



Eckington School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 7: Spring 2018



Headteacher Retires

Of course it's always a major occasion when a long-standing colleague retires, but it is a particularly major thing when that person is the Headteacher.

Mr Cummings began his journey to Eckington by studying French with Spanish at Manchester University. After qualifying, his first teaching appointment was a teacher of French and Spanish in Bolton, before moving to Mexborough School as Head of Languages.

Whilst at Mexborough, he was promoted to the role of Assistant Headteacher. Following this, in 2002 Mr Cummings moved to Danum as Deputy Headteacher, later becoming Associate Headteacher in 2006. He then came to Eckington in 2009 as Headteacher, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Legacy is often an overused word these days, but when it comes to what Mr Cummings has achieved in his time at Eckington, this is one of the occasions when it is more than justified.

Mr Cummings has done many things for Eckington School. It is a very different school from when he arrived, a better place for both staff and students. This will be his legacy.

Assistant Head, Mr Horsfield gives his thoughts on Patrick's greatest legacy: 'Patrick's legacy focuses on 'respect' at Eckington School. From his very first day, the words 'respect, progress, succeed' were emblazoned onto everyone's mind: staff and students. Our students were taught that respect was unconditional. This was done through assemblies, pastoral lessons and through everyday staff-student interaction. It was present in all aspects of school life. Nearly ten years on, we still focus on respect and any student who has passed through Eckington under Patrick's leadership will carry the phrase *respect, progress, succeed* into their adult life.'

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First Words

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter, the first of 2018. The Spring Term was another busy time. It is also a very important time for the school. Firstly, as Headteacher, I am retiring and so begins a new journey for the school. For my part, I hope to take up a post in Zambia with an educational charity... which I suspect will be a bit different. Eckington School will however have a place in my heart for the rest of my life. I have had the privilege of working with some terrific young people and great colleagues over the years.
Best wishes

Mr Cummings, Headteacher



Year 11 Q&A

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Exciting Changes at Eckington School



Diary Dates

School Reopens to students

Monday 9th April 2018

Y8 Options Evening - Thursday 12th April 2018

School Reports

Year 7 – Friday 8th June 2018

Year 8 and 13 – Friday 13th April 2018

Year 9 and 11 - Friday 27th April 2018

Year 12 - Friday 20th April 2018

Y11 Mock Results Morning

Tuesday 24th April 2018

Parents Evenings

Year 9 – Thursday 3rd May 2018

SEND Parent drop-in – 23rd April 2018

Year 6 Parents Information Evening

13-14th June 2018

Higher Education Evening

Thursday 14th June 2018

Raising Achievement Evenings

Y10 – Wednesday 25th April 2018

Flexible Learning Days

Friday 20th April 2018

Thursday 21st June 2018

Y6 Taster days

25th – 26th June 2018

9th – 10th July 2018

Activities Week

2nd – 6th July 2018

Holiday Dates (inclusive)

May Bank Holiday 7th May 2018

May Half Term - 28th May – 1st June 2018

Summer Holiday – 23rd July – 31st August 2018

Inset Days (school closed to students)

3rd – 4th September 2018

For the full list of 2017/18 diary dates visit:

eckington.net/calendar.html

Eckington School is delighted to announce it is due to join LEAP Multi Academy Trust on 1st April 2018. This follows a consultation period and governor approval. It means that LEAP will be the employer of the staff team and is responsible for supporting the school on its improvement journey. LEAP (the Learner Engagement and Achievement Partnership) is a Trust currently comprising two 11-18 secondary schools in Rotherham: Brinsworth Academy and Dinnington High School. LEAP's mission is to support students so that they can "achieve excellence".

LEAP has already been providing informal support for several areas of the school in recent months, and so there are already some established working relationships between a number of key colleagues.

LEAP has a Chief Executive, Mr Andy Riches, an Executive Principal, Mr Wayne Barsby, and a team of colleagues who can be deployed to support teaching, leadership and administration roles.

Ms Burgess (currently Deputy Headteacher) will become Interim Principal upon the retirement of Mr Cummings.

