

Part of

LEAP

Multi Academy Trust



Eckington School Newsletter

December 2019

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Achieving Excellence

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers Students,

A warm welcome to the December edition of our school newsletter.

I hope that you get a flavour of the range of activities and events that have taken place this term, alongside 'normal' lessons and learning.

This term has been extremely busy but students across the school have worked hard in lessons, contributed to a range of charities, been on school trips to a variety of places and shown us their many skills. We have been very impressed with students' positive attitudes to learning, the thousands of positive points they have been collectively awarded and the way the vast majority of students have supported one another.

We are so lucky to have such a body of students at the school and we are proud of the achievements of them all. It is this combination, of our young people and the wide range of support they experience, which has made this term so successful and we look forward to continuing this in 2020.

I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2020.



A. Burgess
Principal

School News

Shoe Box Appeal

This year Eckington School's Christmas collection has been 'The Sheffield Shoe Box Appeal'. Students (and staff) have been getting involved with donating a vast selection of items to fill Christmas shoe boxes.

Tutor groups have worked together to fill boxes with gifts of essential items, as well as including Christmas presents and treats.

As a school we have collected for many charities including; the homeless, young mothers and babies in hostels, young people in refuges and elderly people with no family.

The motto for this appeal is: *'Please give a small gift and a bit of hope to those people in Sheffield'.*



Fat Balls

As the weather turns cooler, the Learning Mentor, Mrs Thompson has been making Fat Balls with the students that they can hang in their gardens to feed the birds. Although the students enjoyed making these, they found them very messy!



Year 11 Catering

Our Year 11's have just completed their 3 hour 'GCSE Mock Food Practical Exam', they all did amazing and used some wonderful skills such as making their own pasta for lasagne and sea food linguine, using whole chickens to make dishes like Chicken Fricassee, Chicken Burgers and Chicken Pies, baking their own bread and creating some amazing deserts such as Chocolate Brownies, Panna Cotta, Treacle Sponge, Macaroons and Pavlova. Well done to them all.



Year 10 Work Experience

In early December, over 200 year 10 students took part in a week of work experience. Year 10 students were prepared for the week during their Ethics lessons which covered all manner of work related topics such as Health & Safety in the Workplace, employability skills that they would encounter and develop in the workplace, and also how their experience can help to shape their future career plans. We were truly grateful to all the local and national employers who took part in the programme this year. Students got to experience a wide range of industries and found out what it was really like to go out to work for a

whole week! Mrs Warren-Armes, Employer Engagement Manager at Eckington School, was delighted with the professional and mature attitude the students showed in preparing for, and securing, their work experience placements. "It really has been a pleasure to work with this year group and I hope that their year 10 work experience will be something that they remember for the rest of their lives".

If you or your company would like to get involved in our work experience programme for year 10 or the Sixth Form, please do get in touch with Mrs Warren-Armes at s.warren-armes@eck.leaptrust.co.uk.

Macmillan Fundraising

Someone who is very close to me and my family was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. As she went through her journey it became hard for her. When discovering this I decided to do something about it. Macmillan was very supportive of the idea.

I had some very supportive friends who wanted to help me raise money for Macmillan. We decided to do something different from a sponsored run or walk. We decided on 24 hours with no technology including tv and music. The day proved to us that we don't need our phones all the time. After collecting donations from students and teachers in school, and friends and family, we raised an amazing £450! She has recently had a scan after all the treatment and is now all clear.

(from left to right: Ava W, Daniella K, Faye H and Caitlin)



Green Plan It

A group of six Year 8 students have been working with the Learning Mentor, Mrs Thompson on a competition organised by the Royal Horticultural Society in which they compete against other schools to design a garden. This involves the team, 'Ecki Squad', building a model of the garden, producing a report and presenting idea to the judges at the Celebration Day on 12th December 2019 at the Botanical Gardens.

The students are working with horticulturist, Peter Morton on the design of the garden, and deciding which plants they will choose and the best way to ensure that wildlife will visit. They have done their best to ensure that the garden suits everyone by organising student and staff surveys and compiling these results to look at which ideas are the most popular. They have also done a site survey in which they discovered that the planned area for their design already features an apple and pear tree, and planters to grow fruit and vegetables in.

After the competition the students will have the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £2,000 to contribute towards turning their design into reality in the school garden. Even without this grant, the students plan to raise their own funds to get started on the garden and have already started planting garlic and onions (the only things you can grow at this time of the year!). They look forward to planting more in the Spring.



