



EARL MORTIMER COLLEGE & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2020





Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and an opportunity to share with your children their experiences of the past term at school. It was my first term as Principal and I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is an absolute privilege to work with so many highly committed professionals who give freely of their time to provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities for our young people, and this in addition to the high standards of education that they deliver through their everyday classroom practice.

Once again, the school has maintained its numbers for next year's Year 7, and I am pleased to see so many members of our community choosing Earl Mortimer College as their choice of school for their children. As you will already be aware, the school has high expectations of all of its students and I would be grateful if you could continue to work with us to maintain these as we return this January.

Reading is an essential past-time for all young people and can be an excellent tool for enhancing their mental health and sense of well-being. As those students who have embarked upon their GCSE studies well know, there is a clear correlation between examination success and vocabulary levels. This link also applies to adult educational and employment success. It is never too late to improve this. Please encourage your son/daughter to read as often as they can.

The use of mobile phones and headphones is not permitted in school, these items will be confiscated if they are visible at any point inside school hours. If for safety reasons your child needs a phone, I recommend that you get the most basic model without internet access. Research suggests that there is a significant number of parents who do not regularly check their child's phone or have conversations about online safety. The NSPCC website is a useful starting point for parents to find out more about the risks and the new platforms that are out there; also, to understand how to set up parental controls: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepinh-children-safe/online-safety/> If you have allowed your child to access a phone, please limit their access. Healthy activities like reading, social skills and physical activity can easily be compromised in favour of screen time.

So many of our students take pride in their appearance and wear their uniform correctly at all times. The expectations regarding uniform including acceptable school shoes have been previously communicated and can be found on the school website: <https://www.earlmortimer.org.uk/about-us/useful-information/uniform/> Jewellery is limited to one stud in each ear lobe. Variations on the type, number of location is not for negotiation.

Regular attendance of school is vitally important for ensuring that your child achieves their potential. The minimum expected attendance for all students is 96%. As we continue through the winter months, the cold and 'flu season and dark mornings and afternoons, please continue to support your child by sending them into school.

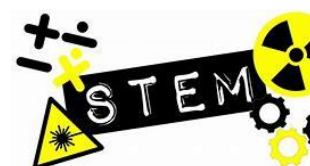
On behalf of the governors and staff at Earl Mortimer College, I would like to wish you a happy and peaceful New Year.

Alison Banner



Teaching staff update: We are pleased to announce some updates to our teaching staff, both in terms of welcoming new colleagues to the school and recognizing changes in roles and responsibilities. In Science, Mr Langley is to be congratulated on his appointment to Head of Faculty. Also in Science, Mr Smith and Dr Ford join the team from January. Congratulations to Mr Webb who secured the position of Humanities Co-ordinator and to Mr Murphy who will continue in the role of Head of Years 8 and 9.

STEM & Careers: An important part of any school's work is contributing to our young people leaving education with the skills and qualifications that will enable them to gain meaningful employment in the future. Research suggests that employers have identified that greater emphasis is required in schools in inspiring students in STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. With this in mind, we will be investing heavily into our STEM and careers programmes. This will include visiting speakers to share their experiences of the workplace, workshops in a variety of careers, opportunities to participate in whole school events and for Year 10 students, the completion of a work placement in the summer term. Mr South will be co-ordinating this element of the school's work – watch this space!



Year 11 Prom: Following consultation with students, it is intended that the Prom will take place on Friday 19th June 2020. This is subject to confirmation from the various companies involved in making the evening a success. In assembly Year 11 students have been made aware of a number of eligibility criteria, including securing 95% attendance from January. More information to follow!

Year 11's and PPE's

Between 18th-29th November 2019 our Year 11 took part in PPE#1 (Pre Public Examinations). These were formal exams sat to help best prepare students for their GCSE exams which will commence in May 2020. Overall the students conduct was outstanding throughout the 2-week period, demonstrating that the students saw value in the process and took it very seriously. On Monday 16th December PPE#1 results event took place where students and their families attended a short presentation before collecting their results. The turnout was fantastic for this event. It again shows how much both our students and their families value the support packages in place to help students reach their full potential. The spring term for Year 11 will be geared towards helping students prepare for PPE#2 which will begin on Monday 9th March 2020

TRIPS & VISITS



Christmas Science Lectures at the University of Birmingham: A group of high achieving students, in the subject of Science, were invited to attend this annual event on **Tuesday 17th December, 2019**. The school is delighted to continue to build our close link with the University and to encourage our students to pursue Science in a higher educational setting and beyond. This incredible opportunity was

representative of the hard work, commitment and effort of each student in the subject of Science. As well as seeing academic fellows from the Biomedical Materials Science Department deliver lectures about the advancements of Medical Science, students were also given a tour of the University, as well as having the opportunity to visit The Lapworth Museum, which has a specific focus on Geology. Furthermore, The Lapworth Museum also contained lots of exhibits, which each student interacted with, with vigour, vivacity and vivaciousness. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and some of our EMC students even won prizes, as they answered intellectual scientific questions, took part in experiments and one student won a prize for wearing the most festive outfit!!! Therefore, a huge well done is needed to be given to our EMC ambassadors who wore the EMC crest with pride. Who knows? You could be attending this trip next year!



