

AUTUMN 2025

NEWS BULLETIN

ERCALL WOOD ACADEMY

www.ercallwood.co.uk

Principal's Address



Science Centre Opening

Ercall Wood Academy officially opened its new £9.2 million science centre in September, with an "explosive" opening event that included students from local primary schools. The new three-storey building features nine science labs, a classroom, and a new behaviour unit, as well as a single-storey extended dining room. This expansion is part of a larger project supported by Telford & Wrekin Council to increase the school's capacity to 1,200 students.

The official opening took place on September 30th, 2025, with a celebration involving Ercall Wood Academy students and pupils from seven local primary schools, who participated in experiments. The new science centre is a three-storey building with nine science labs, a general teaching classroom, and a behaviour unit, along with a new extended dining area. The expansion aims to support science and technology learning and increase the school's overall capacity from 900 to 1,200 pupils.

The project also included resurfacing the outdoor games area and installing electric vehicle charging points.

Following the GCSE academic successes of last year's year 11 cohort that were celebrated throughout the summer it has been wonderful to welcome all students back into the academy. The enthusiasm and appetite for learning from our new year 7s has been infectious and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank year 7 and their parents/carers for making our academy a wonderful place to work on behalf of all staff here. Keep taking all opportunities provided with both hands, feel free to learn and grow in an environment that will both support and challenge you to reach the top of your own aspirational mountain.

Year 11 have wasted no time and have fully emerged into their year 11 journey. We have welcomed students and parents/carers in twice this half term for both our Welcome Evening and Strategy Evening. Please can I thank all parents for their on-going support and attendance at these events, as I have previously said, we are stronger together and united we will ensure our students and your children can thrive. Next half term will see year 11 complete their first round of mock exams, we encourage all students to prepare diligently for these exams and whilst they must recognise the importance of mocks, we do not want students to be worried about the process. The results will support teachers in shaping curriculums and provide bespoke interventions to facilitate further improvements as we work toward summer examinations.

The opening of the Science block was a highlight for me this half term and it was brilliant to see Ercall Wood staff and our very own "lab rats" doing a range of experiments with students from our local feeder primary schools, this event truly recognised the importance of community and as I said on the evening this building represents more than bricks and mortar and in fact represents creativity and innovation and provides a vehicle for our students to explore the world around them, perhaps the next great scientific discovery will take place at Ercall Wood Academy...

Regarding primary schools we had over a 1000 people attend our Open Evening, the comments throughout and post event filled me with pride but at the centre of this positivity was the overwhelming response regarding the character of our students. Instilling character values within our children is paramount to our vision and ethos at the academy and I was so proud regarding how our school community came together to represent everything that is wonderful about this academy with the students at the very centre.

Our school musical has been announced, and we are all very excited to confirm we will be performing "Matilda". My office backs on to the Drama studio and hall so I can assure first-hand the students have been practising hard and I cannot wait to see all the performing arts talent on show, more details regarding this event and ticketing will come next half term.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank all within our community. Ercall Wood is thriving, and from me and all the staff we thank you for your on-going support and connection with our school. We are incredibly passionate about ensuring our students and our community have a school to truly be proud of and together we are turning students dreams into reality which is so very special.

Warm regards,
Nicholas Murphy
Principal

Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Day**
- **Friday 14th November - Children in Need**
- **Wednesday 3rd December - Rotary Young Chef Competition**
- **Thursday 4th December - Character Awards Evening**
- **Wednesday 10th December - Winter Showcase**



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Design inspired by Valarie from Ercall Wood Academy – showcasing well-known landmarks, including the Ironbridge, River Severn and roundabouts.

Telford Flag Competition

In June, Ercall Wood Academy student Valarie entered Telford and Wrekin's design a flag competition to represent the borough. We are pleased to announce that after a judging process, Valarie's design has been shortlisted. An online poll is live and will run until Sunday 2 November. We'd love your support. Details of the flags and how to vote can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/jpbyTPn0Yx>

Sporting Success!

SHROPSHIRE HANDBALL'S NEW RECRUIT

Congratulations to Annabelle in Year 8 who has successfully trialled for the U14 Shropshire Girls Handball Team. She received her green tie this week after attending 5 trial sessions with the club. We look forward to her playing for school next term too! Annabelle will be playing in goal for the county team for this year and we wish her all the best!



ADMISSIONS

We were privileged to welcome over 1000 visitors to our October Open Evening Event, thank you for your support! Children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will start secondary school from September 2026. Parents need to apply for a Year 7 place by 31 October 2025. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must also apply by 31 October 2025.

Apply here: <https://education.telford.gov.uk/Live/SynergyWeb/>

SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have any concerns over the safety and welfare of a young person during the half term break you can contact Family Connect on 01952 385385 or send an alert to our school Safeguarding Team (please note we will be working remotely and will not be on site during the holidays).

FOOD Bank!

What will be accepted:

- Tinned food
- Cup noodles
- Packets of food (e.g. pasta)
- Water bottles
- Non perishable food
- Bottled drinks
- Tinned fruit
- Long life milk etc.

Please **don't** bring:

- Fresh fruit
- Vegetables
- Dairy products
- Perishable foods

Hand in food to form tutor and there will be a daily collection from Monday 3rd November.

A house merit will be given to every student bringing in at least one food item. When bringing in food show the proof to form tutors as it can be signed off for the character development task.

Telford Crisis Support

Collection deadline
Friday 14th November



HOUSE MERITS
available

Your tutor can sign off the 'Doing something for someone less fortunate' on your respect targets