Healthy Lifestyle Champions

On Tuesday 12th November, seven Year 9 students went to York Race course to attend a Youth Sports Trust Healthy Lifestyles Champions Conference. The seven students were "trained up" to become Healthy Lifestyle Champions for Eckington School. This will involve them in running a programme aimed at tackling the inactivity and physical wellbeing of some of our students, as well as promoting the need for a healthy active lifestyle across the school.

As a Healthy Lifestyle Champions these students will plan and deliver a 10-week block of extracurricular activity to a group of students. They will consist of non-traditional sporting activities. Student are currently researching which activities to deliver and have looked at many new, exciting, fun and engaging activities which they may be able to introduce to our students. These include UV dodgeball (dodge ball in the dark), Kinball, roller hockey, new age kurling, to name a few. Their aim is to engage students who may not normally enjoy traditional sports and to inspire them to continue to participate once the programme has been completed.



Our Healthy Lifestyle Champions will launch the programme in March with the help of an athlete mentor by hosting a fun wellbeing festival for around sixty of our students. This is an exciting programme for our Year 9 Healthy Lifestyle Champions to be part of and they came away from the conference with lots of enthusiasm and great ideas. I am really looking forward to working with these students over the next few months.

Renaissance PiXL Build Up

The Learning Mentor, Mrs Thompson and School Librarian Mrs Smith have been working with a group of ten year 8 students on a Renaissance PiXL Build Up programme called MyON. The programme is an online reading resource that offers a wide range of news articles, non-fiction books and novels that students have unlimited access too. The aim of the programme is to encourage students to spend more time reading whilst thinking about what it is they are reading. The students have recently completed a research project on social media using the resources and tools that MyON offers. The commitment of the students has enabled Eckington School to be ranked 4th in the country in terms of usage of the programme, well done to all!

Peer Tutoring

In June, our peer tutors were selected and trained by our lead peer tutors so that they were ready to work with our new year 7 students in September. Our peer tutors meet selected students in year 7 weekly to help them to improve their literacy or numeracy skills. We hope that this programme helps our year 7 students improve learn and progress more rapidly.

Student Council

It has been a very busy first term! Our sixth form leaders have formed a student council and after a very competitive election campaign Sophie Scarsbrook and Joshua Watson have been elected as our Head Boy and Head Girl for the academic year 2019 – 2020. Well done to all involved in the campaign. The Head boy and Head girl and the sixth form leaders (Megan H, Alice T, Libby H, Ewan M, Josh C, Emily E, Eloise B, Lois D, Robyn S) will lead the whole school student council. They will ensure that our students' voice is heard and will work on a variety of issues such as making the school environment greener, improving our students' well being and helping students find ways to study and revise more effectively. In October, the sixth formers ran an impressive training day for our form representatives and elected the following students as year reps: Harriet W (Y11), Carys H (Y10), Beth C (Y9), Daniella K (Y8) and Jasmine W (Y7). In November, twelve of our year 7 student council form reps attended Brinsworth School to meet their year 7 leaders and share some really good ideas. We are all looking forward to seeing our student council in action this year. Watch this space!

All Write Now

Budding authors at Eckington are enjoying the chance to develop their skills in our writing club. They're currently writing their own 1,000 word stories that will be published in an anthology before Christmas. We can't wait to see it on our Library shelves so everyone can read them.



Year 7 Student Leadership Conference Day

Our Year 7 students took part in a conference day where they learned about all the different leadership roles on offer to them at Eckington School. Our very own student leaders led the day so that year 7 has had the information first hand. Afterwards, year 7 had the opportunity to apply for a variety of these roles themselves. Across the school, we now have an impressive 175 student leaders. We very much hope that they are active in their role and enjoy making a difference to our school.

Extra Curricular

This term has seen the launch of our new, and very popular extra-curricular programme. Each evening and some lunch times we have a variety of activities including sports, arts, drama, music, science, history, cooking, IT, reading and writing clubs that our students can opt into. There really is something to suit everyone's interest. There has been an impressive 300 students participating in these activities throughout the term. Each club looks really fun and engaging and I have especially enjoyed tasting the food that the students have made! Clubs are free of charge and give students an opportunity to experience different opportunities at our school. Please see Mrs Needham if you would like to participate!