Birmingham German Christmas Market

45 of our Y9 and Y10 students, who are taking German, were lucky enough to visit the German Christmas Market in Birmingham on the 11th December 2019. It is the biggest authentic German Christmas Market outside of Germany...and a total cultural immersive experience! Our students were delighted by the smells and sights at the market, as well as being able to hear some German being spoken. Of course, food and drinks were sampled and Christmas presents bought but more importantly, the trip gave our students a good insight to what German Christmas feels like. Mrs Joules has verified that it is exactly like that in many towns and cities all across Germany. Thanks go to Mrs Price, Mr Marrett and Mr O'Grady, for accompanying the trip.



Nuremburg German Exchange

11 excited Year 10 students from EMC left at 3am on the 27th November with Mrs Matthews and Mrs Joules to fly to Nürnberg in Germany for a 4-day return visit to the Hans-Sachs Gymnasium. The programme was packed to allow for maximum cultural exposure and some fantastic free time activities with their German Partners.

On arrival, there was a tour of the Gymnasium and a Pizza lunch followed by a guided tour of the Albrecht Dürer house - Nürnberg's most famous artist and printer from the German Renaissance. After that, the students were only too happy to head in the direction of their new 'home'. Our students were put up and looked after by their Partner's families, who extended a warm welcome and ensured everyone had a happy stay.

On day two, the students started spending time in lessons - an experience our students will not forget, the education system and the general attitude to learning at HSG is so different...plus school started at 7.50am! Mid-morning, we left the school to navigate underground trains and trams and to visit the 'Dokumentationszentrum Reichsparteitagsgelände' - a museum dedicated to document the rise and fall of the Nazis in general and Hitler in particular. A very poignant and moving exhibition, which our students took great care to explore extensively and with maturity, and a visit sparking plenty of discussions and 'aha' moments. A visit to the 'Handwerkermarkt' was made possible and many Christmas presents were bought in record time [and not just by Mrs Joules!]. Upon return to the HSG, the afternoon and evening were free for the students to spend with their Partners. News of films, amazing dinners, ice hockey games, ice skating, visits to the city centre and the waffle house were shared the next morning - all of our students having had a great time.

The last full day, again, started in school in lessons but was ended after Period 4 to visit the German Christmasmarket with the German Partners. En masse the group walked into town and explored the 'Christkindelmarkt' for a couple of hours before meeting up, back at HSG for an 'Adventsnachmittag'. Some of the teachers had prepared an afternoon with Christmas delicacies. That was also the appointed hour for our EMC students to give their presentations, in German, to a host of Germans! Nerves were coped with and a variety of topics, from 'EMC school uniform' to 'Tyrrells crisps' to the applause from the German Partners. Saturday saw the group hug their last good-byes and set off to the airport, to start the long journey home. There were even 'thank you' cards written for the guest families and posted at the airport.

This was a very successful trip and our EMC students behaved impeccably, budding friendships were cemented and new friends made.



Worldskills UK LIVE – NEC Birmingham

On Thursday 21st November, we took 102 Year 10 students to this year's Worldskills UK LIVE Show at the NEC in Birmingham; as part of the careers guidance provided at the College. It was a great showcase of career opportunities, providing valuable careers advice and guidance including hundreds of great career ideas to explore, including jobs of the future. Information and advice on all routes into jobs, from apprenticeships to University



COMMUNITY & ETHOS

The arrival of the festive season certainly inspired a range of events that enabled the school to continue to contribute to the development of a local community that we are all proud of. It is an established tradition for the Leominster Schools Christmas Concert to be a focal part of our seasonal celebrations. Well done to all students and pupils attending EMC or other local schools for the hard work you had put into preparing and performing at the Priory. It was wonderful to hear your skillful performances.

The school is fortunate enough to enjoy a close relationship with the Priory. All Year 7 and 8 students were invited to attend a Christmas Service at the end of term which included the unexpected – for those who attended, “YMCA!” The students were a credit to the school and the visit gave us all a great start to Christmas. Thank you to David and Kathy Bland for preparing the event.