Mr Barsby will be the Executive Principal for Eckington School and will be based here from Easter.

LEAP will fund some additional staffing for the new school year in a number of subject areas in order to help students "achieve excellence".

Moving forward, we will keep you informed of the exciting changes and benefits that joining LEAP will bring for our students, staff and community.

Continued from PI

Parent Beverly Carr said: 'From our very first meeting with Mr Cummings over six years ago, we have always found him so approachable, friendly and interested in his school, staff and pupils. He has a strong leadership style, which combines openness, integrity, honesty and commitment. We have welcomed this commitment to ensuring his pupils attain their best in academic success but also to support his pupils in becoming very well rounded individuals. He's encouraged a variety of extra-curricular experiences to broaden pupils' horizons. He's supported the Young Enterprise team enthusiastically; he travelled with them and encouraged them when they reached the County finals, which I know they all appreciated so much! He's there for music concerts, theatre performances, sporting events, results days...the list goes on...and always offers his support, congratulations, wise words and sage advice! Thank you!'

Deputy Head Ms Burgess added: 'We are all going to miss Mr Cummings of course, but he is only 'retiring'. Mr Cummings' idea of retirement is going to Zambia in Africa to set up a number of new schools. Whatever he decides to do, we hope he will still visit us in the future and keep in touch with students, staff and parents.'

I'm sure we'd all like to say a massive thank you to Mr Cummings for everything he's done for the school, for being a great Headteacher, and for being a good friend to many of us. We wish him all the very best for his future and retirement. Thank you for everything.'

Y11 Quiz BBC's Nick Robinson



Eckington School welcomed the leading BBC Journalist, Nick Robinson, on Thursday 8th March for a Q&A session with 100 Year 11 students. The event focused on politics and journalism and was organised by UK Charity 'Speakers for Schools'. The aim of the event was to raise aspirations amongst students. Nick inspired students with his 30 years' experience in journalism and the media. He then responded to probing questions from students on some of the big issues of the day: Brexit, immigration, xenophobia and the rise of fake news and "alternative facts".

Students were encouraged to take an interest in Brexit. Nick cited that this time of political change posed new opportunities for students: 'These are really, really big moments. The interesting thing for me is; are they going to happen to you? Or are you going to get involved?'

Students quizzed Nick about the challenges of live interviews, they learnt about journalistic integrity and were introduced to the concept of conflict sensitive journalism.

However, it was not all serious; Nick took the time to regale his audience with amusing anecdotes such as his various fall-outs with George W. Bush over the Iraq War and a tricky conversation with BBC bosses when he confessed to them that he had left his mobile phone on a train. Not the end of the world, you may think, until you realise whose personal phone numbers and texts are on that phone... yes, just about every important person in the UK, including the Prime Minister.



Students left the session enthused by Nick's insights, honesty and humour. Eckington's Headteacher Patrick Cummings' said, "We were delighted to receive a visit from such a prominent journalist as Nick Robinson. He pitched his talk and Q&A session brilliantly. Among other things our students learned a great deal about the art of communication."



Tenner Challenge

Eckington's Young Enterprise group are running the Tenner Challenge 2018. Five Y9/Y10 students have participated in the challenge and used their £10 and their enterprising minds to good effect. The girls have worked really hard to produce the handmade paper themselves outside of school using recycled paper. A selection of homemade paper stationery items crafted by the team were displayed and sold to staff during the last two weeks of term. The team made £22.50 from sales. School were delighted to support them in their enterprising venture!



Activities Week: Rock & Pop

The Music department is excited about the upcoming Rock & Pop event which is part of Activities Week 2018.

We've been talking to a few of our ex-students who have ventured into the world of music. We hope they will work with students to inspire them to enter the music industry.

World Book Day

On Friday 16th March we celebrated World Book Day (rearranged due to snow!) by inviting all students to come to school either dressed as a favourite book character or in their pyjamas for a 'bedtime story' theme. Students took part in activities throughout the day. Each lesson that day started with a section of the same short story.

