coubrough, T H Dreyer, T O M Evans,  
J A Ewer, W J Goodwin, C D Johnson, J M Maddock-James,  
H G Maybury, D B Phillips, J Smithers, J J Taylor, L Walters,  
J P Webb, N H R West, H E Wignall





N. Haukohl T.H. Dreyer T.A. Roberts L.N. Schmid D.C. Ellis N. Wojtynia J.E.K. Whittles Mr J.J. Baggaley  
D.J. Allsop J.P. Wright S.B. Johnson K.K.B. Hinzpeter C. Rath L.F. Holt J.A. Davies

### Summary of Results

v Bedstone College 1st XV	Lost	15 – 19
v King Edward' Stratford	Lost	0 – 27
v Warwick School U16	Lost	7 – 27
v Wrekin College	Won	51 – 0
v Bishop Vesey's	Won	33 – 15
v Denstone College U16	Lost	5 – 40
v Birkenhead	Won	40 - 0

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Bedstone 1st XV

The first game for the 3rd XV was down in South Shropshire against Bedstone, and after a struggle to get boys into some sort of shape in time for the game we took the field in good spirits. The game did not live up to expectations however, as the early season jitters and rustiness meant the ball spent more time on the floor than in our hands. Bedstone ran out worthy winners although the try count was three apiece.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v King Edward's Stratford

Our next fixture was against a well-drilled and organised King's side. It was clear from the first kick-off that we would have to work hard to get anything from this game and keep the score down. However we stuck to our task very well and started to play some good attacking rugby. It was a shame we did not score a try ourselves but our resolute and determined defence meant that we could hold our heads up high when we left the field.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Warwick School

After the visit from King Edwards it was a long trip down to Warwick School to play their U16 XV. We arrived upbeat after the test we had had the previous week and following a good week of training, and after a lively warm-up before the game the whistle went. We found ourselves very quickly twelve points down after Warwick ran in two very well-worked tries. After a bit of soul searching we dug deep and eventually came off at half time 12 – 7 down. Half time saw Warwick ring the changes and bring on their more experienced players which took the game away from us. Given the strength of the Senior Rugby at Warwick I was very pleased with the improvements we had made from the previous game but our first win was still to come.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Wrekin College

Our first win of the season came against local Shropshire rivals Wrekin College. From the kick-off Ellesmere dominated every area of the game and ran in tries from all over the field. It turned out to be

a very good examination of ability to work together as a team as it highlighted that too often we would try and win games through individuals. Plenty needed to be worked on before our trip to Bishop Vesey's who, in recent years, have been formidable opponents.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Bishop Vesey's

This was just the kind of game we needed following our victory over Wrekin the previous week. Defensive deficiencies were addressed and some more options in attack were developed on the training field during the week; we felt ready to take on Bishop's. The game was very even for large periods with the lead changing hands on a number of occasions. Eventually fitness and skill prevailed and Ellesmere were able to turn their defensive organisation and pressure into an attacking option, capitalising on errors made. Each of our tries was scored by an overseas student which was even more pleasing and went to show the commitment of these players.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Denstone College U16

Ellesmere were never in this game against a superior Denstone side. Denstone had a clear game plan and they carried it out very well. Ellesmere missed too many tackles, dropped too much ball and turned over too much possession to ever really mount any serious assaults on their line. No complaints, we were beaten by a better side on the day.

### Ellesmere College 3rd XV v Birkenhead School

Ellesmere College rounded off a tough season in style by handsomely beating Birkenhead School. On cold late November mornings it is hard for anyone to get going but the boys of the 3rd XV came out in force to put on a great display of rugby. We dominated all areas of play and ended up scoring some impressive tries from team work. It was a great way to cap off a season, which had seen a number of fixtures being contested and many, many miles travelled. A big thank you has to go all of the boys who pulled on the 3rd XV jersey and put all they had into every game. There are some players in the team who will definitely be playing up a level next season, which, ultimately, is what it is all about.

### JJB

**Squad:** D Allsop, O Brereton, T Broadhead, B Brooks, G Cave, J Dapling, J Davies, T Dreyer, D Ellis, T Evans, J Evans, K Gerlach, N Haukohl, K Hinzpeter, L Holt, H Hughes, G Hymes, S Johnson, J Leahy, B Lingard-Lane, B Patterson, C Rath, T Roberts, L Schmid, B Seeney, O Thomas, J Taylor, M Verleger, J Whittles, N Wojtynia, J Wright





O.G. Fashanu R.W. Jones J.A. Towers W.G.T. Abell G.R. Cooper T. Dobie W.J. Mapstone M.D.T. Sampson Esq.  
F.T. Diamond A.W.J. Cross J.W. Baxter G.E. Hymes (Capt.) O.B.L. Roberts T.H. Clutton J.G. Brewitt

### Summary of Results

v The Corbett School (Daily Mail Cup R1)	Won	53 – 0
v King Edward VI Stratford	Won	36 – 5
v Warwick	Lost	12 – 19
v Sir John Talbot's (Daily Mail Cup R2)	Won	64 – 8
v Malvern	Won	53 – 0
v Charlton (Daily Mail Cup R3)	Won	17 – 10
v Bishop Vesey's	Won	55 – 19
v Stafford Grammar	Won	48 – 14
v Denstone College (Daily Mail Cup R4)	Drew	5 – 5
v Bromsgrove (Daily Mail Cup R5)	Lost	10 – 39
v Birkenhead	Won	32 – 15
v Wrekin College	Won	35 - 0

As a successful team at U14 level the side had relied heavily upon the powerful running of George Hymes from Number 8. Positional changes were made to try to strengthen the centres and so play a more expansive game. It is possible to claim some success in that thirty-seven tries were scored by the three-quarters whilst the forwards weighed in with thirty-two of which we managed to limit George to twenty-one!

Our first friendly having been cancelled we found ourselves at Baschurch in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup against the Corbett School for our opening game. Our organisation and power in the back row and centre overwhelmed enthusiastic but inexperienced opposition and we won by 53 - 0. However, even against such a weak team it became apparent that we could neither hold onto the ball in the tackle nor ruck over it if taken to ground. Next up were King Edward's Stratford. After a long journey we were slow to start but our power and pace began to tell. Whilst the rucking was still very poor and we lost the ball in contact on many occasions we did manage to provide sufficient ball to run. They had no answer to our captain's power from the base of the scrum and around the loose and this, together with Matt Mackintosh's 'stately' progress up the centre of the field, saw us two scores up. Jack Baxter was giving everyone confidence with his security under the high ball and sterling defence from Gabriel Fashanu blunted the opposition's attacks. At half time with the score only 12 - 0 there was still much to do but a good

outside break from Todd Dobie and a couple of powerful runs from George Hymes made the game secure. Further scores from Owen Roberts and a touchline gallop from Ryan Morley added the finishing touches so that we ran out comfortable winners 36 - 5. Our next encounter was at home to Warwick. Against such a large school we needed to be at our best but unfortunately we lost the game in the first ten minutes going 0 - 12 down to a couple of plays by their fly half before effectively 'winning' the remaining fifty minutes! The forwards provided a good share of ball and rucked quite effectively. The back row ran well – although the support left a bit to be desired – and after our initial failings we tackled adequately. A good run up the touchline supported by Will Abell started the comeback and then Todd reached the line having decided not to pass outside – just as well he made it! They looked a little flustered at the end but we did not have time to score again and so went down 12 - 19.

The second round of the Cup pitted us against Sir John Talbot's. We made a shocking start, with errors in front of our posts when under no pressure and giving away penalty after penalty, and soon found ourselves 0 – 8 down. It took some strong running from George Hymes and Todd Dobie to get us back onto an even keel and to put our noses in front. From then on we began to settle down and moved the ball more effectively to put Gabriel in for a try. Matthew Mackintosh added several conversions and crossed the line himself so that we turned round a comfortable 33 – 8 up. A further five tries in the second half made things look more glossy but we did not really play well, at least not consistently so, and relied too much on our power players breaking through. Just occasionally we strung things together, and the try of the game came from Jack Smith racing to catch an errant kick out of defence by the opposition 'on the full', straightening the line, timing his pass to Matthew Mackintosh, who drew the remaining cover to put Gabriel away on the outside to race over near the posts to complete a 64 - 8 victory.

Last season had seen a very close game with Malvern, particularly in the forwards where some large boys had caused us problems in the front row. As it turned out, however, this year we outclassed them in every department. Strong running, some good handling, using the width of the 1st XV pitch, and resolute tackling when they did finally



gain possession saw us rattle up seven tries in a shortened first half. A tactical substitution gave George Hymes a rest and meant that it took a further ten minutes to score the two tries that took the score beyond 50 points and brought the match to a premature end at 53 - 0. The early finish allowed the team to support the BXV over the road on Parry's. We all enjoyed twenty minutes of excellent rugby as the 'B's' twice came from behind to record a good win. The enthusiasm of the support and the passion of the play made for a tremendous atmosphere.

Round Three of the Cup brought Charlton School to Ellesmere. We made hard work of winning a match against a team containing a few good players, some industrious forwards and some quick if inexperienced backs. Although we generally dominated the game we did not convert position and possession into points in the way that we should. Too often we moved sideways and at half pace, shovelling the ball to the wing who, lacking support, was confronted by a number of defenders and had nowhere to go. On almost every occasion this led to the loss of possession. The most worrying aspect of this was that we did it over and over again. As had been predicted the outcome depended upon the ability of the forwards to secure sufficient possession, and thankfully this they did. Some ball was very messy and led to confusion and disorganisation behind the scrum, but strong running by George Hymes secured two scores, Matthew Macintosh going over for the other and adding one conversion. The opposition scored at the very end of each half, on both occasions due to missed tackles and a lack of cover. A 17 - 10 win took us into 'the last 128'!

Bishop Vesey's had defeated the side last year. Although we were under constant pressure in the scrum we did well to get the ball away. Our first two tries came after several phases of play and then moving the ball down the line to our debutant right winger - good rugby. It was a pity that we allowed them back in the game when we became confused about what to do on our own penalty, ran, got isolated, lost the ball and then missed several tackles. The second half saw some good scores; a successful 'ugly' move put Owen Roberts in, Matthew drove over, George ran strongly and Jack Smith timed a good interception. A resounding victory by 55 - 19 was the eventual outcome.

The second half of term opened with a match against Stafford Grammar School. They had enjoyed a successful campaign and we initially struggled to establish any real rhythm. Jack Smith got us off to a good start with a solo run down the touchline for the first of his three first-half tries whilst a strong run from George Hymes set up a try for Jack Brewitt. However, with all our tries scored in the corners, and having conceded a soft score to Stafford near the posts, we only turned around 20 - 7 up. The second half started badly for us with a rejuvenated Stafford attack running strongly and reducing the areas with a try. From then on, however, we gradually put the game beyond their reach with more tries from Brewitt, Owain Roberts, and two from Todd Dobie, all converted by Matthew Macintosh. Under pressure in the tight and without decisive running in the backs we played in fits and starts, and although some scores came from flowing play others relied too much upon individual play.

Round Four of the Cup took us to Denstone. Their record was good and they had rattled up an average of nearly forty points a time in winning all but one of their matches so far. The heavy pitch and wet conditions made for an error-strewn match but we started well and soon established a good position in their half. A solid scrum provided the platform for George Hymes to run at their winger and plunge over near the corner. The conversion fell short. We then conceded the initiative and Denstone began to exert some pressure. Our defence was solid until a succession of missed tackles allowed their strong running wing to make ground on the right and they too scored near the corner - the conversion attempt hitting the crossbar. Perhaps slightly shaken, we were glad to hear the half-time whistle soon after. We turned round with the slight slope in our favour and with renewed determination managed to spend most of the half in or around the Denstone twenty-two. However we missed a couple of good scoring chances by not moving the ball wide quickly enough then dropping a pass, and saw a penalty attempt hit the outside of the upright. Clearly, despite the scoring records of both teams, it was going to be a low-scoring game! Whilst we were generally on top there was

always the possibility of a breakaway and their speedy winger winning the game for them. Gabrielle Fashanu had other ideas however, and a particularly solid tackle on their runner seemed to take him out of the game for a time. Meanwhile Jack Smith at fullback proved sound under the high ball and made his tackles to keep our line intact. Being reduced to fourteen players for the last ten minutes should have put us under more pressure but we rose to the challenge and Denstone grew more and more frustrated as they simply could not get out of their own half. Even so the whistle was greeted with some joy, as in a 5 - 5 draw we went through as the away team.

Now in the 'last 64' we faced strong opposition in Bromsgrove. Despite a big-hearted display we found the opposition too big and too powerful in the forwards and possessing pace on the wings. Our attacking options were extremely restricted as we were starved of possession in both scrum and lineout as well as being turned over in many rucks. Despite our early penalty and a good piece of opportunism from Todd Dobie, who seized on a loose ball to run in from 40 yards, it was clear from the outset that Bromsgrove were a very strong team. They ran at pace and supported the ball-carrier most effectively, providing options on either side. They won their rucks with a minimum of players and moved the ball quickly away to continue the attack. Our tackling really needed to put them backwards but their weight and strength allied to good body positions meant that we were seldom able to do more than bring them to earth. Whilst they gained the victory by 10 - 39 and progressed into the last 32 of the Cup, we gained something too, in that despite the pressure we were under the character of the team kept everyone together. The leadership of George Hymes was outstanding and the second half defensive display most creditable.

Following the disappointment of losing the previous match, and since the team were clearly feeling a little battered and bruised, we were pleased to record a win over Birkenhead; the first for this year-group apparently. It was an error-strewn match as the conditions, freezing fog, made handling particularly difficult. The opposition were quick to the breakdown and again the forwards found themselves struggling to provide good quality ball. However, when we were in possession we showed greater initiative, running off the loose and making inroads into their back line. Their attacks depended much upon putting boot to ball and chasing hard. This approach worked on a few occasions as we were slow to react and left a player isolated, only to have the ball turned over, leading directly to two of their scores. In the mean time Matthew Macintosh 'ghosted' through for two tries, Owain Roberts pounced on a loose ball spilled by their defence as we poured through onto their mistake and George Hymes ran strongly for two more, the last being a solo run 50 yards down the touchline having fielded a kick, giving us a 32 - 15 win. Although never trailing on the scoreboard the outcome of the match was in doubt until well into the second half. The performance of the day was probably from Guy Cooper, who rescued us on several occasions by getting to the breakdown, ripping the ball and driving forward, taking several opposition players to stop him.

The last game of the season took us to Wrekin College. Comparison of results showed that we were by far the superior team and so the opportunity was taken to lend George Hymes to play against their 2nd XV whilst we took several substitutes, allowing continual positional changes. The opposition played with much spirit but our defence was good and we scored seven tries without reply to win 35 - 0.

It was a pleasant run-out to end a most enjoyable and successful season. Our only regret was our weak defensive performance in the first ten minutes of the Warwick game, a match that we probably should have won. We enjoyed a good Cup run and scored many excellent tries, putting several larger schools to the sword. Well done everyone!

#### **MDTS**

#### **Squad**

Abell W G T, Baxter J, Brewitt J G, Clutton T H, Cooper G R,  
 Cross A W J, Diamond F T, Dobie T, Fashanu O G,  
 Hymes G E (Captain), Johnson K, Jones R W,  
 Macintosh M R, Morley R, Roberts O B L, Smith J, Towers J A,  
 Watkin T A, Williams R A, Stokes J, Murdoch C, Michell R,  
 Menendez S, Mapstone W J, Bird W, Thurmer S R H, Crow N





G.R. Shelley S.F. Menendez T.A. Hunter Johnston M.S. Kelly J.A. Edge  
Mr G. Hutchinson L. Nussbaumer D.T. Cowan S. Kandola W.I. Jackson Mr D.M. Roberts  
W.J. Mapstone J.A. Fisher J.M.E. Stokes C.I. Murdoch R.W.K. Michell N.M. Crowe B. Spaven

### Summary of Results

v Bedstone College	Lost	10—15
v Warwick	Lost	41 – 0
v Denstone College	Won	35 – 5
v Malvern	Won	17 – 10
v Bishop Vesey's	Lost	7 – 55
v Denstone College	Draw	12 – 12
v Bedstone College U16s	Lost	0 - 50

Ellesmere's U15Bs began the season with an away fixture at Bedstone College. The hosts had problems with their grounds, leading to the match being played on a pitch with no posts. The game was further complicated by match officials being confused by the new ELVs. However, the game flowed with many individuals showing great promise for the games ahead. Indeed, several players were lost from the U15Bs as they were promoted to the As on the strength of their endeavours. Captain Ryan Jones led the team with authority and Gabriel Fashanu sped away to set up Bobby Michell for a dazzling score. The outstanding Fashanu was also conspicuous in defence as his tackles repeatedly shuddered the opposition. When another try was scored on the 5m line it took the quick mind of full back Jack Smith to legitimise the attempt as he gathered the ball and placed it between where the posts would have been. Despite relentless pressure the visitors were kept at bay whilst Bedstone scored twice as the match ended to snatch a victory by three tries to two.

The first home game saw Warwick School visit. By now the U15Bs were beginning to find their shape, and strong partnerships were forming, particularly in the centre where James Fisher alongside new captain Cameron Murdoch were to form a combative midfield. Ben Spaven at 9 and Mike Kelly at 10 were selected for their ability to think clearly under pressure, as well as for their ball-playing skills, which served the team admirably through the rest of the campaign. In this match, the challenge was too great as, despite resilient tackling, the unbeaten visitors took the match by 41 - nil.

A midweek fixture saw Denstone College arrive in confident mood. By now, the U15Bs were into their stride and the introduction of William Bird into the back row added a determination to score when the opportunity arose. With Will Abell and Saajan Kandola added to the side, the pack became more bulky and resilient to the opposition's efforts. Jacob Edge developed consistency in throwing to the lineouts and the backs and forwards interplayed with great style as five tries were scored. Whilst Tom Hunter Johnston evaded his opponent with speed and guile, it was flanker Bird who benefitted most from his team-mates as he crossed for a brace of tries, and the team achieved their first success with a 31 - 5 victory.

The following fixture, at home to Malvern, epitomised the enhancements made throughout the team as the players demonstrated the grit and

determination to turn around a result. Trailing by ten points at half time the players took a long, hard look at each other and resolved to play for the team. Santiago Menendez and Will Mapstone counter-attacked with pace from the back and offloaded to support runners from the pack. The back-row trio of Will Bird, Nick Crowe and Bobby Michell appeared omnipresent on the field and George Shelley was added to supplement their efforts. Saajan Kandola had a terrific second half as he burst through attempted tackles and recycled to his support. With the try-line in sight Will Bird was deadly as he continued his scoring exploits. Leadership was crucial in the 17 - 10 victory and Cameron Murdoch was instrumental in turning the team around following the dismal first half.

Confidence was high when Bishop Vesey's School visited, but the home side struggled to cope with their larger opponents. By this stage of the campaign several new faces were added to the squad, as players new to the game were rewarded for their endeavour in training sessions. Vlad Dumitrescu, Leon Nussbaumer and Andrei Draghici were given opportunities to glow and Dumitrescu was to establish himself as a mainstay on the wing. Against Bishop Vesey's it was too big a task as they sealed a convincing victory by 7 - 55. But the U15Bs maintained their spirit and determination as they closed the match with the try of the game.

The heavy rains of mid-November saturated the return match away at Denstone College. In atrocious conditions there is a great deal expected from the pack, and Jayson Towers and Jamie Stokes did not disappoint as they battled for every inch of ground that was gained. With the game slipping away Leon Nussbaumer came off the bench to supplement the attack and the team rallied to score a superb try. The elements contrived to steer the conversion away from the posts and the team settled for a 12-all draw to share the spoils. The season concluded with Bedstone College bringing their U16 team to Ellesmere to enjoy a romp against younger opposition as they amassed a 50 - 0 victory.

There were landmark achievements during the season that were testament to the efforts made week in, week out on the training pitches. It was rewarding to see players progress into the A team and perform with such distinction. Alongside their achievements, it was pleasing to see players new to the game challenge themselves against more experienced opposition. Whilst several players took their opportunities to shine, there were a group of players who consistently rose to the challenges set before them without taking a backward step and Will Bird, Dan Cowan, Adam Brahim and Felix Mueller epitomised the spirit amongst the team.

### DMR

### Squad

A Brahim, D T Cowan, N M Crowe, A Draghici, V-G Dumitrescu,  
J A Edge, J A Fisher, T A Hunter Johnston, W I Jackson,  
S Kandola, M S Kelly, W J Mapstone, S F Menendez,  
R W K Michell, F M Mueller, C I Murdoch, L Nussbaumer,  
G R Shelley, B Spaven, J M E Stokes



Ellesmere College  U14A Rugby  
20 08



J.R. Smethurst R.O. Bothwell B. Hughes S. Chewins L.W. Bostock -Williams J. Sambrook-Jones J.J.R. Pescod Mr G. Owen  
J. Walker S.G. Dapling E.E. Morris S.L. Owen (Capt.) M.R. Dewhirst J.E. Latter C.Q. Carrington-Sykes

### Summary of Results

v King Edward's Stratford	Lost	0 - 29
v Warwick	Lost	0 - 61
v Malvern	Lost	0 - 56
v Bishop Vesey's	Lost	7 - 33
v Stafford	Lost	10 - 12
v Denstone College	Lost	5 - 17
v Birkenhead	Lost	0 - 40
v Wrekin College	Won	42 - 5

This was going to be a difficult season as many of the previous season's team were still playing for the U13A team this year. It was also going to prove very challenging for the players themselves, as they were much smaller than most teams that they came up against. After losing the first few games very heavily, one would assume that the players would have lost all motivation to come out and practice and prefer, basically, to give up. This was far from the truth and showed what character these boys had, as they were always at practice on time and willing to grind away and take advice on board. This will, without doubt, help them in future years and help realise the importance of staying positive and motivated, despite things not going according to plan.

The season started with a few really hard games and the boys tried their hardest and played till the final whistle. King Edward's Stratford proved to be a very tough game and despite us going down 0 - 29, we came very close to scoring a few tries and making the score line more respectable. They were physically much bigger and stronger than us and our basic ball handling let us down far too often – this was to become our main downfall throughout the season. Warwick was our second match and what a side they were. They were massive and extremely quick and we never stood a chance against them. We missed far too many tackles and when we did get the ball, lost possession and conceded too many turnovers. This proved to be a massive learning curve for us as we lost game 0 - 61. This game was followed by yet another hard match against Malvern where, once again, we missed too many tackles, resulting in soft tries. We really needed a bit more discipline and motivation to keep the ball in hand, but too often gave the ball away through bad passing or taking our eyes off the ball. The score was 0 - 56. The games weren't getting any easier, as we travelled to Bishop Vesey's

for what was to be a much better game from us as we never gave up and tackled much better. Our rucking was much better and they had to work very hard for their tries. Although we lost 7 - 33, the boys were now proving to themselves what kind of rugby they were capable of producing. Using what we had learnt during the season, we came up against Stafford. We gave them two early tries through poor tackling, but bounced back to score two of our own tries in the second half. Although we lost 10 - 12, this was to be our best performance thus far and gave us tremendous confidence for the last few games of the season. We travelled to a cold and very wet Denstone College where we were unfortunately without our captain, Sam Owen, who was playing for the U15A team in a cup match. In a very hard-fought match we played great rugby, and came extremely close to scoring a few more tries. At half time it was still either side's game to be won. As hard as we tried we just could not cross their line again after scoring an early try and we finally lost the game 5 - 17. Overall, a much better performance and our confidence was on the up. Unfortunately our next game was against a very strong team from Birkenhead that had only lost one game in the past two years. We were up against it from the beginning, but through much better tackling and rucking we made them work for their tries. We were starting to play rugby the way we knew we could, and really played our socks off. Although we had a few good periods and never gave up, they proved to be too strong and ran out 40 - 0 winners. Our final game of the season was against Wrekin where we played really well. With the score being 42 - 5, we proved what we are capable of doing when we play together as a team. Unfortunately too little too late, but hopefully this can get carried forward to next year and the team can play some good attractive rugby.

A great amount of dedication was shown during the season and I hope everyone learnt from their mistakes this year and just how important it is to play together as a team and to stay positive at all times. Well done guys and good luck next year.

### CCC

#### Squad

J Walker, S Dapling, B Hughes, X Dodds, C Carrington-Sykes, S Chewins, J Pescod, L Parry-Jones, L Bostock-Williams, M Dewhirst, S Owen (Captain), E Morris, L Taylor, A Butt, D Simpson, J Sambrook-Jones, R Bothwell, J Latter, A McCarthy





I.L. Chawner-Nyss J.R. Dapling W.E. Johnson J.W. Fletcher G.T. Fradley J.F. Menendez M.J. McBrien  
M.C. Fraser-Smith J.J.R. Pescod J.E. Haigh S.J. McIlraith E.M.C. Fawke B. Hughes M.J. Faulkner R.J. Macintosh Esq.  
R.O. Belcher J.E. Davies S. Chewins J.J. Paul E.E. Morris J.R. Smethurst A.W. Eaton

Despite the generous assistance of the perennially t-shirt clad Mr Crawford, the U14Bs had a difficult and challenging season. Ably captained by John Paul, who was lost to injury later on in the season, the pleasing thing to record is the progress made by the boys over the course of the season. The team was fully international with a very effective Spanish contingent and even several Kazakhstani players joining the squad. These new recruits to the game met with a variety of success, with Javier Fernandez-Mendez making a particularly telling contribution. During the fixtures, the large squad were rotated, not due to injury, but because so many boys were willing and available to play. This made selection difficult but it is a really good problem to have. The squad was significantly bolstered with the arrival of additional players coming up from the C team. Joe Haigh and George Fradley made an outstanding impact on the field, Haigh with his ceaseless rucking and Fradley with his powerhouse running. Overall the team had some massive defeats numerically but I never felt the team stopped trying. It is said again and again, but a good big'n will

always beat a good little'n, and this was the case with the small but effective squad. The best thing to report however is the last game of the season. Against a larger and more powerful opposition, the team, supported excellently by a plethora of parents, dug in and played their hearts out. The lead changed several times before Ellesmere came back from behind to record their first non-loss of the season. They drew, but to me it felt like they had won. As the boys progress into Year 10, I wish them all the best, both with the development of their rugby skills and in their physicality on the pitch.

*RJM*

**Squad**

R O Belcher, I L Chawner-Nyss, S Chewins, J R Dapling,  
J E Davies, A W Eaton, M J Faulkner, E M C Fawke,  
J W Fletcher, G T Fradley, M C Fraser-Smith, J E Haigh,  
B Hughes, W E Johnson, M J McBrien, S J McIlraith,  
J F Menendez, E E Morris, J J Paul, J J R Pescod, J R Smethurst

**Representative Rugby Honours 2008/09**

**U18 Midlands Squad** - Padgett, Baxter  
**U18 Shropshire & N. Midlands** - Hayes  
**U18 Shropshire** - Walters, Thomas, Jones, Couborough  
**U18 Cheshire** - Hackett  
**U16 Shropshire & N Midlands** - Goodwin, Brookes, Phillips B

**U16 Shropshire** - Taylor, Wignall, Whittles, Brown, Brereton  
**U15 Shropshire** - Hymes, Mackintosh, Smith, Cross  
**U14 Shropshire** - Dewhirst, Owen, Taylor  
**U13 Shropshire** - Whitehouse, Rogers, Miller, Lock,  
Collar-Underwood, Appleby



## Girls' Hockey - 2008 Season

Girls' Hockey has enjoyed one of its most successful seasons. During the Summer the Senior girls had performed well on tour in South Africa. We have again used the astroturf pitch at Shawbury in Wednesday Senior Games time, and this has been the key to our success as we have developed our girls' stick skills and game play in order for us to compete with the schools who are playing to a high standard. Many of our girls are now linked to Hockey Clubs in the area and are developing positively, which hopefully will have a good effect on their school Hockey.

There have been some creditable performances during the season: The 1st XI enjoyed an unbeaten season. Last year, I mentioned that the outlook for the First team was bright as only a few girls had left from the previous year, and this proved to be correct. A highlight for the 1st XI was competing in the County stage of the U18 England National Schools Competition where the team finished first in the pool stage and then went on to beat Moreton Hall 5 - 1 in the semi-finals to qualify for the Midlands Tournament. A special thanks must go to Emma Johnson, who captained the team for the second year running. This year, many of the girls will be leaving and I wish them all the best for the future and thank them for the contribution they have made to Girls' Sport at the College.

This year the 2nd XI had a full fixture list but many of their matches were cancelled due to the weather or due to other schools not being able to field a second team. The Seconds' best performance was beating Abbots Bromley.

Whilst the performance of the 1st XI Hockey is one to proud of, another team that has enjoyed success all throughout their school career is the U16 Girls. Though we don't run an U16 team as such, the U16s entered three tournaments during the season and won them all. Their successes started with a win at the Shropshire Tournament, which meant they represented Shropshire at the Midlands. In the Midlands they reached the semi-finals. They also won the U16 Ellesmere Tournament and the U16 North Shropshire Tournament. Well done to all the girls!

The U14s and U15s had satisfactory seasons but again the weather played a part in many of the games being cancelled. The U14s had an unbeaten season.



*Zoe Evans attempts a hit out*



*Half time reflection led by Captain Emily Lewis*

Lower School Hockey continues to thrive! Both the U13 and U12 teams won the majority of their matches. There were great wins against Stafford GS, Wolverhampton GS and Abbots Bromley. The U13s won the North Shropshire Tournament whilst the B team finished third. The U11s and U10s also had a full fixture list but the emphasis here is all about participation and the enjoyment of the game.

### Representative Honours 2008

This term we have had girls in all age groups in the County squads.

**Shropshire U13** Ellie Halstead

**Shropshire U14** Emma Greville (Captain)

**Shropshire U15** Victoria von Hoven

**Shropshire U17** Emily Lewis, Vivian Grudde

Vivian was also selected for the **Midlands Squad**.

I would like to thank all the coaching staff for all their hard work during the season. The success of Girls' Hockey at Ellesmere is hugely down to their motivation and the amount of time they dedicate to their teams' training. A special mention and thank you must go to my co - coach of the 1st XI, Mr Stephen Mullock, who after four years of coaching the 1st XI is stepping down to pursue other responsibilities. I thank him for all his hard work and the support he has shown to Girls' Hockey. He has played an important role in the development of Hockey at the College and he will be a huge loss.

**HLG**



*County Hockey players  
left: Vivian Grudde right: Emily Lewis*

### A Special Message from the Headmaster

I have been impressed, delighted, and very proud of all that has been achieved by the Girls' Hockey teams this year.

For me the Hockey season started in the Summer with the South Africa tour. Apart from the very good performances, the real pleasure of the South Africa tour was in the way in which the players conducted themselves both on and off the field: they were an enormous credit to the College, and a pleasure to be in company with.

This term has been a term of 'highs' and it has been really pleasing to demonstrate our superiority over all the other teams in Shropshire – even though we don't have an Astroturf (definitely top of the list for the next development!).

Unbeaten seasons and significant progress in tournaments is fantastic, of course. However, the icing on the cake for me was a letter I received from a parent of a girl at Oundle School regarding the way in which our team conducted itself and played in the Regional finals.

Well done to everybody involved in the success of Hockey this term: you have set a benchmark for the future and achieved some historic firsts.

**Mr B Wignall**  
**Headmaster**





Miss H.L. Goss O.R. Dingwall-Fordyce J. Maywald C.R. Shearer A. Whittle G.Adams C. Spink V.E. Cooper S.B. Mullock Esq.  
S.L. Newport-Booth E.V.H. Boffey E.R. Lewis E.M. Johnson Z.L. Evans E.J. Wicks V.Z. Grudde

**Summary of Results**

v Stafford Grammar	Won	5 - 0
v King's Chester	Won	8 - 1
v Oswestry Hockey Club	Drew	2 - 2
Sevens Tournament 1st Oct 3rd Place		
Shropshire U19 Tournament Group Winners		
v Moreton Hall	Won	5 - 1
v Abbots Bromley	Won	2 - 0
v Oswestry School	Won	15 - 1
Midlands Tournament	4th in Group	
v Shrewsbury School	Won	9 - 0
v Moreton Hall	Drew	3 - 3
v Wrekin College	Won	2 - 1

A very hectic and busy schedule has seen the 1st X1 make outstanding progress this season. The team said goodbye to several members of the squad from last season and so welcomed some new blood into the squad. Emma Johnson was given the leadership and Emily Lewis was chosen as her understudy in this very promising and talented team. The fixture list was planned meticulously to ensure each game was pushing the ability of the team constantly and this has resulted in some excellent team performances. The squad was also able to benefit further by using the facilities at Lillieshall and RAF Shawbury as part of the team's Wednesday schedule, which helped push on the astro skills to help compete effectively this season. Also the monthly evening fixture at Moreton helped to hone the skills and team dynamic of the squad. The very special South Africa summer tour was very much the pre-season we all hoped it would be. The focus, commitment and spirit bonded throughout the tour was quickly established at the start of

the season as the culture of the team and a winning culture at that. The team this year had belief, a belief that would take them further than many imagined!

**Ellesmere College v Stafford Grammar**

The initial early training sessions had presented the coaches with some selection problems and various systems and players were tried out in this very early competitive fixture. The game proved to be a comprehensive start to the season with early dominance being rewarded with goals from Emily Lewis. The second half was as dominant as the first, as Ellesmere played some impressive hockey which was rounded off with goals for the new 1st team debutants, Olivia and Vivian. The hockey at times was majestic and promised much for the upcoming season.

**Ellesmere College v King's Chester**

First game at home on the grass and a very impressive and dominant performance. From the first whistle Ellesmere took control of the game, with Zoe Evans pulling the strings at the back and Emily Lewis and Vivian Grudde causing havoc for the King's keeper, who in fact had a storming performance and kept the score well below what it could have been.

**Ellesmere College v Oswestry Hockey Club**

This was a new fixture which helped to keep the team focused and the result gave them the realisation that the hard work was ahead of them. Ellesmere twice took the lead but slack defending and an inability to keep the ball was exploited by a strong Oswestry team. The game itself should have been put out of reach much earlier, but the team was able to take away from this the importance of commitment from the first to the last whistle.





*Vivian Grudde puts pressure on a King's player*

### **Sevens Tournament 1st October**

This tournament is often too early for the team in their season's preparation. A slow start put Ellesmere up against it, but a great fight back saw them only just miss out qualifying for the semi-final on goal difference.

### **Shropshire U19 Tournament 8th October**

The team attended the U19s with confidence and found themselves to be in a group with all three Shrewsbury Teams – (Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury Sixth Form, Shrewsbury High). The girls showed their quality by winning all three games, although having to dig deep at times to get the results they needed. In the end they achieved their objective and therefore went into the Shropshire play-off to decide which team went through to represent Shropshire in the Midlands Tournament. This win not only gave the team a huge amount of confidence but it also sent out a clear message as to the quality of the Ellesmere team this year.

### **Ellesmere College v Moreton Hall**

There are times in life when a story is nowhere near as exciting as the real thing and this was a game that had to be witnessed to be believed. This was the play-off game for the U19 tournament and the winner would progress to the Midlands to represent Shropshire. The game could not have started in a worse way and the initial pre-match discussion of a controlled and tight start was misplaced after some sloppy defending let in the Moreton striker to finish and put them 1 - 0 up after three minutes.

Going 1 - 0 down was probably the best thing to happen that night as the sheer commitment of the team was evident on their faces - and on those of the coaches! Time after time Ellesmere pressed but failed to break the goal-keeper's line. However, the girls kept going, with Olivia causing all sorts of problems for the opposition, and this play off the ball enabled Vivian Grudde to score two quick goals before the end of the first half to put Ellesmere ahead at half time. The team talk was very easy with each member knowing what they needed to do in the second half, and boy did they do their job. The team absorbed the pressure Moreton put on them but the passing and moving by Ellesmere was too much for Moreton and time after time Emily Wicks and Steph Newport-Booth breached the back four to set up chances for the forwards. A special short corner routine made it 3 - 1 and further goals from Vivian and Olivia put the game way beyond the opposition.

The final whistle saw scenes previously unseen as parents, pupils and staff were all involved in some of the biggest group hugs ever witnessed. As coaches we have never felt so proud of the team as on that night and it is a memory of which we are very fond. It was exhilarating and an emotional game coupled with the fact that this was the first time the Ellesmere 1st XI Hockey team had qualified for the Midlands heats.

### **Ellesmere College v Abbots Bromley**

The long Wednesday journey was always going to preface a difficult game after the half-term break and a difficult game ensued. Ellesmere had various chances and although the girls did not perform to their best they still had enough quality to win. The sign of a good team is to win even when they don't play well.

### **Ellesmere College v Oswestry School**

If this was a boxing match it would have been stopped very early on. The Ellesmere team at home on the grass soon put Oswestry to the sword and the opposition struggled to contain our width and ability across the pitch. Captain Emma Johnson scored one of the best goals ever in her time at Ellesmere and at half time the score was 7 - 0. The team formation changed dramatically in the second half but even though defenders were up-front we still managed to create and score some well-worked goals. Nine of the team managed to get on the score sheet, even Charlotte Shearer, but only she'll know whether she actually scored or not! (Sorry Charlotte, couldn't resist). It is important to say how impressed I was with the attitude and team spirit of the Oswestry team. They never once complained or argued with each other and kept working right to the end of the game and this speaks volumes for the opposition and their approach to Hockey in general!

