



EARL MORTIMER
COLLEGE
& Sixth Form Centre

newsletter

Earl Mortimer College

Summer 2024



The students graduate from the course, following tuition guidance from the University of Bristol

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

‘Super-curricular course’ sees scholarly students step up a level to undertake dissertation on disabilities

ACADEMIC students are gaining the edge over their competitors after receiving expert tuition at the University of Bristol.

The Scholars Programme involved students working closely with a PhD tutor in university-style tutorials on a “super-curricular course”, where they engaged with world-leading research beyond the national curriculum.

Year 10 students had to write a 2,000-word dissertation based on digital accessibility, where they researched ways digital users with disabilities can navigate the internet with ease and can use technology without encountering difficulties.

Helen Wilson, The Scholars Programme’s PhD tutor, said: “When writing their essays students put forward good arguments for the teaching of digital accessibility in schools and they also outlined some strong points for the importance of accessibility in our digital society.”

Student Emilia presented a speech in one of the University of Bristol’s prestigious lecture theatres.

She said: “I chose to undertake The Scholars Programme because I am hoping to go to university in the future. I feel this programme has helped me to write academic essays. Also, it has made me more aware of



Emilia during her presentation

the problems people with disabilities have online and how everyone can benefit from the tools you can get to help with this.”

Mr Quigley, Faculty Leader for English, who organised the scheme, said: “The students’ final assignments challenged them to work above their current key stage. Student Cillian achieved the highest grade possible, which is equivalent to an A* at A-level, thus demonstrating that we at Earl Mortimer College will always give our students opportunities to achieve their true academic potential.”



‘Extraordinary ambassadors’

Principal Ms Banner on school successes and the end of another year

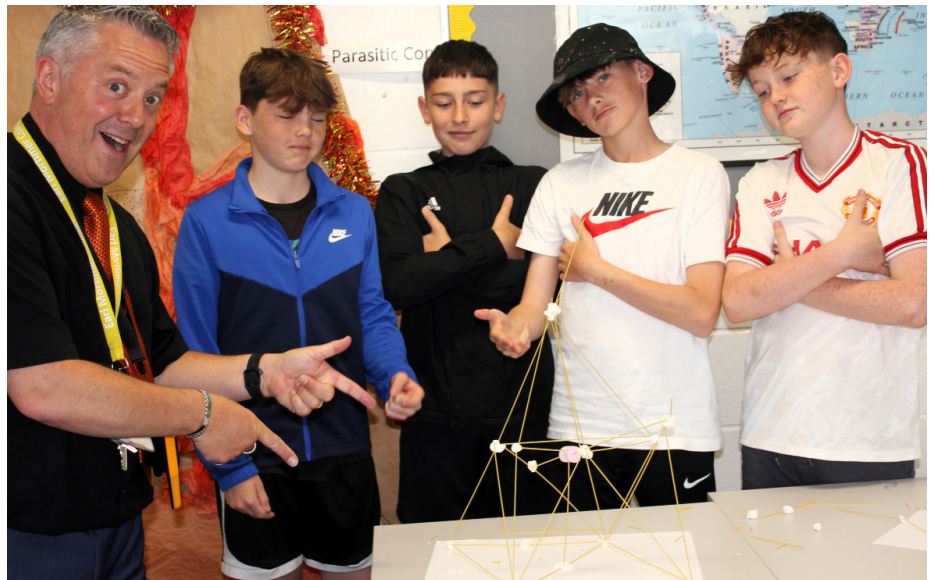
As we prepare for the summer break, I feel very proud to reflect on all of the outstanding achievements outlined in the stories of this very entertaining newsletter.

Our students have showcased such a diverse range of talent: from delivering academic presentations in the hallowed lecture halls of a top Russell Group university, to overcoming adversity to win cup finals on the football pitch.

The extraordinary Scholars Programme has clearly demonstrated how Brilliant Club students flourish when introduced to such innovative schemes. It really is a fantastic initiative that supports learning, while furnishing our ambitious students with all the essential information they need to attend the university of their dreams.

