

Heading to Oxford

Mother's illness spurs Alex to help to search for cure

A BRILLIANT former student has been inspired to study the treatment of illnesses at Oxford by his mum's condition.

Alex Fielden has won a place at University College, Oxford, founded in 1249, and thought to be the oldest college of the university.

He will read biochemistry, which is the study of chemical processes within and relating to living organisms.

The decision was inspired by his experience of being a young carer for his mum who has haemochromatosis, also known as bronze diabetes.

He said: "Mum had diabetes and other conditions, so I grew up in a house with lots of illness.

"I wanted to understand what caused this illness and if I could understand them, then maybe I could find ways of helping.

“He has really done a deep dive into my illness to try to understand it

Alex's mum, Katherine

"That initially led me down the path of wanting to study medicine but the more I researched, the more I realised that it was understanding illness that interested me."

Alex, who left the school in 2023, says he was inspired by his teachers at Earl Mortimer College.

He said: "It was really at Earl Mortimer that I really thought that I had a chance of making it to a place like Oxford.

"It was such a nurturing environment that it really helped me to thrive and have the belief to chase my dreams."

Alex is currently studying A Levels in



Alex Fielden has won a place at University College, Oxford to read biochemistry

maths, chemistry, biology and geography at Herefordshire College.

Alex's mum Katherine says she is "out of this world" proud of her son.

She said: "He has really done a deep dive into my illness to try to understand it and ultimately help me. He is a really loving son.

"I knew he was a bright one when he was just eight months. He managed to block the

door with a wedge-shaped TV remote to stop me getting in. I thought to myself then, 'We have a bright one on our hands'. He has always been shy so it hasn't always been obvious quite how smart he is but it really came to the fore at Earl Mortimer.

"It is such a lovely school. His maths teacher was more upset than me when he graduated. She started crying, which set me off."

A drive for success

Incoming Vice Principal Mrs Corbin on her new mission

I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining Earl Mortimer College (EMC) as your new Vice Principal in September. From everything I've seen and experienced, EMC is a caring, ambitious, and community-driven school – and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of it.

Although I officially start in September, I've already enjoyed visiting EMC and getting to know staff and students. I've been struck by the energy, spirit, and high aspirations here.

A little about me: I grew up in Hereford and have spent the last 18 years teaching at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College

I'm a bit of a car and motorbike enthusiast – I can talk about them for hours

New Vice-Principal Mrs Corbin

in Worcester. It's been an amazing journey, but the time feels right for a new challenge.

I'll admit I'll be a bit nervous in September – something I'm not used to! But I hope that will help me better relate to those starting fresh, especially our new Year 7s.

Outside of school, I love travelling and exploring new places – especially those I've taught about in Geography.

I try not to visit the same place twice, though that's getting harder! I'm also learning sign language, which I'm keen to keep improving.



Mrs Corbin takes to the driving seat during one of her favourite careers events

At home, I live with my husband Dave and our pampered cats, Leo and Luna. I'm also a bit of a car and motorbike enthusiast – fair warning, I can talk about them for hours!

One value I hold deeply is kindness. It's a quiet superpower – simple, powerful, and always needed. A kind word or act can make a huge difference.

The photo I've shared is from one of my favourite careers events – a moment full of excitement and curiosity. I can't wait to bring that same energy to EMC.

Thank you for the warm welcome so far. I'm excited to meet you all in September. Until then, have a safe and happy summer – take care and be kind!

Year 10s glimpse career options at taster days

YEAR 10 students got a boost to their post-16 prospects when taking part in taster days.

They visited Hereford Sixth Form College, Hereford College of Arts and Hereford

College of Technology. They took part in a variety of activities aimed at helping to gain an insight into the next step on their education pathway.

Principal Ms Banner said: "Students got a glimpse into the diverse and exciting career opportunities made possible on offer at the three colleges event."

Choir joins VOCES8 at cathedral celebration

THE EMC Choir sang alongside Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8 at a celebration event at Hereford Cathedral.

