



DRAGON'S DEN: Staff and students celebrated Chinese New Year in January. The canteen served a delicious lunchtime feast, while students received a red envelope with a message of luck and prosperity for the new year. There was also a dancing dragon on show.

'HUGE STRIDES'

Principal welcomes Ofsted report that praises supportive, innovative college

EARL Mortimer College is a school where children develop a positive mindset and are happy to attend, an Ofsted report has found.

The school has been rated Good for quality of education, behaviour of students, personal development and leadership for the third time in a row.

Inspectors found staff personalised lessons around students' interests and aspirations using a range of innovative techniques to help learn and understand new knowledge.

This has led to students making good progress and improving outcomes, the report said.

There was a calm atmosphere of friendliness and mutual respect where bullying was rare and quickly dealt with.

Leaders help staff and support their

development. Their decisions are centred on what is in the best interests of the students.

Principal Ms Banner said: "We are pleased that Ofsted has recognised the huge strides taken by the school in recent years.

"We have continued to make significant improvements against a very challenging backdrop of a global pandemic and school closures.

"As inspectors rightly point out, this is a school that is highly ambitious and aspirational for its students.

"Their praise for the dedication and expertise of our staff is completely justified.

"We are pleased with how far the school has come academically in recent years, with inspectors noting the

OFSTED QUOTES:
Great teachers: "Teachers use a range of approaches to help pupils to learn well and understand new knowledge."
Students: "Pupils are happy to attend the school and are confident they will be successful in their education. They value and respect the school environment."
A respectful school: "Pupils enjoy socialising with each other. They respect the different choices their peers make about how to spend social time."

Approving of development

INSEPECTORS said the personal development of students at Earl Mortimer was a "particular strength" of the school.

They also praised the school's wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, which helps youngsters grow in confidence and independence.

The report reads: "Leaders have planned an approach that brings together all aspects of pupils' personal development.

"They enjoy learning about the diversity of British society through their religious education lessons."

good progress of students and improved outcomes.

"We are happy the school has been judged Good in all areas but we are not resting on our laurels. Our ambition is to always improve and provide the very best life chances for our students."



‘Committed to the students at this school’

Principal Ms Banner (above) on what this term has offered.

As the principal of this school, I spend a lot of time walking the corridors, from classroom to classroom, lesson to lesson.

My job is to make sure our school maintains the extremely high standards we set for ourselves.

It is in those quiet moments that I realise how fortunate I am to work at a school that has a common ethos and shared values.

Like our families, the teachers and support staff at this school are, in my view, uniquely committed to the students at this school.

Nowhere is that better showcased than in the stories you will read in this newsletter.

Behind every trip, every artist visit, every sporting fixture, every project, programme and workshop, there is a teacher.

A teacher who worked through their lunchtime, after or before school and during the weekends or holidays to make it happen.

To cross the Ts and dot the Is so that our students benefit from those crucial experiences that lie beyond the classroom, and shape the lives and futures of our young people.

As you will read in this newsletter, this term, once again the teachers and those who support them have gone above and beyond. I am proud to count myself among them.

Finally, I say thank you once again for your continued support.

Have a happy and, hopefully, restful Easter. We will see you next term.



Podcasting students Darci and Will got to explore Leominster Museum

Past times on the podcast

THE EMC podcasters took their radio show on the road with a visit to Leominster Museum.

They spent an afternoon behind the scenes at the new season’s exhibits – discovering the stories for the town’s past.

Volunteer Deborah Jarman guided the students around the museum before answering their questions for the podcast.

You can hear the result on their podcast, streaming now on the EMC website and EMC Student Radio.

Assistant principal Mr Wharam said: “It was

a marvellous visit firstly because students got the chance to hear about our town’s past from the resident expert.

“They also learned crucial podcasting skills by recording on location but also asking the types of questions that will capture the listener’s interest.

“On this occasion Deborah Jarman told amazing stories, which can be heard in the new podcast available to download from the EMC website.”

Leominster Museum remains free of charge.

Project’s aim is ‘force for good’

STUDENTS are being encouraged to become politically engaged with issues affecting their community thanks to a new project.

Students got to meet local opticians and took part in workshops on campaigning and activism as part of the Rural Voice, Collective Power programme.

The year 9, 10 and 11 students explored and identified local issues affecting young

people to discuss with decision makers.

Head of Jaguar House Mr Bescoby said: “It is crucial that young people are engaged with the politics of their local community.