### **Midlands Tournament 10th November**

The team traveled down on Sunday night to prepare for the Midlands heat. The word 'heat' is quite ironic as a very wet and miserable Monday in Coventry saw the girls take on teams from across the region. The pitches were flooded in parts and the driving rain and wind got too much for a few of the team. The girls played really well first game but failed to take advantage of the chances made and ended up losing 1 - 0. The next game was not as good in comparison and although we pulled the game back to 1 - 1 we still allowed too much room for the opponents and lost 2 - 1. The final game saw us meet the eventual winners of the group and the gap between the two teams was evident in the clinical way they dispatched their chances. Ellesmere had enough opportunities in all three games but just could not find their usual cutting edge.

### **Ellesmere College v Shrewsbury School**

After a difficult Midlands heat two days previously, the girls responded well and gave a great reply in a convincing and thoroughly impressive performance. Although there were some tired legs out on the pitch all the squad rallied round each other and soon found the fluency that had been missing from the previous matches. The girls made and scored some impressive goals and left feeling in much higher spirits than they had when leaving Coventry.

### **Ellesmere College v Moreton Hall (2)**

The excitement of the first meeting was never replicated, neither was the performance. A poor first half saw Ellesmere throw away a 1 - 0 lead to be behind 3 - 1. Thankfully, after a change of personnel and some honest words at half time, the team gave a stronger second half display which helped them secure a draw from what was the clutches of defeat.



*Emily Lewis at Moreton Hall*

### **Ellesmere College v Wrekin College**

The nature of this fixture was always going to be special, having not beaten the Wrekin First team for many years. Coupled with the fact that Ellesmere had remained unbeaten in all calendared fixtures it meant this was going to be historic one way or the other. An amazingly competitive and physical game saw Ellesmere cope with early pressure and then start to dominate the game in key areas. The midfield play was outstanding and the way the girls moved the ball and created chances was at times mesmerising, with the Wrekin post twice coming to the aid of the defenceless keeper. With the



score at half time 0 - 0 it was going to take something special to separate the teams.

In terms of special this year at Ellesmere read Emily Lewis. Yet again some shrewd play between Emily and Vivian left Emily on the top of the D and before any player had chance to close her down she dispatched the ball well out of reach of the advancing keeper. Minutes later a short corner routine left the ball on Emily's reverse stick and she duly flicked it past the keeper to give Ellesmere some breathing space. The Wrekin team kept advancing and a quick move left the Ellesmere keeper stranded and the goal was put away. The last five minutes were ferocious and no-one emulated or depicted the spirit of the team more than Emma Johnson, who was everywhere in the last moments of battle, leading by example and doing everything she could to ensure the team got the victory they so wanted. The final whistle blew on the match and the season and at last the girls could not only celebrate a very impressive win but a win which gave them an unbeaten season, a first for Girls' Hockey and one which will probably not be repeated for many years to come.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my co-coach and right arm in Hockey, Miss Goss. Miss Goss has over the last few years



*The fun element was never lost!*

brought a new passion and commitment to Girls' Hockey, and this season is the start of what could be a fruitful legacy at the College. Miss Goss puts in a huge amount of work at all levels and this drive has certainly been absorbed by the teams at all age groups and has made Girls' Hockey much stronger for it. The season from start to finish has been great fun and her ambition to see the team perform has been inspirational for all involved in Hockey at Ellesmere. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all involved in Girls' Hockey for all their help and support this term, especially the ground staff and all those who have supported the girls in their games.

Special mentions must go to the captain Emma Johnson, who has worked tirelessly and who has been ably assisted by Emily Lewis, now a veteran of the 1st XI. Every member of the team has played to the best of their ability and has done anything that was asked of them. It would be impossible to be able to mention each player but collectively they know what they have achieved this year and what Ellesmere history will say about them. They have rightly taken their place in the sporting excellence of the College and should feel very proud of their achievements and performances.

The final mention must also go to the army of fans who have travelled with us far and wide this season. To have parents, family, friends and Steph's doggie coming to watch and support the team gives them an enormous lift and we are indebted to all who have given up their time or rescheduled their own working arrangements so they can support the team on our various travels this year.

As we now say goodbye to several members of the squad, the season was a moment in time but very much a moment in history. I would hope that all involved in this season's exploits will look back at times and feel duly proud of what they have managed to achieve.

**SBM**

### Season Goal Scorers

Emily Lewis	20 goals (including 6 hat-tricks)
Vivian Grudde	16 goals (including 4 hat-tricks)
Olivia Dingwall-Fordyce	11 goals ( including 1 hat-trick)
Stephanie Newport-Booth	7 goals
Emily Wicks	5 goals
Carolin Spink	2 goals
Ashley Whittle	2 goals
Emma Johnson	1 goal
Charlotte Shearer	1 goal
<b>Player of the Year</b>	Emily Lewis
<b>Players' Player</b>	Zoe Evans

### Squad

Emma Johnson (Captain), Ashley Whittle, Georgie Adams, Charlotte Shearer, Jennie Maywald, Zoe Evans, Emily Lewis, Caroline Spink, Emily Wicks, Stephanie Newport-Booth, Olivia Dingwall-Fordyce, Vivian Grudde, Virginia (Nin) Cooper, Elizabeth Boffey

### Shropshire Schools U16 Hockey Tournament

Ellesmere started their quest for the Midlands Regional Finals of the National Schools Championships for Girls against Moreton Hall. Despite a relatively even-sided match Ellesmere began to dominate, keeping most of the possession. They were unfortunate not to score on several occasions, but efficient passing and great skill emerged frequently.

The next match against Meole Brace was trouble-free. However, the girls knew that they had to maintain a high standard to gain a high goal difference. The ball was retained within the attacking half throughout the match, resulting in much pressure being placed upon the opposing defence. The keeper played remarkably well in an attempt to minimise Ellesmere's scoring opportunities; nevertheless the team managed to win the match 5 - 0. Persistent work from Emily Lewis resulted in a hat-trick, and a forceful strike from Vivian Grudde and Zoe Evans gained them a goal each.

Ellesmere began to assert their dominance in the final game against Shrewsbury High School. Early into the match Vivian Grudde scored from a short corner strike, and although further chances were imminent no goals were scored.

**AP**

### Ellesmere College U16 Hockey Tournament

Following last year's results of runners-up, the U16 team were keen to ensure their victory this year. They started brightly, beating Marches 3 - 0, with Emily Lewis scoring two goals and Sophie Halstead deflecting Vivian Grudde's shot into the back of the net. The next game against Moreton Hall was much closer, resulting in a goalless draw. Despite the efforts of Vivian Grudde and Zoe Evans to drive the ball towards the D, the team were unable to score the winning goal. In their third match Ellesmere increased the pace, dominating Stafford Grammar with a 4 - 0 win. A great short corner opened the scoring, as Vivian Grudde slipped the ball to Viola Grosvenor, who forced it into the far corner. Stephanie Newport-Booth was next to score, as she quickly reached the keeper's rebound and swept it in. Vivian Grudde was also eager to score, adding another two goals on the score sheet.

After lunch, the girls were once again faced with several scoring opportunities just missing the goal, resulting in another goalless draw against Bishop Heber. With the final match needing a win against Queen's Chester, the girls were aware of their task and were determined to finish with style. Forceful work throughout the midfield ensured Ellesmere gained the upper hand. Mel Evans and Charlotte Shearer worked hard to intercept the ball, hold up play and break down any opposing advancement. Emily Lewis was the goal-scorer for both goals, linking with Vivian Grudde to score the first and then scoring the second after taking on the Queens' defence. The girls worked extremely hard all day to perform to a high standard, and were duly rewarded with the winner's trophy.

**AP**





Dr. R. Chatterjee S.R. Collison E. L. MacLiam Roberts A.V. Lewis-Bolton A.E. Sloan L.A. Harrington C.M. Fieldhouse P.A. Sole M.A. Evans  
S.C. Wolfson C.R.D. Boffey S.L. Halstead M.F. Dingwall (Captain) K.K. Lam V.S. Leadbeater A.J. Cooper

### Summary of Results

v Abbots Bromley	Won	1 - 0
v Oswestry	Match cancelled due to their water-logged pitch	
v Morton Hall	Lost	1 - 5
v Wrekin College	Lost	1 - 4

This year's squad were very much a development squad, preparing them to play for the First Team next year. In addition, there were a few matches that the team were training for. Team captain, Molly Dingwall, brought plenty of enthusiasm to the training sessions and, along with many of the other Seniors, set the standard. Training took place both on our grass home pitches and on AstroTurf at Shawbury. Teamwork was the name of the game and everyone worked well together, showing real determination, especially during our games when we were put under pressure.

Amy, Amber, Sam, Alex and Carys played solidly in defence, ably supporting keeper Flo. This formidable defensive line helped keep us in the match on more than one occasion. Molly and Lydia generally played up front and put the opposition under pressure when they got through on the break. Good running in the midfield allowed the ball to be moved into the opposition's D. Pippa, Ella, Zoe and Sophie showed a good turn of pace down the wings. The links set up with Lucy, Charlotte, Mel and Hannah enabled real pressure to be put on the opposition. Results did not always go our way, but everyone always gave it their all. The experience gained throughout the (2008) term has resulted in about six

members of the seconds being selected for the 2009 Firsts.

### RC

### Squad

Florentine Karrer, Mel Evans, Amy Cooper, Amber Lewis-Bolton, Rebecca Britton, Molly Dingwall (captain), Pippa Sole, Lucy Forgrave, Carys Fieldhouse, Sam Wolfson, Vicky Leadbeater, Charlotte Boffey, Zoe Haynes, Sophie Halstead, Hannah Phillips, Ella Walker, Valentina Horst, Viola Grosvenor, Lydia Lam, Tessa Fawcett, Lucy Harrington, Sydney Collinson, Alex Sloan

They say what goes around comes around. Three years ago at Wolverhampton I witnessed Ellesmere's fabled Junior A side batter the Grammar School girls 9 - 0 in the most impressive school team performance I have ever seen. This season the boot was on the other foot and the College U15s went down by the reverse score, highlighting all too clearly that our squad was a little short on numbers and experience. Stretched resources were weakened further at the very start of term with the news that Francine McSally-Parsons would miss the whole season with a knee ligaments injury. Reka Kanniss, Raphaela Ring and Luca Kuhn nobly pitched in having never played the game before, but even with them on board we were only just able to field eleven players in the early part of the term in which King's Chester and Wrekin also inflicted heavy defeats.





H.M. Cumpston J.L. Griffiths R.M.M. Ring K.E. Neary  
R.E. Kaniess C.L. Prydden G.T.M. Tomlinson S.A.H. Richardson V.A. von Hoven

After the Wolverhampton match it was decided to bolster the team with Year 9 players where possible and so the likes of Bethany Lyttle, Eve Davies, Georgina Ottaway, Kate Norman, Faye Liley and Eleanor Biggs all joined the ranks at various times. The improvement was tangible and results were far more favourable; a draw in a tight match with Rydal that we might have shaded, courtesy of Kate's deflected goal, and a 3 – 0 win over Oswestry, the highlights of which were Eve's short-corner strike and her bewilderment as it thumped into the backboard for her first ever goal.

Whilst the season was a struggle, credit must go to those hearty U15s who braved it out. Victoria von Hoven kept a number of scores respectable and retained her place as the County keeper. Hannah Cumpston was switched to centre back early on and this suited her athletic prowess. She was undoubtedly the most overworked player on the team. Sarah Richardson, Freya West and Jenny Griffiths also pitched in as solid defenders, and

Katherine Neary discovered that she really could play hockey and made a decent left winger. Sarah Wicks buzzed up and down the other flank and learned not always to go for the big, booming cross when a slipped pass would suffice. Chloe Prydden charged around the opposition half, threatening life and limb and helping herself to a couple of neat goals in the process. And finally, Grace Tomlinson did her level best to shore up the midfield, covered every blade of grass and proved to be a very decent captain. Miss Killen provided the technical expertise in training and most of the umpiring on Saturdays. Mr Bongers provided the vocal support from the touchline.

**TFB**

**Squad**

H M Cumpston, J L Griffiths, R E Kaniess, K E Neary,  
C L Prydden, G T M Tomlinson, V A von Hoven



Ellesmere College  U14 Hockey  
20 08



A.M. Greville E.H. Davies S. Gatenby S.C. Carr K.L.D. Parry S.L. Walker-Smith G.E. Cutcliffe Miss A. Pugh  
E.V. Biggs G.Y. Ottaway B.H. Lyttle K. Norman A.H. Brooks S.H. Khan

Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as bad weather, several U14 matches were cancelled during the term. Consequently, the team only played two matches, yet several players were called upon to strengthen the U15 team.

A 5 - 0 victory in the girls' first match against Abbots Bromley gave them much confidence at the start of the season. The team attacked with much enthusiasm, with Alice Greville and Scarlett Walker-Smith working effortlessly to hold up the opponent's play and instigate attacking opportunities. They were ably supported by Bethany Lyttle, who controlled the defensive structure to break down any opposing advancement.

Quick responses from Georgina Ottaway near the far post resulted in her hat-trick before half time. Kate Norman then increased the lead by reacting to the keeper's initial save, and she angled the ball into the corner of the goal. Ottaway was once again strategically situated near her favourite post when Scarlett Walker-Smith provided a forceful ball across the D. Ottaway scored a spectacular goal to end the match, when she swept the ball into the top corner of the goal.

The team's second match against Wolverhampton Grammar School was open-ended throughout, with both teams gaining mutual possession. Good defensive structure allowed the team to press as a unit, but also demonstrated supportive overlapping play to minimise the opponent's threat. Norman was the scorer of both goals within the game. The match became exciting at times, particularly as the opposing team equalised the score to 1 - 1. In response, the girls continued to attack with much vigour and dynamism and were awarded for their efforts when Norman scored her second goal.

The girls developed cohesive play within their team, with several players demonstrating an advanced understanding of tactics and strategy as the season progressed. The year-group offers much potential for their next Hockey term.

**AP**

**Squad**

A H Brooks, E V Biggs, S C Carr, G E Cutcliffe, E H Davies,  
S Gatenby, A M Greville, S H Khan, B H Lyttle, K Norman,  
K L D Parry, G Y Ottaway, S L Walker-Smith



## Lent Term

Ellesmere College



Senior Sevens

20

09



L.L. Williams (Coach) M.W. Mann J.P. Webb R.L. Hayes L.T. Walters A.J. Wantling M.N. Padgett P.A. Goodwin (Coach)  
C.P. Thomas A.K. Sesay G.D. Brereton H.J. Hackett (Capt.) E.W. Crispin M.D. Jones J.A. Ewer

### Brecon Sevens

v Llandovery College	Won	24 - 7
v Kirkam	Won	34 - 5
v St Josephs College	Won	19 - 15
v Glantaf	Won	31 - 7
v Champion	Won	24 - 19
v Millfield	Lost	7 - 26

This was the first real warm-up tournament of the year and we did very well, reaching the semi-finals, which is the best result we have achieved in this tournament. We finally lost to Millfield 7 - 26 in the semi-final, which was the best result anyone had posted against them all day. They were, quite frankly, superb; another league again. They went on to win the tournament. Speaking with the organiser of the event he told me that the semi-finals had come out as he predicted, i.e. the top four seeds. For us to be ranked as one of the top four (and on the day we were arguably the second best team there) is a massive move forward.

### The Fylde Sevens

v Warwick	Lost	26 - 28
v St Joseph's College	Won	35 - 5
v Filton College	Lost	14 - 19
v Ashville College	Won	24 - 0
v Woodhouse Grove	Won	49 - 0
Plate		
v Robert Clack School	Won	49 - 0
v Ivybridge Com. College	Won	21 - 19
v Dame Allen's School	Won	35 - 5
v Filton College (Final)	Lost	0 - 30

Ellesmere were at the Fylde Sevens on the 14th and 15th March and found themselves with other schools in what was known as 'The Group of Death'. The group contained Filton, Warwick, St Joseph's, Woodhouse Grove and Ashville College.

We began slowly against Warwick and made a number of mistakes, gifting several tries, eventually to lose the game 28 - 26. We then played St Joseph's College where we defended extremely well and shut them out with very good tackling and ball retention to run out winners 35 - 5. This team won the group! This then led to one of the deciding matches against Filton College, against whom we then went down by 19 - 14, three tries to two. We then completed the first day with a win against Ashville College 24 - 0.

In Day Two we finished off the group games by beating Woodhouse

Grove School and then waited to see if we would go through into the main competition or the Plate. As it happened the team that we beat the most heavily, St Joseph's, beat the other two so they were group winners along with Warwick, and that left us and Filton to go into the Plate. In the preliminary round of the Plate competition we played Robert Clack School and won that 49 - 0. We then moved onto a very difficult quarter-final against Ivybridge, which we won in sudden death; as they went to put the ball down for a try we knocked the ball from their hands and ran away with it to just beat them 21 - 19. That gave us a semi-final place against Dame Allen's School against whom we ran out winners 35 - 5, putting us through into the final, so at the end of a very long two days we were now in the final only to play Filton College again, who this time ran out easy winners 30 - 0. It was a long two days, a great effort from everybody concerned. We had been given one of the hardest groups anyway and had played just about everybody that was of any quality at the tournament. It was a very commendable performance. Warwick and St Joseph's made the main semi-finals, Filton won the Plate and Woodhouse Grove won the Bowl.

### North of England Sevens

v Calday Grange	Won 29 - 12	v Rishworth	Won 38 - 12
v Birkenhead	Won 31 - 0	v King's Worcester	Won 31 - 7

#### Quarter-final

v Hymers Lost 10 - 31

A good performance on the day as this is always a difficult tournament to win through the group. Playing on a small pitch in the group stages we were able to play direct sevens through the middle. When we moved down to the large Birkenhead Park pitch we were exposed for pace against a very fast Hymers side who went on to the final.

### Rosslyn Park Sevens

v Sir William Borlase	Won 38 - 5	v Dulwich	Lost 14 - 24
v RGS Guildford	Lost 10 - 19	v Christ's Brecon	Won 22 - 7

A spirited performance at Rosslyn in a strong group saw us lose some close games in the middle stages, resulting in an early exit without going on to the knockout stages.

### PAG

#### Squad

G D Brereton, E W Crispin, J A Ewer, H J Hackett (Captain),  
R L Hayes, M D Jones, M W Mann, M N Padgett, A K Sesay,  
C P Thomas, L T Walter, A J Wantling, J P Webb



Ellesmere College  U15 Sevens  
20 09



A.W.J. Cross J. Smith O.B.L. Roberts S.L. Owen J.G. Brewitt M.D.T. Sampson Esq.  
T.H. Clutton M.R. Macintosh G.E. Hymes (Capt.) J.W. Baxter T. Dobie

It has to be said that the first outing of the season at Adams Grammar School was a little bit of a disappointment. Although we started well by putting Sandbach to the sword by 29 - 7 we also showed the penchant for making silly errors which was to cost us dear later on. Against Old Swinford we were excellent for a period of time when, up hill, we turned a 5 - 12 deficit at half time into a 24 - 12 lead before allowing the opposition back in to draw 24 apiece. This game clearly indicated the value of a good kick-off versus a poor one and what happens if you are not instantly ready to receive a kick-off when you have had a score against you. This meant that to win the group we would have to beat Birkenhead by a cricket score. As it was we were fortunate to win at all since we turned over possession time after time, only running out victors by 21 - 19. Thus, having come second in our group on points scored, we played Adam's in the semi-final. We were clearly not at our best and it was only in the last couple of minutes that we got amongst them, put pressure on and caused them to make mistakes. On this meeting their 35 - 0 win was a fair result.

At Warwick we had drawn an extremely tough group, with two of our three opposition teams having reached the semi-finals of the National Knockout Cup! However our first match was against Solihull School and good pace from Jack Smith saw us score wide out. Straight from the kick-off our defence was found wanting and the opposition levelled the score. Typically strong running from George Hymes, with Hugh Clutton converting, meant that we led at half-time. From the re-start, despite working hard in defence, we conceded two tries and found ourselves behind with little time remaining. By keeping possession from their kick-off and working the ball through several pairs of hands Jack Smith was again given some space. He made the most of it to run in the winning try, Hugh adding the extra two points to leave us triumphant by 19 - 15. The second game saw us play Millfield. A well-drilled side, they were up extremely quickly in defence and gained several turn-overs to establish a big lead by half time. We had ourselves fashioned several breaks but, lacking anyone with extreme pace, were not able to support the runner to convert the chances into points. With fresh legs coming on in the second half we competed well and shaded the half with scores from George and Angus Cross, who also converted both to leave the score 14 - 38. This meant that we had to defeat Barnard Castle School, who had defeated Millfield, to go through. Things did not start well when, having pressured the opposition from the kick-off, we allowed them to break out and go the length to score under the posts. However, we fought back and some excellent handling meant that we could spread the ball wide to left allowing Jack Baxter to scamper

over, Hugh converting to level the score. Whilst we competed well, scrapping for every loose ball, some handling errors conceded possession and gaps appeared in the defensive line, the opposition scoring twice more to leave us 7-19 down at the break. The opposition proved too speedy and well-drilled for us to stage a come-back although we did achieve a final score through Jack Smith with an impressive sprint down the left wing to score wide out. A loss by 12 - 31 was no disgrace but it meant our exit from this quality tournament.

The final tournament was at King's Worcester. Travelling with a reduced squad, the side made a good start running in three unanswered tries in the first half of the first game against Colston's, before finishing as comfortable winners by 31 - 5. We knew that the next game v Old Swinford (who had lost to Bromsgrove) would decide our fate in the group. It was a pity that we made a number of handling errors and found ourselves 0 - 14 down in short time. However a strong run from George Hymes brought things back to 7 - 14 at half time. A similar score straight after the break brought us level and gave us every chance. Unfortunately some elementary mistakes led to us taking ball into contact and losing possession. The opposition took full advantage to run out winners by 28-14. We now had to beat Bromsgrove to have a chance. We conceded straight away as a missed tackle let them down the middle but Todd Dobie was sent away on the wing and had the pace to score under the posts. Moving the ball better than we had in any other game this season enabled Jack Smith to make a break and with some super footwork he wrong-footed their sweeper and out-paced them to the line; 14 - 7 to us. In the second half they redoubled their efforts and eventually broke through to level the scores. Both teams had chances to win - we had a 5m scrum but could not get the ball out cleanly, they broke on the outside but George did just enough to make their winger clip the touchline - but the end result was a 14-all draw. Despite our running in six tries against Warwick to win by 36 - 7 we could not go through. It was annoying that the team that won the other group was Solihull whom we had defeated the previous week! Given the quality of opposition that we faced an overall record of five wins, two draws and four losses was a good return for a side starved of preparation time.

**MDTS**

**Squad**

G Hymes, M Macintosh, J Smith, O Roberts, A Cross, H Clutton, T Dobie, J Baxter, J Brewitt, S Thurmer, S Owen, G Fashanu.





E.J.Wicks L.V.Forgrave A.S.J.Jackland E.R.Lewis Miss H.L.Goss  
E.J.Gore Z.L.Evans V.E.Cooper V.G.Grosvenor O.R.Dingwall-Fordyce

Ellesmere College Netball enjoyed another successful season on the courts. Having successfully extended the fixture list over the last couple of seasons, new fixtures again were introduced to increase the competition for the girls. Wolverhampton Grammar and Thomas Telford, known nationally for their Netball success, proved to be tough competition but valuable in order for us to continue the development of Netball at Ellesmere.

This year we fielded thirteen teams again, with many years fielding an A and a B team. This means that over one hundred girls have represented Ellesmere at some point over the term.

North Shropshire Tournaments were the highlight of the term for many of our teams. They are always hotly contested with around ten schools in the region entering. The U16s performed the best and won the competition by beating all seven teams that entered in a round robin competition. The U12s and 1sts both ended runners-up in the tournaments and the U14s failed to qualify for the semi-finals but had beaten the eventual winners in the group stage.

The First Team were a mix of old and new players, a group of talented girls who developed as the term progressed. The team was captained by Nin Cooper. She led the way both in training and on court in matches. All of the First Team deserve to be commended on their attitude and passion to play for Ellesmere College as they act as excellent role models to the younger teams. The Seconds also deserve a mention as over the last couple of seasons they have pushed the Firsts all the way.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Netball this term. All coaches put a lot of hard work into their teams and this year the hard work has definitely paid off. Thanks!

**HLG**

### 1st VII Netball Summary of Results

v King's Chester	Won	26 – 22
v Thomas Telford	Lost	18 – 38
v Oswestry School	Lost	23 – 33
v Bedstone College	Won	19 – 9
v Abbots Bromley	Lost	17 – 21
v Rydal Penrhos	Lost	13 – 45
v Denstone College	Won	26 – 12
v Thomas Telford	Lost	20 – 32
v Wolverhampton	Lost	12 – 21

### North Shropshire Tournament

Finished: Runners Up

v Moreton Hall	Won	6 – 2
v Thomas Adams	Won	14 – 6
v Oswestry School	Lost	9 – 13
v Walford North Shropshire	Won	18 – 1

With half of the squad being new players, it didn't take long for the girls to gel as one successful team. Team selection always proved to be difficult due to the dedication of the girls in training and their commitment to play. Even though we had only won three of our matches this term, many of our matches were evenly matched and proved to be good competition. We faced tough competition during the term from Rydal Penrhos, who have been Welsh Champions, and Thomas Telford, who had reached the National Finals. However, these matches were considered to be valuable experience and as a coach I was proud of the girls for raising their game and never giving up.

The shooters, Emma Johnson and Ailsa Jackland, played well together in the circle and once the ball got into their possession their shooting success rate was very high. Centre court players of Emily Wicks, Emma Gore and Emily Lewis were strong and competed well against all of the schools we played. Our defence unit of Viola Grosvenor and captain Nin Cooper were excellent and worked hard in all of the matches and were often commended by the oppositions' coach. A special mention should be given to Emma Johnson and Molly Dingwall who have represented the College at First Team level for three years and have played a huge role in the development of Netball.

We finished runners up in the annual U19 North Shropshire Tournament. The crunch match was against Oswestry School. In a very tense, competitive match, it was very even but Oswestry had the upper hand in the end winning 13 – 9.

**HLG**

### Squad

Ailsa Jackland, Emma Johnson, Emma Gore, Emily Lewis, Emily Wicks, Olivia Dingwall Fordyce, Molly Dingwall, Nin Cooper, Viola Grosvenor, Lucy Forgrave, Zoe Evans

The following awards were given:

**Best Player Award:** Emily Wicks

**Most Improved Player:** Ailsa Jackland

**Players' Player Award:** Viola Grosvenor

**Full Colours:** Nin Cooper, Emma Gore, Molly Dingwall, Emma Johnson, Emily Wicks, Emily Lewis, Ailsa Jackland



Ellesmere College  2nd Netball  
20 09



T.E. Renner Z.E. Haynes J.E. Kennerley S.L. Newport-Booth C.R. Shearer J.A. Eckhoff Mrs S. Owen  
S.L. Halstead V.S. Leadbeater E.V.H. Boffey T.A. Fawcett R.A.L. Britton

### Summary of Results

v Adcote	Won	15 – 5
v Oswestry School	Won	20 – 3
v Abbots Bromley Girls	Lost	10 – 12
v Stafford Grammar U16s	Won	17 – 11
v Rydal Penrhos	Won	18 – 11
v Denstone College	Lost	26 – 27
v Thomas Telford	Won	22 – 19
v Wolverhampton Grammar	Lost	20 – 22

2009 was a super season for the Seconds. Lizzie Boffey was elected as captain and really worked hard to pull the squad together. The squad as a result had a supportive atmosphere and all matches were played competitively but with an eye on fairness to ensure that all squad members had an equal share of play throughout the season.

The squad worked hard in training and as ever snapped at the heels of the First Team to keep them on their toes and earning

their First Team positions. As a result of the squad's constant improvement a number of the Second Team players were selected to play for the First Team as the end of the season drew to a close. This testifies to the hard work and serious attitude that the Second Team players had put into training sessions and their quest for improvement. As the list shows there were some competitive matches and the Seconds secured some fine wins. The girls were a great group to work with and I look forward to next Netball season!

### SO

#### Squad

Elizabeth Boffey (captain), Tessa Fawcett, Zoe Evans,  
Tanya Renner, Julie Kennerley, Lucy Harrington,  
Sam Wolfson, Rhian Davies, Polly Russell,  
Stephanie Newport-Booth, Sophie Halstead, Vicky Leadbeater,  
Zoe Haynes, Charlotte Shearer, Rebecca Britton,  
Jennifer Eckhoff, Lucy Forgrave



**North Shropshire U16 Netball Tournament**

Finished: Winners

v Corbett	Won	9 - 4
v Marches	Won	9 - 2
v Thomas Adams	Won	13 - 2
v Moreton Hall	Won	4 - 2
v The Grove	Won	11 - 2

During the tournament, held at Ellesmere College, the U16 team won all their games convincingly and were well-deserved winners. It was an excellent finish to a successful Netball term for the U16 Girls.

**U16 Netball Team**

Back from left: Stephanie Newport-Booth, Lucy Forgrave, Emily Lewis, Charlotte Shearer  
 Front from left: Sophie Halstead, Zoe Evans, Victoria Leadbeater  
 Absent: Viola Grosvenor



**Ellesmere College**



**U15 Netball**

20

09



Miss L. Killen S.A.H. Richardson H.M. Cumpston J.L. Griffiths L.F. Kuhn E.A. McSalley-Parsons  
 S.A. Osborne C.L. Prydden G.T.M. Tomlinson V.A. von Hoven S.E. Wicks

**Summary of Results**

v Stafford Grammar	Lost	2 - 19
v Wrekin College	Lost	7 - 28
v Oswestry	Lost	10 - 27
v Bedstone (U15/U14)	Drew	6 - 6
v Rydal	Lost	4 - 44
v Wolverhampton	Lost	4 - 49

The U15 team were pitted against some quality opposition throughout the season and often found the going pretty tough. We played Stafford Grammar, Wrekin College, Oswestry School, Rydal Penrhos and Wolverhampton Grammar School. Many of these teams were packed full of County and Regional players. The team showed fortitude and determination, despite being on the

end of some heavy defeats. Unfortunately, we lost our number one shooter to injury part-way through the season and struggled to score sufficient goals to really threaten teams. We were able to introduce some novice players into the team and most of the year group were given the opportunity to represent the school. We fielded a combined U15/14 team against Bedstone College and in a fiercely contested match held them to a 6-6 draw.

**LK**

**Squad**

G Tomlinson, C Prydden, V von Hoven, L Kuhn, J Griffiths,  
 S Richardson, H Cumpston, R Ring, R Kanniss,  
 F McSalley-Parsons, S Osborne, F West, S Wicks



# Ellesmere College



# U14A Netball

20

09



Mrs.T.Cox E.H.Davies K.L.D.Parry G.Y.Ottaway B.H.Lyttle  
E.V.Biggs A.H.Brooks C.A.Edwards S.Gatenby K.Norman

### Summary of Results

v Stafford Grammar	Lost	6 - 34
v Abbots Bromley	Won	15 - 2
v Wrekin College	Lost	6 - 35
v Rydal	Won	26 - 17
v Oswestry School	Drew	18 - 18
v Denstone College	Lost	9 - 24
v Wolverhampton	Lost	20 - 22

After a difficult start to the season, with limited practise time due to icy weather, the girls worked hard to improve on their first match, a demoralising defeat at Stafford Grammar. In the next match there was a marked improvement on their passing and goal-scoring opportunities. We controlled the mid-court and achieved a well-deserved victory. Our next game was against a very strong team from Wrekin. Unfortunately we became very despondent in this game; after a strong start our game went to pieces. We made some very silly mistakes and became a bit lazy in creating attacking opportunities. After this defeat we had lots of areas to work on and the girls responded really well and had a fantastic win away at Rydal where they played their best netball of the season. The girls continued to improve and take new ideas on board and were very unlucky not to win their last game of the season at Wolverhampton.

The North Shropshire Tournament was a huge disappointment for the girls as they started poorly against a team that we know we should have beaten. We then went on to win all of our games including a match against the team that won the overall competition.

Overall it was a good season with some excellent netball played and the girls put in a lot of effort and were keen to improve. They will be a good strong team next season I am sure.

**AP**

# Ellesmere College



# U14B Netball

20

09



O.G.Fisher M.D.Brenninkmeyer G.E.Cutcliffe S.C.Carr B.A.Porter B.H.Lyttle Miss A.Pugh  
D.G.Clarke E.N.Hobbs S.H.Khan L.A.Jones E.R.Marley

### Summary of Results

v Stafford Grammar School	Drew	12 - 12
v Wrekin College	Lost	0 - 25
v Oswestry School	Lost	5 - 7
v Denstone College	Lost	11 - 26

The U14B team demonstrated much effort and determination to secure success during their season, and many pupils within the year have been given the opportunity to represent the school. They started with a worthy draw against Stafford Grammar School. Despite Ellesmere falling behind, Scarlett Walker-Smith and Elly Hobbs responded positively and worked hard to equalise. However, the team struggled to maintain the lead once they were ahead. Alice Greville and Sofia Khan were key within mid-court. They quickly advanced the ball towards the attacking circle, creating many scoring opportunities.

To follow was an exceptionally tough match against a tall and agile Wrekin College team. The girls struggled to maintain possession beyond their centre third, but they learned from the experience. A close match against Oswestry School told a tale of two halves, as Ellesmere dominated the first and then lapsed in the second. Missed opportunities allowed Oswestry to equalize and then unfortunately take the lead. Finally, the girls played Denstone College. Once again they faced a strong and skillful team, yet the girls showed good potential at times.

**AP**





Mr G. Owen J.R. Cole A.T. Coubrough F. Anderson G. Forgrave T.Y. Madaus C.R. Clutton Mr J. Morgan  
J. Maddock-James F.A. Faller M.A. Pearson H.R.L. Grosvenor (C.) T.H. Dreyer J.W. Evans J. Smithers

This has been a good year for Football; again we have grown in ability and managed to field nine teams from U10 right through to the 1st XI. Well over a hundred boys have represented the school. Positive results this year were 47%, which is pleasing to see. We have to take into consideration that two weekends of football had to be cancelled due to the appalling weather we had at the beginning of term; if these had been played we would have definitely had over 50% positive results.

Praise must go to the 1st XI squad who have had their best year for some time, seven wins and only two losses to stronger opposition. After Half Term they did not concede a goal, such was their strength on the field. The U15s continue to show they are a strong Football team, with some good wins over Abbeygate and Wolverhampton Grammar. The U14 team also played some good football and although they only won their last match the progress they have made is excellent.

At Lower School age we have some good players. The U13 team look very good and they should go on to do well as they enter Middle School.



Football practice - with such commitment no wonder we had a good year!

Overall the quality of the football is the best it has been for many a year and long may it continue this way.

IR

### 1st XI Football Summary of Results

v Bedstone College	Cancelled
v Shrewsbury Sixth form College	Won 4 - 2
v Wolverhampton Grammar	Lost 1 - 2
v Sandbach	Lost 1 - 7
v Denstone College	Cancelled
v Old Swinford Hospital	Won 2 - 0
v Bedstone College	Won 8 - 0
v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College	Won 1 - 0
v Stafford Grammar School	Won 3 - 0
v Rydal	Won 11 - 0
v Old Ellesmerians	Won 5 - 1

This was a successful season and hopefully one to build on for next year; thirty-six goals for and only twelve against. The weather once again took a couple of fixtures but winning seven out of nine games is impressive and there was only one game that we failed to perform in. I would like to thank the boys and all that were involved with and supported the Football teams this year. I would also like to thank Mr G Owen for assisting with the coaching and Mr H Orr for organizing the Football Dinner.

#### Ellesmere College v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

Due to particularly cold weather and frozen pitches this was our first game of the season and the first time that the coaches could have a good look at the abilities of the boys selected. There were a number of newcomers, and Shrewsbury Sixth Form are always an organised side and are already fifteen weeks ahead in their season, having played the Autumn term.



### Ellesmere College v Sandbach

Our only disappointing performance of the season. We took the lead through a penalty early on but from then on failed to compete in midfield and squandered good scoring chances. Sandbach were the complete opposite. It is no exaggeration to say they had eight shots on goal and scored seven - they were clinical. We created many more chances but could not hit a barn door.

### Ellesmere College v Old Swinford Hospital

Finally, after struggling with the weather during the first half of term, we had almost perfect weather conditions and an excellent playing surface for our first game in February. We started brightly in Midfield and up front, and Andy Coubrough brought a good save from the opposition keeper. However we did not attack the aerial ball to their big centre forward and too often put ourselves under pressure, allowing them two shots on goal from balls we should have dealt with. The second shot looked like a goal but for the acrobatics of Toby Madaus in goal. We began to steady the ship and left back Charlie Clutton neutralised the threat of their other forward, showing good strength. At right back Jordan Evans was becoming more of a presence and, as he grew in confidence, started to control the right hand side. We finished the first half strongly but a level score sheet was about right.

At half time we made changes. Maddock-James replaced Forgrave in the heart of defence and showed strength and determination. Central midfielders Hugh Grosvenor and Mark Pearson began to dominate in midfield and demanded effort from their team mates. While Pearson was strong, Grosvenor put in the leg-work and the work rate from all the team started causing problems for the opposition as mounting pressure led to defensive mistakes.