The school was pleased to work with Honey Bees Nursery, Bargates Nursery and Leominster Primary Pre-School to offer “Breakfast With Santa” events. So many students volunteered to help and their impact on the smaller children can be captured by the following email from a parent of one of the nursery children: “I just wanted to pass on to you what a lovely time she had this morning with the EMC students. She’s talked non stop this afternoon about the activities they did with her and the last thing she told me before she fell asleep was “I liked seeing my big friends today!”. Many thanks to the students for making her day”. Thank you to all students who gave their time – it wouldn’t have been a success without you!

Mince pies



To spread some Christmas cheer over the festive period Mrs Gummer and her SMSC elves visited Leominster Community Hospital during the last week of term to hand out mince pies and spend some time with the patients. Students really enjoyed listening to the patients’ stories and taking time to meet members of our community.



PBN Update

Blog 2 – Autumn Half-Term

It has been a very busy half term for the PBN student mentors who have been hard at work promoting the College's zero tolerance attitude towards bullying. Students have participated in many activities to bring awareness for the need to show respect, tolerance and compassion throughout the College. The new PBN team held an exciting and informative whole College assembly during Anti-bullying week. The choir joined Mrs Gummer and the student mentors to sing the PBN anthem "ROAR" by Katy Perry and "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten. Students engaged well with the messages of strength, determination and pride echoed in these songs and throughout the assembly.

Along with this, the first showing of the new PBN video was revealed to all students. Over the half term teachers and students were videoed giving their views on bullying and what we can do as a College to support one another and the PBN initiative. This video can be viewed on the College website.

Finally, our brand new PBN Bully Box has been built and can be found outside the Senior Leadership Office. Students who may find it difficult to express their feelings to a teacher can use the Bully Box to access guidance and support. Students simply need to write their name, tutor group and a brief description of their problem and post it. Mrs Gummer or a PBN mentor empties the box daily and issues are dealt with immediately. A PBN mentor will also visit the student during tutor time that week to ensure they are ok after the matter has been dealt with.

As you can see, we have been very busy! We will continue to work hard to support the needs of our peers here at Earl Mortimer College and look forward to sharing our new initiatives with you.

Pride Awards

Over the last month, students and teachers have been emailing or coming to see Mrs Gummer. They have nominated people that they think have made the EMC pride stronger. Names were hidden and only the positive achievements or acts of kindness were shared.

All students have met with Ms Banner and received prizes for their kindness and contribution to College life.

Well done! #onepride

Fund Raising



The College raised **£446.88** for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day. This is a brilliant charity event to support, thank you to everyone who participated.



Sixth Form

Sixth Form "Student of the Month & Excellence Award" OCTOBER

Please congratulate **Daniel Everall** on being awarded the "Student of the Month & Excellence Award". This award is in recognition of Daniel's positive attitude and approach to his Year 12 studies. This includes acquiring a 100% attendance record, meeting all deadlines, supporting the College Open Evening event and assisting with PE curriculum lessons and extra-curricular sporting activities.



SUCCESS

Open evening

Earl Mortimer College - SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Earl Mortimer College hosted its annual Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 7th November. All Year 10 & 11 students considering staying on in Post-16 education and parents/ carers were invited to join us for the evening. They were given the opportunity to find out more about our very successful Sixth Form and the wide range of **NEW** and **EXPANSIVE ACADEMIC** and **VOCATIONAL** courses that we will be offering from September 2020.

Sport

In the summer term of 2019, EMC Sports Faculty signed up to the CBRE All Schools Rugby Initiative. The aim being to work with the local community rugby club (Luctonians' RFU) to provide more rugby opportunities for boys and girls aged 11-16 at Earl Mortimer College, and try to encourage more youngsters from the community to play club rugby. As part of the initiative, Earl Mortimer received playing kit from Canterbury including: training tops, bibs, rugby boots, rugby balls, mouth shields, tackle shields & tackle suits. However, the greatest asset has been getting a community coach from Luctonians RFU. Ben Davies-Moore has assisted with both Year 9 & 10 lessons as well as coaching Years 7-11 (boys and girls) in after-college sessions.

The College and students have benefitted hugely, and the standard of rugby has certainly improved. Year 9 and 10 are certainly looking forward to the 7's season in March.

Year 8 Girl's Futsal

The Year 8 Girls Futsal Team played in the Herefordshire Futsal County Tournament on Wednesday 27th November at Whitecross School. The team won every match, topping the league, meaning that they are

u13 girls County Futsal Champions. The squad will have the opportunity to represent Herefordshire at a regional tournament in the spring.