“There are so many issues that affect young people for which they can have an impact and campaign on in their area.

“This project gives them the tools and the education to understand how they can affect change and be a force for good.”

Away-day students scale new heights



Students take on the wall at Redpoint Climbing Centre and, below, get a tour of Mazak's European headquarters

YEAR 10 students scaled a climbing wall and took part in an inflatable assault course on a trip to an engineering company.

They got a tour of engineering technology company Mazak's European headquarters before heading to Redpoint Climbing Centre.

After using the climbing walls, they took on The Buzz, an inflatable assault course designed by the creators of Ninja Warriors.

Design technology teacher Mr Burren said: "It was an excellent chance for students to visit what I would describe as the Rolls-Royce of engineering technology companies.

"Seeing experts in their field at work will help our students gain an insight into what a career in engineering might be like.

"Afterwards at the climbing centre, our students had a great time on the climbing wall and assault course."





Bullying tackled with Tootoot app

A NEW anti-bullying app introduced at the school will allow students to report bullying, even when they are not at school.

Students can use the Tootoot app, introduced in March, to report abuse directly to heads of house and Mrs Gummer in the Prevent Bullying Now (PBN) team.

Students will show their peers how to report any safeguarding issues through the app as part of a strong anti-bullying stance at the school.

Ofsted's report noted the school's anti-

bullying system, referencing the PBN programme with staff and students trained in spotting abuse.

Assistant principal Mr Wharam (*left*) said: "Here at EMC, we want to make it as easy as possible for students to report bullying if they experience it or see it happening to somebody else.

"Tootoot provides a way for students to report any concerns they have in a simple and confidential way— helping us to quickly and effectively resolve issues."



Students take a break during the trip

River research on GCSE happy valley visit

STUDENTS scaled the Carding Mill Valley tracing the river to the summit 400m above sea level for a geography field trip.

They braved the cold conditions over the rocky terrain of the Shropshire Hills to study river landforms for their GCSE exams.

The year 11 students also quizzed

shoppers on their retail habits in Leominster town centre for the second part of their fieldwork.

Assistant principal Mr Wharam said: "Outdoor learning brings the subject alive and gives the students transferable skills for whatever course they pursue at post-16.

"It is a genuine thrill to take young

people places they have never seen before. To give them experiences which will inspire their imaginations.

"I was also extremely pleased to note how engaged and friendly our students were when conducting field work in the town centre. Lots of shoppers remarked about how friendly they were."



Such great characters

STUDENTS ditched their uniforms to spend the day dressed as their favourite fictional characters to mark World Book Day.

The fun-packed dress-up was part of a range of activities across the week to promote reading for purpose, progress and pleasure.

Events included a book treasure hunt, book swap, a tutorial on the importance of reading, and a game of spotting characters around the school.

There were also free book vouchers available, house points for reading, and a bake sale that raised just over £130 for new books in the library.

The winner of the costume competition was student Keira, who received a £10 WHSmith voucher. Wilbur received £5 for coming second.

Miss Stanik said: "World Book Day went with a bang at EMC this term with lots of students getting into the spirit of the day by dressing up.

"Thanks must also go to Ms Ridd in the library for her unwavering support of both the library and reading as a whole."





Problem solving during the Faraday Challenge

Teacher is 'proud' of challenge

THE school is full of bright minds ready to take up the engineering challenges of the future.

That was the verdict after our students acquitted themselves admirably in the Faraday Challenge.

The competition, which saw our students pit their wits against other local schools, took place at the New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering.

The annual science competition helps students develop practical skills, such as team work, problem solving and creative thinking.

Design technology teacher Mr Burren said: "Although we didn't win, EMC were represented amazingly and many staff believed that we were incredibly close.

"The students were incredible in every sense of the word, and they should be proud of participating and achieving at such a tough, yet excellent event.



Members of the Brilliant Club visited St Catherine's College, in Oxford

Brilliant opportunity to explore university life

STUDENTS visited one of the world's top-rated university to mark their graduation from the Scholars Club.

The year 10 students explored the campus, sat in on lectures and met current undergraduates at St Catherine's College, in Oxford.

The trip was the culmination of a degree-level six-week programme aimed at boosting their chance of getting into a top university.

Under the instruction of a PhD tutor, students have been looking at how governments respond to national emergencies such as the Covid pandemic as part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

The sociology project saw students

completing a 2,000-word university-style dissertation predicting and planning for human behaviour in a crisis.