Firstly Sharky was denied by a good save and then Smithers saw his shot go agonisingly wide. Then Anderson and Grosvenor linked up well and when Grosvenor crossed to the near post Sharky attacked it and lifted the ball over the keeper. The ball came out off the crossbar and Smithers followed in, putting his initial shot onto the crossbar. When it rebounded for the second time he forced it home. This caused OSH to push in search of an equalizer, but our back four stood firm with Cole marshalling with growing confidence. With five minutes to go, good work on the right saw Sharky cut back from the by-line. His cross was cleared into the path of Anderson who struck accurately into the bottom right-hand corner to seal the win.

### Ellesmere College v Bedstone College

After a good win the previous Wednesday Ellesmere 1st XI travelled to Bedstone looking to continue their good form. The pitch was narrow and the surface was rough in places and we knew that we were going to have to battle hard to get a result. From the off we played with a high tempo, quick to the ball and strong in the tackle. Pearson and Grosvenor started to dominate in midfield. Good work from Smithers up front saw him cut the ball back dangerously. This was blocked by the hand of the defender and Pearson made no mistake from the resulting penalty, putting Ellesmere ahead. We soon doubled the score as Smithers and Sharky interchanged neatly allowing Shark to drill low beyond the keeper for our second goal. Bedstone rallied well and sent wave after wave of attack at us but Wilcox, coming in for the injured Forgrave, was solid in both the air and on the deck. Good strength and determination coupled with increasing organisation allowed us to weather the storm for twenty minutes before breaking to gain a corner. Pearson delivered and Grosvenor connected, the keeper parried well, but Shark reacted quickly to force home the ball for our third goal.

At half time it was made clear that the tempo could not drop and that the next goal was all-important. We started strongly and soon Smithers was causing problems upfront with his strength and touch. It was he who rifled home the fourth goal after good work by Anderson. Again lovely link-up play between Pearson and Smithers allowed Sharky to slide through, and he raced past the

We started slowly as I expected, having had just enough time to change into kit before the game started. We allowed the home side to dominate in midfield but Cole and Faller were strong at the back and Forgrave worked hard to deny runners. As the Midfield found the tempo, Evans and Grosvenor began to get the upper hand and Anderson came more into the game. Clutton found space on the left and was involved with some good possession play. Sharky showed his pace and was a threat upfront while Smithers held the ball up and showed strength. The first goal came from a quick break with Sharky outstripping the central defence and slotting coolly past the advancing keeper. This prompted a period of possession for the home team but we worked to confine them to long-range efforts that Madaus fielded comfortably. We then broke again through Sharky down the right and when Grosvenor made a late run to the far post, Sharky found him. Grosvenor drove his shot at the keeper who fumbled and let us in.

We started the second half well. Maddock-James showed strength and determination to win the ball and push forward; his pass put Sharky in behind the defence and again he finished clinically. We then dominated with Anderson finding confidence in midfield and probing forward. His good run won a corner, which Evans delivered neatly to the back post; Smithers soared highest and directed his header forcefully beyond the keeper for a score of 4 - 0. The final quarter saw some changes that disrupted the flow. This, coupled with our lack of match fitness, saw us fade towards the end. Shrewsbury replied from the penalty spot and made the score respectable with a well-hit free kick.

### Ellesmere College v Wolverhampton Grammar

The home team, Wolverhampton Grammar, are renowned for keeping clean sheets, boasting a central defender playing regularly for Walsall Reserves and having made the quarter-finals of the Independent Schools Cup, going out on penalties to Winchester. The away team, Ellesmere College, played their first game together on the previous Wednesday. On paper this was a certain mismatch.

Wolverhampton Grammar showed their quality early on with crisp passing, strong challenges and plenty of pace. We were caught cold and were 1 - 0 down within the first five minutes, being just that little slower to react. A sweeping move resulted in their No 9 getting across the front of our defence to meet the cross and finish. We then steadily got ourselves into the game, lifting our tempo and matching the opposition. Their danger men were out wide but having a squad who can all play football allowed for changes so that the wing backs were always fresh and able to cope. Some good interplay allowed captain Hugh Grosvenor to burst into the box and hit a shot which the keeper managed to slow, however it was still goal-bound and only a desperate hook of the line from an alert defender kept the home team in front. The game was in the balance until just before half time when again they managed to get round the back of our defence with some neat ball play. The subsequent cut-back was met with a firm strike and we were two down.

Instructions given at half time were taken on board and we started the second half strongly. The game was fairly even but of a good standard all round. On fifty-five minutes a well-struck shot heading towards the bottom corner looked to be adding to the Wolverhampton score sheet; everyone thought it was going in except Ellesmere keeper Toby Madaus, who flung himself full stretch to turn it round the post, a truly outstanding save! From here on in Ellesmere created most of the chances and when Pearson delivered a quality free kick into the opposition box, Grosvenor peeled away to the back post and nodded across the keeper to halve the deficit. We then applied much pressure in search of the equaliser. Pearson, Clutton and Hinzpeter went close and the home team was clearly rattled. Grosvenor set Sharky on his way and he managed to make room for a shot which the keeper did well to save but was probably our best chance for an equaliser. Wolverhampton Grammar were glad to hear the final whistle and were most complimentary about the Ellesmere team. Although the result did not go our way the boys can be pleased with their performance.



back line to guide his shot wide of the oncoming keeper and into the top right hand corner of the net. We were now fully in control of the match but Bedstone made us work for everything and allowed us no cheap goals. Pearson again delivered on a corner and Grosvenor timed his run to perfection, heading in at the back post. Changes saw Coubrough replace Maddock-James on the right and Fuller replace Clutton. Fuller made an immediate impact and Coubrough worked hard to deliver into the box. Pearson capped his performance by spotting the keeper off his line and chipping from thirty yards, 7 - 0, and then delivering from wide right to allow Shark to force the ball home for his fourth and the team's eighth.



*Ellesmere 1st XV after their 8 - 0 win over Bedstone College*

#### **Ellesmere College v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College**

Following a good win away earlier in the season, the return game was always going to be tough. I recognised few from our early encounter and they came looking for a win. From the off we played with a high tempo, but were matched in midfield. Wilcox and Cole organised the back four well and the former attacked every aerial ball, winning most, while Cole cleaned up. Madaus gave clear instruction from between the sticks and always looked in control. The first half was an even affair with both defences dominating. However as Pearson, Grosvenor and Anderson edged the midfield battle, Shark and Smithers got into the game more. It was neat combination play between both front men and Grosvenor that allowed Sharky to lob the oncoming keeper. When the ball came down off the bar the defender used his hand to clear the danger - penalty. Pearson made no mistake from the spot.

At halftime it was made clear that the tempo could not drop and that the front two must work hard to keep the ball and relieve the pressure. We came out to twenty-five minutes of solid pressure. The opposition threw everything at us and we stood firm. On the sixty-seventh minute we broke quickly and set Sharky clear, but his chip was just the wrong side of the post. More pressure ensued but again we met the challenge and this time Grosvenor got behind the defence and cut into the box. He slid the ball back to Sharky, who was denied by the Keeper. Hinzpeter was able to manage fifteen minutes on his first game back after a month due to illness, which was pleasing to see. Today was a game for the defense to celebrate, another clean sheet.

#### **Ellesmere College v Stafford Grammar School**

Having battled hard for the win on the Wednesday, the visit of Stafford on the Saturday was going to be tough. They are a team which has put us to the sword in the past but we are steadily closing the gap. Playing with the wind and down the slope in the first half we were able to pen the opposition in their half quite a bit. Anderson showed his quality on the left, putting dangerous balls

across the box and winning corners. Smithers and Shark were a handful and when the opposition did break out, a well-marshalled defence dealt with the threat. In the thirtieth minute Maddock-James won a corner on the right. Wilcox made his way into the area and Pearson delivered, the timing of the leap from Wilcox was spot on, and his header was unstoppable. We stood firm for the remainder of the half and went close when Smithers met a corner, only to see it graze the top of the bar.

At half time it was made clear that the wind and slope were going to make it difficult for us. Only good movement and stout defending would do. Within minutes of the restart we doubled the lead. Pearson and Grosvenor worked hard to spoil in front of the back

four and when the opposition attack broke down a quick ball forward was seized upon by Shark. His power and pace put him clear of the defence and he finished clinically past the outstretched keeper. This caused the opposition to throw everything at us. We held firm until the sixty-fifth minute when Felix Faller's aerial challenge on the edge of the box was declared a foul. Their key man stepped up to take the penalty but blasted his opportunity over the bar. This left them a little deflated and gave us a lift. The third goal was a treat to watch. Good link play from defence to midfield created space. The overlapping run from Coubrough drew the defence out and Grosvenor switched the pass over the defence for his midfield partner Pearson who burst into the box. He brought the ball down and slotted across the keeper seamlessly to seal an excellent win.

#### **Ellesmere College v Rydal Penrhos**

We went into the last weekend of the season unbeaten in four games and having kept a clean sheet since Half Term. We knew that if we played well we could get a result. The first fifteen minutes were hard-fought as both teams weighed each other up, but we started to get the upper hand and by twenty-five minutes into the game were 3 - 0 up thanks to a Sharky hat-trick. We continued to play flowing football and were soon 5 - 0 up thanks to Smithers and then Sharky again. It was at this point that the opposition lost their discipline; a first yellow for comments to the referee followed by foul and abusive language by the same player resulted in a red card. We then went on to score through Maddock James and Evans. Smithers scored again to end the half.

At half time we made all the changes possible to get some sort of second half out of it. The referee allowed them to put on their substitute to bring them back to eleven, while cutting the second half down in time. We took off the three senior players, Pearson, Grosvenor and Wilcox, and started the second half with ten men. The opposition came out at us but we coped and then started to knock the ball around. We soon scored through Hinzpeter to make it 10 - 0 and again they showed their lack of discipline. We settled back into our game and soon Smithers had put in the eleventh. The sizeable crowd started teasing Smithers and unfortunately the opposition keeper thought that it was aimed at him. He raced out of goal gesticulating at the crowd and the referee could not calm him down. He ended the game, our fifth clean sheet in succession and without our keeper having to make a save.



## Ellesmere College v Old Ellesmerians



*1st XI team before their 5-1 mauling of the OE team*



*The OE team, a little more 'rounded' after a year at University*

This game has, in the past, been played in snow storms, so it was nice this year to have a dry day and a fine playing surface. The Old Boys captained by Adam Beech had a good side turn out and with the current First Team in fine form it was bound to be a good game. The OEs started well and put the Firsts under a lot of pressure. Claxton and Wantling were a danger but the Firsts had dealt with pressure situations before. For the first twenty minutes the Old Boys' strength dictated the game but the Firsts held firm. Then they got into the game and only a string of fine saves from Beech kept the scores level. With five minutes to go in the first half, Smithers powered home the opener for the 1sts and they looked to be going in 1 - 0 up at the break, but then a goalkeeping error allowed AK to equalise.



*The OE team celebrate their goal, the first to be scored against the 1st team in six games, while Captain Alex Dunn looks on*

In the second half the superior fitness of the Firsts began to tell as they moved the ball around. The OEs tired and gaps started to appear. Firstly Couborough got round the back of the OE defence and fired in a low, dangerous cross that caused Chambers to divert into his own net. Then sharp anticipation by Couborough



*Jordan Evans & Alex Wilcox mark AK and block the route to goal*

again allowed him to nip in front of Beech and head home his first of the season. Pearson was now controlling the midfield and he smashed home the fourth from the edge of the box. The OEs were out on their feet, or on their backs, as some struggled with the knowledge that student life had taken its toll. The fifth goal came from some silky skill from Couborough. He turned Chambers inside out and fired with venom into the roof of the net.

The 1sts then entertained the OEs in the Dining Hall and it was an enjoyable day all round.



*Matt Burrows feels the effects of a high-tempo game*

### Old Ellesmerian Team:

A Beech, O Barker, R Coates, C Chambers, B Claxton, A.Dunn, M Burrows, L Wantling, J Halstead, A K Ndanusa

### 1st Team:

T Madaus, C Clutton, J Evans, J Cole, A Wilcox, M Pearson, H Grosvenor, J Maddock-James, F Anderson, J Smithers, T Dreyer, F Faller, A Couborough, K Hinzpeter

Amongst all the games there was time for around twenty boys to visit the TNS Football Club at Oswestry and benefit from a training session on their 3G pitch, a day that I know the boys involved enjoyed.

The season ended with a dinner for players and coaches. The following awards were given:

### Full Colours

H Grosvenor, K Hinzpeter, G Forgrave, M. Pearson, A Wilcox

### Half Colours

A Couborough – re-awarded, J Cole – re-awarded  
F Anderson – re-awarded, J Evans, C Clutton, F Faller,  
J Maddock-James, J Smithers, T Dreyer, T Madaus

Mark Pearson Player's Player Award

Tjark Dreyer (Sharky)

Golden Boot Award for scoring the most goals

**DJM**

### Squad

F Anderson, C R Clutton, J R Cole, A T Couborough,  
T H Dreyer, J W Evans, F A Faller, G Forgrave,  
H R L Grosvenor (Captain), J Maddock-James,  
T Y Madaus, M A Pearson, J Smithers





Mr L. Bambridge J.R. Dapling A.J. Owen N. Haukohl B.H. Sceney C. Leilich L.F. Holt Mr K.J. Paul  
S. Sato J. McCarthy G.T. Cave C.A. Fergusson (Capt.) M.A. Wilcox T.J. Courage T. Leilich

### Summary of Results

v Shrewsbury Sixth Form	Lost	0 - 4
v Wolverhampton Grammar	Lost	1 - 10
v Rydal Penrhos	Won	3 - 0
v Old Swinford Hospital	Won	10 - 0
v Kingsmead	Drew	0 - 0
v Shrewsbury Sixth Form	Lost	2 - 5
v Rydal Penrhos	Won	3 - 1

Despite winning just three of their seven fixtures, a youthful 2nd XI side produced a series of performances in which the positives far outweighed the negatives. They were thrown in at the deep end early in the term and fought hard to keep their heads above water, before surging powerfully towards the finish line with just one disappointment along the way.

An opening fixture against a Shrewsbury Sixth Form side with a term of matches already under their belts was always going to be a tough assignment, but the boys battled bravely and had an excellent twenty-minute spell in the second half before eventually succumbing 4 - 0. Three days later they were blown away in the first twenty-five minutes by a superbly organised and skilful Wolverhampton Grammar side who also had the head start of a whole term's worth of fixtures more than them, and it was to the boys' credit that they again rallied very well in the second half to provide much stiffer competition for their impressive opposition.

The recovery began on an absolute bog of a pitch in a tiny village high up in the hills near Colwyn Bay, the unexpected venue for a match against Rydal Penrhos after their pitch was deemed unplayable. Against a big and physical outfit the boys rose to the challenge superbly, and goals in either half from George Cave along with one for James McCarthy secured a fine victory. Duly encouraged by this display, a limited but willing Old Swinford Hospital side were put to the sword in the next fixture, with McCarthy adding four more to his tally for the season, and Joe

Dapling scoring a hat trick. Goals from Cave, Louis Holt and Alex Wilcox completed the ten goal rout, but almost as pleasing was a second consecutive clean sheet.

A defence transformed by the arrival of Wilcox again kept out their opponents in their next fixture three days later, although unfortunately they also failed to score at the other end. Chances were few and far between against a young but talented Kingsmead side, with Max Seemueller coming the closest to breaking the deadlock when his header hit the post.

And so the stage was set for the return fixture against Shrewsbury Sixth Form, with hopes high that we could avenge our opening day defeat. Sadly this did not materialise, as after a very encouraging first-half display, the team crumbled under pressure early in the second half, and scoring two goals was really very little consolation for a second defeat which hurt considerably more than the first.

However the team showed character to rebound from this disappointment in the final match of the campaign, with Rydal Penrhos again defeated in the return fixture. Despite conceding an early goal Henry Walton equalised before the break, and after it our domination was rewarded with goals for Carlo Leilich and McCarthy to ensure that the season finished on a high note.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the term was the performance of the younger members of the squad, whose determination and willingness to give their all often more than made up for their inexperience at this level. They will have learned a lot from these seven games, and I have no doubt that they will go on to become key members of the Football club in the years to come.

### LCB

### Squad

C Booth, J Siering, A Wilcox, D Ellis, T Evans, C Fergusson, T Leilich, B Seeney, A Owen, S Sato, C Leilich, J McCarthy, J Dapling, L Holt, M Seemueller, G Cave, T Courage, H Walton



Ellesmere College  3rd XI Football  
20 09



Mr. J.J. Baggaley N.Fugger-Babenhausen N. Riffart N. Haukohl F.J. Becker M.F. Steggles T.A. Roberts A. Basu  
L.R.V.K. Arce V. Lim D.C. Ellis T.O.M. Evans H.M.J. O'Neill J.A. Davies B. Davydov

This season the gods were against us (or was it just the referee!?). Almost all our matches were either cancelled or snowed off. In the event we played only two matches which was a great shame for a number of reasons. Firstly, both were against our strongest opponents, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College; secondly, there was a two-month period between the first and last game; thirdly, we had a number of players who would deservedly have enjoyed an easier match, against Rydal for instance; and, of course, finally the fact that both matches were lost! Rhodri Fieldhouse captained the side in both games and so must go down in history as one of the most unsuccessful captains of all time, as indeed the coaches must too. Rhodri did however arguably score the goal of the season in the first game. At 0 – 1 against, Henry Walton floated a free kick into their box and Rhodri, rising above the rest as if he were the reincarnation of Kenny Dalglish, flicked his head at the ball and it found the corner of the net. At 1 - 1 we really had Shrewsbury on the run, but a mad ten minutes in the second half saw us concede three goals to finish 1 - 4. There were some promising performances and we looked forward to moulding the team further.

Two months later and with a weakened side, we were no match for the same opponents, although Christian Rath, possibly the slowest centre-forward in Western Europe, scored a remarkable goal with a shot that seemed destined for Row H but somehow found the net. I would like to report that our skills were interrupted by a Chinook helicopter buzzing dangerously overhead, possibly with Capello come to talent spot, or possibly the FA come to lock up the referee, but unfortunately the Chinook appeared after our game ended! Those who played always gave their best. Rhodri, Joe Davies, Matt Steggles, Nick Fugger, Chris Rath played in both matches. We hope for less snow next year. Or, more snow when we're due to play Shrewsbury. Thanks go to Mr Baggaley, or World Cup Willie as he became.

**HBO**

**Squad**

I R V K Arce, A Basu, F J Becker, J A Davies, B Davydov,  
D C Ellis, T O M Evans, N Fugger-Babenhausen, H Haukohl,  
V Lim, H M J O'Neill, N Riffart, T A Roberts, M F Steggles





D.W. Crawford Esq. A. Brahim K.L. Johnson J. Smith J.M.E. Stokes H.W.L. Gwilt C.I. Murdoch J.H. Cowley Esq.  
A.W.J. Cross T.H. Clutton C.T. Cieslik T. Dobie J.G. Brewitt V.G. Dumitrescu J.A. Fisher

The season began in fine style with a convincing win against a strong Wolverhampton Grammar School side. After conceding a goal in the first half the team fought back with goals from Harrison Gwilt and a brace each from Todd Dobie and Vlad Dumitrescu that sealed a fine 5-1 victory.

With confidence high and some good training sessions beginning to develop we faced Sandbach. The team, however, were beaten soundly by a superior side who were stronger and quicker to the ball. Ellesmere played tidy football and could have scored on four occasions had they not decided to dribble the ball into the net rather than shoot. The game was played in a good spirit.

A hard-fought victory against the dogged opposition of Abbeygate was our next achievement. Ellesmere took the lead through Saarjan Kandola but Abbeygate equalized within two minutes. Todd Dobie added a second just before half time but then retired injured. An excellent Michael Kelly corner was met with a firm header from Harrison Gwilt to seal a good 3-1 win.

Stafford Grammar School were our next opponents and they scored within three minutes of the start. The team fought back well after this disappointing opening and Michael Kelly equalized two minutes later. Stafford proved to be tough opposition and scored a second from outside the box just before half-time. The second

half was an even contest but Stafford added to their lead after twenty minutes. Ellesmere still did not give up and played some fine football. A well-taken goal from Adam Brahim after good work by Saajan Kandola made for a tense last few minutes as Ellesmere pressed for the equalizer which unfortunately was preceded by the final whistle.

The team had played some delightful football throughout the season and were looking forward to the final game at Kingsmede. However, with three first choice players unavailable, an uncharacteristically ragged performance resulted in them conceding two goals just before half time. Ellesmere, lacking inspiration, failed to break down a sturdy defence and thus ended a season that promised more than it produced. The team had outstanding players in all areas. Backed by the increasingly secure hands of Jamie Stokes in goal the back four of Cieslik, Clutton, Smith and Brewitt played excellent football. It is rare to see a defence consisting of such skilful players. There were tenacious performances in midfield from Dobie, Fisher, Gwilt and Kelly. The front runners of Cross and Brahim were ably assisted by Kandola and Dumitrescu. Johnson and Murdoch also played valuable roles.

**JHC**



Ellesmere College  U14 Football  
20 09



Mr I.L.Roberts E.E.Morris A. McCarthy J.E. Latter J.W.Fletcher A.N.Main M.J. McBrien  
M.R. Dewhurst L.C.Parry-Jones S.L.Owen H.Cole M.J. Faulkner

### Summary of Results

v Wolverhampton Grammar	Lost	0 – 3
v Sandbach	Lost	1 – 6
v Abbeygate	Drew	2 – 2
v Stafford	Lost	2 – 3

### Ellesmere College v Wolverhampton Grammar

This was a tough first fixture, after the previous fixture against Abbeygate was cancelled due to bad weather. We started very positively, trying to compete with a fairly decent side. We tackled well and tried to get the ball up to our attacking players of Alex McCarthy, Ed Morris, Adam Butt, Dom Simpson and Sam Owen. However, we were then put on the back foot and had to defend for large parts of the first half. Some good work by our back four of Louis Bostock-Williams, James Latter, Matt Dewhurst and Howie Cole broke several attacks down. The hosts did eventually score through a break-away from three of their players, as we were guilty of only having one back to defend and Andy Main in goal couldn't do much to prevent the score. However, Main kept us in the game with several outstanding saves, one from a penalty. We went in at half time only 1 - 0 down and were still positive that we could get something out of the game.

A couple of changes were made at half time which saw Luke Taylor, Mitch Faulkner and Sam Dapling come onto the field of play. We continued to compete well but just couldn't get the ball to link from defence to midfield and then finally to our forwards. This begun to frustrate us a bit and we also found ourselves struggling to contain a good central midfielder and left winger, so we changed formation slightly and had Dapling and Lloyd Parry-Jones do a double team of marking on the central midfielder. This worked a bit but we still

could not create any real attacking chances and eventually conceded two goals later on in the half. Their second could have been slightly offside but was given and their third was down to us not clearing the first ball away well and then not reacting quickly to the second ball played back in. Towards the end we also began to tire and this was something that we needed to work on in training. The game finished 3 - 0 to Wolverhampton. Everyone tried their hardest and by working on a few more things in the coming weeks we hoped for a good term of football. Man Of The Match: Andy Main

### Ellesmere College v Sandbach

Our first home fixture proved to be a tough encounter. The team had lost last year by 0 - 6 and were keen to improve on that score. We began very confidently and were rewarded for a good start with a goal after two minutes. Some good work from our midfield of Sam Owen, Mitch Faulkner and Lloyd Parry-Jones saw Faulkner receive the ball out wide and float in an excellent cross for Dominic Simpson to control in the area and shoot for the goal, 1 - 0 up and we were feeling confident. Sandbach then came back at us with some good attacking football and managed to get a score back. Then the game became a bit more settled, with both teams playing some good football. We were looking to get the ball wide as often as possible, using our wide players Simpson and Adam Butt to try and get in behind their defence and this worked well, as they looked unsettled when we did this. Unfortunately for us they hit us on the break and our back four of Luke Taylor, James Latter, Matthew Dewhurst and Howie Cole were caught with a very well-timed through-ball which they couldn't do much about, and Sandbach went 1 - 2 up. After this though we finished the half well and looked the stronger team.



The second half saw us playing uphill and we knew we were in for a tough half. Again we started well and quite a few passes found their way through up to Ed Morris who did well on his own up front. We were unlucky not to score again. However, our lack of goals would be our undoing in the second half and we were hit by three quick goals in five minutes, which effectively killed the game off. We still kept at it but with time running out it became more and more difficult to turn the score around and when the final whistle went it was 1 - 6. The score did not reflect the game, as we played some good football and we actually played better than we had two weeks previously against Wolverhampton, so plenty of positive things to take from this match.

Man Of The Match: Mitch Faulkner

### **Ellesmere College v Abbeygate**

The third fixture of the term saw us playing at home against Abbeygate, a team we had beaten last year, so confidence was high. We started very well, getting the ball out wide to Alex McCarthy and Dom Simpson. Some good work in the middle saw Sam Owen and Mitch Faulkner press hard on goal and the opposition ended up conceding a free kick in a goal-scoring area. Simpson duly stepped up and scored the free kick, two minutes gone and we were 1 - 0 up! We continued to play well and passed the ball around well. The defence also seemed to be more confident, Robbie Banks in goal looking comfortable, with Louis Bostock-Williams, James Latter and Howie Cole benefiting from having Adam Butt playing in a sweeper position and Lloyd Parry-Jones holding the ball up well just in front of them. It therefore came as a bit of a disappointment when we conceded a sloppy goal against the run of play we didn't clear the ball well and the opposition scored. However, we picked ourselves up again and came straight back at the opposition, continuing to attack and try to get the ball into wide positions and then trying to get the ball into Ed Morris who was our lone striker. Eventually our sustained pressure brought about another mistake by the opposition, this time conceding a penalty, which Simpson converted with ease. We then went into half time looking the better team and in the lead.

The second half saw us play down the hill, which should have meant us being on top more often than we actually were in the end. We gave away a second sloppy goal, this time because we gave the opposition too much time on the ball in the box. From then on Abbeygate probably had the better of the half, as we were not always as quick to the ball as we had been in the first half, and at times made life difficult for ourselves. Andy Main in goal saved a couple of times, which helped matters. However, we held on for the draw and this was probably the fairest result on the day. There was much to take from this display and we played some of the best football yet this term.

Man Of The Match: Dom Simpson

### **Ellesmere College v Stafford Grammar School**

This is always a tough encounter. We again started very positively. Our defence had done a lot of work in training and were working well together to repel a lot of Stafford possession. Louis, Matt, James Latter and Adam were all talking well and linking play with Lloyd Parry-Jones who was playing just in front of them. Once we had repelled this early threat we looked to be okay, but Stafford somehow scored after ten minutes. Our heads could have gone down after this but we rallied and began to play some decent football. Sam and Mitch worked hard in the middle, chasing down the ball and linking out wide with Dom and Alex McCarthy, who in turn were ably assisted by Ed Morris. This pressure eventually resulted in a goal, Morris providing a lay-off for Simpson to score. Four minutes later we doubled our lead, Simpson again finding himself in space to score the goal. We went in at half time feeling confident.

The second half saw some changes. Sam Dapling, Luke Taylor, Robbie Banks and Howie Cole came onto the park. Unfortunately we conceded an early goal in the second half; a combination of no talking when dealing with a high ball and our keeper coming off the

line meant we gave away a sloppy goal. Then the second half became a winner-take-all affair. We played some decent football, as did the opposition, and it was a shame we conceded another sloppy goal with four minutes to go. We had to defend a corner and rather than play it wide out of the danger area we for some reason decided to play it back across our six yard box. The opposition scored from this and we then had to dig hard to try and get an equaliser. Unfortunately it was not to be. This was a game we shouldn't have lost and it was disappointing.

Man Of The Match: James Latter

### **Ellesmere College v King's Chester B**

The fifth and final match of the term was an away fixture against King's Chester. They are always a tough school to play and even though we were playing their B team we were expecting a hard match.

We started well, hitting the ball up front and allowing Ed Morris, Dom Simpson, Alex McCarthy, Lloyd Parry-Jones and Mitch Faulkner to attack the opposition goal. Our sustained pressure could have led to several goals but we were guilty of being off-side on too many occasions. However, we eventually broke King's defence. A Morris effort was spilled by the keeper and Simpson scored his sixth goal of the term. One-nil up and playing well. However, as has happened many times before, we were guilty of letting the opposition back into the game through a mistake of our own and so we went into the break at 1 - 1 when we should really have been up by four or five.

The second half saw us play with much more composure and skill. The back four of Luke Taylor, Stuart McIlraith, Sam Owen and Howie Cole played superbly, and stopped any ball coming through from the opposition. When the ball did slip through, Andy Main saved every time. This meant our midfield holding players of Sam Dapling, Mark McBrien and Adam Butt were able to push up-field and add extra weight to our attacks. This eventually started to pay off as we scored through Morris, an excellent effort from just inside the 18-yard box. This was soon followed by another goal from McCarthy to make it 3 - 0. After this the flood gates opened and Faulkner ended up scoring a hat-trick. His first was an excellent shot from distance, his second running in onto a cross and the third a penalty that was well-taken under pressure. This wrapped up the match and gave us a well-deserved victory.

Man Of The Match: Sam Owen.

Looking back over the term this team has improved and learnt something new with every game they played. Overall a satisfying term of football and I thank everyone who has played. Well done and good luck for next year. Also thank you to Mr Bongers for his assistance throughout the term.

### **ILR**

#### **Squad**

H Cole, M R Dewhirst, M J Faulkner, J W Fletcher,  
J E Latter, M J McBrien, A McCarthy, A N Main, E E Morris,  
S L Owen, I C Parry-Jones



Ellesmere College  1st XI Hockey  
20 09



Mr S. Mullock M. Wegmann S.B. Johnson J.R. Walker J.J. Taylor W.J. Mapstone  
R.W.K. Michell C. von Hoven A.E.S. Killick C.W. Butt (Captain) C.D. Johnson E.T. Diamond D.G. Anders-Richards

### Summary of Results

v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College	Lost 1 – 2
v Shrewsbury School	Lost 1 – 14
v Wrekin College	Snowed Off
v Deeside Ramblers	Lost 3 – 4

The remains of the previous season's group welcomed some new blood into the squad this season. The cohort was small and many players in the squad had never played First Team Hockey before but were very much thrown into the lion's den. With Charlie Butt captaining the team the formation was made up of Harry Hughes/David Anders-Richards in goal, ably protected by a solid back of Johnson, Joule, Macintosh and Mitchell. The five-man midfield was well marshalled by Butt and Killick, assisted by von Hoven, Wegmann and Baxter. The front two of James Walker and Sean Johnson gave many attacking options with the remaining squad members playing in a variety of roles as and when the team needed them.

The pre-season was functional and the use of the astro-turf at RAF Shawbury enabled many sessions to be played on the astro which really improved the touch of the team and their ability to work set plays.

### Ellesmere College v Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

The first game of the season saw a raw Ellesmere team visit very strong and talented Shrewsbury sides, who previously have been National Champions. The first fixture always give the coaches a strong indication of how well pre-season has gone and to what extent the team are able to gel as a unit and a force. The initial

team briefing at the start of the match was some what undermined by the goalkeeper announcing he had forgotten to bring his kickers!! Clearly he was prepared mentally but not so much physically! After some pleas to the opposition and a rummage around their kit room we managed to get two random kickers and it was game on.

The first few minutes started as hoped with Ellesmere having the possession, but unable to keep the ball from the tenacious Shrewsbury attack. Harry Hughes and his 'magic' kickers were called upon early to perform a number of great saves both static and aerial, including an amazing diving stop, which had the essence of Banks v Pele from 1970. Ellesmere struggled to hold back the pressure of Shrewsbury and gave away several short corners, including one which was hammered home by the Shrewsbury captain before anyone had time to adjust. Ellesmere managed to keep focused and although there were several moments of panic in the box the half-time whistle came to re-set and re-focus the team.

The plea at half time was to hold the ball and use the wingers more; a strategy which enabled Jack Baxter to cause no end of problems to the defence in the second half. Ellesmere created several chances during the second half as the game become more open and attacking. Sadly another defensive error led to a short corner and the ball was dispatched goal-ward to put the home team 2 - 0 up. Ellesmere responded in the right way and kept on playing their game. A great aerial ball from James Joule saw Jack Baxter beat the left back and play a quick pass to Charlie Butt on the top of the D; he rolled it to Max Wegmann who duly dispatched the ball into the open goal much to the despair of the stranded



keeper. This goal rocked Shrewsbury who came back determined to score again. Ellesmere defended valiantly by throwing everything at the ball, including Bobby Michell's head, but the team would not allow a goal to be conceded again. Several last-minute chances came and went and the final whistle brought to an end a very enjoyable and competitive first fixture.

Men of the Match: James Joule and Harry Hughes.

### **Ellesmere College v Shrewsbury School**

This game was very much in doubt all morning due to the snow-fall the night before, causing several players to withdraw from the squad at the last minute due to travel issues. Although severely depleted, a squad was mustered and the trip ensued. I would imagine the response you thought as you scanned the result was the same as mine, as what took place was both unbelievable and upsetting and it still looks that way in black and white. It was a game of two halves, of which we lost both heavily!! In all honesty if this had been a boxing match the referee would have stopped it very early on.

Ellesmere started in a relaxed and half-focused way and within the first two minutes a simple lack of concentration led to a misplaced pass which resulted in the first goal of the day to Shrewsbury. Straight from push off, a bad pass let Shrewsbury in for a second and this was the theme for most of the first half. It was not so much that we were totally outplayed, far from it, but we never did anything when we had possession and often gave the ball away cheaply and so put ourselves under undue pressure. The game was beyond us and at 7-0 at half time; it was a colorful and honest team talk. The comeback was never an option but I was hoping to see some pride and determination for the team and for themselves. Sadly this was sporadic and only a few players really acquitted themselves on the day. David Anders-Richards the goalkeeper was tremendous, and although conceding fourteen he probably saved another ten. James Joule was an anchor at the back and managed to keep the team going, playing really well and working tirelessly for the whole game. It was a solo run from his own D to the opposition D which gave Ellesmere their only short corner and one which James duly completed to round off a fabulous solo goal. The team looked relieved that it was over and were very much punch drunk! It is always disappointing to lose but to lose in the way we did was even more difficult to take.

Man of the Match: James Joule.

### **Ellesmere College v Wrekin**

This game was sadly cancelled due to the freak weather and snow conditions experienced in February.

### **Ellesmere College v Deeside Ramblers**

The traditional game against the Deeside Ramblers provided Ellesmere with stiff competition. Going into the match the players were duly nervous, as the standard that the Ramblers bring is always high. The game started and Ellesmere held their own, playing very well with a five-man midfield and a tight back three. Ellesmere had several early chances, with Max Wegmann getting himself a yard of space but seeing the ball fly past the far post with the goalkeeper clearly beaten. Other chances came and went and the experience of the Ramblers paid off as a slight loss of concentration left a player unmarked who then on receiving the ball buried it with great precision. At the end of the first half a loose ball into the 25 was not dealt with effectively, and Ellesmere let in a member of the opposition who rounded the keeper and played a simple ball across for a tap in to make the score 2 - 0.

The second half was as competitive as the first but the Ellesmere team started to get tired and this allowed the Ramblers to add another to the score. At this point two things can happen; one, the team gives up and the score is doubled; or two, they can battle back and that is exactly what they did. Ellesmere pushed on again, trying to make chances and opportunities, which finally came to fruition after Max Wegmann made a great run and fed Charlie Butt, who played in James Walker and won a flick for a deliberate foul.

James Joule made the journey up the pitch to bury the shot into the bottom corner. At 3 - 1 the team was lifted. With an ever-growing crowd assembling and the cheers spurring the players on, the fight-back continued in due course. Ellesmere now started to play with flair, confidence and some steel, strong in tackles and thoughtful in possession. This invigorated team put pressure on a tiring Ramblers team and Ellesmere started to find the gaps in the defense they had so sought in the first half. A wide ball to Baxter was fed to Wegmann, who after beating the advancing defender buried the ball past the goalkeeper. Two minutes later, after another high-octane attack, an awarded short corner was put away by James Joule and the game was up for grabs and the possibility of the greatest comeback against the Ramblers in Ellesmere history. Sadly the hype did not match up to the end, as a determined Ramblers team did all they could to break the Ellesmere defense. In what was literally the last seconds of the game a lost ball in midfield saw Ellesmere up against it. Many of the Ellesmere team had pushed forward trying to get the winner, and with a five-on-three split the defense were dragged apart. Although the initial save from Dave Anders-Richards was exceptional, he could do very little from the follow-up as the ball was eased over his despairing lunge. A very dejected Ellesmere team did not have any time left to pull the match level again but should feel proud as they all came off that pitch having given their all and had played a major part in one of the best Ramblers fixtures in many years. My thanks to John Heath and all at the Ramblers for their continuous support and great enthusiasm in these fixtures – may there be many more and maybe one day it will be on our own astro pitch!

Man of the Match: Max Wegmann.

It has been a unique season in a variety of ways (and one which may take many years of therapy to get over)! The season's results have been disappointing but although we have had a limited fixture-list the students have remained positive and will no doubt look back on this season with great humour and fondness. I would like to thank the ground staff for their hard work and efforts through the season and a big thank you to Dr Chatterjee for all his hard work, dedication and support for Men's Hockey at Ellesmere.

I would like to thank everyone who has played a part, both players and staff alike, in my tenure as 1st team coach. It is now a mantle I pass on and wish everyone in Men's Hockey success in the seasons to come.