We are so privileged to have such extraordinary ambassadors at Earl Mortimer College proving the values we instil in the classroom are replicated in the wider community. The choir continues to shine and impress when they perform and Ellie's selection as the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet makes me proud.

Football has played an integral role in teaching perseverance, commitment and hard work. Our talented students have enjoyed the thrills and spills of tournament play and it's wonderful to see how



Mr Wharam with Year 8 students Charlie, Mason, Harley and Jacob with a spaghetti/marshmallow structure

Passing the quake test on Japan Day

A CULINARY feast, Pokemon and origami were some of the edifying activities enjoyed by students for Japan Day.

As part of the school's cultural capital programme students enjoyed making sushi, reading Japanese stories, haiku making, forest bathing in the EMC garden, baseball, Manga portraits and Zen garden design.

Organised by Mrs Gummer, Lead Teacher for Religion, Ethics and Philosophy, they also engaged in the Japanese cultural tradition that sees students tidy their classroom at the end of the day.

Staff expertly weaved the Japanese theme into their own lessons supporting

students' study. During geography, Mr Mr Wharam, Assistant Principal, used some inspired props to demonstrate how engineers in Japan create earthquake-resistant buildings.

He said: "The students built their own tall structures out of spaghetti and marshmallows before facing an 'earthquake test'. The buildings that stayed up the longest won House Points. Plus, the winners got to eat their marshmallows!"

Mrs Gummer said: "Alongside the wonderful activities and lessons, the canteen put on a Japanese feast for all to enjoy. The aim was to immerse students into a different culture and it was hugely successful."

many of our teams progressed. I particularly want to congratulate our U13 boys who must have been bursting with pride to receive their cup from a professional footballer, and to our U14s who came back stronger after last season's defeat.

I have been overjoyed to see how much happiness our college events have brought to students. The knock-out prom celebration

and the fantastic activities staff have worked on to bring fun and engagement to lessons is testament to the tremendous effort put in by staff members who are passionate about the outcomes and wellbeing of our young people.

I wish all our students, families and staff a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September.



Marking a historic moment

THE WARTIME music of Vera Lynn, activities and patriotic flags helped students commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-day.

Honouring the day allied forces landed in Normandy to liberate Europe, the college also decorated the corridor in a special commemorative display.

Students in groups including Air Cadets, Scouts and Guides wore their official uniforms instead of their one for school, which added a sense of occasion and gravitas to the day.

Mrs Fullthorpe, Head of Humanities, said: “EMC student radio played D-day music on speakers throughout the school all day while the humanities team created special activities for classes to enjoy. It was a fantastic event commemorating a pivotal moment in history.”



The D-day display. Top, Year 8 students Isaac and Rhys of the Air Training Corps

Programme provides Uefa masterclass

SPORTY students have enjoyed a footballing masterclass delivered by a Uefa qualified coach.

Trevor Gummer taught students across year groups as part of the HSBC volunteering programme.

Together, they worked on skills,

fitness and tactical knowledge. Mr Gummer also held a question-and-answer session afterwards on how to get into coaching.

He said: “The students were excellent. Polite, well behaved and full of insightful questions. The school

was warm and very welcoming. EMC has some very talented up-and-coming young players, I wish them well going forward.”

❑ Turn to the back page for more football news



Students (from top left) Zoe, Zak, Lance, Laura and Regan take part in the paint run

Add some colour to the points tally

STUDENTS have enjoyed a range of activities at the college's end-of-term House Festival.

Staff provided an alternative timetable where students could select the activities they wanted to participate in earning house points in the process.