Staff wore a sticker on which featured the name of either a book's 'villain' or 'hero'. Students were asked to find the names of staff wearing the matching hero and villain. Everyone participating brought in £1 to donate to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity – we raised £307. Well Done to everyone who took part!



Book Sale

Mrs Hartley's Year 7 class held a book sale in the Library as part of our World Book Day celebrations. They raised £100 for the National Literacy Trust and Book Aid International.



Waste Watchers!

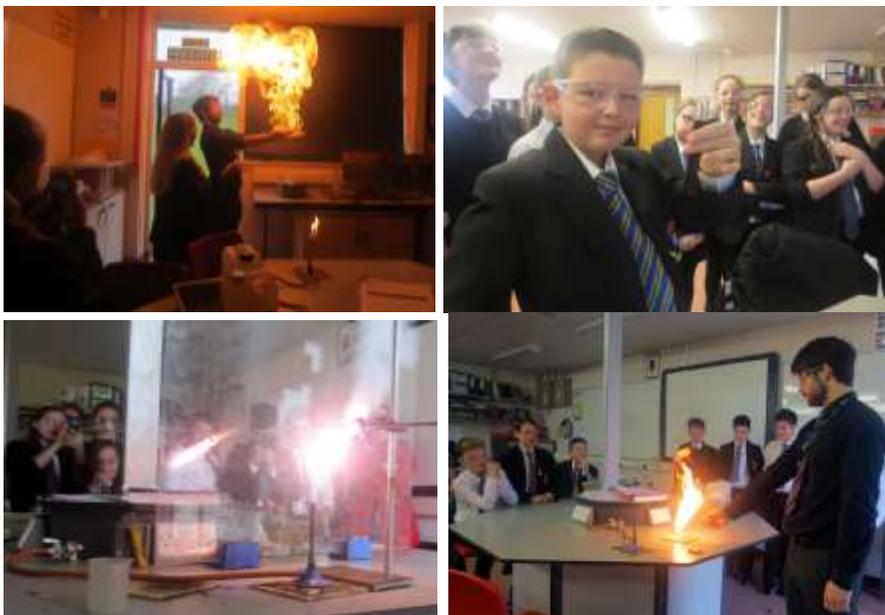
On Tuesday 30th January, Year 8 took part in a fun-filled workshop all about waste. The Waste Watchers programme was delivered in school by the live theatre company Gibber. Students explored issues around waste and recycling. The motto of the day was the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



The Big Vote

Two Eckington students stood for representatives during the Big Vote 2018. Students in Years 7-11 were given the opportunity to vote during the week commencing 5th March as part of the Big Vote. Each candidate put together a presentation for students. Students viewed both presentations and were then asked to vote on the ballot papers for their preferred candidate – just as you would in a real election.

British Science Week



KS3 Whizzes and Bangs

Years 7 and 8 were wowed during the the whizzes and bangs event as part of British Science Week in March. The event was organized by science teacher, Mr Gray and was well received by all – there was an excellent turn out.

STEM Careers

On Monday 12th March, Senior Radiotherapy lecturer and STEM Ambassador, Amy Taylor gave a talk to students about careers in Radiotherapy and Allied Health Sciences as part of British Science Week 2018.

Catering Exam

Year 11 students completed their three-hour food exam in the second week in March. The brief was to make three dishes for a garden centre café for the children's menu. The dishes need to be healthy, innovative and appetising. The students have all produced impressive dishes that have displayed a wide range of skills. Well done!

Eco Eckington Group

A group of Year 8 students are on a mission to make Eckington School more environmentally friendly. The Eco group is putting together publications, videos and web page called 'Eco-Eckington' it is packed full of tips, news, comic strips and everything you need to know about recycling and the environment. Look out for us every half term!

Social Sciences Residential

On Monday 19th March, twenty-eight Social Sciences students left for a three-day residential trip to London. Look out for a follow up on this in our next newsletter.