Yours in hockey

**SBM**

### **Squad**

C Butt (captain), M Wegmann, S Johnson, J Walker, C Johnson, F Killick, C von Hoven, D Anders-Richards, J Joule, J Taylor, W Mapstone, J Baxter, F Diamond, O Roberts, R Michell, M Macintosh



## Summer Term

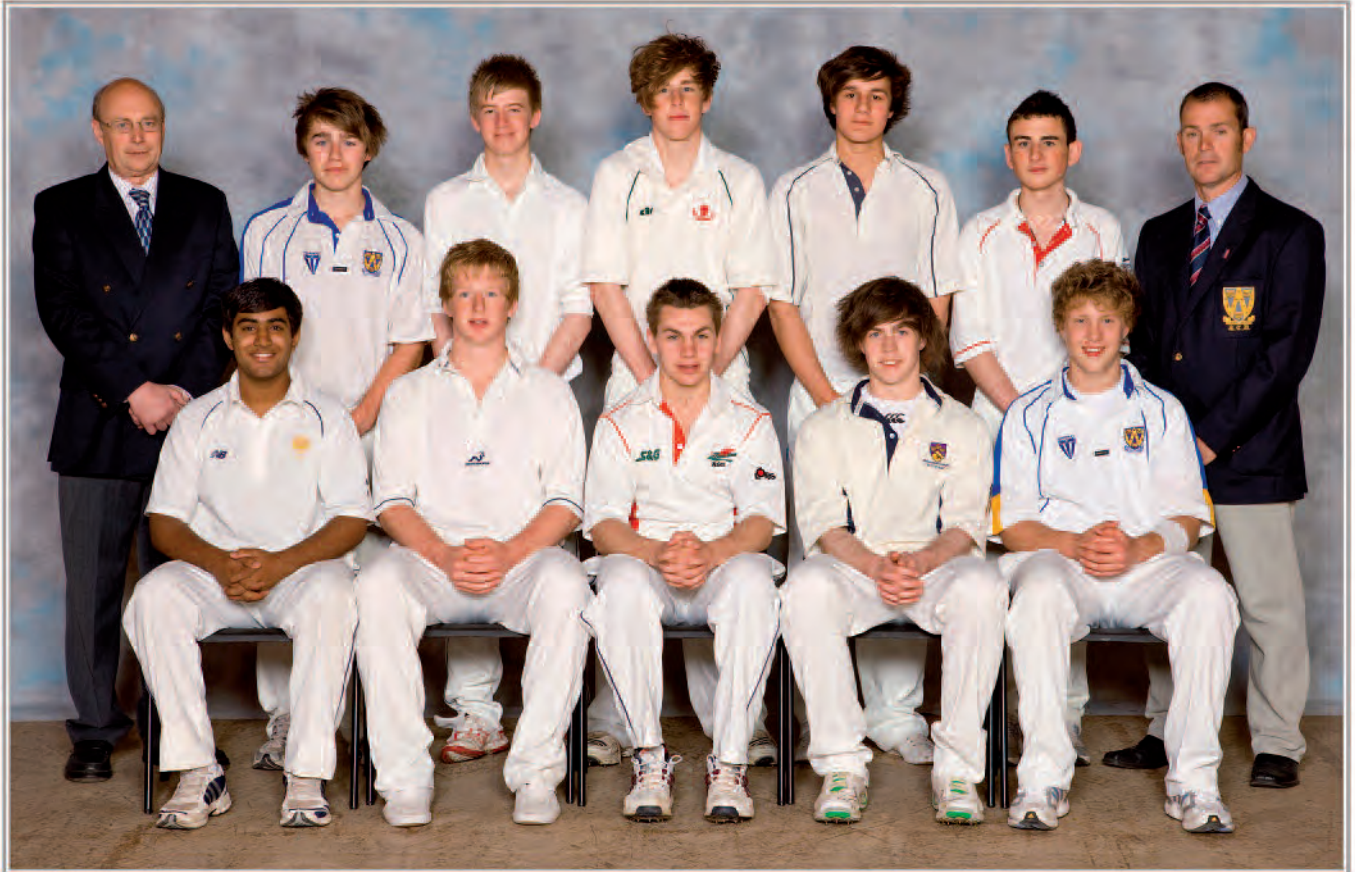
Ellesmere College



1st XI Cricket

20

09



Mr P.J. Hayes S.A. Phillips A.J. Owen J.M. Maddock-James F. Anderson J. McCarthy Mr R. Jones

S. Chiecktey R.L. Hayes J.W. Evans (Captain) G. Forgrave M.R. Macintosh

### Played 11 Won 6 Drawn 0 Lost 5 Abandoned 3

The side enjoyed a run of six successive victories between May 10th when we defeated Birkenhead School and June 19th when the MCC were defeated by eight wickets. Success mainly came from an attacking batting line-up inspired by the captain, Jordan Evans, in his first season at Ellesmere, who scored three centuries in these six matches. The depth of batting in support of Jordan can be seen in the averages where no fewer than seven players scored a fifty.

Against Birkenhead the bowlers had bowled steadily throughout their innings to restrict Birkenhead to a total of 190 for 8 from 45 overs. Tim Courage and Jordan Evans then gave the side the perfect start with an opening partnership of 74 in 17 overs. Despite losing three quick wickets, including the captain, for 49, George Forgrave and Matthew Macintosh batted steadily in a partnership of 50 for the 4th wicket before they too fell in quick succession. Joshua Maddock-James and Sam Phillips under increasing pressure from a Birkenhead side growing in confidence calmly added a further 40 before Freddie Anderson struck the final runs to ensure a well-deserved victory. This batting display showed that the middle order could bat under pressure and that the side contained a number of batsmen who were capable of playing a decisive innings at this level.

In the next three matches the batsmen not only scored heavily but also very quickly, which gave the bowlers the confidence to bowl

well in reply. Against the Old Ellesmerians Jordan Evans (128) and Joshua Maddock-James (69) added 142 for the second wicket as Ellesmere scored 288 for 3 from only 40 overs. Against Oswestry School Jordan Evans (108) and Matthew Macintosh (50) enjoyed a partnership of 125 in 14 overs as Ellesmere scored 253 for 6 in just 30 overs, while against Newcastle the side again topped 250, although this time without any player scoring fifty.

Confidence was therefore very high when the side faced the MCC, who always bring a strong side to the College. The wicket was slightly damp at the start of play and all the bowlers bowled steadily, but particularly impressive was the performance after lunch when the two spinners, Alex Owen and Udesman Goswami, bowled unchanged while the MCC scored only 77 for 3 in 20 overs as they pushed for a declaration. The MCC had batted for 52 overs and only scored 201-3 before they eventually declared. Despite the early loss of Tim Courage, Lloyd Hayes and Jordan Evans added 56 for the second wicket before Taariq Chiecktey (54\*) and Jordan Evans (108\*) combined in a partnership of 140 to ensure victory by 8 wickets in only 39 overs. This was Jordan's third century of the season, the first time this has been achieved by an Ellesmere batsman for ten years.

Taariq Chiecktey is the first South African player to come to the College on exchange, and we hope that others will follow him in the future, as well as some of our own players benefitting from playing in South Africa. This was his first fifty for the College and



this innings showed his potential as a batsman in addition to the promise he showed throughout the Summer as a wicket-keeper. Unfortunately he also showed a propensity for playing aerial attacking shots early in his innings, which for such a good player too often led to an early dismissal in the remaining matches.

The most dramatic win of the season was in the match against the Gentlemen of Shropshire. Ellesmere were set a challenging target of 238 to win, which was made even more difficult when an hour of play was lost to rain. Lloyd Hayes struck an exciting 59 to launch the innings but when the final 20 overs started Ellesmere were 64 for 3 and still required 174 to win. Matthew Macintosh then played an astonishing innings of 89 not out, including eleven fours and one six in just 13 overs, to add 149 with his captain Jordan Evans (69\*) to win the match with four overs remaining. The opposition were stunned to have lost a match they assumed was destined to drift to a draw.

After all the success of the batting it was therefore disappointing that in the remaining matches of the season it was the batting that was to let the side down. First in the match against Wrekin the side collapsed to 144 for 7 before Udesman Goswami (28) and Alex Owen (38\*) added some respectability; and then against Crawford College on tour from South Africa the side collapsed from 172 for 1 to 250 all out.

The team were, however, confident on their arrival at Worksop for the Woodard Festival and the weather was ideal for cricket, although injuries had depleted our bowling attack with both George Forgrave and Lloyd Hayes unable to travel. On the first day, in the match against Hurstpierpoint, Ellesmere won the toss and elected to bat. Taariq Chiecktey drove the opening bowler straight for 4 in the first over and after three overs Ellesmere were 19 for no wicket, but then Taariq hit a simple catch to cover in the next over. This set the tone for our batting as the batsmen appeared to be in little trouble, but played shots that gave their wickets away. No-one seemed prepared to settle down to play a long innings and Ellesmere were dismissed for 96 in just 26 overs. A similar pattern followed the next day against a strong Worksop eleven. It was a disappointing way to end the season, especially as all the earlier success had been largely due to the batting. Players need to realise that under different conditions and in different situations they must adapt their game, as indeed had been the case in the first win against Birkenhead. While in the modern game this is often to play attacking cricket, the Festival clearly showed that patience combined with a sound technique is still an essential requirement. School First XI cricketers are very fortunate to have the opportunity to play on good wickets with fast outfielders, and it is just not necessary to give the bowlers a chance early in an innings by playing risky aerial shots, when placing the ball through the gaps along the ground is far more effective.

On the third morning just before the start of play a torrential downpour of rain quickly flooded both grounds. It continued to rain into the early afternoon and the Festival was abandoned.

At the start of the season it was expected that George Forgrave, Lloyd Hayes and Jordan Evans would spearhead our attack. As it happened all three were severely restricted by injury during the season and although they took 22 wickets at an average of 16 runs they were only able to bowl 84 overs between them throughout the season. With the two Scindia players (Udesman Goswami and Shabankar Tiwary) not arriving until after Half Term this Summer, due to the tightening of visa requirements, Alex Owen became the frontline off-spinner. He responded well, taking 5-82 against the Gentlemen of Shropshire and 3-60 against the MCC to end up winning the bowling trophy for taking the most wickets in the season. His brother Sam Owen, still in Year 9, also showed promise as a seam bowler, taking 4-26 against Crawford College. Elsewhere the bowlers, like the batsmen, needed to improve their control of line and length in order to place batsmen under pressure at this level.

Overall it has been an entertaining and successful season. With most of the side that played at the Festival returning next year, combined with an encouraging number of younger players pushing for 1st XI places and the development of the Cricket Academy, the prospects for the next few years are exciting.

My thanks go to Chris Morrison for umpiring all our matches during the term, to Ian Morris and his ground staff for their dedicated work preparing grounds both for practice and matches in what was yet again a frustrating season as far as the weather was concerned, to Paul Rudd and his catering staff for all the lunches and teas, and in particular to Rod Jones for his assistance and his coaching throughout the year, not just with the 1st XI but with players throughout the school as we aim to raise the standard of Cricket at all levels with the introduction of the Cricket Academy.

*PJH*

### **1st XI Twenty-20 Cricket 2009** **Played 4 Won 2 Lost 2 Abandoned 1**

The regional round of the National Twenty-20 competition was again hosted by Shrewsbury School. Last year it was held the day before the 'A' Level examinations started and Ellesmere took a large squad to help spread the load on players. This year the competition was brought forward to the Bank Holiday weekend and it was disappointing that key players were still missing, mainly due to Club Rugby tours, as we had the potential to qualify for the later rounds.

In the first match of the day against local rivals Wrekin College we had to chase a useful score of 149 - 8. Jordan Evans opened the batting with Tim Courage and allowed Tim to act as pinch-hitter in their opening partnership of 76, where Jordan only contributed 18 runs, but as soon as Tim was dismissed he took full control of the situation and with well-placed shots all round the wicket saw Ellesmere to victory by 8 wickets (Jordan undefeated on 69) in the 19th over.

In the next match we had to play the hosts Shrewsbury, the strongest side in the group. With the exception of Matthew Macintosh (30\*) all our batsmen struggled against a very tight bowling attack combined with a well-set field and we could only make 66-5 from our 20 overs which Shrewsbury knocked off for the loss of only one wicket.

However, if we won our final match against Oswestry School we would have a place in the next round for the first time. The younger players were tiring after a long day, and Oswestry probably scored more runs than expected as our bowlers lost line and length and our fielding was not as sharp as it had been against Wrekin, so Ellesmere needed to chase a total 167 for 4. The task quickly became even more difficult as early wickets were lost and after 7 overs Ellesmere were 39 for 4. At this stage Sam Phillips joined Matthew Macintosh and steadily they built a partnership which took the score to 142 for 4 after 19 overs. Twenty-six runs were required from the final over with Matthew Macintosh on strike, he scored 4, 4, 6, 6 from the first 4 balls, suddenly only 6 were required from the last two balls, but then he could only scramble a single from the 5th delivery and Sam was only able to score another single from the final delivery, which meant that Oswestry had won by 3 runs. Disappointingly, Wrekin progressed through to the next round on run rate as they scored more runs against Shrewsbury School.

In the final 20-over match of the season Udesman Goswami scored 4 runs from the final ball of the match to secure victory over the Ravens in another tense finish.

*PJH*



## 1st XI Cricket 2009 – Results and Averages

Team (from):

Evans J.W.\*(captain), Chiecktey T., Courage T.J., Forgrave G.,  
Hayes R.L., Macintosh M.R., Maddock-James J.M.,  
Owen A.J., Tiwary S., Anderson F., Goswami U., Phillips S.A.,  
Owen S.L., Spaven B.

\* 1st XI colours + Half-colours

### Results

#### (H) April 19th (Practice match) (45 overs)

Whitchurch 165 – 7 (Phillips 3-23)  
Ellesmere 206 – 12 (Hayes 53)

#### (H) April 29th (30 overs)

Ellesmere 153 - 6 (Courage 59, Evans 47)  
Adam's Newport 154 - 4 (Forgrave 2-27)

**Lost by 6 wkts**

#### (A) May 10th (45 overs)

Birkenhead 190 – 8 (Anderson 2-15)  
Ellesmere 191 - 6 (Evans 49, Courage 33)

**Won by 4 wkts**

#### (H) May 11th (40 overs)

Ellesmere 288 – 3 (Evans 128, Maddock-James 69)  
Old Ellesmerians 225 all out (Hayes 3-13)

**Won by 63 runs**

#### (A) May 16th v King's Chester – match abandoned rain

#### (H) May 13th (30 overs)

Ellesmere 253 – 6 (Evans 108, Macintosh 50)  
Oswestry 133 – 9 (Hayes 3-29)

**Won by 120 runs**

#### (H) June 6th v Rydal Penrhos – match abandoned rain

#### (H) June 13th (45 overs)

Ellesmere 252 all out (Anderson 48, Tiwary 48,  
Macintosh 39, Phillips 39)  
Newcastle 120 all out (Forgrave 3-24)

**Won by 132 runs**

#### (H) June 19th (Declaration match)

MCC 201-3 dec  
Ellesmere 205 -2 (Evans 117\*, Chiecktey 54\*)

**Won by 8 wkts**

#### (A) June 25th (Declaration match)

Ellesmere 218 – 8 dec (Evans 57, A Owen 38\*)  
Wrekin 219 -5 (Evans 2-30)

**Lost by 5 wkts**

#### (H) June 26th (Declaration match)

Gents of Shropshire 237 – 8 dec (A Owen 5-82)  
Ellesmere 238 – 3 (Macintosh 85\*, Evans 69\*,  
Hayes 59)

**Won by 7 wkts**

#### (H) June 29th (50 overs)

Crawford College 269 – 8 (S Owen 4-26)  
Ellesmere 250 all out (Maddock-James 62,  
Chiecktey 51, Evans 44)

**Lost by 19 runs**

#### Cricket Festival at Worksop – 50 over matches

##### July 1st

Ellesmere 96 all out (Evans 34)  
Hurstpierpoint 102-2

**Lost by 8 wkts**

##### July 2nd

Ellesmere 101 all out (Chiecktey 22)  
Worksop 102 – 0

**Lost by 10 wkts**

#### July 3rd v Bloxham – match abandoned rain

**Senior Batting Trophy (most runs) - Jordan Evans (684 runs)**

**Senior Bowling Trophy (most wickets) - Alex Owen (13 wkts)**

### Batting Averages

Name	Inns	n.o.	Runs	h.s.	100	50	Average
J. W. Evans	11	2	684	128	3	2	76.00
M. R. Macintosh	10	1	265	85*		2	29.44
T. J. Courage	4	0	111	59		1	27.75
S.Tiwary	5	1	110	51		1	27.50
J. M. M-James	8	1	188	69		2	26.86
S. A. Phillips	7	2	131	39			26.20
G. Forgrave	4	2	40	21*			20.00
A. J. Owen	5	1	79	38*			19.75
R. L. Hayes	8	0	136	59		1	17.00
T. Chiecktey	8	1	104	54*		1	14.85
F. Anderson	6	1	71	48			14.20
B. Spaven	5	2	39	19*			13.00
U. Goswami	5	0	59	28			11.80
S. L. Owen	4	3	10	8			10.00

**Also batted:** G. D. Brereton 4\*, O. D. Brereton 10\*

### Bowling Averages

Name	O	M	R	W	Best	Bowling Average
G. Forgrave	19.3	0	110	9	3-24	12.22
S. L. Owen	19.5	2	87	6	4-26	14.50
R. L. Hayes	34	2	146	9	3-13	16.22
F. Anderson	22	2	101	5	2-15	20.20
A. J. Owen	61	2	297	13	5-82	22.84
J. W. Evans	43	5	172	7	2-23	24.57
U. Goswami	57.4	9	243	5	2-11	48.60
S. A. Phillips	42.1	3	168	3	1-23	56.00
S. Tiwary	46	8	176	2	1-35	88.00

**Also bowled:** G. D. Brereton 10-1-43-2, B. Spaven 23-1-148-1  
M. R. Macintosh 10-1-48-0, J. M. Maddock-James 7-0-44-1  
C. I. Murdoch 5-0-44-0, J. McCarthy 2-0-5-0  
A. J. Wantling 2-0-23-0

### Catches:

Maddock-James 5 + 1 stumping, Anderson, Murdoch 4  
Evans, Hayes, Spaven 3, Chiecktey 2 + 3 stumpings  
Forgrave, Goswami, Macintosh, Phillips 2  
Courage, S Owen, Tiwary, Wantling 1

### Twenty-Over Matches

#### April 27th v Invitation XI - match abandoned rain (20 overs)

#### National Twenty20 competition May 3rd at Shrewsbury School

Wrekin 149 – 8 (Phillips 2-22)  
Ellesmere 150-2 (Evans 69\*, Courage 50)

**Won by 8 wkts**

Ellesmere 66 – 5 (Macintosh 30\*)

Shrewsbury 67 – 1

**Lost by 9 wkts**

Oswestry 167-4

Ellesmere 164 – 4 (Macintosh 78\*, Phillips 46\*)

**Lost by 3 runs**

#### June 12th (20 overs)

Ravens 138-3

Ellesmere 141-5 (Hayes 38)

**Won by 5 wkts**

### Twenty-20 Averages

Name	Inns	n.o.	Runs	h.s.	50	Average
M. R. Macintosh	3	2	115	78*	1	115.00
S. A. Phillips	3	1	77	46*		38.50
J. W. Evans	4	1	95	69*	1	31.66
T. J. Courage	3	0	59	50	1	19.66
G. D. Brereton	3	0	23	9		7.66
G. Forgrave	3	1	11	6		5.55

### Bowling (Qualification 2 wickets)

Name	O	M	R	W	BB	Av	Run rate
G. Forgrave	10	0	65	3	2-12	21.66	6.50
J. W. Evans*	10	0	74	3	2-23	24.66	7.40
S. A. Phillips	12.4	0	61	2	2-22	30.50	4.82





J.M. McCarthy B.Y. Brooks B. Lingard-Lane L.T. Walters L.F. Holt J.A. Davies Mr J.J. Baggaley  
T.A. Roberts D.G. Anders-Richards C.A. Fergusson T.O.M. Evans F. Anderson

Ellesmere had an interesting season with both bat and ball, ending up with four, technical, losing draws. The main issue seemed to be the rate at which we scored our runs; Geoffrey Boycott would have admired the way in which we would go about getting our runs. The openers would, well and truly, see off the new ball and, indeed, the opening bowling pairing before giving up their wicket; however, the run rate would never exceed three an over. This fact was exposed on each occasion we played and led to the results we got. In contrast to this, in all our matches we were never bowled out, and in fact our No 11 batsman never took to the crease or faced a single delivery (some say his bat never saw daylight all term), something we as a team were very proud of if not him! Taking the positives from this it showed our patience and our ability to build runs without taking too much unnecessary risk, with the old adage '*you cannot make runs in the pavilion*' no doubt ringing in all our players' ears. Each player made a telling contribution to all our games, which was helped, unlike last season, by the fact that we were able to choose from a hard-core of players. David Anders-Richards and Colin Fergusson led the team extremely well and had the full respect of all of the players. Their performances on the field compounded this, especially Colin's, who found a good rhythm with the bat towards the end of the season. Before leaving us to join the 1st XV Freddie Anderson was bowling some excellent 'line and length' deliveries and slowing up our opposition's run rate, making us even more difficult to beat. At the other end Ben Lingard-Lane worked tirelessly, posing lots of problems for the batsmen. Some excellent, patient batting performances came from Laurence Walters and Joe Davies, and although they may not have knocked so many runs during their innings they soaked up a lot of early pressure and made things a little easier for the lads coming in behind them. In the middle order Ben Brooks and James McCarthy made useful runs and took even

more useful wickets, keeping us in many of the games we played. Callum Booth showed an excellent touch and scored some good runs whilst also keeping wicket on a few occasions. Our dependable players were Todd Evans and Tom Roberts, whose enthusiasm and dedication to the team was infectious and held the team together. In all it was a highly enjoyable season spent with a great group of players.

#### JJB

#### Squad

David Anders-Richards, Colin Fergusson, Freddie Anderson, Todd Evans, Tom Roberts, Ben Lingard-Lane, James McCarthy, Joe Davies, Laurence Walters, Charlie Butt, Louis Holt, Ben Brookes, George Cave, Callum Booth, Alex Wantling, Jake Taylor

#### Results

All matches were 30 overs

#### v Wrekin

91 – 8 Wrekin reached the total with 2 overs and 6 wickets to spare

#### v King's Chester

138 - 6 chasing 143 (50 for James McCarthy)  
Good 50 partnership between Anderson and Fergusson)

#### v Birkenhead

120 – 8 Chasing 146  
(2-17 for Lingard-Lane and Jake Taylor; 47 for Fergusson)

#### v Shrewsbury

Lost, fell short of the target with a wicket in hand.  
(50 for Fergusson)





A.W.J. Cross S.R.H. Thurmer J.W. Baxter S. Kandola A. Brahim C.C. Cawcutt Esq.  
 B.J.M. Oakley C.I. Murdoch F.T. Diamond (Captain) J.J. Maddock-James G.R. Shelley

This has been a very good season for this year's U15A Cricket team, both with regards to results and also the way in which we improved as the season progressed. We played eight games and won seven, losing only to an excellent Shrewsbury team in the semi-final of the T20 competition.

We had a very well-balanced team with a good batting line-up, and every player bowled at least once during the season. The fielding improved dramatically and the players learnt the importance of being a good fielding team. Fraser Diamond captained the team very well and also developed as the season progressed. He learnt the importance of getting one's field placing spot on and the rotating of the bowlers.

The season started off with Ellesmere hosting Bedstone on a hot sunny day. Ellesmere won the toss and chose to bat on a rather flat surface, and Shelley and Oakley put on 137 for the first wicket. Oakley ended up undefeated on 86 while Shelley scored a patient 37. We managed to score 92 off the final ten overs, which gave us a massive boost. Through very tight bowling Bedstone struggled to maintain a good run rate and only managed 83 for the loss of 7 wickets. We used ten bowlers with the wickets spread out evenly. With us winning by 70 runs, things looked good for the rest of the season. Our second game was against Wrekin, which we won very comfortably with Diamond and Roberts each picking up two wickets. Chasing 81 runs to win we lost our first two wickets with only 15 runs on the board. Fortunately, Murdoch and Diamond batted sensibly to see us win by 7 wickets. They wanted to continue once we had won, which gave Murdoch time to get his first fifty of the season. Lakelands School was next and also our

first game of the T20 league. After being 13 for 2, Murdoch and Macintosh put on 125 for the third wicket and allowed us to post a respectable 164 for 4. Good bowling, in particular from Thurmer and Diamond, meant that Lakelands struggled with the run rate and eventually ended up on 95 for 7, giving us a comfortable victory. Oswestry were our fourth game and next round of the T20. Ellesmere were asked to bat first by Oswestry and initially struggled against some tight bowling. Some excellent batting by Macintosh and Spaven allowed us to score 110 runs off the last 10 overs, to reach 153 for 5, with Macintosh scoring a blistering 82 and Spaven a good 34. Oswestry struggled to keep up the pace and with Roberts and Oakley each picking up two wickets we bowled them out for 73, giving us another good win.

Game Five was against Birkenhead, to whom we had lost the previous season. Ellesmere were asked to bat first and managed a respectable 123 for 7 in 25 overs, with Spaven getting his first fifty of the season. Birkenhead started off very patiently and along with tight bowling struggled to score quick runs. They needed 80 off the last 10 overs and produced to score 17 runs off the 16th over and a sudden need to score quickly. Off the final over Birkenhead needed 17 runs to win. With 9 coming off the first 4 balls an exciting finish was in store. Fortunately, Diamond bowled very well and only gave away one run off the last two balls. A great game finished with us winning by 6 runs. Round Three of the T20 competition was against Adams Grammar. Due to four days of rain the game was moved to Adams at the last minute, so that a result could be achieved. With rain about, we won the toss and asked them to bat first. Adams managed to score 96 for 7 in



their 20 overs. Spaven picked up three wickets, Murdoch two and Kandola only conceded 8 runs in 3 overs. Persistent rain meant that we had to be positive from the outset. Our target was reduced to 46 off 10 overs due to the rain pouring down, and we finally needed 6 off the last over, which we managed to do with two balls to spare. Maddock-James batted very well with 23 not out, and with good support from Spaven at the end saw us through. A good win meant that we were through to the semi-finals of the T20 competition, where we came up against an excellent Shrewsbury U15 team. They won the toss and elected to bat, and very soon showed us why they are such a strong team. Our bowlers found it very difficult against their aggressive batting and bowled too many bad balls. Murdoch and Oakley were our best bowlers, but were also unable to restrict Shrewsbury from scoring 176 for 7. We were under extreme pressure from the outset and had to try and be positive against a good bowling attack. Unfortunately we fell behind in the run rate and put ourselves under more pressure. Macintosh scored a quick 27, but never had much support, and we were eventually bowled out for 89 runs. This was disappointing as we had been playing some really good cricket during the season; but we did well to get this far in the competition. To bounce back from this big defeat was going to show the team's true character, and we did this convincingly against Newcastle. We lost the toss, were asked to bat first, and were soon in trouble against some tight bowling. After four overs we were 8 for 2, but fortunately Oakley and Spaven and then later Oakley and Shelley rebuilt our innings and we were able to post a respectable 140 for 5. Oakley batted well in scoring 89 not out and was the backbone of the innings. Tight bowling and bad batting resulted in us bowling them out for 27, giving us a very good win. Spaven, Roberts and Brahim were our highest wicket takers. Unfortunately rain prevented the games against Shrewsbury U15B, King's Chester and Rydal from taking place as I am sure we would have performed well against them too.

Well done to all the players that played for the U15A team this season. Every player contributed to the team during the season, whether with the bat, ball or through great fielding. A big thank you to all parents for their support during the season, and to Ian Morris and the ground staff for preparing the grounds.

### CCC

#### Regular Players

B Oakley, C Murdoch, M Macintosh, B Spaven,  
J Maddock-James, F Diamond (captain), S Owen, G Shelley,  
A Brahim, S Thurmer, S Kandola, J Baxter, A Cross, O Roberts

#### Results

**Played 8 Won 7 Lost 1**

#### v Bedstone (20 overs)

Ellesmere153-1 (Ben Oakley 86 not out, George Shelley 37)  
Bedstone 83-7

**Won by 70 runs**

#### v Wrekin (25 overs)

Wrekin 80-6 (Owain Roberts 2-12, Fraser Diamond 2-5)  
Ellesmere 138-5 in 20 overs (Cameron Murdoch 54 not out,  
Ben Spaven 24)

**Won by 7 wickets as we were only 3 wickets down when we passed their score in the 16th over.**

#### v Lakelands (20 overs)

Ellesmere 164-4 ( Matthew Macintosh 71, Cameron Murdoch  
50 not out)  
Lakelands 95-7 (Sam Thurmer 2-12, Fraser Diamond 2-6)

**Won by 70 runs**

#### v Oswestry (20 overs)

Ellesmere 153 for 5 (Matthew Macintosh 82, Ben Spaven 34)  
Oswestry 73 all out (Owain Roberts 2-9, Ben Oakley 2-11)

**Won by 80 runs**

#### v Birkenhead (25 overs)

Ellesmere 123-7 (Ben Spaven 52)  
Birkenhead 117-5

**Won by 6 runs**

#### v Adams Grammar (20 overs)

Adams Grammar 96-7 (Ben Spaven 3-23,  
Cameron Murdoch 2-16)  
Ellesmere 48-2 off 10 overs (Joel Maddock-James 23 not out)

**Won by 8 wickets as after 10 overs we had scored 48 runs compared to 45 runs scored by Adams Grammar**

#### v Shrewsbury (20 overs)

Shrewsbury 176-7 (Cameron Murdoch 2-18, Ben Oakley 3-15)  
Ellesmere 89 all out (Matthew Macintosh 27)

**Lost by 87 runs**

#### v Newcastle (25 overs)

Ellesmere 140-5 (Ben Oakley 89 not out, George Shelley 22)  
Newcastle 27 all out (Ben Spaven 3-8, Owain Roberts 2 -2,  
Adam Brahim 2-2)

**Won by 114 runs**

#### Averages

Batting (Qualification 4 innings)

	Inns	Runs	HS	Average
Oakley	7	197	89*	49.25
Macintosh	4	180	82	45.00
Murdoch	8	130	54*	26.00
Brahim	4	26	11*	26.00
Spaven	7	143	52	23.83
Maddock-James	6	54	23*	13.50
Shelley	7	74	37	10.60
Diamond	5	27	14	9.000

Bowling (Qualification 2 wickets)

	Overs	Runs	Wickets	Best	Average
Roberts	11	46	7	2-2	6.57
Brahim	7	21	3	2-2	7.00
Oakley	18	81	9	3-15	9.00
Murdoch	19	68	7	2-16	9.71
Diamond	24	92	7	2-5	13.14
Spaven	27	125	8	3-8	15.63
Kandola	18	60	2	1-8	30.00
Thurmer	19	87	2	2-12	43.50

Ellesmere College  M5B Cricket  
20 09



A.W. Eaton R.W.K. Michell M.S. Kelly W.I. Jackson T.Dobie K.L. Johnson Mr D.W. Crawford  
J.E. Davies A.N. Main W.A.S. Bird J.A. Towers N.M. Crow J.M.E. Stokes O. Taraborelli

The year turned again and longer evenings brought out the cricketers from Year 10, under the captaincy of Jayson Towers and with feisty wicket keeper Nick Crow providing support behind the stumps. A potentially busy fixture list was hit by poor weather, but there were plenty of lads who turned out for the College.

Our first game was against Abbeygate School, where Ellesmere fielded first and conceded 139-8 in twenty overs. The star bowler was guest ringer Sam Dapling, who picked up three wickets cheaply. In response, Ellesmere posted a total of 102-8, with captain Towers supporting more aggressive batsmen. At this point in the season we caught our first glimpse of William Bird, who showed he had some batting class by hitting a large six over midwicket; sadly too late, but he set down a marker for the future.

Corbet School are traditionally strong opposition when they come to Ellesmere, and this year was no exception. Their opener from last year's game, now playing with the correct age group, dominated their innings as the visitors eased to 105-2, despite some disciplined bowling. Sadly, the Ellesmere players were unable to make much impact on the outfield as they spluttered to only 42-6 in their time, though William Bird made the top score of thirteen.

The third match, against Sir John Talbot School, saw the opposition batting first and haring to 134-3, even though good spells from Ben Spaven and Saajan Kandola had kept things tight in the initial manoeuvres. In response, Ellesmere's fate was sealed when they fell to 5-3 after only two overs. A good innings of 22 from Angus Cross, with support from Jamie Stokes, made the final result less emphatic, but it was only a measure of respectability in defeat.

A much-postponed fixture against Thomas Adams School finally took place in the penultimate week of term, and gave us the best game of the season. Saajan Kandola produced an excellent

bowling performance, making the batsmen work for their runs. The support attack was less economical and the visitors closed on 149-2. This was the best batting performance by the Ellesmere side of the whole summer, not least from Angus Cross who produced an excellent half-century (57) as opener. Good support came from William Bird (16) and captain Jayson Towers, unselfishly run out for 27. This run-out proved to be the decisive break, as Kallum Johnson and Saajan Kandola ran out of time despite some enterprising hitting, attracting the attention of a passing Deputy Head! Final score: Ellesmere 143-6.

The final game against the Marches School again flattered to deceive; Ellesmere came close but ultimately were scoring too slowly. The visitors picked up a good total of 93-2; a good score to concede on a small pitch on Parry's. Despite the small pitch, the Ellesmere batsmen were unable to capitalise, though some credit must go to the opening bowler of the Marches School who produced some astounding outswing which the home players were unable even to edge to third man. The single star batting performance came from Jayson Towers, finishing his stint at the helm with a solid 33 not out. Ultimately, the Ellesmere response pulled up short at 76-5.

Statistically, this must be considered a poor season, but this did not detract from the good spirit in which the games were played and the good manners shown to the opposition teams. A more assertive approach to batting should be looked at, and developing the ability to score from every ball. Bowling needs to be tighter, not necessarily faster, as there is no reason to concede easy runs through wides.

My thanks to all the players who turned out for nets and matches over the season, and particularly to Jayson and Nick, who were the mainstays of the side. There will be less time for cricket in Year 11, but all concerned should try to be involved if you get the chance.

**DWC**





G. Hutchinson Esq. M.J. McBrien A.C. Butt L.W. Bostock-Williams A. McCarthy A.W. Eaton S.G. Dapling  
J.E. Latter A.N. Main J.E. Davies M.R. Dewhirst L.G. Taylor

**Played 5 Won 2 Lost 3 Cancelled 4**

All matches were overs contests

Clearly one dominant factor during the season was the weather, which caused the cancellation of four fixtures in the middle of the term. Wickets also tended to be slow, with some keeping low, which meant that it was wise for batsmen to play themselves in, despite the pressure of the overs format of cricket. The two Lords Taverners fixtures were 20/20, with the Birkenhead match being 30 overs and the others 25 overs.

Opener Sam Owen was the mainstay of the batting. He is an elegant stroke-maker who drives well on both sides of the wicket, and who is able to work the ball into the available gaps. A shift in guard after his only failure made him less vulnerable to being out lbw when trying to work the ball to leg. With only one dismissal in the term he finished with an impressive average of 146. Big hitters Matthew Dewhirst and Luke Taylor made some useful runs quickly, as did Conor Carrington-Sykes and Adam Butt in their one innings apiece. A major failing of the middle order batting was an inability to manufacture quick singles, whilst speed between the wickets was also lacking. This inevitably led to unwise shots against the stronger bowling sides when we fell behind the required run rate.

Both opening bowlers, Sam Owen and Alex McCarthy, had good economy rates of fewer than 4 an over, with off-spinner Jonathon Davies slightly better at 3.5. Mark McBrien was possibly under-used, given his economy rate of 4.5. Sam Dapling and Alex Eaton bowled dangerous spells, but tended to be more expensive, as was leg-spinner John Paul. All three of them were unduly plagued by our woeful catching in some matches. Their figures should have been much better. Despite having one or two excellent fielders in the side, in general the squad needs to work hard on its fielding for the future. Enthusiasm was never lacking, but at times Captain

Sam Owen was at loss as to how best to employ his safest pairs of hands. In general, teams that we faced were physically more mature, and as this year's U14s progress up the school they will no doubt be able to match the athleticism of their opponents more closely. Wicket-keeping duties were shared between Matthew Dewhirst and Andrew Main.

**GH**

**Squad**

R Banks, L Bostock-Williams, A Butt, C Carrington-Sykes, S Dapling, J Davies, M Dewhirst, A Eaton, J Latter, A Main, M McBrien, A McCarthy, S Owen, J Paul, L Taylor

**Results**

**v Wrekin Won by 9 Wkts**

Wrekin 59	Davies 2-9, McCarthy 2-11
	Owen 2-21
Ellesmere 60-1	Taylor 26, Owen 24*

**v Lakelands Won by 8 Wkts**

Lakelands 71-4	Owen 2-11
Ellesmere 75-2	Owen 34*, Dewhirst 21

**v Birkenhead Lost by 57 runs**

Birkenhead 137-6	Eaton 2-29
Ellesmere 80	Owen 35*, Taylor 18

**v Shrewsbury Lost by 10 Wkts**

Ellesmere 53	Carrington-Sykes 14*
Shrewsbury 54-0	

**v Newcastle Lost by 56 runs**

Newcastle 146-8	Davies 2-31, Dapling 2-33
Ellesmere 90-6	Owen 51*, Butt 14*



Mr D.M. Roberts J.W. Fletcher S.J. McIlraith D.W.R. Ryder L.W. Bostock-Williams E.E. Morris  
A.C. Butt R.O. Belcher B. Hughes A.N. Main J.W. Sambrook-Jones J. Walker H. Cole

The inclement Summer Term meant that the U14Bs were restricted to only two matches. Yet, despite the absence of competitive opposition, the boys continued to attend practice sessions and hurl cricket balls down the nets. They endeavoured tirelessly in the vain hope that the rainy season would cease and that they would be the one to take Adam Butt's wicket. However, the skies were to turn blue before Butt succumbed to the onslaught.