KS4 & KS5 German Careers Fair

On 16th October, a small group of our KS4 & KS5 German students travelled to London to attend a German careers event. This careers fair was organised by the German Embassy together with the German-British Chamber of Commerce.

The day was greatly received by our students who were able to meet and chat at length with representatives of German businesses as well as British companies with important business links to

German speaking countries. They discussed employment opportunities, and they got to hear about the importance of German language skills in a career context. Students also took part in a lighthearted quiz about Germany.

Students were invited to use their German language skills; taking part in mock interviews with staff and students from the London School of Economics. We were very impressed at how

many of our students stepped forward to make the most of this opportunity. Our students did themselves and the school proud with their willingness to participate in everything on offer.

After the careers fair, we went on a touristic walk taking in some of the most famous landmarks of London as we headed to an authentic German café before having to set off home.

This was our first time running this event and due to the superb conduct of students throughout the entire day, as well as the positive feedback from students about the trip, we hope to run it again next year.

New Construction Course

Our Year 9 students continue their fantastic start to their bricklaying and electrical units. All bricklaying students have completed their practical work. They have successfully modelled a corner repair for a house as per the specification requirements. Students are preparing themselves to complete their log books (paperwork) in anticipation of moving on to their electrical unit.

Our emphasis continues to be on gaining practical skills. The qualification promotes the development of wider employment skills, emphasising the importance of appropriate conduct and dress within a work area, customer service, customer care and safe working practices.

The aims of the qualification are to encourage the development of generic employability skills and to promote the gaining of work-related skills within construction. Students will be prepared for further training within construction.

This qualification provides the ideal introduction to the construction industry and covers essential skills in the following construction trades: bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, plastering, construction operations, wall and floor tiling, electrical and plumbing.

This month, twelve construction students begin the Avenue School Project with KIER. These students will attend the launch on Thursday 28th November 2019. This is a great opportunity for the students to gain hands-on experience within the building industry and will give them a great opportunity to develop their skills within a range of trades.



DSBA

We have a group of students currently following the Derbyshire Schools' Book Award. Now in its fifth year, the DSBA takes place in schools across Derbyshire. Our group are currently reading the shortlisted books and looking forward to voting for their favourite in the New Year. The final takes place in the Spring at Derby University where we'll get to meet all the other schools that are taking part – and some of the shortlisted authors!



Bookworms

Our Bookworms editorial team are busy at work writing the next Bookworms magazine. Bookworms is our Library magazine packed full of information about all the great books we have in the Library to support students' reading and interests. There are many reviews from staff and students too to help you pick your next read. Having already published their first edition, the team are keen to get as many people reading it as possible. You can find Bookworms in the Library or on the Library catalogue by searching for 'Bookworms'.



Expedition to Costa Rica 2021

Following on from our successful expeditions to both Borneo and Tanzania, Eckington School have again teamed up with Camps International to provide students with the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica in the summer of 2021.

During the month long expedition the students will work with local communities to improve their facilities. This may be anything from laying a new floor in a classroom to building a toilet block at a medical centre. Whilst based in these remote communities the students will learn about their culture first hand. There will be the opportunity to sing and dance with the children, play sports with them too, and help prepare and sample local foods.

As Costa Rica is a biodiversity hot spot the students will be spending a portion of their time supporting environmental projects such as re-establishing rain forests, beach clearing and even aiding turtles to survive the hatching process. Hopefully, they will get to see many of the 'locals' including the three toes sloth.

Additionally, the students have the opportunity to take their PADI open water diving qualification which will give them chance to dive to a depth of 15 metres.

Currently, the students who have signed up for the expedition are busy fund raising so if you get the opportunity, please do support them in their endeavours.

Right: some photos from Tanzania.



Eclipse

Our Library catalogue is online and available for anyone to view. You can access it via the school webpage. Just click Menu and then Staff/Student Links to find the shortcut for Eclipse. You can search our catalogue to see all the fantastic books we have in the Library for you to borrow, as well as see our most popular books, and booklists for each Accelerated Reader level. Students can also log in to the catalogue to reserve books and write their own reviews.



Library Monitors

We have welcomed 6 new Library Monitors into the Library Team so far this year. Library Monitors help with issuing and returning books, making sure that the shelves are tidy, and processing new books to put on the shelves. They also help to run Library activities throughout the year. We are very grateful to all our Library Monitors who give up their time to help.



Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Experience

In September 2019 all Year 11 Geography students participated in a fieldwork experience investigating different aspects of Sheffield as a sustainable city. Students visited the London Road area exploring cultural diversity. This area of Sheffield has undergone huge social and economic change in recent years, particularly with the development of the China Town complex. Students collected primary data related to the 'health' of this part of the city and considered opportunities and challenges for the future..

Students also collected primary data on the two main shopping streets in Sheffield, the Moor and Fargate, so that they could compare their relative strengths and weaknesses. In the last few years there have been huge investments into The Moor. There are huge plans for future development in the pipeline too. It will be interesting for these students to look back later on in life at how developments around The Moor have changed the area since 2019!

After visiting St Pauls Place, The Winter Gardens and The Peace Gardens for more data collection, students were involved in assessing the challenges and opportunities relative to Sheffield City Council's collaboration with Urban Splash at Parkhill Flats. For anyone who is not aware of the nature or scale of redevelopment here, it really is worth a look in person or at the urban splash website. You will be impressed!

Our final visit was to consider the nature and change in landuse at Catcliffe, where the University of Sheffield Engineering Department works in conjunction with world leading businesses such as Rolls Royce, Boeing aerospace engineers and McLaren supercars.

It really is an amazing story when one considers that the famous "Battle of Orgreave" happened on this formerly toxic coking site as recently as 1984.

The fieldwork experience took place over four separate days. Staff and students enjoyed the opportunity to undertake real, practical geographical investigative work out in the field.



ICreative

The ICreative team meets every Wednesday after school to create! This term we've had fun exploring different story books and items we can make to go with them in story sacks. The ICreative team will be holding a DIY Christmas Decorations sale where students can buy a bag of materials to create their very own Christmas Decorations... and give more students the chance to be creative.



Sixth Form

Cambridge

As part of our raising aspiration initiative, a group of ten year 12 students recently made a two day visit to the prestigious University of Cambridge. The trip saw students experience university lectures, spend the night in university accommodation at Homerton College, tour Trinity College and Peterhouse College, as well as visiting the picturesque city of Cambridge, Mrs Carlile who accompanied the students. said "Eckington students amaze me in so many ways and this trip was no exception. All the students enjoyed the trip and made an active contribution to the lectures and tours with in-depth questioning. It is a trip I am sure they will remember for many years to come". A student commented "The Cambridge trip was an enlightening experience into what life as a university student would be like at Cambridge. Our time there allowed us to see for ourselves university accommodation, lectures and a variety of colleges. Overall, the trip was beneficial for helping to crystallise our thoughts on university and what life would be like as a student".



Young Enterprise

This year's Eckington Young Enterprise team 'Glassic' have been working hard to set up their company which is currently selling snow globes and Christmas lanterns made from recycled glass items.

The team have so far produced products from recycled glass bottles and jars to make creative illuminated gifts for Christmas and Halloween. Glassic's sales and marketing team have organised 5 markets, and have sold over fifty gifts so far, whilst developing new products to sell after Christmas.

The company's digital directors Megan and Lauren have set up an Instagram account and would love you all to follow them on @glassic_ye to take part in their fun competitions. The company's finance directors Callum, George and James have opened a business bank account, sold shares, and have been working on the company trading accounts. The team are skilfully lead by Managing Director Emma and Company Secretary Caitlin, who are already managing a hugely successful team and coordinated numerous fund-raising activities. The company are supported by local business volunteer Lucie Andrews from D2N2 who has already helped the team to network with local Businesses to support their marketing activities.

We would like to wish the team the best of luck for the national Young Enterprise competition throughout the year, and hope that parents and students across the trust will support our students to success. Well done team Glassic!



The Edge

On Friday 22nd November a group of Year 12 students took part in a 1:1 meeting with their industry mentors as part of 'The Edge' mentoring programme. All the students actively engaged in discussions and already planning their next meeting.



House Update

Farah

Farah house have made a wonderful start to the year by taking the lead in the competition after the first term of house activities. We also managed to win the Mini Olympics by a margin of one point over some very tough opposition from the other houses. Our Motto is "Achieving Together" and in Farah house we are really proud of the level of participation right through from Year 7 to our staff representatives and we will always do our best to do well. As Sir Mo Farah says himself "We weren't born to be ordinary" and our Farah house members are all extraordinary.