The closing event of the two-day extravaganza saw an explosion of colour with a paint run. Students

ran the perimeter of the college site where clouds of special Holi-

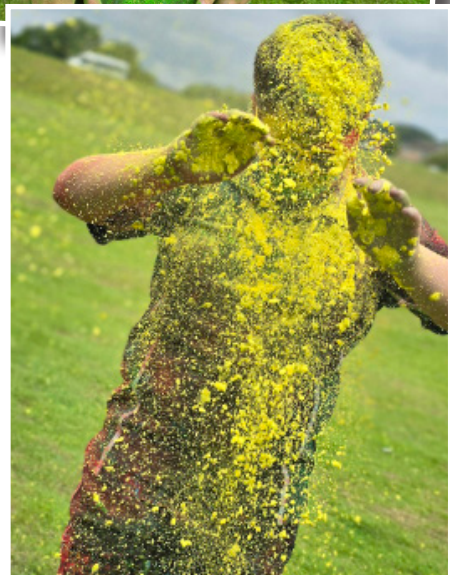
style paint would come at them, leaving them a spectacular blend of yellow, green, blue and red.

At the helm was Mr Maddock, Vice Principal.

He said: "It has been a wonderful festival where the students have engaged fully with the excellent activities provided by our dedicated teaching staff."

Top-ranking subjects
Music
Art and Design
Science
English
RE

House League so far
Jaguar House: 310,503
Leopard House: 244,480
Tiger House: 233,066





Students take a break during the visit to Valencia. Below, traditional dress during Las Fallas celebrations and students with their pen pals

Viva Valencia: Our students take a trip to visit pen pals

A CULTURAL trip to Spain has improved students' language skills while providing a sense of adventure.

Visiting the college's partner school in Valencia they met with their pen pals, some of whom they have been corresponding with for more than two years.

Other highlights included visiting the Valencia FC stadium, spending time on the beach and walking through the historic Old Town.

Mrs Leeming, Spanish Teacher, said: "The trip was fantastic. We had a wonderful time. We went to Valencia on the east coast of Spain. Temperatures were about 28-30 degrees every day. Sunshine and blue skies."

She added: "The atmosphere was buzzing. The modern buildings were also impressive. Students thrived in a different culture, gained some life skills and overcame problems with a great deal of maturity."





Lilli writes a page-turner

A BUDDING author has written and published a book on consumer site, Amazon.

Year 9 student Lilli (pictured above) penned debut novel *Blurred Lines*.

Mr Herring, English Teacher, said: "Congratulations to Lilli. This is such an amazing achievement and we are so proud of her. We have supported her ambitions here at the college, especially in English lessons where she continues to shine."

So natural

GREEN-fingered students have helped the college win a certificate after cultivating the school garden.

As part of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardening for Schools campaign, the college has worked to complete tasks to progress through levels of attainment. The scheme helps young people have opportunities to connect with nature, while encouraging them to explore the outdoors and learn how to care for plants and the planet.

The students have been working hard on level 4 of the programme, which focuses on gardening for wildlife. Year 9s Julian and Dawid have proved invaluable

Sergeant selected by Lord-Lieutenant

A HIGH-FLYING student is preparing to serve her community after being selected to represent her Air Training Corps squadron in a prestigious post.

Sergeant Ellie Whittall (inset) will represent RAF Air Cadets Herefordshire as the Lord Lieutenant Cadet 24/25.

Each year, the Lord-Lieutenant appoints up to five young people to serve as his cadets. They are selected from the Sea Cadet Corps, the Royal Marine Cadets, the

Combined Cadet Force, the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps assisting as required at numerous events around the county while acting as ambassadors for their organisations.

Ms Banner, Principal, said: "We are so pleased for Ellie. She will act as a true ambassador for the region and is a shining example of how hard work and dedication pays off. We at Earl Mortimer College join her family, friends and squadron in offering our warmest congratulations."



SONGS OF PRAISE: The college choir has won praise following a pitch-perfect performance held at Priory Church.

Singing alongside the Hereford Police Male Choir they provided exceptional entertainment at the event.

Mrs de Sondberg, Assistant Principal, said: "Students, as always, were great role models to the school, sang in fine voice and gave up their Saturday evening to be part of a community event. They will be receiving house points for representing the college and volunteering."

with their support.

Mr Newitt, Geography Teacher, said: "The students have worked so hard and we have received a £100

garden voucher and other prizes. I am so proud of their hard work and look forward to completing the final level 5 in due course."