In their first match at Wrekin College Ellesmere produced an outstanding display. Within a total of 125 runs, Ed Morris and Howard Cole both scored 23 runs each as they settled down in the middle order. A swashbuckling 26 from Josh Sambrook-Jones accelerated the run rate as the innings closed. The bowlers were also in fine form as Louis Bostock-Williams ripped into the Wrekin batters; he was withdrawn from the attack in order to allow others to bowl. James Fletcher, Howard Cole and Dominic Ryder were all able to take advantage and each got a wicket. The plaudits went to Louis Bostock-Williams as he bowled four overs without allowing a run off the bat; however, the 6 extras conceded gave him an average of 1.5 for his 4 wickets. Wrekin were only able to score 78 runs and Ellesmere won by 47 runs.

Several weeks later, Ellesmere travelled to face a very strong Packwood side. In batting first Ellesmere were never able to get the scoreboard ticking along as key wickets fell with regularity and new batsmen had difficulty getting in. An exception was Adam Butt, who carried his wicket in scoring 14 runs, but in the end ran out of support as the only notable contributors were Louis Bostock-Williams with 7, Lloyd Parry-Jones with 6 and James Fletcher with 5. Ellesmere were all out for 48 off 17 overs. The Packwood openers batted with haste as the clouds darkened and they knocked off 50 in swift style. Louis Bostock-Williams, Adam Butt and Josh Sambrook-Jones bowled with great endeavour but were fruitless in ousting the Packwood pair. Packwood won by 10 wickets.

Despite only playing these two games there were some competitive matches against the U14As in which a number of boys showed that they had the skills to match those in the A squad. Hence it was very pleasing to see a number of them move up and play well under Mr Hutchinson's guidance. As the boys retired for the Summer they could feel pleased with what they had achieved and how they had developed as players.

**DMR**



## Tennis

Ellesmere College



1st Tennis Team

20

09



H.E.Jones E.J.Sutcliffe O.R.Jones Mrs N.Hoy  
K.Norman J.V.Bowen H.L.Clarke

### Senior Tennis

The Senior Tennis is included in the Tennis Academy report.

### U14 and U15 Tennis

A mixture of Academy and school players, the U14 and U15 team have had an excellent Tennis term, having won most of their matches. Combining the Academy players with the school players has strengthened our teams and increased the players' experience of match play. In some of our matches, our Academy players didn't play and it gave a chance for others to play. The term saw both teams have good wins over Denstone College, Moreton Hall and Oswestry School.

Wednesday Games afternoon saw the U14 and U15 squad visit the Welti Tennis Centre to train with Miss Goss and Mr Aaron Somerset. The girls were a delight to coach and enjoyment, mixed with hard work, was had by all.

### HLG

### Squad

Jo Bowen, Chloe Prydden, Grace Tomlinson,  
Luca Kuhn, Sarah Wicks, Emily Sutcliffe,  
Hannah Clarke, Kate Parry, Georgina Ottaway,  
Eve Davies, Sarah Carr, Kate Norman

Ellesmere College



Snr Boys Tennis

20

09



H.B. Orr Esq. J.G. Brewitt T.R. Blake C.T. Cieslik Mrs N. Hoy  
C. von Hoven J. Siering S.M.M. Wagner N. Fugger-Babenhause J. Joule

### Glanville Cup

Our boys first team had a great run in the Glanville Cup defeating both Shrewsbury schools 1st and 2nd teams and only losing very

closely to Wolverhampton Grammar in the regional semi finals. A great effort from the whole team.

The team were James Joule, Scott Wagner, Nick Fugger and Toby Blake.



### The 8th Reffell Open 2009

The Reffell Open took a dramatic turn this year with a new point scoring system. Instead of playing games, each point was scored and counted. Each pair of an adult and pupil played eight matches of 24 points each. Each player served six points per match. In this way it was possible to do well, whereas playing games could result in a score of nil although a pair could lose those four games by only a point. The pairs were pretty equal as well and it would have been hard to predict a winner, although money would have been put on an Anders-Richards/Hoy victory. Play commenced at 5.45pm and the eleven rounds took till 9pm. Playing every point as if your life depended on it resulted in some cagey tennis being played. Clever pairings took few risks, waiting rather for the opposition to make mistakes. If Macintosh and Head Girl Boffey were your opponents then it was just a matter of getting the ball into play and allowing this odd couple to do the rest. Big scores were needed when and if you were lucky enough to play those two. Otherwise everything was pretty close. The surprise package was the Cawcutt/Haynes partnership. Cawcutt, a great all-round sportsman, surprised all with his dazzling play as did Zoe, when she wasn't refilling her glass at the Pimm's table. Ranjit Chatterjee and Yasmin Rahbari played well as did Emma Johnson and former winner Jonny Morgan. Sharon Owen tried to tame the impetuous James Norman whilst Kenny Paul and Katrin Scharf played beyond the form book. Poor Colin Fergusson, awaiting the former champion, was delighted when Mel Evans partnered him and both did well. Helen Goss and Lawrence Walters played some hot and cold tennis. After eleven rounds the top four in each group went into quarter-finals. Emily Lewis and Gareth Owen took on The Missus Owen and James Norman whilst Anders-Richards/Hoy played von Hoven and Killen. Von Hoven and Killen

pulled off a surprise win as did Mr Owen versus the wife, a first victory for Gareth, both physically and psychologically. In the other half, Cowley and the graceful Patrizia Rugholt dispensed with Morgan and Johnson to play Blake and Pugh. But it was an easy win for the latter. So we came to a final, von Hoven and Killen versus Blake and Pugh. All the money was now on a von Hoven/Killen victory, especially with Pugh's reputation as a choker in the pressure games. So it looked as von Hoven and Killen took a two-nil lead. Somehow Blake and Pugh crawled back two games to make it two apiece, with pressure now on the Killen serve. Could Killen keep her nerve? Well, no. It was to be a deserved victory for Blake and Pugh, 3-2. The look on Anwen Pugh's face as victory was clinched said it all.

**HBO**



*Winning partnership Toby Blake and Anwen Pugh*

## Athletics

### Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships

Nine athletes represented Ellesmere College in the Shropshire Schools Track and Field Championships in Telford. For most of them this was their first experience of competing in such an event, yet many excelled, achieving personal best results, and all winners were asked to represent Shropshire.

Two Lower School pupils, Emma Greville and Ellie Halstead, were victorious in their events, and they went on to Birmingham to compete for Shropshire. Emma accomplished two personal bests in her 800m heat and final (2.36.9min), whereas Ellie displayed a consistent performance in her 100m heats and final (13.7sec). Both girls did well to qualify for the 200m final, yet fatigue set in after their other superb performances, and they struggled to reach the top placements.

Hannah Cumpston also gave the best performance of the day in the high jump, with a remarkable 1.50m. She came 4th in the 100m, yet only 0.4 seconds distinguished the top four positions.



*Ellie Halstead winning the 100m final*

Martin Jones was the final pupil to represent Shropshire, achieving second place in the 100m (11.8sec) and first place in the 200m (24.1sec).

Other pupils who competed at a high standard included Ella Walker (3rd place in the 1500m), Moritz Verleger (3rd in the 800m, 4th in the 3000m), George Cave (3rd in the long jump, 4th in the 100m), Olumuyiwa Fashanu (4th in the triple jump, 7th in the long jump) and Joshua Sambrook-Jones (9th in the Long Jump).



*Hannah Cumpston wins gold in the High Jump*



# Sports Academies

## Titans' Swimming Pride



John Pardoe  
Head Coach of the Titans

The closing ceremony of the 2009 British National Age Group Swimming Championships, held at the Ponds Forge International Pool in Sheffield on Sunday 26th July, marked the end of a year of intense competition for the swimming world. For one particular group of swimmers it represented the partial realisation of their dream and the inspiration for the setting of new goals for the forthcoming season.

Inspired by the real life events depicted in the 2007 film *Pride*, which

documented the trials and tribulations of establishing a swimming club in 1970s Philadelphia, a group of young Ellesmerian pupils decided, back in June 2008, to embark upon the same track. Against all the odds, and after a number of initial setbacks, they have turned dreams into reality. Just one year after setting up the Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club they have achieved remarkable success at County, Regional and National level.

In the Age Group rankings (as at 10th November 2008), maintained by the sport's governing body, the ASA, Titan swimmers held two No 1 UK rankings, one No 2 UK ranking and a further ten Top 10 UK rankings. This was in addition to a multitude of West Midland and Shropshire County high-placed rankings.

The season of competition started back in the Autumn of 2008 when, after two hotly-contested qualifying rounds of competition, the Titans reached the prestigious final of the North West National Speedo League which was held at Liverpool. Despite having a



Darren Mew with young Titans

very small and young squad, and swimming against some well-established big city clubs such as Bolton, Lancaster and Garston, the Titans came third out of eleven teams and took promotion for the coming season.



Mayor of Ellesmere with Titan medal-winners at 2009 Shropshire County Championships. From left; Annie Mellings, Elliot Hughes, Jamie Thomas, Alfie Pardoe, Jessica Thomas, Daniel Howell

In February and March at the 2009 Shropshire County Championships, Titan swimmers literally stormed to victory, being awarded two Overall Best Swimmer trophies; smashing two all-time County records; and bringing home a medal haul of twenty-four individual gold, twenty-nine silver and fourteen bronze medals and eight silver relay medals. Alfie Pardoe, Year 6, dominated his age group at the Championships, winning eight out of a possible maximum of thirteen gold medals and smashing the previously-held County record in the 200m backstroke. Despite having only seventeen swimmers and it being their first County Championships, the Titans finished well above a number of other local well-established clubs such as Wellington, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Newport and Court in the overall individual medal tally. They well and truly signalled their intentions for the future.

Competing in the North Wales Championships James Wilson, Year 7, won the Overall Best 11 and Under Boy by winning four gold medals.

In the Welsh Championships Naomi Craig won the gold medal in the 11 and Under Girls' 400m Individual Medley. She also won three silvers for the 200m Individual Medley, 100m Breast Stroke and 200m Breast Stroke as well as two bronzes for her performance in the 100m and 200m Freestyle races. She has been part of the Swim Wales Skill Squad for the last two years and now qualifies to be a member of the Welsh Regional Development Squad.

In June Titan swimmers moved on to competing at the Midland Championships, which were held in Coventry. The competition



Naomi Craig with some of her medals from the Welsh Championships





*Hector Pardoe, Year 4, displaying his 800m Freestyle Shield*

includes the best swimmers from ten counties and eligibility is determined by qualifying times achieved. The Titans had nine swimmers reaching qualifying standard. This represented over 35% of our total squad – the highest ratio of swimmers achieved by any Shropshire club in 2009 and possibly the highest ever recorded.

Congratulations should go to the following swimmers who all reached the qualification standard: Alfie Pardoe (age 11), James Wilson (age 11), Naomi Craig (age 12), Elliot Hughes (age 12), Hannah Greene (age 12), James Norman (age 18), Courtney Pickstone (age 16), Helena Kocourkova (age 29) and David Main (age 16). Alfie Pardoe won the bronze medal in the 11 and Under Boys 200m Backstroke and James Wilson took bronze in the 11 and Under Boys' 100m Freestyle. Alfie and James achieved joint seventh in the overall 11 and Under Boys Championship points tally.



*Alfie Pardoe (left) and James Wilson with Midland Championship Bagcat Awards*

To top the year off in terms of achievements in the pool, Alfie Pardoe and James Wilson both successfully qualified for this year's British National Age Group Championships. They were two of only four swimmers in the whole of Shropshire to achieve this. James swam his way to a brilliant 5th and 6th place in the respective finals of the 11 and Under 200m & 100m Freestyle events. His times of 2:17.53 in the 200m and 1:04.10 in the 100m smashed his previous personal best times and the previous club records. Alfie recorded a personal best time and new club record in the 100m Backstroke of 1:16.74.

Throughout the year the club has added to both its training facilities and coaching resources. Back in the Summer of last year double Olympic Breaststroke finalist Darren Mew joined our coaching team. Former European Fin Swimming Champion Helena Kocourkova shortly followed the call to action. In addition the club secured regular weekly Long Course (50m pool) training time at Liverpool and has from time to time been joined by leading experts in nutrition, hydration, aqua-running and core body strength training. In the coming year this programme of specialist training will be expanded to include Yoga.

All of these achievements in our first year were recognised back in March when the club was awarded Swim 21 accreditation and Clubmark status – both of which recognise the quality of the Titans' set-up and their remarkable achievements to date. The club has most recently been recognised by Sport England who have awarded a £10,000 National Lottery funded grant to help it move onwards and upwards towards reaching elite performance level. This grant will



*James Wilson and Alfie Pardoe at the 2009 British National Age Group Championships*

help fund significant improvements to the club's existing strength and core body training facilities, including the equipping of a state-of-the-art Trixter X-Biking studio and the purchase of a number of specialist poolside Swim Benches imported from the US. Some of the money will also be used to finance the coaching costs of a new Junior Development Squad which is to be launched in September.

Commenting on the Titans' first year, Head Coach Jon Pardoe said: "What has been achieved in our first year reflects the ambition, hard work and determination of everyone at the club. Each of our swimmers set their personal swimming goals at the beginning of the season and I am extremely proud of everyone who has committed their time and effort to follow their dreams. What the Titans have achieved is a triumphant story about team spirit and courage."

But the season wasn't just about hard training and no play - far from it! To celebrate their remarkable rise to fame, Titan swimmers were whisked away at the end of the final day of competition at this year's County Championships in three chauffeur-driven luxury stretch limousines to a celebration dinner at Chester Racecourse's glamorous new restaurant 1539, where they were given the full red carpet treatment. Chester Racecourse Chief Executive Richard Thomas said: "At 1539 we have a reputation for welcoming some of the greatest sporting heroes and stars in the region. The achievements of these Titan swimmers are truly motivational. They are today's sporting heroes and the stars of tomorrow."

Ellesmere College Headmaster Brendan Wignell commented: "When these pupils first approached me about the possibility of establishing a swimming club I was taken aback by their sheer determination and ambition. Anyone who has listened to Olympic double gold medallist Rebecca Adlington will know how hard youngsters must work in order to achieve success. These Titan swimmers spend hours every week training in the pool and it is very rewarding when all that hard work pays off."

British Sydney and Athens Olympic Breaststroke finalist Darren Mew, now a coach at the Titans, said: "What the Titans have achieved in such a short space of time could provide a great model for British swimming to use in the future. The set-up and many of the coaching techniques are unique. I have seen nothing else like it outside Australia. What these swimmers have demonstrated is that if you have the will and determination to succeed Britain definitely has the resources. It's just a matter of seeking them out and thinking outside the box."

So it's onwards and upwards to the new swimming season – a season in which the Titans will do everything possible to achieve their goals. One of the club's mottos is "Think Big...Win Big". The Titans are already "Thinking Bigger" and intend to "Win Bigger".



## Rugby Academy News

The major event of the year was to see our recent leaver James King selected for Wales U20 and playing in the World Cup competition in Japan. He was part of a team that enjoyed wins over Tonga, Canada and Ireland before losing to France and taking 6th place in the tournament.

Joel Galley unfortunately suffered an horrendous knee injury that required complete knee reconstruction. Although this has required twelve months of rehabilitation it was pleasing to see Joel moving closer to fitness when he came to coach at Ellesmere Summer Rugby Camp in August.

Rhys Hayes, although still at University, is a professional for Chester and has been travelling to play fly half for the 1st XV.

Sam Lewis enjoyed his first season in the Worcester Academy playing a number of times for the A side. Sam is enjoying work as a coach as well as continuing his own rugby, and during the season 2009/10 will be working with the Ellesmere Academy as Fitness and Conditioning Coach.

PAG

## Cricket Academy



*Rod Jones,  
Director of the Cricket Academy*

One year on from the start of the Cricket Academy at Ellesmere College we can assess what progress has been made in terms of player development, results, Academy awareness and the impact it has had on the College.

### Player Development

At the start an assessment was made of the potential cricketing talent within the College. Findings from that suggested that there was a reasonable base to work

from. All that was needed was a structured plan that the players and coaches could use in player development. In practice this meant access to more one-to-one coaching, video analysis, fitness and core stability training. We have more qualified staff now; one Level III, three Level II and four Level I coaches

**Results** Performances improved and so did results in all age groups.

**Academy awareness** The profile of the College has been raised within the County and beyond. We have forged links with North Wales, Glamorgan and Lancashire. Outside Britain we have links with Scindia School in India, which sends two pupils each Summer to experience our playing conditions; and we have now set up contacts in Cape Town, South Africa, from where, so far, we have a cricketer who played for Western Province play for us.



*Taariq Chiecktey from Cape Town, South Africa,  
and Jordan Evans, the Academy's first Cricket Scholar*

The promotion of the Academy has been helped by staging Cricket festivals in all age-groups. Early on in the year we held a Kwik Cricket Festival for primary schools. These were followed by County fixtures such as U13 Girls, U14 Boys and a two-day U17s game. On top of that the Cricket Board of Wales held a four-day festival in which all Counties in Wales played a league format. To finish off the College held the National Girls' Club Final at U13 and U15 levels. We were thus able to promote the College by demonstrating that we have excellent facilities, backed by the support structure needed to further the Academy's development.



*Young cricketers in the National Girls' Club Finals held at Ellesmere College*

Notable performances this year saw our first Cricket Scholar Jordan Evans score three centuries, and an entry into the Wisden National School Top Twenty Averages with an average of 76. A significant number of pupils have been selected to go for trials, and our best wishes go to them.

Many thanks to Mr Peter Hayes, Mr Ian Williams and all the ground staff for their support of the Academy throughout the year.

**Rod Jones**



### Representative Honours

Edward Bridge	Disabled Squad for Shropshire
Jordan Evans	North East Wales
Dewi Jones	Wales
Matt Macintosh	Shropshire
Sebastian McCarthy	North Shropshire District
Fraser Murdoch	North East Wales
Ben Oakley	Shropshire
Sam Owen	Shropshire
Sam Phillips	Shropshire
David Powell	North Shropshire District

### County Cricket Player joins Visitors at Ellesmere College Academy Day

Adam Shantry, Glamorgan County Cricket Club's opening bowler, accepted the invitation to visit Ellesmere College on its first Academy Day, where he joined Darren Mews, of the Ellesmere Titans. Adam made his debut for Glamorgan in 2008 after spells with Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. He picked up thirty championship wickets at an excellent average of 18 in his debut season. Left arm fast bowler Adam was at the school to develop the association between Ellesmere College and Glamorgan County Cricket Club. He ran a coaching session alongside Rod Jones, Director of Cricket at Ellesmere College. The Cricket Academy, headed by Rod, who is an ECB Level 3 Coach, provides a player pathway linking into Regional Cricket and beyond. Links have also been forged with Lancashire County Cricket Club. In a similar way to the other Academies in the school, Cricket players are coached to an elite level whilst receiving a first-class education.



*Academy Day visitors.*

*Back row from left: Rowana Parkes, Adam Shantry, Ferdinand Becker, Darren Mew, Jemima Boroughs.  
Front row from left: Leon Parkes, Fizz Scarratt, Buffy Boroughs*

### Tennis Academy



*Nikki Hoy, Director of the Tennis Academy*

This year the Academy has grown in size to over thirty pupils, and is achieving some fabulous results, seeing us in another four National competition finals: U19 Boys, U19 Girls, U19 Mixed and the U13 National Finals, where we finished second in the country.

As the standard rises in the Academy we look ever further afield for expeditions for the players. We went to Birmingham in the Lent Term, back to Essex in the Summer to win the Forest and Mere Cup, and then to a Spanish academy in October for some intensive training and to try some different court surfaces.



*U19 Boys' team: from left, Scott Wagner, Nick Fueller, Toby Blake and James Joule*



*U19 Girls' team: from left, Caroline Spink, Yasmin Rahbari, Olivia Dingwall-Fordyce, Luana Nanu*

With so many pupils we now go to Welti Tennis Centre twice a week for indoor sessions, and have four coaches and a fitness expert working together - a good team experience for us all. Both our Year 8 and Year 10 Girls' Aegon League teams qualified for Regional events, so we continue towards our goal of a National title.

In summary, we are still on track for our goal of being the best school in the UK.

### U13 Aegon League

Aegon have taken over the sponsorship of the British Schools Competition. This year we have won the County division, beating Shrewsbury High, Thomas Telford, Newport High and Moreton Hall. This took us to the Regional knock-out stage against Welshpool High, which we won 36 – 1. The team of H Jones, O Jones, C Hughes and C Jones now goes forward to the next stage – we wish them luck.



### U15 Aegon League

Our U15 team have also won the County stage and go forward to the Regional knock-out. Great work from J Bowen, H Clarke, E Sutcliffe and K Norman.

### Aberdare Cup

This year our Aberdare Cup teams played very well. The First Team got through to the Regional Finals and knocked out our Second Team, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College and Wrekin College along the way. They only lost on a match tie-break in the Regional Finals against Lymm High School. The team of J Bowen, L Nanu, H Clarke and H Jones put in a fabulous performance.

### U15 Boys

The boys played brilliantly, given that some members of the team were on a school residential trip, losing only to Thomas Telford, in the County Division. They won convincingly against all other teams – a great effort.

Team: C Cieslik, H Gwilt, J Brewitt, M Faulkner.

Reserve: D Simpson

### U13 Boys

The U13 team beat Prestfelde and Thomas Telford, then lost on a match count-back against Idsall. This match finished three matches all, and lost on the count-back of games.

Team: B Kirk, D Powell, T Hall, H Whitehouse

### Lawn Tennis Association

#### Senior Students National Finals at Bolton Arena

Members of the Tennis Academy had much to smile about after a weekend spent competing in all three categories of the Lawn Tennis Association Senior Students National Finals, which were held at Bolton Arena. The Boys' Team recorded an excellent win on the first day of the competition against Warwickshire College, but the following morning were defeated by eventual champions Bournemouth Grammar School after a titanic struggle to determine who would finish top of the group. The Girls' Team were severely weakened by injury and absences, meaning that their Captain, Luana Nanu, was the only member of the quartet who had previously represented the College in the competition. However, some gutsy displays were ultimately rewarded with a thrilling tie-break victory against King's Bruton in their last fixture, ensuring that they finished third in their group.

The weekend concluded with the Mixed Doubles' Competition, with the quartet of Luana Nanu, James Joule, Scott Wagner and Emily



LTA Senior Students National Finals Academy Team

Back row from left: Luana Nanu, Ioana Stoica, Emily Lewis, Sophie Mauersberg  
Front row from left: Toby Blake, Scott Wagner, Nikolaus Fugger, James Joule

Lewis defying aching limbs to record two victories out of three in the group stages. However they missed out on qualifying for the final by the narrowest of margins, with St Peters School progressing at their expense by virtue of having dropped one fewer set over the course of their three fixtures.

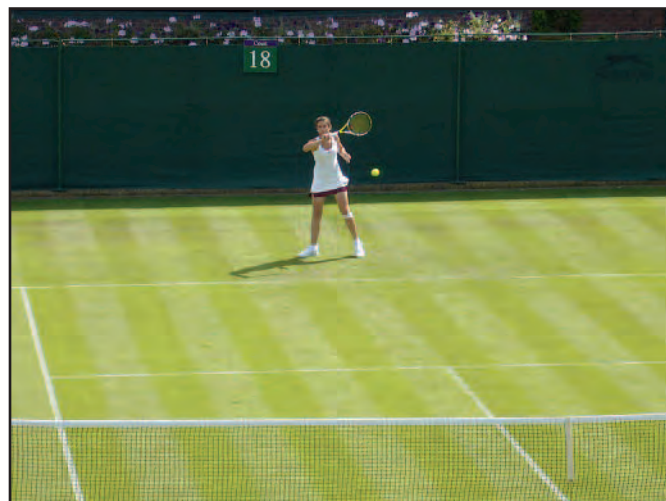
Academy Director Nikki Hoy was delighted with her team's efforts. "For Ellesmere College to be one of only two schools in the country to qualify for all three competitions is a fantastic achievement, and then to perform at such a high level for three days of physically and mentally draining tennis says a lot about the kind of players which we have in our Academy. I am very proud of them all.

HJW

### The Road to Wimbledon

At the start of the summer holidays I won the County Finals of the Road to Wimbledon. This gave me the chance to go and play in the Road to Wimbledon National Finals. Going to Wimbledon was a great experience that I've dreamed of achieving since I started playing Tennis. As competitors we were allowed to go in and out of Wimbledon as we pleased by just showing our competitor's pass. This pass allowed us one free trip on the Wimbledon tour for ourselves and the rest of our family. As well as this we were allowed one free visit to the museum.

Throughout the week we were allowed to play our matches on the practise courts but a few of us were allowed to play on Court 18.



Hannah Clarke on Court 18 at Wimbledon

This was a great privilege as you got to feel exactly what it's like to play on court with lots of people watching. On the Tuesday night at 6p.m. all play was stopped and we had to get ready for a party that was held in a room above Court 1. There was a big quiz and the table that scored the most won a £15 iTunes voucher. There was also a magician and some karaoke.

Being given the chance to play at Wimbledon was absolutely amazing and makes me even more determined to play at Wimbledon as a professional.

Hannah Clarke



# Shooting Report 2008/9

The usual rustiness that coats shooters during the Summer break had to be quickly dispelled as our Junior Shooters commenced another campaign in the National U14 League. Excellent leadership from Sam Williams (Year 8) and superb shooting from Hannah Williams (Year 8) and James Slater (Year 8) produced a win for the aptly-named Ellesmere Cup for the third time in four years.



*Hannah Williams and James Slater (both Year 8) shooting in the Junior Championships at Bisley*

September is always an exciting time as new pupils are trying shooting for the first time and some prodigious talent can be unearthed. This was clearly the case with Joana Fawke, who arrived on the range in September having never picked up a rifle and six weeks later was a fully-fledged member of the Wales Air Rifle squad. New talent appeared regularly throughout the year with Katy Leeming (Year 6), Oliver Lock (Year 8) and Emily Roberts (Year 8) showing great promise for the future. Our existing shooters were also hitting the mark with a superb personal best by Jacob Roberts (Year 7) at Intershoot in The Hague. Consistent improvement by Ryan Williams (Year 10) also led to numerous personal bests and both Ryan and Jacob were invited to Welsh Squad training in Switzerland. Richard Belcher also has performed consistently in the GB Junior squad and has impressed coaches with his first foray into three-positional shooting at the Junior International in Oldenburg, Germany.

The U14 team added to their success by winning the St Andrew's Cup in the U14 League with Hannah Williams and James Slater top scorers. Our aggregate score of 1782 is second only to the mighty Ardvreck A team with whom we must tangle in the new College year.

The Lent Term brought about two major advances for the College; the Inaugural Senior Inter-House Shooting Match for the Hillier Cup and our first hosting of a major shooting tournament in the shape of the North Wales Open Airgun Championship. The progress of shooting up through the year-groups has now enabled the Senior Houses to field some competitive teams and our first match resolved into a close-run match between the fancied Wakeman-Lambart and Woodard teams. A see-

saw match with 190-plus scores from squad shooters Richard Belcher and Ryan Williams resolved itself into a last shot decider by Woodard's Sophie Osborne. A nine would not do it. She shot a perfect 10 to give Woodard the narrowest of wins. Woodard's Captain Ryan Williams also walked away with both the handicap score and the high gun score prizes to complete a clean sweep for Woodard House.

The North Wales Open Airgun proved to be a major success for the College. The Welsh Airgun Association arrived on a Friday afternoon (27th March) and within four hours had set up a thirty-two-lane 10m Airgun Range in the College Sports Hall. The following two days saw College shooters mixing with Olympic and Commonwealth Games competitors. It was clear from the success of the match and the comments of all concerned that the College Sports Hall is perfectly designed for this type of tournament and will become a regular venue for the Championship. In addition



*Local and National shooting heroes: from left, Ellesmere pupils Joana Fawke (Welsh squad) and Richard Belcher (GB Juniors squad), OE Jenny Corish (current GB International), Irene Daw (Welsh National Air Rifle coach and former Olympian), Ellesmere pupils Ryan Williams and Jacob Roberts (both Welsh squad members)*



*North Wales Open Airgun Championships, held in the Ellesmere College Sports Centre*



Richard Belcher achieved a silver and three bronze medals in a most successful event.

The College also hosted a Summer Biathlon Match in partnership with the W.A.A. This comprised 10m laser rifle combined with laps of the College's Cross-country courses. This trial event proved to be most enjoyable and testing, with Naomi Craig (Year 7), Richard Lay (Year 7) and Jens Lee (Year 9) taking first places.



*Richard Lay (year 7) preparing to shoot*



*Katherine Neary (Year 10) after a 100 yard shoot*

Summer Term saw a change to our programme with Open Shoots being our emphasis, but first the Junior House Championship had to be decided. Brownlow's huge advantage in having James Slater, Samantha Williams, Joana Fawke and Peter von Hoven for their team could not be countered by Heywood or Phillips and they proved to be clear winners; and to prove a point James Slater shot his first-ever maximum 100 to seal Brownlow's win.

The Open Shoot programme saw us venture twice to Bromyard Club's delightful range near Hereford. Torrential rain tested all of us on the first occasion but proved valuable experience with Guy Cooper winning the Juniors Prize. The next visit two weeks later was in brilliant sunshine and Ryan Williams responded to the sunshine by producing superb groups at 100 yards to win the Junior Championship with Hannah Williams winning the Ladies' Match.

The Appleton Range is one of the best club ranges in the country and the welcome we received guarantees our return every year. However, our shooters were infected with the memory virus which caused them to forget scorecards, targets and kit on numerous occasions. Despite this the shooting went well, with Richard Belcher winning the Junior Championship. Later in the holiday Ryan Williams, Guy Cooper and Matt Steggles travelled to Tondur Range near Bridgend to compete in the Wales 50m Championships. The long journey and traffic hold-ups took its toll on Ryan and Guy but Matt managed to cope well and put up a personal best of 543 to win a class prize. This all set us up well for the NSRA National Championships in August where we also had Ryan Williams and Richard Belcher competing in the Junior International at Bisley.

My own situation now threatened the trip; having come back from a shooting trip to Ireland with what appeared to be a slipped disc I spent the entire long weekend hobbling about Bisley Camp with a walking stick. Although as a team we did not win any prizes the experience gained was invaluable. Ryan Williams achieved even greater personal bests and was selected by Wales for the following week's Home International match. His performance was singularly praised by the Wales Team Manager John Dallimore.

The whole year has proven to be one of increasing success. My thanks go to outgoing Captains Matt Steggles (Seniors) and Samantha Williams (Juniors) and a warm welcome to their successors Guy Cooper and Richard Lay.

**Jim Quinlan, Shooting Coach**

*Editor's Note: Jim Quinlan, as well as coaching the shooting at Ellesmere College, is still an active competitor at home and abroad. He recently received a parcel from the USA, after shooting in a competition over there during the Summer, which contained three gold medals.*



*Ellesmere College Rifle Club on the firing line at Bisley*



# House Sport

## House Rugby 2008

### Junior

Meynell 48                      Wakeman-Lambart 0  
Talbot 40                      Meynell 5

**3rd Place** Wakeman-Lambart 36    Talbot 7

**Final**    Meynell 30    Woodard 0

**Winners: Meynell**

### Inters

Talbot 40                      Meynell 5  
Wakeman-Lambart 15    Woodard 10

**3rd Place** Meynell 17    Woodard 12

**Final** Talbot 38              Wakeman-Lambart 0

**Winners: Talbot**

### Senior

Woodard 29                    Meynell 15  
Talbot 49                      Wakeman 0

**3rd Place** Meynell 32    Wakeman 7

**Final** Talbot 39              Woodard 10

**Winners: Talbot**

## Junior Boys (Round Robin competition)

1st	Meynell	9 points
2nd	Wakeman-Lambart	4 points
3rd	Woodard	3 points
4th	Talbot	1 point

## Senior Boys (Round Robin competition)

1st	Talbot	9 points
2nd	Wakeman-Lambart	6 points
3rd	Meynell	3 points
4th	Woodard	0 point

## Junior Girls

Matches not held this year

## Senior Girls (Knockout competition)

1st Meynell  
2nd Talbot  
3rd & 4th Wakeman-Lambart & Woodard

## House Football

The House Football competition was well represented by all four Houses who played some good football. This was a close competition in both age groups.

### Senior Results

House	P	W	D	GF	GA	GD	Points
Meynell	3	2	1	7	0	+7	7
Talbot	3	2	1	5	0	+5	7
W-L	3	1	0	4	4	0	3
Woodard	3	0	0	0	12	-12	0

### Junior Results

House	P	W	D	GF	GA	GD	Points
Meynell	3	2	1	8	1	+7	7
Talbot	3	2	0	7	2	+5	6
Woodard	3	1	0	2	9	-7	3
W-L	3	0	1	2	7	-5	1

Meynell won the Senior Tournament, beating Woodard 5 - 0 and Wakeman-Lambart 2 - 0, before drawing a final and tense game against Talbot to win on goal difference.

Meynell also won the Junior Tournament, beating Woodard 5 - 0 and Talbot 2 - 0 before drawing their final game 1 - 1 against Wakeman-Lambart.

## ILW

### Senior House Netball Results

Again this year, Houses entered A and B teams into the House Netball competition and the teams could consist of girls of any year. It was a good competition which proved to be quite close in the A team Competition.

## H LG

### A Team Results

Woodard beat Meynell 5 - 2  
Meynell beat Talbot 5 - 4  
Meynell beat Wakeman-Lambart 6 - 1  
Talbot beat Wakeman-Lambart 11 - 3  
Woodard drew 6 - 6 with Wakeman-Lambart  
Talbot beat Woodard 12 - 7

1st - Talbot

2nd - Meynell

3rd - Woodard

4th - Wakeman-Lambart



Above: Louis Holt scores against Woodard for Wakeman-Lambart



Left: Dominic Ellis of Wakeman-Lambart gets a pass away against Meynell



Above: Meynell's Alex Wilcox on the attack against Woodard

## Inter-House 6-a-side Football 2008

This year the Senior Boys' competition was dominated by Talbot, who crept home with an undefeated record. Meynell boys won the Junior event. Meynell also took the honours in the Senior Girls' event and the standard of football was excellent.

ILW



### B Team Results

Meynell beat Woodard 6 – 5  
 Talbot beat Meynell 13 – 9  
 Meynell beat Wakeman-Lambart 10 – 7  
 Talbot beat Wakeman-Lambart 11 – 4  
 Wakeman-Lambart beat Woodard 6 – 4  
 Talbot beat Woodard 8 – 4

1st - Talbot  
 2nd - Meynell  
 3rd - Wakeman-Lambart  
 4th - Woodard

### Overall Result

1st - Talbot  
 2nd - Meynell  
 3rd - Woodard (on goals for)  
 4th - Wakeman-Lambart

### Open House Swimming 2008

The first Senior House Swimming competition was held in the newly-covered pool. The event was split into two open meets with boys and girls competing separately. The event was very competitive with some fine performances. James Norman was the outstanding swimmer, displaying excellent form in all disciplines.

Woodard were dominant in the girls' event with the other three Houses very closely-grouped, with only four points separating them. In the boys' event Wakeman-Lambart dominated from the start. The overall cup was awarded to Wakeman-Lambart.

ILW

#### Results

##### Senior Boys

1st	Wakeman-Lambart	47
2nd	Talbot	36
3rd	Woodard	28
4th	Meynell	16

##### Senior Girls

1st	Woodard	51
2nd	Talbot	38
3rd	Wakeman-Lambart	37
4th	Meynell	34

**Overall Winner: Wakeman-Lambart**

### Middle School House Swimming 2008

The first Middle School House Swimming competition was held in the newly-covered pool. The event was a combined meet with the girls and boys competing together. The event was well-supported and showcased a number of talented swimmers in the school.

Woodard continued on from their success in the Senior event and dominated from the start. Only Talbot could really put up a fight against the talented Woodard team.