Students Kate and Libby scored the highest grade possible – the equivalent to an A* at A-level, four years above their current education level.

Student Faye gave a speech at the graduation ceremony in a lecture theatre at the prestigious university.

She said: "I found the programme really interesting because it pushed me to my limits and gave me an insight into what it would be like to complete a university course.

"It was amazing to visit Oxford University and speak to the undergraduates and see the campus. It was really inspirational.

Teacher Mr Quigley said: "Students were selected to be members of programme due to their resilience, positive attitude and work-ethic at school.

"The students' final assignments challenged them to work above their current key stage and the resulting dissertations were deemed to be 'of high-quality' and a 'critical success'.

"At Earl Mortimer College, we will always give our students opportunities to achieve their true academic potential."

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools to increase the number of student from different backgrounds progressing to top universities.



German guests take to the airwaves

Year 10 students from partner school Hans-Sachs Gymnasium, in Nürnberg were praised by college teachers

Students from a school in Germany were welcomed to Earl Mortimer College as part of a European exchange programme.

The year 10 students from partner school Hans-Sachs Gymnasium, in Nürnberg, sat in on lessons and mixed with our youngsters during break times.

The German students also got the chance to present their own radio show before visiting famous landmarks in the local area.

German teacher Mrs Joules said: "The visitors enjoyed seeing the historic sights of Leominster and Herefordshire.

While they were here at EMC they joined regular lessons and even presented their own radio show on EMC Student Radio

"They were extremely polite and well-behaved, and spoke excellent English. They were a pleasure to have at the school."



'Inspirational' artwork

ARTIST Gemma Moore's visit to the school has inspired our students to create works of art inspired by the local landscape.

The four-hour workshop saw our year 9 and 10 students create realistic and abstract paintings of Leominster town and surrounding areas.

Visitors flocked to see the paintings when they went on show to the public at an exhibition hosted at the Old Stable Gallery in Corn Square. They visited the gallery for a private viewing and were personally shown around the exhibition by Gemma Moore.

Lead art teacher Mr Edwards said: "It was truly inspirational and a bit emotional for the students to see their work go on show at a public gallery. Their work was of an extremely high standard. They should be congratulated on their efforts, achievements and their amazing artwork."

Seeking the Duke's award

STUDENTS will volunteer at the school, take part in sport and go on a camping expedition to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award next term.

Spring sees the return of the evergreen programme with year 9 and 10 students striving for the bronze award.

They will have to put in 50 hours of volunteering, three months of physical activity and practice a skill to receive the prize.

An assembly will take place next term explaining how the programme works and give students a chance to sign up

Teacher Mr Burren said: "I am genuinely thrilled to be running the Duke of Edinburgh programme at Earl Mortimer College.

"You learn so much about yourself when you take part in the Duke of Edinburgh. Students really enjoyed taking part in the three different areas.

"The camping trip gives them the chance to learn crucial team working and bonding skills."

DEALING WITH DRAMA: Students learned strategies to deal with their emotions thanks to a drama workshop.

They worked with a theatre company to build resilience and confidence as the school marked Child Mental Health Awareness Week. They took part in games and role play to demonstrate what happens to the brain when it is overwhelmed by stresses.

Teacher Mrs Gummer said: "I was absolutely thrilled to see how engaged the students were with the sessions."



Ex-student earns England call-up



FORMER student and budding Rugby star Charlie Bemand has been selected to play for the England youth team.

He is the first youngster from local team Luctonians Colts to be selected for the development squad for nearly 20 years.

Charlie (left) was six years old when he started playing rugby at Luctonians Rugby Club.

He has been part of the player pathway since U14s with the Worcester Warriors and has progressed through the stages to the under-18 level.

He left Earl Mortimer College, where he was head boy, last year.

Charlie has been selected for the England under-17s Development Squad as a result of playing in the Premiership U18s Academy League with Midlands West, formerly Worcester Warriors.

He is studying business, PE and DiSE at Stourport High/Sixth Form College.

He plays for Stourport in the National AASE League.

He also plays, when chance allows, for Luctonians Colts.

Charlie's mum, Amy, said: "I'm so delighted for him. What a great experience for him. Charlie works so hard dedicating everything to his rugby.

"We are all unbelievably proud of him. He has his whole family behind him."