The Sing The Celebration event also featured community choirs and local primary and secondary school students as well as special guest soprano Laura Wright.

They also got the chance to perform for the judges of Leominster in Bloom when they visited the school.

Mrs De-Sondberg, Assistant Principal, said: "We were one of only four schools invited to take part in this evening of wonderful heartfelt music."



The event at Hereford Cathedral featured community choirs and students

Given their chance to shine at Warwick

Brilliant Club students present work at top university

BRIGHT students had to present their work at one of the country's top universities, having completed a degree level programme.

They sat in on lectures, toured the campus and met undergraduate students, on a trip to Warwick University.

They were then tasked with presenting the findings of their work to an audience of their peers and lecturers from the university.

The trip to the Russell Group university, ranked among the best in the UK, was part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

They completed a six-week programme, under the tuition of a PHD student, aimed at boosting their chance of getting into a top university.

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

Mr Quigley, leader for English, said: "I am incredibly proud of the students for all they have achieved in this very demanding course."

"To then present their work to a large audience with such fearlessness and passion



Brilliant Club members Harley Gurney, Logan Jones, Lance Guevarra, Zac Adams and Jaxson Hopkins

was truly inspiring to see. I want to single out three Year 7 students for special praise

as they have performed with a real desire to impress their ideas on the audience."

Students try on Army kit during their visit to the show in Malvern



Showing the future

Three Counties event gives insight into career options

OUR students were among thousands of visitors to the Royal Three Counties Show in Malvern.

The event, which took place this term in June, showcased the best in British farming, food and the countryside.

Students got the chance to meet some of the estimated 8,000 animals on the site.

They also had the opportunity to try on army gear from the British Army, which was also represented at the show.

Principal Ms Banner said: "Many of the students come from a rural community and aspire to fulfil their career ambitions within this community.

"The Royal Three Counties Show gives

them a showcase of the career options they might wish to pursue."

The origins of the show can be traced back to 1798 in Herefordshire. The Herefordshire Agricultural Society merged with counterparts in Worcestershire in 1894, and then in Gloucestershire in 1922. The result was the Three Counties Agricultural Society, and the name of the show.

Students display commitment and leadership

Mr Parry reflects on the term's achievements in PE

THIS summer has been packed with fantastic sporting achievements and leadership opportunities for our students.

Our U13 boys' football team had a brilliant afternoon at WX, beating both their A and B teams to reach the semi-final of the cup.

Unfortunately, the semi-final couldn't be played due to player unavailability, but the boys should be proud of making it that far.

In athletics, Charlotte Gwilliam, Emilia Panniers, and George Whittall

represented the school at events held at Nunnery Wood High School.

Although they didn't win medals, all three showed outstanding effort and determination, acting as great ambassadors for the school.

Our Year 10 Young Leaders played a major role in supporting Stride Active's Annual Summer Games.

Joe Doolan and Harley Gurney opened the ceremony with confidence and helped motivate hundreds of primary school children.

Adina Pontifex-Price and Tilly Powell had the opportunity to interview Annasley Park, a former professional cyclist who also rowed across

the Atlantic Ocean – giving students valuable insight into elite sport.

The leaders then ran engaging football activities for primary school girls, showing excellent leadership, enthusiasm, and teamwork.

We've also seen our Year 9 Young Leaders begin delivering PE sessions to younger students. This term, they hosted Year 2 and 3 pupils from Leominster Primary School, leading fun games that developed key movement skills.

Well done to all the students involved – you've shown incredible commitment, leadership, and school pride throughout the term!



Adam, Thomas, George
William, Tiana and Agnes

Aiming for tech award

William earns spot in TeenTech final

YEAR 9 student William is in the running for a prestigious tech award.

He will present his project to the Institution of Engineering and Technology at Savoy Place, London, in the final of TeenTech.

William, who is a former pupil of St Mary's Primary School, has submitted his original computer game titled The Rise of the Fallen.

He created the entire concept himself, including the storyline, artwork and graphics. He will present his creation to a panel of expert judges.