Hawking

I am Mr Atkinson, I have been at Eckington for three years as a science teacher and I have a member of Hawking house since the beginning. I am very proud to be the head of Hawking house, I have seen great examples of teamwork from all Hawking members during sports day and other house events. I plan to improve the attendance of Hawking members to house events by raising awareness and promoting collaboration and teamwork. I plan to run sporting house events in the coming year, including mixed netball before Christmas.

Ennis Hill

Another amazing year of house activities and Ennis-Hill have been giving it their all. We might not have succeeded in the Mini Olympics, but the individual stories of people taking risks and

stepping up and out of their comfort zones were inspiring. Thankfully we managed to come up with some wonderfully creative entries in the squiggle contest and firework design competition, and some truly tasty bakes in the Eckington Bake Off. There's a long way to go still but I know we can change our chances of success!

Mandela

Members of Mandela House have been really busy since September. The House year started in style with the Mini-Olympics, with excellent effort and participation from Mandela. Notable successes include our fantastic Year 7s, who took 2nd place overall for the year group, and our amazing 6th formers, who powered into pole position. It was wonderful to see so many of you wearing red and cheering everyone on. Our Year 9 entrants to the firework design competition should also receive a special mention: Torin, Josh and Gabrielle, your designs won first place! Finally, huge thanks to the anonymous Mandela student who achieved first place in the squiggle art competition - we may not have your name, but your points are very much appreciated! Well done to everyone who took part in any House event last term, and keep a look out for lots more House competitions throughout this term.

Dates For The Diary

6th January 2020 –

School opens to students at 8.30am

10th January 2020 –

Year 11 reports issued

13th January 2020 –

Year 8 parents' consultation evening at 3.30pm

20th – 31st January 2020 –

Year 13 PPEs

21st January 2020 –

Year 11 parents' consultation evening at 3.30pm

24th January 2020 –

Year 10 reports issued

31st January 2020 –

Year 7 reports issued

3rd – 14th February 2020 –

Year 12 PPEs

Year 11 PiXL Wave Exams - Maths and Science

4th February 2020 –

Year 8 Options Evening at 3.30pm

10th and 11th February 2020 –

School play at 6.00pm

12th February 2020 –

Year 7 parents' consultation evening at 3.30pm

14th February 2020 –

Non uniform day

School closes for half term at 3.00pm

24th February 2020 –

Training day (school closed to students)

25th February 2020 –

School opens to students at 8.30am

25th February 2020 – 6th March

Year 11 PPEs

28th February 2020 –

Year 9 reports issued

5th March 2020 -

Year 9 parents' consultation evening at 3.30pm

World Book Day

6th March 2020 –

Year 10 English Literature Paper 1 PPE

Year 13 reports issued

9th March 2020 –

Year 10 English Literature Paper 2 PPE

10th March 2020 –

Year 8 photographs

17th March 2020 –

Year 10 photographs

20th March 2020 –

Non uniform day (Sports Relief)

Year 12 reports issued

24th March 2020 –

BTEC drama performance at 6.00pm

27th March 2020 –

Year 8 reports issued

Year 13 Residential Trip for geography

31st March 2020 –

Year 12 Geology Trip

3rd April –

Year 11 reports issued.

School closes for holiday at 3.00pm

The LEAP Vision

Achieving excellence is the overriding ambition of our Trust. We place students at the centre of everything we do, creating a culture of success and a love of learning which enhances students' achievements and their personal, social and emotional wellbeing.

We achieve our vision through:

Excellence for our Students

Inspiring, challenging, engaging and supporting all of our students to achieve excellent outcomes irrespective of their starting points. Every student is provided with a clear progression route to the next stage of their education and career.

Excellence for our Staff

Driving excellence in teaching and learning, and implementing a knowledge-rich curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of all students.

Excellence for our Schools

Enhancing central and shared services to maximise organisational and cost efficiencies.

Excellence for our Communities

Building positive partnerships with our parents, primary schools and the wider community



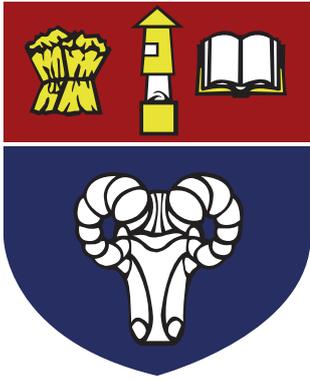
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