ILW

#### Results

1st	Woodard	119
2nd	Talbot	88
3rd	Wakeman-Lambart	48
4th	Meynell	15

### Middle and Senior School Cross-country 2009

Following the success of last year's re-organised event we continued with the same formula for 2009. The overall race was judged on the first six runners (four boys and two girls) in each House. A Merit Cup was awarded to the House with the most participants. The results are posted below. It is a tremendous sight seeing the whole school run together and a real feeling of camaraderie was generated. The idea that everyone can contribute to the House no matter how fast or slow a runner they are is at the very heart of House sport. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

ILW

### 6 to Count

	Meynell	Talbot	Woodard	W-L
<b>Junior</b>	71	79	87	63
	2nd	3rd	4th	1st
<b>Inter</b>	63	55	73	86
	2nd	1st	3rd	4th
<b>Senior</b>	85	82	70	63
	3rd	2nd	4th	1st
<b>Totals</b>	219	216	230	212
	3rd	2nd	4th	1st
<b>Merit Cup</b>				
	Meynell	Talbot	Woodard	W-L
<b>Junior</b>	19	21	20	28
<b>Inter</b>	26	19	22	30
<b>Senior</b>	26	33	23	29
<b>Total</b>	71	83	65	87
<b>Position</b>	3rd	2nd	4th	1st

### Individual winners:

#### Junior

Boys: Sam Owen (T) Girls: Sarah Wicks (W)

#### Inter

Boys: George Cave (M) Girls: Ella Walker (W-L)

#### Senior

Boys: Alex Wantling (T) Girls: Vivian Grudde (W-L)



*The Senior race in full swing*

### Hillier Cup 2009

#### Senior School Inter-House Shooting Competition

The inaugural inter-House shooting match was held during the last half of the Lent Term. Teams of four shooters from each House competed over two 10-bull cards using the long-established Macrae Handicap System to even out the differences between shooters of different abilities and experience. Meynell House had difficulty putting out their full team so the competition resolved into a very tight three-way tussle between an enthusiastic Talbot team led by Ferdinand Wollenberg, the favoured Wakeman-Lambart team which included Guy Cooper and Richard Belcher, and the dark horses of Woodard House led by Ryan Williams.

Shooters scored points based on shooting against their own averages. The system is weighted to recognise the difficulty of bettering a high average rather than a low one. The system proved its worth by producing an extremely tight finish, with the result decided by the very last shot in the whole competition.

Ferdinand's 184 gave Talbot 42.3 handicap points for a good start, backed up by Martin Jones with 178. However, Alex Bueschler (183) and Georgina Ottaway (172) put Wakeman-Lambart into the lead. This was rapidly clawed back by Woodard's Ryan Williams, with a superb score of 193. However, Wakeman-Lambart's top shooters Guy Cooper and Richard Belcher put in good scores of 184 and 191 respectively to put them back on top. The whole match came down to the last shooter from Woodard House, Sophie Osbourne. Her score would decide the match, although she did not know that at the time. A score of 174 would win the match for Woodard, but drop one point to 173 and Wakeman-Lambart would win by the narrowest margin. Sophie left it to the last shot. She needed a clean 10 to win but a 9 would give the match away. I watched her very last shot go straight through the centre to score a perfect 10, giving Woodard the match by less than half a point.

**JWQ**

**Result:**

1st	Woodard	Macrae score	4.4047
2nd	Wakeman-Lambart	Macrae score	4.3546
3rd	Talbot	Macrae score	3.9561
4th	Meynell (one shooter)	Macrae score	1.0845

**House Sailing 2009**

It was a blustery day, but dry, for the annual House Sailing competition.

**Teams:**

Meynell	Charles Coppinger
Talbot	Jeremy Wright and Nick Steggel
Wakeman-Lambart	Arthur Pistorius and Sam Chewins
Woodard	Josh Boswell and Anton Dimroth

The teams sailed a Topper and then a Bosun around a circular course followed by time events for rigging. An addition to this year's competition was a theory test which many passed with flying colours. The final Bosun race was very close, but just beating Woodard to the finish was Talbot, who carried the whole competition.

**DJB**



Nick Steggel (left) and Jeremy Wright of Talbot won the day

**Inter House Basketball 2009**

There was some outstanding play shown in this year's competition and the fight for the top places was very tight. Talbot took the Junior Boys' event on goal difference and Woodard snatched victory in the Senior event in the last round of matches. The Junior Girls' event was dominated by Meynell House but the Senior Girls' event saw some of the best Basketball played at the College with a close final being won in sudden death set shot shoot-out by Talbot.

**ILW**

**Junior Boys**

House	P	W	L	D	Baskets F	Baskets A	BD	Total Points
Talbot	3	2	0	1	32	6	+26	7
Meynell	3	2	0	1	15	9	+6	7
Woodard	3	1	2	0	3	13	-10	3
W-L	3	0	3	0	2	23	-21	0

**Senior Boys**

House	P	W	L	D	Baskets F	Baskets A	BD	Total Points
Woodard	3	2	0	1	46	17	+29	7
Talbot	3	2	0	1	36	17	+19	7
Meynell	3	1	2	0	15	43	-28	3
W-L	3	0	3	0	21	40	-19	0

**Junior Girls Results**

**Semi-finals**

Meynell 8 Wakeman-Lambart 2  
Woodard 4 Talbot 6

**3/4th**

Woodard Wakeman-Lambart 2

**Final**

Meynell 4 Talbot 2

**Placings**

1st Meynell 2nd Talbot  
3rd Woodard 4th Wakeman-Lambart

**Senior Girls Results**

**Semi-finals**

Meynell 4 Wakeman-Lambart 8  
Woodard 6 Talbot 18

**3rd/4th**

Meynell 10 Woodard 10

**Final**

Wakeman-Lambart 10 Talbot 10

**Talbot won on shoot-out**

**Placings**

1st Meynell 2nd Wakeman-Lambart  
3rd= Meynell & Woodard

**Senior House Golf 2009**

Despite the poor conditions we managed to play the competition in a two-hour window of dry weather. This year's event was very close with some fine golf being played by the senior boys. Three out of the four scores posted were to count for the teams. The best rounds of the day were shot by Rhodri Fieldhouse (Meynell) 31, Michael Kaupper (Talbot) 34, Henry Walton (Meynell) 36 and Constantine Straub (Woodard) 36.

**ILW**

**Results**

House	1st score	2nd score	3rd score	4th not to count	Total	Position
Meynell	31	36	37	Murdoch retired	104	1st
Talbot	34	41	45	52	120	2nd
W-L	41	43	47	52	131	3rd
Woodard	36	48	51	-	133	4th



### Scores

Name	House	Score
Rhodri Fieldhouse	Meynell	31
Michael Kaupper	Talbot	34
Constantine Straub	Woodard	36
Henry Walton	Meynell	36
Mark Pearson	Meynell	37
Christian Rath	Talbot	41
Mark Mcbrien	Wakeman-Lambart	41
Jo Dapling	Wakeman-Lambart	43
Henry Hackett	Talbot	45
Harrison Gwilt	Wakeman-Lambart	47
Anton Dimeroth	Woodard	48
Sam Chewins/Ewan Crispin	Wakeman-Lambart	48
Tom Carr	Woodard	51
Chris Johnson	Talbot	52
Freddie Hertzog	Played for Woodard	52

### House Cricket 2009 Senior Winners - Talbot Junior – abandoned rain

### House Tennis 2009

The House Tennis competition involves three rounds, firstly the Boys, then the Girls and finally the Mixed. Each House provides three pairs who then play a round-robin tournament against the other three Houses. At the end of each competition the House winning most games out of a maximum of thirty-six wins, and when all three rounds are added up, an overall winning House emerges. This year Meynell looked dangerously strong on paper and indeed went on to win all three competitions, ending up with seventy-eight games out of a possible one hundred and eight. Talbot pushed them hard in the Girls' and Mixed rounds, losing the Girls' by two games and the Mixed by one to come second overall on sixty-one games. Meynell's success was built on the skill of Boys' captain Scott Wagner and Girls' captain Luana Nanu. Meynell could also boast Mark Pearson, Olivia Dingwall-Fordcye, Patrizia Rugholt and Tobias Madeus among their all-conquering squad. Talbot did well to come second without any obvious star players. In the last round, the Mixed team of George Brereton and Emma Johnson even fashioned a victory over Scott Wagner, although the best performance was by Luana, who single-handedly defeated three other Houses' Mixed pairs. The tournament is always played in a competitive spirit but with a strong dose of fun. Unlikely partnerships flourish whilst favourites can come to grief. Wakeman-Lambart certainly looked stronger on paper than their scores suggest.

### HBO

### Scores

Meynell	28+27+23=78
Talbot	14+25+22=61
Wakeman-Lambart	19+9+15=43
Woodard	9+11+12=32

### Senior and Middle School House Athletics 2009

This year's event was very close going into the last series of races. Each year-group had been won by a different House and the track and field scores made predicting the winner very difficult as the competition was so hot. In the end it was Talbot that claimed the House Cup with a good consistent performance across all age groups.

### Victor and Victrix Ludorum

The following students were awarded the Victor and Victrix Ludorum for their outstanding contribution to their team in the Inter-House Athletics 2009.

### Juniors

George Hymes (Wakeman-Lambart)  
Clara Edwards (Meynell)

### Inters

Felix Faller (Talbot)  
Emily Lewis (Talbot)

### Seniors

Martin Jones (Talbot)  
Vivian Grudde (Wakeman-Lambart)

Junior Track Results				
EVENT	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
Inter Track Results				
EVENT	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Senior Track Results				
EVENT	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1371</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Junior Field Results				
EVENT	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>115.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Inter Field Results				
EVENT	M	W/L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Senior Field Results				
EVENT	M	W/L	T	Wo
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Total Junior Score</b>	<b>196.0</b>	<b>227.5</b>	<b>250.5</b>	<b>207.0</b>
<b>Total junior Position</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Inter Score</b>	<b>259.0</b>	<b>226.0</b>	<b>228.0</b>	<b>225.0</b>
<b>Total Inter position</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Senior Score</b>	<b>234.0</b>	<b>244.0</b>	<b>240.0</b>	<b>234.0</b>
<b>Total Senior Position</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	M	W-L	T	Wo
<b>Overall score</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>697.5</b>	<b>718.5</b>	<b>666</b>
<b>Final position</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

# Lower School Speech Day 2009

Speaking to you reminds me of a Professor of Nuclear Physics who, as well as his duties at his university, undertook a wide series of visiting lectures. While being driven one afternoon by his chauffeur to a lecture at a university a conversation developed when the chauffeur commented upon the unfairness of life; he was paid a paltry sum of money per annum, whereas the Professor no doubt received a large salary and substantial sums for his lecture engagements. When the Professor mentioned that this was a reflection of their relative abilities, the chauffeur politely remonstrated that it was rubbish - he had sat at the back of the hall, heard this and many other lectures, such that he could do it without problem, particularly with film clips. "Stop the car," said the Professor; "Let us change places and you can give this evening's lecture." They were duly received by the Dean of the University and the chauffeur gave a splendid lecture with many gestures and learned quips, such that he received a standing ovation. In his vote of thanks the Dean mentioned that he had assembled many of his most able research workers anxious to ask questions, and the chauffeur agreed, after a moment's hesitation. A most earnest young man asked what the Professor's views were on the structure of the negative proton. Taken aback, the chauffeur paused and replied slowly; "This is the most elementary, dare I say it even naïve question: it is in fact so simple that I will ask my chauffeur, sitting at the back of the hall, to answer it."

Having acknowledged the prize winners for their 'relative abilities', it now falls upon me to expand upon the year's events and achievements.

It seems such a long time ago now, but November saw the College's inspection. This was a period of considerable hard work for staff and pupils alike and I commend all parties for their performance at that time - at least we didn't suffer the embarrassment, as one school did, of a child reporting to one of the inspectors, "Our teacher has been very busy lately. He's marked all of our books, which he never does, and he's even put up some pictures on the wall!" I know you have all had copies of the report, but there are a few sentences that I would like to draw out from its conclusion. It states that the College has a 'broad curriculum enhanced by outstanding extra-curricular opportunities, in many of which pupils achieve exceptional standards, and by an innovative programme for younger pupils.' Indeed that 'innovative programme' this year included the opportunity to prepare and eat the sort of meal a third-world family might expect, to plant up hanging baskets and pots, think up and follow through with schemes to raise funds for a chosen charity, or to try and negotiate a race track with a Formula 1 car, adjusting speeds, fuel, tyres etc., though before you become too alarmed this is via a computer and not a steering wheel! These are just some of the current offerings during Survive and Thrive.



*Cooking 'msheema' with Reverend Slim in the Survive and Thrive International Club*

Sport is as close to my heart as it is to many of the children here. Most impressive this year have been the standards achieved in so many different fields rather than just the traditional areas. Swimming has really taken off (if that's possible) with the remarkable progress made by the College Titans, who helped us to win the North Shropshire U13 Boys' and Girls' competitions. Individually, Naomi Craig won one gold, three silver and one bronze medal at the Welsh National Championships whilst Alfie Pardoe took seven golds and two silvers, and Jamie Thomas one gold, two silver and five bronze medals at the County Swimming Championships. Both Naomi and Jamie were selected for the County U12 team. In Tennis, our players continue to defeat all



*Titans swimmers at Radford Open Meet at Ponds Forge International Pool in May 2009*

comers locally, but the highlight of the year came before Christmas on a wider stage, when Olivia and Harriet Jones were part of the team that came second in the National Year 8 Championships at Bolton. Indeed both Boys' and Girls' teams have qualified for this



*Kate Parry of the Titans, and Catriona Jones, a member of the successful Tennis squad*

year's Regional finals to be played next term, so well done and good luck to Harriet, Olivia, Catriona Jones, Chloe Hughes, David Powell, Ben Kirk, Teddy Hall, Harry Whitehouse and Myles Arnold. Shooting has seen more and more pupils try the sport, learning the



necessary focus and discipline. Our First Team, comprising James Austin, Hannah Williams, James Slater, Sam Williams and Jacob Roberts won the National U14 League Second Division and will compete at the top level next year, whilst our considerably younger Second Team finished a creditable third in Division Three. Individually, Hannah Williams won in a ladies' match at the Worcester Open, Jacob Roberts was invited to train with the Wales squad in Switzerland and Sam Williams has been invited into the Welsh Air Rifle squad.

In the boys' team games, the Year 8s have shown that they have the potential to make a considerable impact as they progress through the College, producing some fine performances in all the major sports. In Rugby Noah Appleby, Henry Collard-Underwood, Oli Lock, Ali Miller, Joe Rogers and Harry Whitehouse were involved with Shropshire U13s, whilst our U11s, under Tom Sloan's leadership, had a fine Mini season, winning three and drawing one of their four matches. In Cricket Fraser Murdoch has been selected for the Wales U13 side. As for the girls, they perhaps lacked some strength in depth, but nonetheless Ellie Halstead and Emma Greville played Hockey for Shropshire, whilst Emma was invited to Midlands trials. Both girls then exhibited their all-round skills by winning the 100m (Ellie) and the 800m (Emma) at the Shropshire Athletics Championships a couple of weeks ago. Tara Goodwin was also recently selected for the County U14 Netball Academy this summer. In-house, the sports trophy for the year ended up being something else new for Mr Bongers as Heywood won with relative ease. Meanwhile in the House points competition, despite the lead changing hands on a number of occasions, the most consistent performers came out on top, and that was Brownlow.



Tara Goodwin scoring against Abbots Bromley

Music has seen great collaboration with the main school this year with a large part of the school orchestra being made up of Lower School pupils. This has provided the children with great experience and a wider audience, especially at the concert before Christmas. This was followed by performances at Ellesmere Town Hall and at Dolywern Home - it was fantastic to receive such a complimentary thank-you letter from the staff there. At the Carol Service many pupils struggled through stoically while suffering with illness, but full fitness had returned for the Three Choirs Concert earlier this term. That, of course, proved good preparation



Preparing for Verona: Naomi Craig, James Schofield and Hannah Ward

for the recent tour to Verona in Italy - last year Spain, this year Italy, next year who knows in the Music Department's plans for world domination!

Referring again to the Inspection report: 'Pupils are mature, fulfilled individuals who are comfortable with themselves and relate well to others.' Such skills and the confidence to make the most of them are well-illustrated by the way so many of the pupils so easily conduct tours for visitors on Open Day, being excellent ambassadors for the College; and also through their English Speaking Board exams, where everyone in Year 8 and Year 6 passed, with seven achieving Distinctions and twenty-nine Merit Plusses. To Drama, where Key Stage 2 performed *Christmas Around the World*, featuring the splits and possibly the biggest sombrero I've ever seen!



The splits



"The biggest sombrero I have ever seen!"



Last term a 'Grimm' evening was had by all as we were enthralled, entertained and on some occasions disgusted by Mrs Davies' and Mrs Nicholson's production of some of the original tales from the Brothers Grimm - not viewing for the squeamish - with Ben Williams and Peter von Hoven compering the gruesome playlets. Staying in the area of Performing Arts I should congratulate Angelo Daniel, Beth, Caro and Lottie Hulme who have all been selected to perform with the English Youth Ballet in a performance of Sleeping Beauty this September in Shrewsbury.



*A Grimm Evening: Peter von Hoven and Ben Williams as The Brothers Grimm*

As I mentioned earlier, within 'Survive and Thrive' some children have had to choose a charity, come up with ideas of how they might raise some money for that charity and then see the project through to a conclusion. As a whole Lower School, however, we have supported a wide range of causes through non-uniform days, cake sales, selling hanging baskets, red noses, Christmas shoe boxes, collecting copper coins. Indeed Children in Need, Comic Relief, Operation Christmas Child, The British Heart Foundation, MacMillan Nurses, The Orthopaedic Hospital, Monduli Green and The Moonwalk have all benefitted from the pupils' hard work and generosity.



*All in red for Red Nose Day: from left, India Marshall, Tara Goodwin, Nelson Hughes, Emily Stokes and Charlotte Davies*

The ISI report commented that the College had 'outstanding standards of pastoral care' and that 'pupils achieve well as a result of both the individual attention and support they receive.' This is thanks to the tutors behind me, along with all those other staff who teach your children, and I would like you to join me in thanking all of them for their hard work, unstinting support and energy over the last year, as well as Mrs. Hitchen in the office, and the Lower School prefects who have been a fine group. (APPLAUSE)

Forrest Gump said that 'life is like a box of chocolates' - the staff will tell you that I have a pretty sweet tooth and enjoy the odd left-over from the children's tea. However I would like to illustrate what Forrest Gump meant with the help of a box of 'Quality Street' and encourage the children to think a little about themselves as I speak.

If I look at the green triangle I think of the seashore - we never see pebbles of this shape because all the sharp edges are knocked off by the sea. Do I have sharp edges to my character - do I annoy people? Do I make fun of others? Yet still there is good in that person. This is a good, solid chocolate, but I need to knock off some of my sharp edges. Those edges - the negative things - tend to be knocked off when I really share my skills with others, as we see in the round toffee cup. I become more whole as a person, more rounded in character, keeping life in balance, living peacefully one day at a time.

Fudge - the paper comes off quietly, so this is the one to take if you're trying to sneak an extra one out of the box when no one's looking! As there is a lot of sugar in fudge, so this individual has great richness within - a lot to offer others. People are the richer for having been with this person - the one who always smiles and forgives; the person who often speaks a word of encouragement and support; the one who is generous in doing something they'd rather not do. Maybe I am a little like this one - the purple hazelnut in caramel - a little showy, flashy on the outside. I have two wrappings - maybe to protect or hide my real self. Maybe I don't want anyone to know what I am really like deep inside - because deep within....there is a nut!

The blue coconut. Ten minutes after eating this, you find little bits of coconut between your teeth - something more to chew over. Maybe I am like this coconut - a challenging person because I leave things for others to think about, to 'chew' over. These people leave a little of themselves wherever they go; that compliment that really encourages someone, a contagious smile to another. Strawberry. I might appear quite firm on the outside, perhaps giving the impression that I'm a little difficult to know at first, maybe rather shy. Inside there's something very special: a quiet person who gets on with life peacefully; a gentle character, happy with who I am; a person who quietly brings support and healing to those who are hurt; one who shows others how special they are.

Orange. This melts in your mouth if you let it, but some people find dark chocolate a little bit sickly too. But why am I saying 'but'? If I set out to look for negative things in others, I will find them. If I look for the good - the quality - in other people, then I will come to see so much good around me. Setting out each morning to look for the good in others will put a smile on my face throughout the day! The brown caramel. This is the one you find in your pocket a week after putting it there! It's a bit squashed, but it doesn't go 'gooey' in the pocket. It is firm; a solid character, faithful, trusting, accepting others for who they are, a true friend through good times and bad. It's a great compliment to be told that you are a friend on whom others can rely.

Maybe I am one of those yellow caramels - normally left to the last in my house. Do I sometimes feel a bit left out of things, feel that I'm not as popular as others? The last one to be chosen for something? Remember that 'the first will be last', that the 'insignificant ones' are the important ones.

Quality Street are all different, as are you. They would not be Quality Street if they were all the same and life would be boring if you were all the same. I ask you to be people of Quality - do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way. Make extraordinary use of your ordinary and extraordinary talents.

I thank all the parents for your support and enthusiasm for your children and the College. I hope that all the children try something new over the holidays- you never know what talent you might unearth.

**WJH**



## Life in Lower School

### Wildlife Garden

When the wildlife garden was first established, certainly there was some excitement amongst the human population of Ellesmere College, but this was nothing compared to the delirium in the rabbit community nearby. Wild delicacies their ancestors had long forgotten suddenly appeared on their doorstep and they were jubilant. They ate the entire population of field scabious, devil's bit scabious and yarrow, to say nothing of the toadflax, hemp agrimony and the rest. But the humans were not to be beaten. In the autumn, we constructed a rabbit-proof fence and planted a mixed wild native hedge all around. To beat back the grass (too invasive for wild flowers) we sowed yellow rattle which is partially parasitic on grass. With funds donated by the Parents' Society a little wood was planted in the early months of 2009 (to provide another variety of habitat close by).

Lower School students are the main gardeners, and these young enthusiasts turn up at lunch times for the Wildlife Garden Club. Here they plant and clear, observe and give ideas. Pat Venner, grandmother to two Ellesmerians, is our garden treasure and she comes every week – bringing with her plants, ideas and enthusiasm for all to enjoy. In spring the hundreds of daffodils, primroses and bluebells we had planted provided some colour, and by April it was clear that our rabbit fence and our yellow rattle ideas were working nicely. Some forty-five species of wild flower thrive in the garden this year, and from April to October the area teemed with wildlife, mostly of the insect variety, but a few amphibians and lots of birds are also enjoying the new habitat.



*Ben Swan and Joseph Fashanu planting bluebells*

After eighteen months, we have a fair idea of what flourishes and what struggles in the garden, so can build on our strong points. We definitely need to increase our climbers and we have a penchant for bees – bumble bees for sure, but maybe honey bees too.

CA

### International Club

International Club is run as one of the 'Survive and Thrive' activities in Lower School. Previously, sessions have focused on European countries and the overseas countries Ellesmere College has links with, through its pupil body and fundraising activities. Most recently the focus has been on the African countries of Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. Activities prepared by Father David and Language teacher Christina Westwood included African painting and print-making, mosaic work, an introduction to African music, and a cookery session which was enjoyed by all. Pupils also designed their own board game and prepared a Power-point presentation to deliver to a College audience. The focus on Africa proved an excellent opportunity for the pupils to explore some countries that go largely unreported in today's news, and as a bonus the group was able to benefit from Father David's African experiences.

CW



*International Club cooks preparing 'msheema': from left, Georgia Stackhouse, Milli MacLiam-Roberts, Sara Jackson*

### Hanging Baskets to Order



*One of the hanging baskets received by grateful customers*

As part of Wednesday afternoon activities for Ellesmere College Lower School Year 7 pupils, a group of twenty pupils spent a six-week period during the Autumn Term creating winter-flowering hanging baskets, with the proceeds going to charity. They planted up sixty-three hanging baskets, learning how to plant bulbs and fill the baskets with winter colour. The baskets were then sold to staff and parents. A total of £336 was raised by the sale,

and the pupils presented Sally Rimmer from Macmillan Cancer Support with a cheque for £112, with cheques of similar amounts being sent to the Rehabilitation Unit at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital and the British Heart Foundation. Rae Nicholson, the teacher in charge of the enterprise, planned to repeat the project with Summer baskets.

HJW



*Mrs Rae Nicholson supervises the planting up of the hanging baskets, with India Marshall (Year 7) and Cindy Wei*



### Lower School Pupils Raise funds for Charity

During the second half of the Michaelmas Term Lower School children were busy collecting coins for Children in Need. There was a growing pile of copper in the Lower School Secretary's office as pupils collected loose change from family members. The children also held a cake sale, and together with the coins raised a total of £150.

In addition, as part of the school's annual support to Operation Christmas Child, shoe boxes were filled by both staff and pupils and sent to the local distribution centre in Wrexham. The Lower School pupils' efforts were complemented by other Senior School pupils, who ensured that boxes were also filled for an older age group of children.

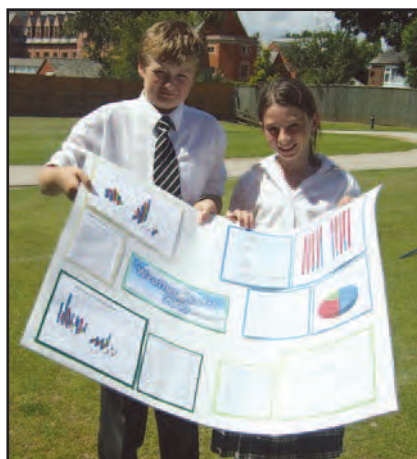


*Annabel Cowell, Melissa Burrows and Annie Hill enjoy the Red Nose Day Cake Sale*

In the Lent Term the Silver Duke of Edinburgh fundraising group organised a Valentine's cake competition and sale in Lower School to raise money for charity. They were thrilled by the effort and creativity shown by Lower School pupils. But judging the winner was a very difficult task. In the end First Prize went to Sophie Sheldon and Second Prize to Ffion Davies. A special prize for creativity went to Sebastian Dewhurst. Over £70 was raised.

Cakes also figured in the Red Nose Day projects for the BBC's Comic Relief, when pupils held a cake sale to raise funds. The sale was run by Amelia Morris and Hannah Rogers.

### Year 6 Weather Project



*Richard Walsh and Taylor Arnold displaying the results of their Weather Project*

Following a three-week collection of weather data Year 6 pupils completed a project to record weather variances around the College campus. Setting out rain gauges, thermometers and anemometers to record wind speed, the pupils worked in teams to record local weather conditions in various parts of the College's 144-acre site, learning through practice some valuable geographical

skills. The school now has its own weather station which will give future pupils the opportunity to compare climate data over a number of years.

### Year 7 Model Competition

All Year 7 pupils at Ellesmere College participated in a competition to build a contour model from a flat plan, and prizes were awarded for the best entries. Pupils spent the term learning and practising their mapping skills using their atlases and Ordnance Survey maps.

Building models is one way of bringing map-reading to life. All the pupils now appreciate that a flat map only gives an indication of what is really out there. Richard Curtis, Head of Design and Technology Department, judged the entries and commented that they were of an exceedingly high standard this year and he found making a decision extremely difficult.

#### Gold Award winners:

Joel Lyttle and Tym Salem-Cooper

#### Silver Award winners:

Rebecca Neary and Catriona Jones

#### Bronze Award winners:

James Schofield and Zackary Greenaway

### Year 8 Science Challenge



*Top row from left: Joel Lyttle, Tym Salem-Cooper, Rebecca Neary  
Front row from left: Catriona Jones, James Schofield and Zackary Greenaway*

Year 8 Science lessons took an interesting twist in February when the pupils were challenged to put their scientific creative skills to the test and make a simple model or experiment which would illustrate some aspect of physics. All the year groups were involved in the Science Challenge, working individually or in groups. They were expected, firstly within their class groups, then with the top performers in a Grand Final, to explain their model and the relevant physics behind it. Questions on the science involved were also encouraged from their audiences.

The Grand Final was held in the school's Arts Centre and the judges were Sharon Owen, Head of Middle School and Lower School Science teacher, and Stephen Purcell, Head of English. As a non-scientist, he was invited to judge so that the pupils had also to convince a lay person about the merits of their model or experiment. The models were then left in situ for a Year 8 Parents' Evening. Dale Crawford, Physics teacher and co-ordinator of the Year 8 Science Challenge, professed himself well-pleased with the wide range of interesting ideas that the pupils came up with and the enthusiasm from everyone involved. Physics is often perceived as a remote and inaccessible subject, but the Year 8 pupils have learned for themselves that it can be found in all aspects of life.

The winners were Tabitha Bardsley and Alice Tow, who together built a steam-powered boat.

**HJW**



*Winners of the Science Challenge  
Tabitha Bardsley (left) and  
Alice Tow, with their steam boat*



**Monduli Green**

Monduli Green is Ellesmere College's own charity - we are working with a village near Monduli, Tanzania, to reforest an area of land and restore it slowly to the productive woodland it once was. Once reforested, it is hoped that more rain will be attracted back to the land, erosion will be halted and a more fertile environment will provide a better lifestyle for the local people. All went well until December last year. Ten local people had been trained, tools had been purchased, our first nursery was started, the water collectors were in place and there was a buzz of excitement. But then... the rains did not come. Our first nursery died. Not deterred, a second nursery was planted in time for the April/May rains. But they too did not come.

As I write this in October 2009, it is eighteen months since rain fell on this village and its surrounding area. The tree nursery they hope to plant with Ellesmere College is the least of their worries. These people eat a poor diet once a day if they are lucky - even children. Food aid is coming through, a little, occasionally. They are waiting for the November rains.

You will have seen it on the television, I expect. The first casualties of climate change in Kenya - reduced rains, disturbed rain patterns. It is the same in the villages near Monduli. Their consumption of CO2 is infinitesimally small compared to each of ours for they do not have electricity or any motorised machinery, just a few torches, a radio, a mobile phone, perhaps. Yet while we luxuriate in water, their land is barely sustainable. The injustice is hard to tolerate. If it rains in November, they will plant again, as aggressively as possible, and perhaps this little project may help to stand between them having a home and becoming climate refugees. We still have the money in the bank, and it will be used once more if there is rain.

In the light of the circumstances these people find themselves in, our fundraising pictures seem appallingly trivial - but that is the reality - we organise fun events, and raise money, in the hopes that the Monduli area will continue to sustain life. It is quite a good idea really, and it will go on.

CA

**And Lots More.....**



*Selling food and drink at the Christmas Bazaar: Sophie Moore attends to Richard Walsh*



*Fancy Dress parade before the Monduli Walk*



*Sharp shooters Naomi Craig and Zoe Zembrzuski*



*Reading Buddies: Year 8 pupils helping younger ones with their reading*



*Alex Sambrook-Jones, Tom Hill and Lewis Arthur as The Three Kings in the Christmas Pantomime*



*Survive and Thrive: Ellie Osborne, Robert Nolan, Amber Cauchi and Peter Nelhans with their Tree Projects*



# Out and About with Lower School



Years 3 and 4 visit the Pochin Distribution Centre in Widnes



Ellie Halstead splitting a slate at the Llanberis Slate Museum during Year 8 Field Day



I want to be a lorry-driver when I grow up!  
Elizabeth Walsh and Jaimie Wakefield in the driving seat



Year 7 Field Day on the farm  
Left: Elliott Price, Harry Byrne and Joel Lytle pond-dipping



Left and above: Rebecca Neary, Sara Jackson and Ryen Spencer-Wolfe with newborn lambs



Year 7 visit to Caernarfon Castle  
Top from left: Connor Shields, Elliott Price and Jacob Roberts gaze down on the world  
Bottom: History lesson!

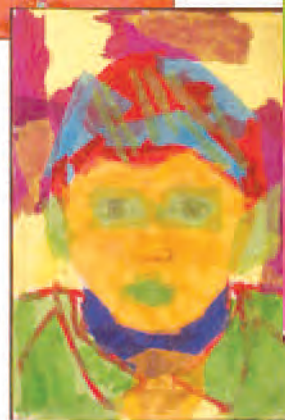
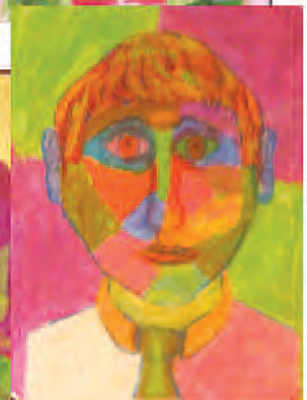
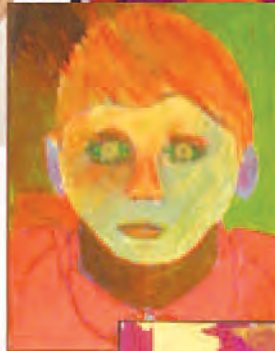
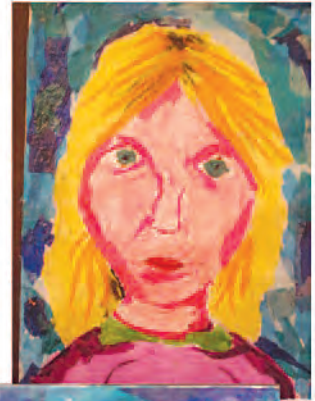


Year 5 pupils on a two-day cycle training course run by Shropshire County Council



# Lower School Art

## Year 8 Work

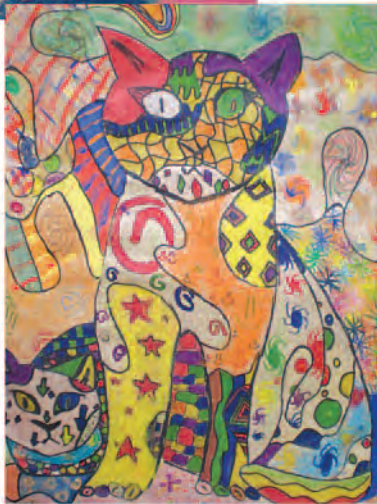


## Year 6 Work





# Year 7 Work





# Lower School Sport

Michaelmas Term

Ellesmere College



U13A Rugby

20

08



J.S.Thomas D.J.Morgan Esq. J.A. Lyttle C.C.Edwards J.A.S.Slater J.H.Austin N.A.Appleby N.B.Hughes P.A.Nelhans H.S.Rickett P.J.von Hoven M.R.Arnold  
J.R.Whittaker H.C.Collard-Underwood E.G.Murdoch A.J.Miller (Capt.) O.R.Lock H.A.Whitehouse J.S.J.W.Rogers

## Summary of Results

v Bedstone College	Won	60 – 10
v King Edward VI Stratford	Lost	0 – 12
v Warwick School	Lost	0 – 51
v Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	Won	30 – 24
v Stafford Grammar School	Won	59 – 10
v Denstone College	Lost	7 – 8
v Packwood Haugh Prep	Lost	7 – 33
v Birkenhead School	Won	29 – 7
v Prestfelde Prep	Cancelled	
v Arnold Lodge School (Lent tour)	Won	31 – 10

**Points For: 223 Points Against: 165**

Although the table shows a fairly even season, the team this year was pretty strong. Only Warwick were a class above us. We started the season well with a win on the road.

### Ellesmere College v Bedstone College

We took a mixture of A and B players to Bedstone for the first game of the season. The weather was the best we have had in months and so we looked forward to being able to move the ball through hands. We played a game of three twenty-minute sessions so that all players had some time to be seen and to help the coaches with

some early season selection. Our backs are mostly experienced from last year and so I expected them to be difficult to stop. The forwards are all new to A team rugby and I was unsure about how they would perform. As it turned out they managed to win a lot of ball and I was pleased with their performance so early in the season. In the first twenty captain Ali Miller led by example, crossing the try line four times. We dominated but a little hesitancy under the high ball allowed them to get one back. The lack of posts meant that choosing a kicker would have to wait. The second twenty saw Myles at 9, Oli at 10, and Fraser at 12 all cross to score, with James Slater powering over and Joe Rogers finishing a well-executed move. Unfortunately the acceleration took its toll on Joe, and he pulled a muscle which ended his contribution. The opposition showed determination and scored again at the end of the session. Myles, Fraser and Ali all added to their previous scores in the last twenty and Carmen Edwards showed promise at flanker. Will Doerr joined the line well from fullback to put Ali clear and Joel Lyttle showed an ability to finish with only his second touch of the game.

### Ellesmere College v King Edward VI School, Stratford

Our second game was against a team who had played four games. Not much in it, our backs were better but their forwards were bigger.



### Ellesmere College v Warwick

A no-contest, they were bigger, faster, further into their season and, although we battled, we were comprehensively beaten.

### Ellesmere College v Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

On a glorious October morning we welcomed Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for our first game in three weeks and our first game at home this season. This school has been on our fixture list for a number of years and we had yet to beat them. From the off our forwards were hungry and their domination up front, despite being smaller, allowed the backs to run with the ball. Improved passing from Myles Arnold at 9 and Oli Lock at 10 put Fraser Murdoch and captain Ali Miller in space in midfield. They exploited gaps and were both soon on the score sheet. With Joe Rogers strong and quick on the wing the opposition struggled to compete when we moved the ball through hands. Tries from Murdoch (2), Miller (1), Rogers (1) and Whitehouse (1) saw us take an impressive 25 - 0 score line in at half time. It was a shame that Murdoch was not successful with his boot but the mood was good.

The second half was a complete turn-around; our forwards stopped playing, while theirs gained in confidence. From the kick-off their big No. 8 ran the ball back at us and managed to get around the outside while our backs were still thinking of the first half. They soon ran in a second and the game became very difficult. Maybe the three-week break had left us rusty and struggling for fitness. We defended well at times but then made wrong decisions and were soon in danger of losing. With seven minutes to go the score was 25 - 24, they had scored four tries, and had also converted two. We had to muster one last effort to avoid defeat. We defended well and finally won a penalty, and this time we organised quickly and got the ball into midfield. Murdoch passed into the gap and Miller raced through it to go under the posts. Unfortunately Murdoch hit the upright with his conversion, but the win was sealed.

### Ellesmere College v Stafford Grammar School

We went into our fifth game of the season against Stafford Grammar without lock Nelson Hughes. However, we were able to welcome Harvey Rickett to A team Rugby after he had shown good determination in training.