William said: "I really enjoyed going, good experience, got a few contacts from the day, people who are very clever and think similarly to me but with different ideas, and we both have lots of ambition."

"I forgot my laptop but my aunt brought it because she's amazing. It [the presentation] was mainly up in my head not in my laptop anyway. I was the only person to get an honourable mention."

The TeenTech Awards attract thousands of entries from young innovators across the UK and beyond. Only a small number are selected to go through to the finals.

The opportunity will allow William to meet industry leaders to showcase his ideas and ambitions.

Principal Ms Banner said: "We are incredibly proud of William reaching the final. He forgot his presentation but, undeterred, he got up and delivered it with confidence."

'Innovation has been inspiring'

OUR students got inspired by the power of digital skills at an innovative learning day.

Youngsters had the chance to meet leading tech employers and experience industry leading equipment at the TeenTech festival.

They took part in a range of technical challenges and digital activities, aimed at helping to develop a love of science and technology.

One judge was so impressed by our students they wrote this feedback: "I also wanted to say how incredibly proud I am of the creativity, passion, and forward-thinking ideas demonstrated across these projects."

"The level of innovation and problem-solving has been really inspiring, and it's clear the future is in very capable hands."

"Each concept reflects not only strong technical ability, but also a thoughtful understanding of the world and how it might be improved."

"It's been a privilege to see these ideas, and I genuinely look forward to the day when I see some of them making a real difference in the world!"

PE department makes its mark with platinum

THE school is celebrating after the PE department received the Platinum School Games Mark award.

Part of the application was to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs.

The award (pictured, right) is given for commitment to developing competition across the school and in the community.

Sporting achievements this year include the Year 9 county football champions, Year 8 netball champions and Year 9 boys athletics champions.

The school has also introduced fitness sessions for girls only with the aim of improving engagement.

Sports leaders ran events for all primary year groups in multi-skills,

tennis and dodgeball, as well as opening the summer games festival.

Mr Chad said: "We are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. "This includes those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. We are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year."





Students Zac and Lance get involved in one of the more colourful activities

Jaguars purr to house title

Champion team wins 13 events

AT the end of an exciting year of competitions which saw students gobble down worms, it is house team Jaguars that has been crowned champions.

They won 13 events, came second 10 times and were third on just four occasions across two days of special events created by teachers.

Students earn points off the back of competing in house team point events with Jaguars coming out on top with a whopping 9,400 points.

Tigers came in a commendable second with 8000 while Leopards came third with 4400.

Events this year included our very own bush tucker trial where students were tasked with eating meal worms, crickets and locusts.

Other activities included clearing out the



school garden, taking part in an English quiz and a tug of war.

Mrs Gunner said: "I am so proud to see all three houses in good natured competition with each other to excel themselves, reaching their potential, in and out of the classroom.

"Congratulations to Jaguars for their victory but the real winner was community spirited competition and fun."



The tug of war, above, and a riot of colour featured in the house competition



Former Team GB star Tom Davis

How judo skills apply to study

OUR Year 7 students took part in a judo workshop run by former Team GB star Tom Davis.

They learned how you can apply the discipline in sporting activities to your studies and daily lives.

Rounders wins

OUR Year 7 and 8 girls won rounders matches against Queen Elizabeth High School, Aylestone School and John Masefield High School.

Girls who were involved were: Maggie Jones, Isla Jones, Bayley Jones, Lydia Wilson, Emma Jones, Livie Mills, Charlotte Gwilliam, Arabelle Barrington, Myla Kohno and Emilia Panniers.

Athletics golds

OUR athletes struck gold in sporting events held this term.

George Whittal took first place in discus while Charlotte Gwilliam was victorious in the 200m and long jump in the Year 7 and 8 games at Weobley.

The athletics event at Hereford for Year 9 and 10 resulted in wins for Charley McLaurin (100m, 800m), Harry Evans (shot put, triple jump, long jump), Josh Morgan (200m), Harry Firth (300m) and Harley Harris and Josh Lloyd (both javelin).