DofE Award

We are delighted to announce that 14 EMC students completed the Bronze DofE at EMC during the academic year 2018/19. The celebration event of the Bronze DofE award was held on 5th December 2019. We are also pleased to report that 25 Year 9 students have signed up for DofE and 14 Year 10 students have signed up for Silver DofE for 2019/20.

Geography

Mac Allen and Ryan Lewis are the newest members of GEO (Green EMC Organisation) which forms the Eco Committee. They have both contributed positively to our ongoing projects which is helping EMC work towards achieving Eco Schools status. If you are in Y7 and are interested in joining the Eco Committee, see Mr Webb in F35 for an application.



Tree planting

On Friday 29th November, the Eco-Committee at Earl Mortimer College & Sixth Form Centre led a project to plant trees on the college grounds. The Tree Appeal kindly donated the tree saplings while High ground Maintenance kindly supported the planting of them. This was all done as part of the Woodland Trust's campaign to have 1 million trees planted in the UK. Eco Committee Chairperson, Alwin Thomas, said

"students of Earl Mortimer College & Sixth Form Centre were empowered to take action". During one lesson the students that form the Eco-Committee and students from Year 11 planted over 50 tree saplings. Previously, in the classroom, students had been learning about how trees mitigate climate change, reduce flood risk and improve biodiversity. This was the second project undertaken by the Eco-Committee. Earlier this year they completed an energy audit, introduced an energy conservation policy and now have a programme in place to encourage staff and students to conserve energy. The Eco-Committee will undertake a third project early in the new year. #thebigclimatefightback #everytreecounts



9Wilde have completed a seven week Geography homework project about a topic of their choice linked to China. The work students produced was exemplary and a whole lesson was spent celebrating the projects students have produced. Thank you for your efforts 9Wilde, Mr Webb.



Year 5 transition days

In September we welcomed over 250 primary students to EMC to take part in our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) day. Students were set the challenge to 'How we fly'. Over the course of the day, they learnt about Leonardo Da Vinci, designed their very own flying machine, learnt about lift and how rockets work. They ended the day with their own propelled plane.

November saw our local year 5s visit us for a trip round the world. Students looked at Italian food with some pasta making, learned some South American music before heading back to Europe for French and German flag making. The day was full of fun and laughter whilst learning lots of new skills.

VISITORS



Leominster Primary School – Science Labs



Elephant Toothpaste



In the build up to the Christmas holidays the Earl Mortimer Science faculty welcomed several classes from Leominster Primary School into our outstanding labs to engage in experiments to support their science curriculum. Pupils discussed, observed and completed experiments on the topic of physical and chemical changes. This included the amazing elephant toothpaste experiment, the scary carbon snake and finally the sensory overload of the jelly baby experiment. The pupils were an absolute delight to have in our school and the powerful feedback from one Leominster primary school pupil summed up their experience perfectly, "Wow, just wow!"



Dementia Christmas Dinner

Another successful event took place at Earl Mortimer College on the 14th December, the Christmas lunch for those in the community with Dementia and their carers and our lovely neighbours from Eaton close. Fifty ladies and gentlemen attended on a rainy, blustery day but their smiles as they walked through our doors soon got the party atmosphere started. Christmas lunch was prepared and cooked by a great team of staff in the Kitchen while Mrs De-sondberg and the school choir performed beautiful Christmas songs and entertained our guests. Students from the college council ensured our guests were looked after and served their meals to them. Santa made a surprise appearance, taking great delight in announcing who had been naughty and who had been nice. Mrs Gummer and Mrs Stables would like to say a big Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



January 2020

Wc 14th January – Year 11 “Build Up Session

Wc 20th January – Year 9 Exams

Wc 23rd January - Year 10 and 11 Drop Down Day

February 2019

Wc 10th February – Walking Talking Mock Week

Wc 17th – 21st February – Half Term

Wc - 24th February – Year 10 Exams

March 2020

9th-13th March - Year 11 PPE2

12th March - Year 11 Parents Evening

19th March - Year 11 Students and Parents PiXL Revisit Evening

24th March - UK Maths Challenge

25th and 26th March - Year 8 boys and girls HPV Vaccinations

26th March - Year 10 Parents Evening

3rd April - End of Term



LUCTONIANS

CAREER FAIR

Connect with professionals,
employers, and companies!

**22nd January
2020
6.00pm**

Come along & meet with some
of our local businesses that can
provide you with great career
opportunities.

Apprenticeships
Graduate Schemes
Local Job Opportunities
Further Education within Herefordshire