We made probably the worst start imaginable when Ali Miller tried to take a kick-off ball that was clearly going to go dead. He hashed his kick and winger Joe Rogers was off-side. Stafford then scored from the penalty far too easily, 5 - 0 down after one minute of play. Miller soon redeemed himself and our backs moved the ball smoothly and at speed. Our forwards rucked well and produced good ball for Myles Arnold to use. It was not long before No. 8, Harry Whitehouse, was rewarded with a try for his good support work. Further tries from Miller, Fraser Murdoch, Henry Collard-Underwood and two from Rogers saw only one conversion from Miller. The opposition managed to grind a try from good forward work but we were in control as we headed into the break.

We bossed the second half completely and although players were asked to play out of position it was in no way obvious and the versatility shown was excellent; it is important to play a number of positions as a young player. Miller went on to score a second try and could have had others but unselfishly passed for Whitehouse to get his second and then again for Arnold to score. Carmen Edwards finished a well-worked move and Murdoch converted. Collard-Underwood got his second after a powerful, determined run. With the result sorted it was decided that we should now concentrate on defence, kicking possession back and trying to pin the opposition into their half. Good work saw Murdoch put an excellent kick into the corner and Oli Lock gave chase, collected and went over to score. He had been fetching the kicking tee when the instruction of defence only was given; still, it was about time he got some points for all his effort!

### Ellesmere College v Denstone College

After a poor start where we let them in to score immediately, there was only one team in it. It wasn't the team that won. Rogers scored and converted to give us the lead straight after they had scored. If allowed we would have racked up a good win but the

home official had other ideas; how he sleeps at night I do not know! With practically the last kick of the match he gave a penalty in front of the posts and told them to kick it.

### Ellesmere College v Packwood Haugh Prep

Still slightly down after the weekend's fixture we played a very good Packwood side midweek. Unfortunately, with only five minutes to spare in which to warm up, we were not quite ready. Predictably they won the game in the first fifteen minutes, putting on 30 points. We then reached the level expected and scored a great try through captain Ali Miller. The second half was even. Given time to warm up things would have been a lot closer, though Packwood were a little stronger.

### Ellesmere College v Birkenhead

A convincing win away from home and a good note on which to end the term, although we did not know then that the Prestfelde game would be cancelled. We were too strong for Birkenhead all over the park. Once flanker Chris von Hoven began to control the breakdown area we were in full control. Both he and No. 8 Harry Whitehouse (2) got on the score sheet as did Miller and Rogers in midfield. On a foggy, damp day the handling was excellent. Murdoch converted twice to complete the scoring. The opposition scored from a penalty try late on.

### Ellesmere College v Arnold's Lodge

This game was towards the end of the Lent Term. This match was a little bit last-minute.com, more of a favour to a touring team than a game from which we would benefit; we had one practice session on rucking and half of the team had not played since the previous term. We went into the game without our midfield pairing of Murdoch and Miller, but their replacements both had match experience and Rogers and Collard-Underwood settled in instantly. The opposition had a big pack but we moved the ball much better. Quick rucking by our forwards meant that our backs got ball on the front foot and, with quick hands to the wing, Rickett got us deep into their 22. A further drive from the forwards saw Austin held up over the line; scrum five. A solid scrum allowed No. 8, Charmley, to cross for his debut try. We continued to apply pressure during the half and again quick hands allowed Rickett to go over and Rogers converted. Later, quick thinking from Captain Harry Whitehouse resulted in an interception and he raced away to score. Rogers added the two points.

The opposition came at us hard in the second half and our lack of discipline at the breakdown meant that they moved up the pitch rapidly. First they scored in the corner but failed to convert. We then replied as Slater ripped clear of a maul, and his blistering pace took him in to score. Rogers made no mistake with the conversion. They then hit back through five penalties in a row to take them from their 22 to our 5 metre line. This is when their big forwards caused us problems and they drove over to score, but did not convert. We had the final say with an outstanding individual effort from Collard-Underwood. His quick feet and pace took him outside and then in, and his strength helped break a final tackle to stretch out for the line.

This was a good season for the U13A side. They trained hard and were a reliable squad willing to learn. Captain Ali Miller and No.10 Oli Lock were selected for the North Midlands. I am sure that a number of this team will feature throughout the school and at County level. Finally, I would like to thank all those involved with the U13A Rugby Team; the boys, Mr. Williams and all those who officiated. I would also like to thank the parents for their consistent support. I wish you all the best for next season.

*DJM*

The following received Colours:

#### Full Colours

N Appleby, P Nelhans, O Lock, J Whittaker, F Murdoch, A Miller (C), P von Hoven, J Rogers, H Collard-Underwood, H Whitehouse

#### Half Colours

M Arnold, J Austin, N Hughes, H Rickett, C Edwards, J Slater





C.J. Beswick W.J. Hutchings Esq. G.P. Watkin J.A. Roberts T.E. Byrne I. Parry-Jones S.J. Squires H.N. Byrne R.M. Spencer-Wolfe J.D. Wilson C. Shields G.A. McCormack H.C. Williams P.J. O'Brien J.A. Lyttle D.E.R. Derosa J.S. Thomas W.K. Doerr T.W.R. Batson A.P.R. Dingwall

### Summary of Results

v Warwick	lost	0 - 58
v Denstone College	drew	5 - 5
v Bishop Vesey's	lost	0 - 29
v Stafford	won	15 - 7
v Denstone College	lost	0 - 45
v Packwood Haugh	lost	7 - 21
v Birkenhead	lost	0 - 10

This was a frustrating season punctuated by illness, cancellations and the inevitable call upon playing resources by the 'A' team. Indeed the intended first fixture against Sandbach was called off as they couldn't raise a side, so we went to Warwick with little match practice. In all honesty we were hopelessly out of our depth and the score-line flattered us - a harsh introduction to schoolboy rugby for a lot of the side.

A first fixture with Denstone was a rousing, physical encounter which saw us defend manfully and, at times, frantically in the second half. We carried such an approach into the Vesey's game and, whilst the score-line was disappointing, it was our best outcome yet against a strong, large school, though we were guilty of being too upright and hesitant.

Stafford visited us on a wet and windy afternoon. Whilst the game was relatively scrappy we rucked more effectively, were more cohesive and direct up front and took our chances when they

came. The return to Denstone was badly affected by illness and we ended up fielding half a dozen 'C' players, who stepped up well, but we allowed some strong opposition runners too much time and space.

The Packwood game was our best performance of the season, coming back from a score down, supporting each other well and competing strongly. Unfortunately we were undone at the end through no fault of our own and a deserved draw slipped through our fingers.

By the time the trip to Birkenhead had come around it was the coach's turn to be ill and I missed a close loss in what turned out to be our final fixture, as both the Prestfelde and Christ's Brecon matches were lost to the elements. This was a pity as we were now performing with greater consistency and had realised the vital need for teamwork and support.

So not great results, but this was a young side, the vast majority of whom will be available next year and better (I hope) for the experience. My thanks to Harvey Rickett and Jamie Thomas for leading the side and to the parents who braved the elements to watch us.

**WJH**



Ellesmere College  U13 Hockey  
20 08



R.J. Purnell Esq. S. Williams A.A. Morris A.M. Tow M.J. Andrews H.L. Rogers H.L. Swan Miss A.S. Pugh  
S.A. Sheldon J.L. Pegg E.L. Greville E.D. Halstead T.L. Goodwin A.M. Martin-Jones A.E.R. Cauchi

### Summary of Results

v Abbots Bromley	Won	3 - 0
v Wolverhampton Grammar	Won	1 - 0
v King's Chester	Drew	0 - 0
v Oswestry School	Won	3 - 0
v Rydal Penrhos	Lost	2 - 0
v Packwood Haugh	Lost	5 - 2
v Moreton Hall	Drew	0 - 0

We opened our season with a 3 - 0 win at Abbots Bromley. Although the score line was relatively comfortable, our performance was disjointed and nervy. A first-half strike from Ellie Halstead was enough to seal victory against Wolverhampton Grammar in a tight game in which both sides struggled to create scoring opportunities. Our first home match was another tense affair against a skilful King's Chester side who struggled to come to terms with playing on grass. With both defences holding firm, the game ended in a 0 - 0 stalemate. Despite being without our captain Ellie Halstead, we dominated the match against Oswestry School from start to finish. However, several great saves by their goalkeeper restricted us to a 3 - 0 win.

Our first defeat came in the following game against Rydal Penrhos. We spent most of the first half desperately defending inside our own 25-yard area and were somewhat fortunate to be only 2 - 0 down at half time. At the restart we noticed our opponents had twelve players on the pitch and it subsequently came to light that this had been the case for the entire first half! With a change in our formation and Rydal fielding the correct number of players, we looked far more secure in the second half and held firm until the final whistle.

We started brightly in the 7-a-side game against Packwood and took an early lead with a superb goal by Tara Goodwin. This

triggered an immediate response from our opponents and we soon found ourselves 3 - 1 down following some incisive counter-attacks. We defended better in the second half, but the final 5 - 2 score line accurately reflected the balance of the game. Our final match against Moreton Hall was always going to be very difficult as the team had to be reshuffled due to missing players, including the highly influential Emma Greville. However, a resolute defensive performance inspired by Ellie Halstead helped to secure a nail-biting 0 - 0 draw.

Overall, this was a pleasing season in terms of team and individual development. Credit must given to all the players for showing excellent team spirit, an enthusiastic approach to training and a strong desire to improve their core skills. On an individual note, Ellie Halstead was voted Player of the Season and Tara Goodwin secured the Most Improved Player award. Congratulations to Ellie Halstead for making the Shropshire U13 County Squad and well done to Emma Greville for maintaining her place in the Midlands Development Squad.

### 7-a-Side Tournaments

In the Moreton Hall Tournament, we survived the group stage after a 1 - 0 win over Liverpool College and highly creditable draws against King's Chester and Moor Park. However, in the semi-final we were comfortably beaten 3 - 0 by a very strong Queen's Chester team, who went on to win the tournament.

We secured a place in the final of the North Shropshire Tournament after four wins and a draw in the group stage, followed by rather fortunate semi-final victory over an Ellesmere College 'B' team. In the final itself we produced our best performance of the day and ran out worthy 2 - 0 winners over Moreton Hall after some impressive attacking moves.

**RJP**





I.J.E. Marshall S.L. Edge-Roberts J.E.C. Fawke H.L. Ward  
Miss L. Killen EM. Davies A.C.W. Cowell G.B. Edwards G.A. Bruce S.A. Jackson N. Craig H. Gatenby Z.A. Zembruski A.G. Sanilum Mrs S. Owen  
R.S. Griffiths G.L. Stackhouse M.J. Burrows R.E. Neary A.J. Hill A.L. Odunaiya M.D. Broster

### Summary of Results

v Abbots Bromley	Won 4 - 1
v Wolverhampton Grammar School	Drew 2 - 2 (A)
	Lost 1 - 0 (B)
v Rydal Penrhos	Won 4 - 0
v Packwood Haugh	Lost 1 - 0
v Moreton Hall	Drew 0 - 0

The season began with many enthusiastic girls turning up to squad practice. As a result of this a large number of girls wished to be considered for a restricted number of team places. It was pleasing to see that all girls played in matches, either for their Competitive House or representing the school.

The first match of the season was an away fixture at Abbots Bromley School where the squad secured a comfortable 4 - 1 win and displayed structured play which was very encouraging for their first match. At the end of September two seven-a-side

teams travelled to Wolverhampton Grammar School for two very closely-contested matches. The next match, against Rydal Penrhos, proved just how much progress the team had made with a convincing 4 - 0 victory. Unfortunately, the matches against Packwood Haugh were reduced to seven-a-side games; this did not prove to be in our favour as the U12 squad had progressed their play to concentrate on 11-a-side strategies. The final match of the season against Moreton Hall was a very even game with scoring opportunities for both teams. Ellesmere kept their shape well and were beginning to spread the ball out to the wings. It was pleasing to see that the attack had good pace, demonstrating the development of the squad over the course of the playing season. Naomi Craig and Ellie Williams are to be congratulated for their County Selection.

**SO and LK**



Ellesmere College  U11 Hockey  
20 08



A.K. Latham T.R. Arnold E.S. Hulme Miss H.L. Goss  
K.E. Leeming C.R. Rickett J.E. Martin-Jones M.E.R. Perkins M. Walker

**Summary of Results:**

v Moreton Hall	Drew	1 - 1	v The Firs	Won	5 - 0	v Lyndon Prep	Lost	4 - 0
v The Firs	Drew	0 - 0	v Shrewsbury High School	Drew	1 - 1	v Moreton Hall	Won	1 - 0

The U11 and U10 Hockey Teams enjoyed a number of matches this season against local Prep Schools. At this level, the main aim of the season is about participation and enjoyment and all girls in Year 4, 5 and 6 represented Ellesmere at some point in the term. During the term, we had matches against Moreton Hall, Packwood, The Firs, Shrewsbury High School and Lyndon Prep. It proved to be a successful term with good wins for the U11s against Moreton Hall

and The Firs, Chester. The U10s also proved themselves with wins over Moreton Hall and Shrewsbury High School. During the season it was great to watch their skills and game play improving and the U11s especially were pushing the U13s in friendly matches. Well done to all the girls - keep enjoying and working hard at your Hockey and I'm sure there will be some stars to watch out in the future!

**HLG**

Ellesmere College  U10 Hockey  
20 08



E.S.H. Stokes Miss H.L. Goss E.C. Walsh G.I. Edwards C.M. Davies K.A.H. Stokes L.H. Mundell  
C.R. Hulme T.J. Williams M.N. Foster R.C. Hulme S.M. Dutton

**Summary of Results**

v Moreton Hall	Won	4 - 0	v The Firs	Lost	2 - 0	v The Firs	Lost	3 - 0	v Shrewsbury High School	Won	4 - 1	v Moreton Hall	Won	6 - 0
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## Lent Term

# Ellesmere College U13 Netball

20 09



Miss H.L. Goss A.A. Morris A.M. Tow H.L. Rogers  
A.M. Martin-Jones E.D. Halstead T.L. Goodwin M.J. Andrews E.L. Greville

Many of the U13A games earlier in the term were easily won but the hardest games were left to the end of the term. Good wins against Rydal, Stafford and Abbots Bromley saw us dictate the play. The matches against Denstone College and Wolverhampton Grammar School were hard-fought games and played at an intensity we weren't used to, and although we gave good account of ourselves we found ourselves losing by a couple of goals. The U13B team faced tough opposition against Denstone College and King's Chester but enjoyed the experience of representing the school.

I have enjoyed coaching this group of girls for three years. In that time we have lost only two matches. They should be extremely proud of themselves and I will look forward to coaching them again as they come up through the ranks to Senior Level.

**HLG**

### U13A squad

Tara Goodwin (Capt), Ellie Halstead, Emma Greville, Alice Tow, Harriet Jones, Olivia Jones, Hannah Rogers, Annabelle Martin Jones, Hannah Williams, Amelia Morris, Hannah Swann, Melissa Andrews

### U13B Squad

Jennifer Pegg (Capt), Hannah Williams, Amelia Morris, Sam Williams, Sophie Sheldon, Sophie Moore, Hannah Swann

The U13 squad trained hard all term, as this group of girls always do. They led by example in the Lower School squad sessions by being out ready to practice and leading the warm-ups even before the coaches had got there. Due to the number of girls showing potential as team players, there were A and B sides. Both teams proved as dedicated as each other with the B team players pushing the A players all through the season.

# Ellesmere College U12A Netball

20 09



Mrs T. Cox A.A. Zembrzuski A.L. Odumaiya J.E.C. Fawke A.J. Hill  
M.J. Burrows G.L. Stackhouse M.D. Broster E.D. Williams R.E. Neary

With some new players joining this season it was always going to take time to get this squad working as a team, and they had a mixed season with two wins and three losses.

They had a very difficult match to start and failed to convert any of their scoring opportunities on a very cold morning at the beginning of term. Following on from that the team started to take shape and they worked very hard to win the next two games. There was some excellent shooting and it was great to watch them incorporating some of the skills they had worked on into their match play.

We then had a very exciting tournament where all the girls played fantastic and reached the finals. Unfortunately, due to an injury to Melissa, we then struggled to get our shots in and lost 6 - 2 to The Marches.

This was very disappointing for the girls and I felt that afterwards they struggled to achieve the standard that they had been playing. We lost our remaining fixtures, although we were short of players for our final game, so it probably wasn't a true reflection. However, I think that next season there are lots of positive points to build on in this squad and I am confident we can continue to improve.

**TC**

### Summary of Results

v Stafford	Lost	0 - 12	v Abbots Bromley	Won	10 - 2
v Rydal	Won	12 - 4	v Denstone College	Lost	3 - 14
			v Wolverhampton	Lost	4 - 24



Ellesmere College  U12B Netball  
20 09



A.C.W. Cowell A.E. MacLiam Roberts A.L. Odunaiya S.A. Jackson J.E.C. Fawke R.S. Griffiths Miss A. Pugh  
S.L. Edge-Roberts H. Gatenby H.L. Ward A.J. Hill N. Craig G.B., Edwards I.J.E. Marshall

The U12 pupils displayed much potential, showing depth throughout the year. The majority of girls have been given the opportunity to represent the school, with several of the B team players being selected to play for the A team. Their only match of

the season against Denstone College was tough, yet well-fought, with excellent skill emerging at times. The girls battled through to maintain a 5 - 5 draw.

AP

Ellesmere College  U11A Netball  
20 09



E.S. Brenninkmeyer M. Walker E.S. Hulme K.E. Leeming J.F. Martin-Jones Mrs E. Griffiths  
C.R. Rickett A.K. Latham T.R. Arnold M.E.R. Perkins A.J. Goodwin

The U11 girls get on very well together, and after a nervous start their play got better and better. The first match against Moreton Hall was a good effort, but the girls unfortunately lost 3 - 1. In later games the girls improved, with a very good attitude on the court and in training. This year has been a developmental one with the

squad building towards next year. There has definitely been a lift in confidence among the team members, and the squad has continued to get better through the season. The girls have performed very well and have been a joy to teach.

EG





Mr G. Owen C.K-Y.Leung A.J.Miller O.R.Lock H.A.Whitehouse R.C.Clark H.C.Collard-Underwood H.S.Rickett D.E.R.Derosa P.J.von Hoven  
N.B.Hughes B.T.Williams H.L.Rogers F.G.Murdoch M.R.Arnold J.A.A.Slater J.R.Whittaker

With a fixture list against some two-term football schools it was always going to be a difficult season. However, despite the intensity of the term, it was tremendously pleasing to see the team winning all but one game, most of them in a comfortable manner. It was a measure of the ability of the side that they won the majority of their matches by a comfortable margin. The only game lost was against a larger school playing two-term football – and even in that match the opposition was made to feel very uncomfortable for most of the game.

It was pleasing to see that the squad practiced very hard on their games afternoons, developing their individual skills, team cohesion and match tactics. They enjoyed developing their football skills and understanding. As the season progressed the squad improved a great deal, becoming well-organised in defence and creative in midfield. They developed their level of composure and the ability to concentrate. At times the team were able to change the tempo of the game when the situation

required – to do this at this age is very commendable. Peter von Hoven (goalkeeper), James Slater, Nelson Hughes, James Whittaker, Ben Williams, William Clarke and Henry Collard-Underwood provided a solid base in defence. This enabled Fraser Murdoch to use his silky skills in midfield to good effect. Joe Rogers was able to exploit the right wing area, often causing the opposition's left back many problems, and Miles Arnold provided a good target striker up front.

Fraser Murdoch was an excellent captain and his work-rate and skills in midfield were an example to others. A very enjoyable season for all.

**Colours were awarded to:**

Fraser Murdoch, Joe Rogers, Miles Arnold, James Slater, Ben Williams, William Clarke, Peter von Hoven, Nelson Hughes, James Whittaker and Henry Collard-Underwood.

**GO**



Ellesmere College  U12 Football  
20 09



R.J. Purnell Esq. E.J. Hall G.P.Watkin R.J. Lay C. Shields G.A. McCormack J.D. Wilson H.C. Williams J.K. Fairbanks  
P.J. O'Brien D.R. Powell T.E. Byrne C.C. Edwards W.K. Doerr J.A. Lytle J.W. Hughes

**Summary of Results**

v Wolverhampton Grammar	Lost	3 - 0
v Sandbach	Lost	3 - 0
v Abbeygate	Won	2 - 1
v Stafford Grammar	Lost	11 - 1

Our season opened at Wolverhampton Grammar against a well-organised side into their second term of football. Despite the result, it was a very creditable performance and our opponents had to work hard for their victory. This was followed by an even better showing

against Sandbach in which we managed to frustrate a very good side for long spells of the game and created some half-chances of our own. In the Abbeygate fixture we got off to a strong start, and took the lead when Tim Byrne headed home from a well-worked corner routine. Our lead was doubled before half time thanks to a long-distance effort from Teddy Hall. As expected, we came under considerable pressure for the first fifteen minutes of the second half and might have cracked after our opponents scored, but we held firm to secure a well-deserved victory. While this was undoubtedly the high point of the season, our final match proved to be a very painful experience as we were totally outclassed by Stafford Grammar, who played a brand of football that

most Academy sides would struggle to emulate. It is hard to find positives in such a game, but Carmen Edwards scored a cracking goal and, to their credit, our players kept going to the bitter end!

The U12 season is always a very steep learning curve, and this group of players must be congratulated for responding to the challenge by working hard on the training ground and putting in some determined performances against tough opposition.

*RJP*

Ellesmere College  U11 Football  
20 08



T.P.Hill Mr L.L. Roberts M.A. Bruce W.E.G. Lever C.A. Roberts T.W.J. Sloan W. Edwards W.J. Ainge G.D.J. Thorpe Mr G. Owen R.S.D. Davies  
A. Pardoe T.J.P. Haigh S. McCarthy T.O. Owen G.J. Dutton M.E. Eaton T.R. Lloyd

The team set out to be competitive in all matches. Through a great deal of hard work the squad achieved a good number of creditable results. The tournament they entered started well with three draws, scoring two goals in one game. Unfortunately, two losses followed the good start. As a result the team did not qualify for the next round which was a pity.

Apart from the tournament the team had some good games, drawing

two and winning one convincingly. Will Edwards (Year 4) was excellent in goal Tom Lloyd, Tom Owen, Graham Dutton and Seb McCarthy were very tenacious in midfield and defence. Armani Roberts and Will Lever showed spirit in attack with Armani Roberts being the main scorer. Altogether the squad progressed nicely throughout the season, showing good organisation and technical skill

**GO**





D.J. Morgan Esq. O.R. Lock C.C. Edwards J.C. Charmley J.A.S. Slater H.S. Rickett P.J. von Hoven J.S. Thomas  
J.R. Whittaker H.A. Whitehouse E.G. Murdoch A.J. Miller J.S.J.W. Rogers H. Collard-Underwood M.R. Arnold

**Denstone Sevens Tournament  
Sunday, 1st March 2009**

**Summary of Results**

**Group Stage**

v Queen Elizabeth GS Wakefield	Lost	15 – 19
v Yarlet	Won	41 – 0
v Bedford College	Lost	10 – 28

**Plate**

v St Bede's	Won	50 – 0
v Prestfelde Prep	Won	46 - 7

On a pleasant day for Sevens, we went to Denstone for its Prep School Tournament. Our group consisted of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Wakefield, Bedford and Yarlet. We arrived in good time and began to warm up. We were then told that there was a change in the schedule and we were on first.

**Ellesmere College v Queen Elizabeth GS Wakefield**

This was the worst seven minutes that I have seen these boys play. They did not move the ball well in attack and did not pressurise in defence. Wakefield coasted to a 19 – 0 half-time score. At half time we had an honest team talk. The whole team needed to demand more of themselves. They responded well to this and soon set Ali Miller free to score under the posts. We then scored another two but had not converted any. Wakefield had not even entered our half such was our domination. They were on the ropes and it looked like we might get the fourth try but they just held on.

**Ellesmere College v Yarlet**

Having dominated against a good side we now had confidence and the boys were responding well to coaching and improving their game. We played our second game on a drier pitch and began with a high tempo. We soon scored and converted and then came a second score. It was at this point that although good in defence we started to forget our instructions and hit contact. We got a third try but it was not pretty. At half time the coaches reminded the boys about Sevens play. The second half was quality. We scored a further four tries and dominated.

**Ellesmere College v Bedford College**

The last game of the group saw us face Bedford, the pre-tournament favourites. We had to win to go through to the Cup. We started well, putting them under constant pressure and forcing

errors. Our first try was scored by Joe Rogers who out-paced their speed man to score in the corner. Next up a big hit by Ali Miller dislodged the ball and he picked up to make the score 10 - 0. Bedford then broke out, but Joe chased well and looked to have tackled, but was penalised. A further penalty put them under the posts and they converted. Again we pressurised but they scored on the stroke of half time. In the second half Miller stood up his guy and then beat him on the outside. The covering defender chased and managed to stop him from grounding the ball. They finally broke our resistance to take the game.

**Ellesmere College v St Bede's**

We went into the Plate determined to show that we were a good side. In the semi-final we played St Bede's and were soon comfortable. All three reserves went on and played, and both Harvey Rickett and James Slater scored while Carmen Edwards tackled ferociously and created chances.

**Ellesmere College v Prestfelde Prep**

We met local rivals Prestfelde in the final of the Plate and unfortunately for them we were not going to let anyone stand in our way. A devastating first half of rugby put us in full control with Miller, Rogers and Lock all on the score sheet. We put the game beyond them in the second half with all ten boys being involved.

Group Stage points:	For 66	Against 47
Plate:	For 96	Against 7

**Team:**

J Rogers, P von Hoven, J Charmley, H Whitehouse, O Lock, H Collard-Underwood, A Miller, J Slater, H Rickett, C Edwards

**Packwood Sevens Tournament  
Saturday 7th March 2009**

We made steady progress within the week and started well in the Packwood tournament. We had good wins against a Packwood B team and then put together some excellent rugby to defeat Kirkam Grammar School, a very strong school from the North of England. We went into the quarter-finals of the Cup but were well-beaten by the hosts and eventual winners.

**Ellesmere U13 Sevens Tournament  
Wednesday, 18th March 2009**

With sixteen teams entered for the Ellesmere Tournament, and on a beautiful day, it turned out to be an excellent event.



### Results Summary

Group		Result
v Prestfelde Prep	Won	39 – 5
v Edenhurst	Won	44 – 0
v St Anselm's	Won	17 – 10
Quarter-final		Result
v Packwood Haugh Prep	Lost	7 – 10

#### Ellesmere College v Prestfelde

We have a good relationship with Prestfelde and there is always a good array of rugby skills on show when the two teams meet. This year we had the upper hand and started quickly. At 39 – 0 we made our first mistake to let them in.

#### Ellesmere College v Edenhurst

Edenhurst put in some good tackles and worked until the end but could not cope with the speed of our passing and running.

#### Ellesmere College v St. Anselm's

The last game of the group saw us face St Anselm's. They were big strong lads, but we moved them around and they could not stop captain Ali Miller, who put us two scores ahead. I then rested him and in the second half they came back at us, but although they scored twice we had control. Joe Rogers sealed the win with a great run out wide.

#### Ellesmere College v Packwood Haugh Prep

This put us into the cup quarter final where we met Packwood

Haugh. Packwood had a very strong squad this year and had beaten us by thirty points only three weeks earlier. However we had come on a lot since then and the most exciting game of the day unfolded. We tackled well and built lots of pressure. Twice Packwood thought they had broken through and twice we denied them. Then just before half time good pressure forced a mistake and Oli Lock capitilised. Fraser Murdoch slotted the conversion.

7 – 0 up at half time, we dug in for the second half, but Packwood applied much pressure. Eventually their centre found a gap to score out wide and the conversion was missed. We could not get out of our half but did not give in. With less than a minute left they managed to touch down in the corner to win. We had pushed them all the way and I was proud of the boys.

Packwood went on to win the cup fairly comfortably.

#### Team:

J Rogers, P von Hoven, J Charmley, H Whitehouse, O Lock, H Collard-Underwood, A Miller, M Arnold, J Whittaker, F Murdoch

All in all we were a good side this season, able to challenge all teams by the end. The boys played with an excellent attitude and were great to coach. I would like to thank them, the parents who supported and the organisers of each competition. I wish the boys the best of luck for next year.

*DJM*

Ellesmere College



U11 Rugby

20

09



Mr I.L. Williams M.A. Bruce S. McCarthy C.A. Roberts R.P. Walsh W. Fashanu G.J. Dutton W.J. Ainge T.P. Hill  
W. Edwards M.E. Eaton W.E.G. Lever T.W.T. Sloan (Capt.) T.O. Owen H.J. Pochin T.R. Lloyd

The U11 Rugby side enjoyed an excellent season, going unbeaten in their four matches in the second half of term. The first half term is always used as preparation and the emphasis placed on passing and attacking space was evident in the way the team played.

In our first game against a very large Prestfelde team we battled with determination and led twice only to let Prestfelde score to even up the match 14 – 14. Our second match was away at Packwood, where we played a selected team. It proved to be a great encounter with Packwood taking the lead early on, but the slope of the pitch proved influential and we managed to score two converted tries in the second half to record our first win 14 – 7. We then played Kingsland Grange at home and put on an excellent display of rugby. Will Edwards finished one of the best passing movements of the

term with a great try. Our second-half performance showed the potential of the team to move the ball well. The eventual score was 40 – 7. Our last match was against an emerging rugby school, Abbygate. Despite their physical size we proved too organised for them and scored some excellent team and individual tries eventually winning 54 – 0.

Many thanks must go to Tom Sloan for captaining the side so well and to all the parents who were so enthusiastic with their support.

*ILW*

#### Team:

T Sloan (capt), M Bruce, A Austin, A Roberts, W Fashanu, M Eaton, T Owen, G Dutton, H Pochin, W Lever, W Edwards, T Lloyd, S McCarthy, W Ainge, R Walsh, T Hill, T Haigh



## Summer Term

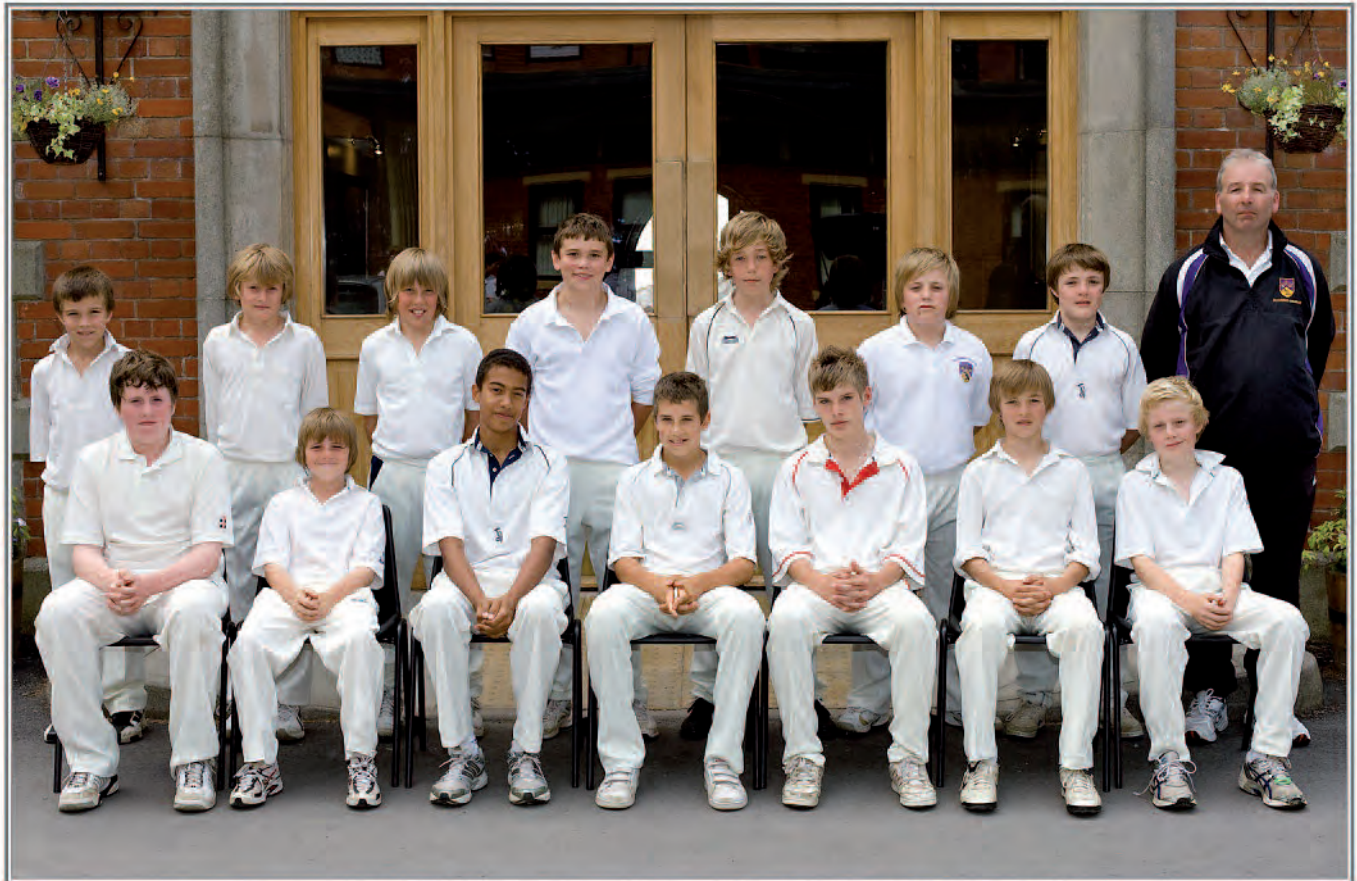
Ellesmere College



U13A Cricket

20

09



D.R. Powell E.J. Hall W.K. Doerr H.S. Rickett M.J. Beardmore C.J. Beswick H.C. Williams Mr G. Owen  
J.H. Austin E.B. Shelley N.B. Hughes E.G. Murdoch J.S.J.W. Rogers O.R. Lock J.R. Whittaker

The season started with a solid victory providing a good number of positives including both batting and bowling performances. Unfortunately, a defeat followed the good start to the season. This then set the pattern for the season with good wins followed by defeats against larger and more experienced schools.

There were many notable performances during the season including the following individual displays.

- Fraser Murdoch scored a 53 not out and a 30 with the bat. In one game he also produced a fine 5 for 19 spell of bowling against a very good batting side.
- The hard-hitting Joe Rogers scored a couple of significant innings of 57 runs and 20 runs with the bat.
- Miles Arnold worked a 31-run innings with the bat, playing a very significant innings to win one game.
- James Austin scored a cultured 32 runs in a game against a County team.

There were also good cricketing performances from other Year 8 pupils including Nelson Hughes, Ed Shelley and Oliver Lock.

It was particularly pleasing to note the contributions of the Year 7 pupils. David Powell scored a very mature 29 runs, enabling the side to win the game. Throughout the season there were some good Year 7 bowling performances from Harry Williams, William Doerr and David Powell which can only be promising for next year.

The squad was creditably led by Fraser Murdoch, who set high standards with his batting, bowling and fielding. Overall it was very pleasing to see that this squad were very keen to develop the technical aspects of the game throughout the season. As a result, their improvement in playing the game of cricket was very much evident by the end of term.

#### Full Colours were awarded to:

Fraser Murdoch, Edward Shelley, Joseph Rogers, Miles Arnold and David Powell.

#### Half Colours were awarded to:

James Whittaker, James Austin, Nelson Hughes, Oliver Lock, Harry Williams and William Doer.

**GO**





Mr R.J. Purnell J.A. Roberts R.M. Spencer-Wolfe R.J. Lay G.A. McCormack J.S. Thomas  
J.A.S. Slater J.A. Lyttle B.T. Williams P.J. Von Hoven H.C. Collard-Underwood J.M. Bendel J.C. Charmley

### Results Summary

Packwood Haugh 174 for 5 (Hughes 3 - 39)  
Ellesmere 30 all out Lost by 144 runs

Ellesmere 104 all out (Collard-Underwood 41, Hall 20)  
Newcastle-Under-Lyme 107 for 0 Lost by 10 wickets

Kingsland Grange 60 all out (Hall 3 - 9)  
Ellesmere 62 for 5 (Hall 21 n.o.) Won by 5 wickets

The season got off to a demoralising start when we were comprehensively beaten by Packwood. The only positive to come out of this game was some promising bowling by James Austin and Nelson Hughes, and both players were moved up to the A team for the rest of the season. The inclement weather meant that we did not play another match for six weeks, but we were able to use the time profitably with some hard work on the training field. In our second match, a fine stand between Henry Collard-Underwood and Teddy Hall helped us to a respectable total against Newcastle-Under-Lyme. In the field we kept things tight for the first few overs, but our bowling and fielding became

more ragged as the innings progressed and our opponents cruised to their target with six overs to spare. Our bowling showed better line and length against Kingsland Grange and we were in the driving seat after dismissing our opponents for only 60 runs. At 11 for 3 after the first three overs we looked to be heading for disaster, but sensible batting by Peter von Hoven and Henry Collard-Underwood steadied the ship and then a superb unbeaten innings by Teddy Hall ensured our season finished with a win.