Fun on the water

YEAR 8 visited Worcester and took part in kayaking, raft building and stand-up paddleboarding.

Show is spellbinding

Students rock classic tunes in musical Grease

OUR talented students proved Grease really is 'the word' with a spellbinding performance of the hit musical.

They rocked the classic tunes from the show such as Greased Lightnin', Summer Nights and Grease is the Word over two sold-out performances.

Months of rehearsal paid off in style with audiences singing along, bringing the classic musical to life.

The students brought the retro flair with slicked-back hair, poodle skirts, and powerhouse vocals.

Matthew brought charisma and edge to the role of Danny Zuko, while Liv charmed the crowd with her heartfelt portrayal of Sandy Dumbrowski.

“ The audience were humming the tunes and smiling all the way home ”
Head of Music Mr Price

Their on-stage chemistry shone brightly, particularly during crowd favourites like Summer Nights and We Go Together.

The T-Birds and Pink Ladies were full of character and confidence, delivering witty lines and sharp choreography.

Under the inspired direction of Mr Price and Mr Burrows, the production sparkled from start to finish.

The backstage crew and live band, brought a level of professionalism and polish, making the show go with a bang.

From lighting cues to costume changes, every part was timed to perfection.

Head of music Mr Price said: “This performance of Grease was more than just a school show, it was a testament to the talent, dedication, and spirit of the students and staff at Earl Mortimer College.

“A celebration of music, youth, and teamwork, it left the audience humming the tunes and smiling all the way home.”



Students delight the audience during the college's staging of the hit musical Grease

Grease Car wheely is great

A UNIQUE car – known as the Grease Car – was lovingly built by the late Peter Sagar.

It is now being shared with schools staging a production of the musical

Grease – featuring in our latest performance.

Any school planning Grease as their next production, please enquire and contact Earl Mortimer College.

Thanks for such a positive and inspiring year

Principal Ms Banner on academic success and the culture it relies on

As we wrap up another vibrant academic year at Earl Mortimer College, we're proud to reflect on the many achievements, opportunities and unforgettable moments that have shaped our school community.

One of the year's stand-out stories is that of former student Alex Fielden, who secured a place at Oxford University to study biochemistry, inspired by caring for his mum who lives with a chronic illness. His journey reflects the power of resilience, compassion, and belief – qualities nurtured during his time at EMC.

We also welcomed exciting news from staff, as Mrs Corbin prepares to join us as Vice Principal in September. With her passion for kindness, travel, and education, she's

already making a warm impression.

Our students have continued to shine academically and beyond. From the Warwick University visit through the Brilliant Club, to national recognition in the TeenTech Awards for William's original video game, innovation and curiosity are clearly thriving here.



In the arts, our students rocked the stage with a sensational production of Grease, featuring incredible performances, a live band, and even a custom Grease car! Meanwhile, the EMC Choir performed alongside VOCES8 at Hereford Cathedral – a truly memorable musical moment.

Sport and leadership were also in full swing. We celebrated our PE department receiving the School Games Platinum Award, and cheered on house champions Team Jaguar after a year of competitive (and worm-eating!) challenges.

From taster days and tech festivals to grooming horses and leading primary PE sessions, our students continue to explore, lead and grow in every direction.

Thank you to our staff, students, families and the wider community for making this such a positive and inspiring year.

Have a restful summer. See you in September!

Getting to know you

Students learn about horses on visit to yard

STUDENTS got the chance to groom horses and learn about how to look after them during a trip to a yard.

They took part in a workshop learning about different parts of a horse and spent some time interacting with them.

They also learned about the courses in equine studies on offer at the yard.

Primary specialist teacher Mrs Hughes said: "Every student got involved even though some had never been near a horse before.

"Two students already have a lot of experience with horses, but their needs were catered for as well. It was a great opportunity for students to see a very different educational setting and understand that there are a diverse range of opportunities available to them."



Primary specialist teacher Mrs Hughes gets to know one of the yard's horses