National Indoor Champion 800m

Ruby S, a Year 8 student at Eckington School, won the National Indoor Athletics U15 800m event on Saturday 24th February 2018. The competition proved tough yet Ruby's talent shone through.

Ruby is the new national U15 800m indoor champion, with a winning time of 2:14:36s.

This is an exceptional result for Ruby, particularly with her being one of the younger athletes in the age group.

Well Done Ruby - everyone at Eckington School is extremely proud of you!

NED District Final



The NED District Final for local primary schools was held at Eckington School on the 8th March. Our Year 9 students are involved in leading and umpiring –Well Done to everyone involved.

Supporting Charities



Nurture Group Bake Sale

Eckington's Nurture group held a bake sale on 12th and 13th February 2018. Staff and students donated cakes/buns for the students to sell. The bake sale was organised by Miss Ward and raised an astonishing £71.26 for the Nurture Group. The money raised will go towards helping the school buy much needed equipment and craft materials for the group.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

Valentines Bake Sale

Students from 7SS organised a Valentine's bake sale with a difference to raise money for Cancer Research UK. We took more than one hundred orders, baked the buns, packaged them along with heartfelt messages from secret admirers and then delivered to the lucky loved ones on Valentine's Day. The students did a brilliant job organising this and raised a total of £66.55! Pictured are finished products; the buns all ready for delivery. Well done 7SS!

Duke of Edinburgh Update

It's a busy time of year for the DofE Team at Eckington School. The twenty-six newly enrolled Bronze participants from Year 9 have already started working towards their awards. There are four sections to the Bronze Award; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

The students have already begun their Expedition training which will prepare them for an Assessed two day, one night expedition which will take place in June. In preparation for this, they have been learning First Aid, and will also discover how to read maps, plan routes and how to cook on camping stoves - they even do a full practise expedition!

In addition to this, these students are also working towards completing the other sections required to achieve the Bronze Award. We have some really interesting activities taking place with some students volunteering in Charity Shops, helping at Beavers groups, coaching younger players at football or helping elderly neighbours. The physical section of the award will help the students prepare for the expedition as well. We have students completing this section of the award in gyms, on the running track, football pitches, dance studios, and even in a Boxing ring! The Skills section encourages students to develop an existing skill or take up a brand new challenge. This year we have students learning about Photography, improving their baking skills, playing piano, learning the guitar and even learning computer coding!

We are also delighted that twenty-four of our students have the opportunity to achieve their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year too. The Silver Award is being led by Mr Rowbotham, who is giving up his retirement time to offer this fantastic opportunity to our students. As a school we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mr Rowbotham for all his continued hard work. As well as this year's new enrolments, we also have students who are still working hard to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We wish all our DofE participants every success in their journey to completing their award.

MFL Student Conference



On Monday 19th March, fifteen of our Year 11 students attended the Modern Foreign Languages Student Conference at The Principal Hotel in York. The students learned strategies and techniques to maximise performance in their French GCSE examinations. They looked at how to embed key language and reusable structures, tackle different question types, make the learning stick, build stamina to revise effectively and how to write and speak spontaneously. It was a fantastic afternoon and our students did us proud! We left with a very positive message: 'On va réussir!' Good luck to all students sitting their GCSE French exam later this year.

LEGO Robots UK Finalist

Students took their Lego robots along to the NEC on Friday 16th March as part of The Big Bang Fair for the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge. Our team made the final and was selected out of over 400 schools and was placed within the top 10. Raising Robots, an authorised LEGO® education partner tweeted: Such a clever bit of engineering on Eckington's robot - look at that steering! Then they find a creative way to go through the barrier @Tomorrows_Eng @BigBangFair @LEGOeducationUK Everyone here at school is extremely proud of you. Mr Shelton and Mr Gray said the 10 students that went, worked very hard at this challenge to create two robots out of Lego. They were creative in there thinking, faced a few setbacks along the way, but overcame them all to take part in the robotics challenge. A fantastic day was had, and they represented the school fantastically well. Well done to all of the team.



House Points 2017/18

		93 points
		88 points
		86 points
		84 points

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