This was a season of gradual development in all departments for a squad of enthusiastic but relatively inexperienced players. Harvey Rickett was a safe pair of hands behind the wicket and showed promise as a batsman. Peter von Hoven's bowling improved dramatically in the last few weeks of the season, while Henry Collard-Underwood's unconventional batting style was highly effective. Josh Bendel emerged as a promising cricketer with leadership potential and Teddy Hall proved that he has genuine talent with both bat and ball.

*RJP*





T.R. Lloyd S. McCarthy T.W.J. Sloan P.G. Willis T.J.P. Haigh Mr I.L. Roberts  
W.E.G. Lever M.E. Eaton W. Rothery T.O. Owen G.D.J. Thorpe M.A. Bruce G.J. Dutton



Mr I.L. Roberts R.P. Walsh C.A. Roberts W. Fashanu H. Hynes  
T.P. Hill T. Gerecke A.H. Austin W. Rothery H.J. Pochin W.J. Ainge A. Pardoe

The cricket has grown this year at U11. We were able to field an A and B team this year. Unfortunately we were only able to play one fixture this term, due to poor weather and cancellations. Both matches were against Kingsland Grange.

The A team played some entertaining cricket and were unlucky not to come away with a win. They took what they had learnt in the games session and applied it into their match, with some decent batting and bowling being shown throughout. We produced a County player in the guise of Tom Owen, who led the team well and showed some good batting and bowling in the game. Another star was Seb McCarthy, who has shown he has a very promising time ahead at Ellesmere College.

The B team also played an entertaining match and showed some good cricket skills during their match. Playing on a small field helped them hit the boundaries and post a respectable score to beat. The game went down to the last over and we just narrowly lost; well done to the boys for an entertaining game.

It is a credit to the boys for sticking at the Cricket when the weather was against us for several games and squad sessions. Well done to all that played and good luck for next year to those who are moving up into Year 7.

**ILR**



### Shropshire Year 7 and 8 Track and Field Championships

The Year 7 and 8 Shropshire Track and Field Championships gave many pupils the opportunity to compete against other schools in several events. For many it was their first time competing in such an event, and it proved to be a valuable experience for all. All sprinters finished within the top three positions in their heats to ensure reaching their final, but the majority fell just short of the medals. Joel Lyttle achieved 3rd place in the 200m. Unfortunately, Joel was narrowly beaten on the line, yet his personal best time of 30 seconds obtained in his earlier heat brought about much sense of accomplishment. Once again Ellie Halstead dominated the Girls' 100m heats and final. A comfortable finish in 13.8 seconds ensured her place to represent Shropshire in another competition. The standard in the Year 8 Girls' 200m race was exceptional. Despite running personal best times, Ellie Halstead and Emma Greville had to settle for 3rd and 4th place respectively.

Emma Greville's outstanding natural ability in the 800m continued to strengthen. A time of 2.33.4 minutes was achieved, with a seemingly effortless performance. She is currently only 12 seconds short of the Junior Girls' Shropshire record, set in 1981, which she can attempt again to beat next year. Alistair Miller barely

missed out on the top positions in the Year 8 Boys' 100m, yet he achieved 2nd place in the Long Jump with a personal best of 4.58m. Ellie, Emma and Alistair have all been asked to attend training and compete for Shropshire against Staffordshire in the summer holidays.

Well done to all those who competed.

#### AP

Ellie Halstead	100m 1st 13.8sec, 200m 3rd 29.2(pb)
Emma Greville	800m 1st 2.33.4min(pb), 200m 4th 29.9(pb)
Amelia Morris	Shot 6th 4.88m
Alistair Miller	100m 4th 13.4sec, Long jump 2nd 4.58m(pb)
Myles Arnold	800m 9th 2.45.2, Long jump 5th 3.86m(pb)
Josef Johnson	Shot 6th 6.47m, Javelin 6th 15.93m
Amy Odunaiya	100m 8th 15.1sec, High Jump 4th 1.20m(pb)
Rebecca Neary	Shot 5th 5.60m(pb)
Joel Lyttle	100m 7th 14.6sec, 200m 3rd 30sec(pb)
Angelo Daniel	100m 6th 14.2sec, 200m 6th 31.1sec
James Wilson	800m 4th 2.46.6min, Long jump 5th 4.01m
Jamie Thomas	1000m 6th 3.32.9min
Ryen Spencer-Wolfe	Javelin 7th 20.35m

Track times are the best of the day.

Ellesmere College

20



U13 Tennis

09



Mrs N.Hoy O.R.Jones M.R.Venner M.J.Andrews  
E.L.Greville H.E.Jones T.L.Goodwin S.A.Sheldon E.D.Halstead

This is a promising team with good individual players, backed up by the experience of Academy players Olivia and Harriet Jones. Match results were excellent with good wins over Oswestry School, Rydal Penrhos and Moreton Hall.

#### Squad:

Olivia Jones, Harriet Jones, Ellie Halstead, Mel Andrews, Molly Venner, Tara Goodwin, Emma Greville





Mrs N. Hoy S.A. Jackson C.C. Jones  
C.A. Hughes G.B. Edwards E.D. Williams M.D. Broster

The help of the Academy players Catriona Jones and Chloe Hughes strengthened the other girls' play. The U12s played some good Tennis and developed as the term progressed. There were good wins against Moreton Hall and Oswestry School. In one match two Year 6 girls, Taylor Arnold and Tilly Walker, represented the College at U12 level.

**Squad:**

Chloe Hughes, Catriona Hughes, Ellie Williams,  
Sara Jackson, Georgie Edwards,  
Tilly Walker, Taylor Arnold

**U11 and U10**

All the girls from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 represented Ellesmere in two matches against Moreton Hall, competing at their own respective standard of play.

**HLG**



Miss E. Killen M.R. Venner A.A. Morris E.D. Halstead T.L. Goodwin M.J. Andrews  
H.L. Swann S. Williams J.L. Pegg E.L. Greville H.L. Rogers S.A. Sheldon H.J. Williams

The Rounders season seemed to flash by in the blink of an eye but the highlight was undoubtedly the North Shropshire Tournament. Ellesmere found themselves in a challenging group and performed well against strong, well-organised teams. Their determination saw them through to the semi-final where they had to face Oswestry School. It was a close match with the scores being level at the end of the innings, leading to a sudden death play-off in which Ellesmere managed to get their noses in front to reach the final. They found themselves up against the team from the Lakelands; a team they had already faced in the group stages. It was another well-contested match but Ellesmere were finally beaten by some very sharp fielding to finish runners-up.

**LK**



Ellesmere College  U12 Rounders  
20 09



Mrs T. Cox Z.A. Zembruski H. Gatenby I.J.E. Marshall E.D. Williams  
N. Craig A.C.W. Cowell M.J. Burrows M.D. Broster R.E. Neary G.B. Edwards G.L. Stackhouse

Due to a wet summer the matches were very limited for the U12s; they played only two and unfortunately lost both. The first was away to Oswestry, where we made a few errors which resulted in players getting themselves out too early. The last match of the season was away at Denstone and unfortunately we struggled to score enough against a well-organized fielding side and lost 17 - 8.

However, the North Shropshire Tournament held at Ellesmere was a different story. We were drawn in a group of five, and beat three schools and drew with Grove to earn a place in the semi-final. We then played Adcote in the semi-final and a great batting performance enabled us to advance to the final. We then met Grove again and after a very close match they managed to beat us 7 - 5 due to some great fielding on their part. A great effort from all the girls and they were unfortunate that they hadn't been able to win overall.

**TC**

**The team for the tournament:**  
Molly Browster, Rebecca Neary, Hannah Gatenby, Annie Hill, Hannah Ward, Zoe Zembruski, Melissa Burrows, Ellie Williams, Georgia Stackhouse, Annabel Cowley, Naomi Craig.

Ellesmere College  Lower School Shooting  
20 09



Mr J.W. Quinlan O. Lock J. Fawke J. Slater H. Williams H. Edge-Roberts J. Roberts R. Clarke  
R. Lay S. Sheldon M. Bruce S. Williams (Capt.) P. von Hoven K. Leeming A. Austin

Lower School Shooting is included in the main Shooting Report



## Lower School House Matches

### Football House Matches

The Lower School competition was won by Brownlow overall. They were runners-up in the A competition and winners of the B competition. The results are shown below.

#### A Competition

House	P	W	D	GF	GA	GD	Points
Phillips	2	2	0	3	0	+3	6
Brownlow	2	1	0	2	1	+1	3
Heywood	2	0	0	0	4	-4	0

#### B Competition

House	P	W	D	GF	GA	GD	Points
Brownlow	2	2	0	10	2	+8	6
Heywood	2	1	0	3	3	0	3
Phillips	2	0	0	1	10	-9	0

Finally I would like to thank all the staff who were involved in coaching the football and who helped out with the House Football competition.

**ILR**



*Ready Steady Go!*

### House Hockey Results

#### Year 7 and 8 Tournament

1st - Brownlow 2nd - Heywood 3rd - Phillips

#### Year 4, 5 and 6 Tournament

1st - Heywood 2nd - Brownlow 3rd - Phillips



*Battling it out on the hockey field*

### Lower School House Netball

This year's Lower School House Netball Competition was the biggest yet. The competition involved three groups: U11, U13A and U13B. They played within their groups but the three competitions were added together to bring about an overall winner. It was a great day, with all the girls from Years 3 to 8 involved.

In the U11 competition Heywood dominated and won all their games. In the U13A it was a tighter competition but Phillips finally

beat Brownlow by one goal in the last game to win; and in the U13 Bs Heywood again were the eventual winners.

The overall competition was tight, with Phillips and Heywood with the same amount of points, but when it went to count-back Heywood got the edge over Phillips with a one-goal difference.

**HLG**

#### Results

##### U11

1st - Heywood 2nd - Phillips 3rd - Brownlow

##### U13A

1st - Phillips 2nd - Brownlow 3rd - Heywood

##### U13B

1st - Heywood 2nd - Brownlow 3rd - Heywood

#### Overall Result

1st - Heywood 2nd - Phillips 3rd - Brownlow

### House Cross Country

This year's event was held in perfect conditions. After the recent snow fall the ground had recovered to provide a good course route. It was very pleasing to see the number of Lower School competitors and the sporting encouragement given to all at the finish line.

**ILW**

#### Results

Age Group	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Year 3/4</b>			
Boys	Will Edwards	Tom Hill	Hector Pardoe
Girls	Katy Stokes	Elizabeth Walsh	Emily Stokes
<b>Year 5</b>			
Boys	Armani Roberts	Marcus Bruce	Jack Bacon
Girls	Mia Foster	Caro Hulme	Kate Moore
<b>Year 6</b>			
Boys	Alfie Pardoe	Seb McCarthy	Tom Lloyd
Girls	Jess Martin-Jones	Taylor Arnold	Beth Hulme
<b>Year 7</b>			
Boys	Jamie Thomas	Williams Doer	Carmen Edwards
Girls	Naomi Craig	Zoe Zembrzusi	Amy Odinaiya
<b>Year 8</b>			
Boys	Myles Arnold	Max Beardmore	Joe Rogers
Girls	Emma Greville	Ellie Halstead	Tara Goodwin

### House Golf

This year's event was very close between the top two Houses. We played an adapted match play format with three competitors per House. The final holes decided the overall result with Heywood and Brownlow fighting for the title. Mention should be given to the fine performances by Ben Williams (Brownlow), Fraser Murdoch (Phillips) and Grant Jones (Heywood).

**ILW**

	1st group	2nd group	3rd group	Pts	Position
Heywood	Grant Jones 5	Harry Whitehouse 6	Ioan Parry -Jones 15	26	1st
Brownlow	Miles Arnold 4	Ben Williams 12	Peter Von Hoven 6	22	2nd
Phillips	Fraser Murdoch 6	Jo Rogers 1	Noah Appleby 0	7	3rd

### Lower School Open 2009

This year we were blessed with glorious weather for the Lower School Open. It was contested between only four players but this did not detract from the competitiveness of the event. Fraser Murdoch won the event with a respectable 42 but was pushed all the way by Ben Williams who shot a 43. Grant Jones and Taylor Batsen drew for third place.

**ILW**



# The Sports Centre



*Chris Rogers,  
Sports Centre Manager*

Ellesmere College Sports Centre was built in 2004 and opened by Bill Beaumont, Old Ellesmerian and former England Rugby Captain. The Sports Centre is the base for the school's Physical Education Department, and in addition the facility has enabled the school to offer a wider variety of activities both during and outside term-times. In 2008 Chris Rogers was appointed as Sports Centre

Manager to develop the delivery of sports training and activities. Chris works closely with Ian Williams, Director of Sports, and Hazel Wakefield, Business Development Director, to hire out the facilities as well as delivering courses with the College team. Chris is also in charge of the development of the school's nine-hole golf course.

## Multi-Activity Courses October 2008

During the October Half Term a number of local children enjoyed a week of fun-filled activities at the College. The children, aged between eight and thirteen years, took part in a range of sports, games and drama events, making full use of the school's excellent facilities. The course ran from Monday to Friday, and for the first time the children were given the opportunity to decide what activities took place in one of the time slots during the day. Course organiser Chris Rogers said: "Giving the children the opportunity to decide what games were played increased the enjoyment level; children have very wide imaginations and knowledge of many more games than me so we gave the children the opportunity to play games they enjoyed. It worked brilliantly and is something that we will look at incorporating in our future programmes."

## Easter Multi-Activity Course

The fifty or more children who took part in the Easter course with Activity Leader Belinda Bellis enjoyed participating in a variety of activities including arts and crafts, drama sessions, sports and swimming. The week culminated in an Easter-themed day including an Easter egg hunt around the school's grounds.



*Games in the Gym*

More seriously, ten local young adults successfully completed a Lifeguarding course. Keen local young Tennis players also had the opportunity to get involved in the Ellesmere College Easter Tennis Academy Course. Players took part in games, skills sessions and competitions to improve their skills before the start of the Tennis season.

## Summer Adventure+ Courses

This Summer Ellesmere College had over two hundred children taking part in four different courses spread across five weeks of the school holidays. For the first time there was a Sports Leadership course for youngsters aged fourteen and over, who worked on the Multi-Activities courses. They gained invaluable experience of working as a team creating and leading sessions.



*Sports Leadership course candidates*

Leaders Hannah Phillips and Tom King worked alongside Sports Centre Manager Chris Rogers to deliver the Summer's courses. In the first two weeks of the activities children aged eight to fourteen years took part. The children participated in swimming in the indoor pool every day as well as playing small sports games. They also had the opportunity to take part in drama games in the school's Arts Centre along with creative time to draw or make things. Throughout the weeks Chris and his team took the opportunity to introduce new activities to the children such as softball and 4-square.



*Just some of the sports available for children to try*

The new Adventure+ course saw over fifty children aged from eleven to fourteen years participate. The children were split into groups of between six and eight, and with a designated group leader took part in a variety of challenging sessions. On Monday and Tuesday the groups canoed on The Mere with Adventure Training Instructor Martin Digby, who then led two days of climbing and archery on the College campus. For the rest of the week the participants swam in the indoor pool, played tennis and softball, and designed their own Adventure+ t-shirts. The week culminated in a session on the track at Rednal Go-Karting, with the children trying to beat their leaders around the track, and a visit to Whittington Castle. Feedback from children who took part in the courses was excellent, with Martin Digby's sessions proving particularly popular.





*Martin Digby instructing on Ellesmere*



*Go-karting at Rednal*

### Summer Tennis Academy Week

Our Tennis Academy Director, Nikki Hoy, again ran our Summer Tennis Academy week, giving children the opportunity to improve their game in a short space of time. Skills and fitness sessions took place during the morning in preparation for a different competition each afternoon. After the afternoon's competition the children finished the day with a splash in the swimming pool. At the end of the week the players were awarded medals for their performances in the week's competitions.

### Rugby Camp

Ellesmere College hosted its annual pre-season Rugby camp in partnership with Shropshire Rugby. The camp saw over fifty boys take part in a variety of sessions, instructed by Ellesmere College coaches and Old Ellesmerians. Worcester RFU player and Old Ellesmerian, Sam Lewis, spent a day working with the boys, passing on valuable knowledge of the game to a group of ten-to-sixteen-year-



*Nikki Hoy, Director of the Tennis Academy (back, second from right) with the winning Tennis team*

olds. Sam talked to players about his experience of school and club Rugby, and his career as a professional Rugby player. Ellesmere College also welcomed back Joel Galley from the Llanelli Scarlets. Joel spent two days working closely with the forwards while Old Ellesmerian Rhys Hayes, who plays for Chester RFU and the University of Wales, worked with the backs. Last year's 1st XV Rugby Captain Henry Hackett also joined the team of coaches before going to Bath University in October. Sam, Joel, Rhys and Henry were inspirational examples of what can be achieved through training and commitment.

During the week youngsters had the opportunity to work with fitness expert Mark Lewin, who helped them develop their overall fitness and core stability. The players were also involved in specific positional workshops, skills development and a swimming session at the end of each day.

**Chris Rogers**



*Back row from left; Henry Hackett, Rhys Hayes, Joel Galley  
Front row from left; Sam Lewis and Lloyd Hayes (1st XV Captain)*



*Ellesmere College Summer Rugby Camp*



# Ellesmere College Parents' Society

The Ellesmere College Parents' Society organises social functions at the school for parents and pupils. At the AGM in February 2009 Sue Dewhirst took over the reins as Chairman from Lesley Kelly.



*Sue Dewhirst with son Matthew*

After a very successful calendar of events in 2008, which included fundraising activities and involvement in the continuing development of the Lower School Wildlife Garden, the Society closed the year in style with the Christmas Ball - recreating Elvis' last performance at Caesars' Palace!



*Lesley Kelly, previous Chairman of the Society, presenting Mrs Jebb with a donation to the Save The Children Fund*



*Sue Dewhirst, presenting Cathy Allen with funds for buying trees for the Wildlife Garden*



*Lesley Kelly and Vicki Cooper making Christmas wreaths*

In the summer of 2008 the Parents' Society launched the very successful Ladies' Lunch on the Terraces, bringing the academic year to a close and preparing all mothers for the Summer holidays ahead. In 2009 the good weather at the end of the College year hailed the arrival of Old Ellesmerian Andrew Collinge on the terraces. After the luncheon Andrew addressed the Sixth Form students in the Arts Centre, sharing memories of his time at Ellesmere as well as discussing his successful hairdressing business.

The Family Picnic was again scheduled into the Social Calendar for the school as a finale to the Lower School Sports Day, following an absence of over two years. It also gave the Parents' Society, with the help of the Lower School pupils, an opportunity to raise money for the Samaritan's Purse Charity for victims of HIV in Eastern Europe and Africa.

The Parents' Society has a range of social activities planned for the remainder of 2009 that include a Disco for Years 4, 5 and 6, the Christmas 'Ice Breaker' Coffee Morning in December, and the planting of a permanent Christmas Tree for the College ready for Christmas 2009. The Society's year will end with their Abba Extravaganza. All Ellesmere College parents are invited to attend these events.

**Sue Dewhirst**

## The Ladies' Luncheon



*From left: Hazel Wakefield, Business Development Director; Anne Wignall; Andrew Collinge; Anna Turner, High Sheriff of Shropshire; and Sue Dewhirst, Chairman of the Parents' Society*

The second Ladies' Luncheon was held in a marquee situated on the school's terraces. After much planning and hard work by the Ellesmere College Parents' Society Chairman, Sue Dewhirst, and her committee, two hundred ladies enjoyed a glass of bubbly before consuming a delicious meal. A number of local businesswomen



also had the opportunity to share their wares with the guests, including Tuesday Chocolates from Market Drayton, Mystique, the ladies' underwear and beach-wear shop in Shrewsbury, as well as the clothes shop, Quelque Chose, who also organised a fashion parade of Summer outfits during lunch.



*Guests at the Ladies' Luncheon*

Following lunch, Andrew Collinge gave an interesting and often amusing speech about his days at Ellesmere College, his successful career as a hairdresser to many famous people, and his experiences of presenting on television for a number of years, facilitating the original make-over opportunities alongside his wife, Liz Collinge, a make-up artist, for women around the UK. A raffle, with prizes generously donated by the stallholders, raised £1,000 for Self Unlimited, a charity that has Andrew Collinge as a patron. Following the lunch, guests had the opportunity to look around the stalls whilst chatting amongst themselves and with teachers and other staff members who joined the group for tea.

The High Sheriff of Shropshire, Anna Turner, was one of the guests. After lunch she was accompanied by the Headmaster, Brendan Wignall, and his wife Anne to present Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards to a group of Year 11 and 12 pupils.

**HJW**

### **The Parents' Society Summer Picnic**

For the last two years poor weather and change of dates for the Lower School Sports Day has prevented the Ellesmere College Parents' Society Summer Picnic from taking place, but this year, following the Sports Day, many Ellesmere College families enjoyed a picnic on the terraces. The school flag blew in the light breeze and, as an inflated bouncy slide kept the children occupied, parents enjoyed jugs of Pimms whilst sitting on the Terraces picnicking and watching the 1st XI Cricket Team play and win against a staff side. Other activities aimed at the younger children were dog training as well as bird of prey displays. There was also an element of fundraising by Lower School pupils for the Samaritan's Purse charity; guessing the number of sweets in a large jar donated by Toots Sweets of Shrewsbury, and selling home-baked cookies. The hard-working Parents' Society Committee are to be congratulated on another successful and enjoyable occasion.

**HJW**



*The Organisers: Sena Parry, Vice Chair; Sue Dewhirst, Chairman; and Michelle Potts, Secretary*



*Balloon's-eye view of the Summer Picnic*



# Old Ellesmerians



Dear Hazel,  
 Thought you might like to see this picture of my grandfather Henry Andrew Jones (arrowed) of Clobryn (or Clebryn) Farm, Llanddulas/Llysaen, North Wales, at Ellesmere in 1892; I myself was at Wakeman - George Lloyd Jones (Jones 2) '66 - and have very fond memories of that time; the Housemaster, Mr Bryan Hooton, was particularly enlightened and caring.  
 Best wishes,  
**Lloyd Jones, Llanfairfechan, Conwy**

## 125th Anniversary Ball 30th May 2009

The 30th May 2009 was a brilliant Summer's day and showed Ellesmere at its best. In the evening over two hundred OEs and their guests sat down in the Dining Hall to a formal dinner to celebrate the founding of the College in 1884.

The College was 'open' during the afternoon, and several OEs took the opportunity to have a wander around before joining the well-attended Eucharist in the Chapel at 5.30pm. A champagne reception followed in Big School where the new President, John Harvey (Wo '69), formally welcomed everyone and, on behalf of the Club, made special mention of everyone at the College who works so tirelessly for the Club whenever we hold a function. His first formal duty as the newly-elected President had been to host a well-attended Dinner at the Black Lion the night before for members of the support staff.

Dinner was served in the Dining Hall, where there was great interest in the place settings as the place mats, wherever possible, depicted a photograph of themselves whilst at Ellesmere – this was a great success and a great conversation starter! I suspect this will not be the last dinner where this is done. The College caterers did us proud although there did seem to be a deliberate ploy on the part of the 'official' photographer to try to delay the start of the meal as long as possible! Nevertheless, the fare provided was excellent and the Headmaster and our guest speaker, Ian Beer, rounded off the evening – all the time being very aware that their time would be cut short by the warning maroons being triggered by the firework display company who had spent the day preparing for this moment!



*Guests at the 125th Anniversary Dinner on 30th May: from left, Tom & Sue Latham, Barrie & Avril Keenan, Brenda & Ian Johnston*

There was no mistaking the maroons when they were let off. Suddenly, this brought the formal side of the evening to a close as everyone made their way to the Terraces for what turned out to be a tremendous fireworks display. You had to be there to experience the full effect of it but there is no doubt at all that local residents for many miles around also enjoyed the spectacle – well, most of them; we did receive the inevitable complaint.....

Dancing in Big School followed before the evening came to a close in the very early hours of Sunday morning with all those present gathering under the Schulze organ for the now traditional finale of *Jerusalem*

**John Harvey**



The following OEs attended:

Richard Preece (Wa '56), Paul Russell (D '82), Francis Towers (Wa '56), Andrew Shepherd (M '78), Barrie Keenan (T '48), Richard Towers (Wa '56), Kevin Dyas (M '77), Richard Morris (Wo '88), David Ellerton (T '74), John Barrett (Wo '57), Tom Latham (T '44), Frank Towers (Wa '80), Christopher Mather (T '59), Bob Lewis (Wa '59), Phil Soskin (T '60), Don Lucas (Wo '59), Tony Jude (T '59), David Swinn (Wa '58), David Leftwich (M '57), Bernard Whewell (Wa '55), Richard Harley (D '79), Jonathan Pilkington (Wa '55), Rod Stagg (T '52), Tim Hudson (Wo '77), Ian Johnston (T '46), Graham Hockenhull (Wo '75), Robert Baxter (M '57), Andrew Hudson (Wa '77), Guy Fennell (T '94), Nigel Oakey (Wo '77), Robert Richards (M '55), Rhiannon Burdge (St. O '94), David Peel (T '49), John Harvey (Wo '69), Iain Shepherd (M '80), Richard Thurgood (Wo '68), Richard Watmough (T '60), Penny Marshall (St. O '86), Chris Scott (T '66), Geoffrey Hilton (Wa '49), Richard Jenks (M '77), David Mullock (Wo '53), Jerry McPhail (M '73), Fred Parrott (Wa '58), Richard Sampson (M '97), Robin Huxley (Wa '55), Ross Jobber (L '77), David Lloyd (Wa '55), Elizabeth Capurro (L '80), Henry Birch (Wa '57), Jane Jordan (M '80), Oliver Melling (Wa '66), Tom Platt (T '49), Kenneth Nicolson (Wo '44), Graham Davies (T '62), Mike Hardman (Wo '83), Peter Rendell (T '62), Amanda Salt (St. O '85), David Purslow (M '78), Simon Montgomery (Wo '87), Lance Browne (L '62), Richard Woodward (Wo '66), Chris Sharp (M '75), Neil Churms (Wa-L '97), Andrew Whitehouse (T '63), Guy Daley (Wo '87), Robert Home (T '54), Annabel Fox (St. O '85), David Laws (L '83), David Marvell (Wo '83), Chris Ball (D '81), Simon Worsnop (Wa '83), Nick Denman (D '81), Chris Reed (L '83), Rufus Carter (T '83), Andrew Benson (Wa '59).

Other OEs who called in during the afternoon included: Charles Noden (Wa '88), Barry Dearden (T '51), Tony Waddell (T '54) & Clive Griffiths (T '54).

### The Old Ellesmerian Club

The Old Ellesmerian Club continues to thrive and must surely be one of the most active societies of its kind – not only with the various Regional dinners it organises each year but with an increasing presence on various Internet-based social networking sites such as Facebook. The Club organises six Regional dinners each year with numerous other privately-organised gatherings of OEs taking place all the time. OEs continually visit the College and are always made to feel welcome whether it is a private visit, to play Cricket or Rugby or to take part in the Community Carol Service or the Remembrance Day Service. The latter has proved to be a very successful initiative with a large number of OEs attending and staying on for lunch, provided courtesy of the College.

The OE Club continues to support the school in many and varied ways, from individual OEs giving of their time by attending the annual Careers Conference to practical financial contributions towards specific projects all around the College. To celebrate the Millennium, the Club undertook what was probably its largest-ever project with the complete refurbishment of the Founder's Gate entrance. It was pleasing to be able to complete the project this year to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of the College. The timber ceiling & lighting has now been continued across Main Corridor and towards the Terraces door. The Trustees of the OE Charitable Trust were generous in their support of the Sports Centre, providing a substantial amount of equipment. One OE generously gave of his time and expertise to refurbish the gates at the Tetchill entrance, whilst the families of several OEs who are no longer with us have commemorated their lives by gifts to the Chapel. Many school tours, sporting and drama, have been supported by the Club as have several World Challenge expeditions and individuals.

There have been many, albeit gradual, changes in the way that the Club has been administered over the past few years as stewardship of the Club has passed to the younger generation. Richard Morris (Wo '82), Chairman, is encouraging younger OEs to join the Executive Committee and, as a current parent with two children at the College, he is only too aware of the challenges facing both Club and School. Richard is one of many OEs who give

freely of their time and expertise and there is no doubt that the Club is in good, and enthusiastic, hands.

The Club produces two Newsletters each year and also maintains its own website at [www.oecolub.co.uk](http://www.oecolub.co.uk) – the latter is nearly complete after a total rebuild. News from OEs is always welcome and it is good to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to make contact with us at any time, either to Richard Morris at [Richard@mcwgroup.co.uk](mailto:Richard@mcwgroup.co.uk) or 01948 830275 or John Harvey at [j.a.Harvey@btinternet.com](mailto:j.a.Harvey@btinternet.com) or 01743 341065.



*The refurbished roof of the Founders Gate (Reception) area and Terraces entrance*

### Where Are They Now?

#### Beth Clewlow (2007)

In her last year at Ellesmere Beth won the Blake Hartley Travel Award, which enabled her to spend a year at Timbertops. This extraordinary place is the Geelong Grammar School campus at the foot of Mt Buller, in the Australian Alps. All of Geelong's Year 9 students spend a full year experiencing a range of outdoor activities, including trekking and camping in the Outback, cross-



*Beth in the outback*

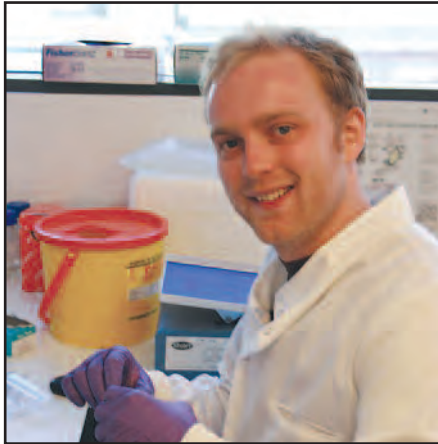
country skiing, mountaineering etc. They also, as part of their social service commitment, spend several days at a time in outback towns, helping to rebuild homes destroyed by bushfires. Beth was actively involved in assisting in all these activities. She saw the devastation of the fires for herself, and the school was evacuated for a couple of days as a precaution.

While in Australia Beth travelled extensively, visiting on the way ex-Ellesmere teachers Matt and Norelle Stone and, of course, Sandy McKinnon, who is himself now a Timbertops teacher. At the end of her stay Beth presented the Headmaster of Geelong with an engraved Ellesmere College crest.

Beth is now a student at Durham University, studying Criminology. She hopes in due course to join the Police Force.



**Owen Hughes (2000)**



*Owen Hughes working in his laboratory*

Owen Hughes, who studied Molecular Biology at Newcastle University, has recently received his PhD following research into protein signalling pathways which are active in cancer and stem cells. He is now working in Valencia, on the generation of new retinal tissue for the treatment of macular degeneration.

**Ashley Frazer-Evans (1996)**



*Ashley Frazer-Evans meets former President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda*

Since leaving Ellesmere Ashley has set up his own company, based in Johannesburg but operating primarily in neighbouring countries. His team help in mosquito eradication and malaria prevention. Contracts have come from the World Health Authority, International mining concerns and National governments.

**Oliver Hennessey (1996)**



*Oliver Hennessey (and friend!)*

Oliver Hennessey graduated with a BA in English from Merton College, Oxford, in 1999. In 2000 he received an MPhil in Anglo-

Irish Literature from Trinity College, Dublin. Having relocated to the United States, he was awarded his PhD in Renaissance Literature from the Hudson Strode Programme at the University of Alabama in 2006. He currently resides in New Orleans with his wife, Kara, and is the Assistant Professor of English at Xavier University of Louisiana.

**Trio in High Places**

At this year's CCF Easter Camp on Skye, three OEs came together to help the next generation of cadets develop the same skills that they themselves have turned into a career. All three were leading members of the Cadet Force in their day.

**Bruce Poll (1989)**



*Bruce Poll, Mountain Man*

Bruce, the elder son of former Talbot Housemaster Brian Poll, has made his home near Fort William in the Scottish Highlands. Bruce holds the highest mountaineering qualification (MIC) achievable in the United Kingdom and is one of the top Mountain Guides in Scotland. He has climbed and led groups all over the world. He is also a leading performer in fell-running and climbing competitions. Bruce is married, with two sons, and runs his own construction business alongside his outdoor pursuits.

alongside his outdoor pursuits.

**Martin Digby (1991)**



*Martin Digby, cool on the summit*

Martin is well-known to the current generation of College pupils as he returned to Ellesmere in 2003 as a teacher and Housemaster of St Johns. On rejoining the CCF as Tactics Officer, Martin began his acquaintanceship with Adventurous Training, an interest which has become the focus of his career. He left Ellesmere in 2006 with his wife and three children to spend a year in the Scottish Highlands to qualify as an Adventurous Training professional, and since his return has developed his own

business as a freelance AT Instructor. The College has continued to benefit from Martin's expertise in the CCF, as he remains on the Contingent's Establishment.

**Huw Gilbert (1996)**



*Huw Gilbert pointing the way forward on a Scottish mountain*

Huw, as a son of Major David Gilbert, OE, was always destined to be a mountain man. He followed his father into Fell-running as a competitive sport, and the two continue to compete together. At university, where he studied Rural Resource Management, he joined the OTC and after graduation joined the



Territorial Army, in which he has now risen to the rank of Major in the Royal Artillery. At the same time he has progressively acquired the full range of Adventurous Training qualifications, gaining the MIC in February this year. Huw, who is married and has a son, divides his time between being a soldier and an outdoor professional. Like Martin Digby he is based within easy reach of the College and is well-known to our current generation of cadets.



*Five OEs from different generations at CCF Easter Camp: from left, Martin Digby, Bruce Poll, David Gilbert, John Harvey and Huw Gilbert*

### Lucy Ryvar – Rowing for Gold



*Lucy Ryvar (right) and her team win gold in the Elite Quad Sculls event in National Championships of Great Britain*

Lucy, who left in 2004, has fond memories of her seven years at the College. Whilst there she thoroughly enjoyed the array of activities provided, including sailing with the CCF Navy Section on Whitemere, being Captain of the First Netball team, winning the Victrix Ludorum in Athletics, and singing in the Chapel choir. She was the first Girls' House Captain of Talbot when Competitive Houses were introduced.



*In action, Lucy is in the third seat*

Lucy went on to the University of Plymouth, graduating with a BSc Hons in Environmental Science in 2007. During this time she joined the Exeter University Officer Training Corps (EUOTC), finding the overall experience extremely motivating. However, with no long-term desire to join the Forces, upon graduation Lucy sought a new challenge. Sporting Giants was the campaign that opened a new pathway for her, providing the opportunity to join the World Class Start Scheme in rowing, which is sponsored by Siemens and backed by the National Lottery to pursue the goal of competing at the London 2012 Olympics.



*Lucy on the river in her single scull*

After less than a year of training Lucy won Silver in the Women's Elite Quad at the National Rowing Championships of Great Britain. She then went on to try out for the Senior Women's Squad of Great Britain. For anyone wanting to join the GB squad, there is a trialling process every year where developing athletes and current squad athletes are put through their paces. In her assessment Lucy came first on the rowing machines and fifth on the water, producing a personal best in both events. Soon after this she suffered a back injury that put her out of training for six months, replacing specific training sessions with rehabilitation exercises.

Having spent so long out of the boat, when the May Metropolitan Regatta came along earlier this year Lucy was surprised to win her first race back. Now able to row technically better than before, she went on to a number of successes, winning Women's Henley with her partner in the Senior Double Sculls, setting a new course record, and qualifying for Royal Henley in the Princess Grace Challenge Cup (Women's Elite Quad event). She then entered the National Championships of Great Britain in both the Elite Single Sculls and Elite Quad events, held at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham. Racing conditions were hard going, with strong head winds and choppy water to contend with. Coming a very close second in her single, she missed out on Gold by less than a second, but then won a convincing Gold in the Quad race. As the fastest Welsh sculler Lucy then went on to represent Wales at the Home International Regatta, again in both Single and Quad Sculls. Here Lucy came second again in both events, putting England (the winner at the National Championships) into third place.

With a short but solid season complete, Lucy now looks forward to the GB October assessment and hopes to complete the trialling process through to April next year, where she may be selected for one of the boats for the World Championships. In the long run, she hopes to win Gold at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

*Lucy trains at the University of Bath and Minerva Bath Rowing Club and is on the Amateur Rowing Association's World Class Start Scheme, a talent identification and development programme sponsored by Siemens and funded by the National Lottery through UK Sport. She is currently looking for personal sponsorship to help with her training costs.*

*If anyone would be interested in contacting Lucy about this then e-mail her at [lucy\\_ryvar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucy_ryvar@hotmail.co.uk).*



# OLD ELLESMERIAN CLUB

As a former pupil of the College  
the Old Ellesmerian Club is for you

Do keep in touch with us as we have regional dinners throughout the year, sporting events, regular newsletters, an active website and we are able to sponsor worthwhile causes.

Those who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Club always appreciate news of your progress through life. Wherever you are in the world please stay in contact via the OE Club website

**[www.oclub.co.uk](http://www.oclub.co.uk)**

or

**[www.oclub.com](http://www.oclub.com)**

Club Chairman:

Richard Morris (Woodard 82-88)

Willington Lodge, Horseman's Green

Nr. Whitchurch SY13 3BZ

Home Tel: 01948 830275 Mobile: 07801 592120

email: [willingtonlodge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:willingtonlodge@hotmail.co.uk)

***So - don't forget - keep in touch!***