YEAR 11 leavers enjoyed the high life at the end of year prom arriving in an array of dazzling vehicles and walking the red carpet.

Students arrived at the front plaza of the college in front of a huge crowd of onlookers while a professional photographer took snaps.

They then headed to Luctonians Rugby Club to continue the celebrations.

Mr Maddock, Vice Principal, said it was one of the best proms to date: "There was a fantastic atmosphere, everybody had a smile on their face especially at the range of vehicles arriving.

"We had everything from sports cars to fire engines! We wish all our Year 11 students the very best for their futures and feel proud they had such an amazing time."



Prom queen and king Grace and Seb. Left, the balloon archway. Below, vehicles taking students to the venue included a fire engine and tractor



Arriving in style to the prom



Last-gasp winner for the U14s

Earl Mortimer College has enjoyed one of its most successful seasons under the stewardship of our Head of PE teacher, Mr Chad. Here he talks through the season's highs and lows

THE 2023-24 schools football season came to an end in May with the county finals once again being played at Edgar Street, home of Hereford FC.

Year 7 Girls

They reached the county semi-finals. They have performed very well with stand-out performances from Charlotte, Emilia, Maisie and Isla.

Year 8 Girls

The Year 8 girls, added by some of the Year 7 squad, also reached the county semi-final stage. They reached three of the National Small Schools Competition. With the performances of Ava and Daisy, they too finished as semi-finalists.

Year 8 Boys 'B' Team

Entering for the first time this year the games were hindered by the weather and oppositions being unable to fulfil fixtures. A victory at Whitecross was a particular highlight. They finished second place in the table. The Baran twins and Keegs showed high-quality performances.

U13 Boys

The U13 boys qualified for the final at Edgar Street with a 6-1 victory over John Kyrle in the semi final. Despite missing three players due to injury and illness the team won 4-0 against St Marys. Goals came from Harry (2), Harley and Max (pen). This squad has won the U12 and U13 county competitions. Congratulations. Their aim is to go further in the national competition, which they reached round five of this year, losing to a strong Thomas Telford side, the only team to have beaten us, showing just how strong this team could become. Captain Tommy collected

**Top goal scorers
(Hereford Schools
Competition only)**
Charley: 18 goals
Harry: 7 goals
Harley: 6 goals
Charlie, Max: 4 goals
Charlotte, Toby: 3 goals



The U14s boys team with their trophy at Edgar Street

the trophy from Birmingham City and Wales player Jordan James.

U14 Boys

After being eliminated at the semi-final stage in both Year 7 and Year 8, they were keen to make this year count. After making it through the group stages, they won an entertaining semi-final against Kingstone, 5-2.

In the final, they played St Marys, who had beaten them in the semi-final the previous year and were the holders of this age group's trophy. The team rallied after going 1-0 down. The game stayed this way until the second half, when Harley burst into the box and finished brilliantly into the roof of the net to tie the game. The rest of the half was a tight affair, played in midfield, where Tommy, Harry and Charley worked to keep control.

With time running out, and both teams seemingly out of energy, it seemed inevitable the game was going to penalties. I was writing down names of our penalty takers and St Marys

had made changes in the goalkeeping department. With two minutes remaining, Charley took advantage of tiring legs in the opposition's defence and used his pace to burst free. After cutting inside a defender, he had the goal at his mercy, before being dragged down by the keeper, earning us a penalty and the goalie a red card. After what seemed like an eternity, as goalkeepers had to be changed again, Charley dusted himself down and rifled the ball home.

An exciting game, closely fought until the final whistle, ended in an EMC victory. Outstanding performances from this squad came from Charley, Harry, Tommy (all playing a year up) and Ethan. This is the first time EMC have their names on the U14 trophy. They now have the challenge of doing the same next year with the U15 one.

A thank you

I'd like to thank Mrs Jones and Mr Stanik, who helped run sessions and matches. Special mention must go to some of our Year 11 students, George, Alfie and Ted have represented Hereford FC at U16 level (and sometimes U18 level), a great achievement. Good luck to these students as they leave us.