

NEWSLETTER



Principal's Address

Our first term of the academic year has seen our students continue to thrive under the Ercall Wood Academy banner. Students have unlocked new talents, conquered challenges and achieved above and beyond all expectations. As Principal I often say how proud I am of our students but moments like writing a newsletter piece force quiet reflection and in those moments of quiet reflection pride is the absolute overwhelming emotion and for that I would like to thank all the students, staff and community.

With regards to pride, I would like to share an extract from our very recent local authority behaviour audit with you: *"Ercall Wood Academy is a calm, purposeful and orderly environment in which pupils behave respectfully and feel known, valued and safe. Relationships are a significant strength, with staff modelling the principles of Empowerment, Respect and Aspiration in daily interactions. These values are woven through the behaviour curriculum, encapsulating a relational, trauma-informed and moral-purpose approach aligned with the EEF's guidance on improving social and emotional skills."* It is an absolute credit to all who drive these high standards relentlessly so that students have an environment where they are happy, healthy, safe and where they can develop academically but also grow as young adults who will no doubt contribute greatly to society.

The festive spirit has truly been embraced throughout December and as we often hear Christmas is not about the gifts that might find themselves under a tree on the 25th but it is about creating special moments in time and extending gratitude and care for those around us; this mantra has truly been embraced by Ercall Wood Academy. Whether it be raising contributions for local food banks, delivering Christmas cards to the community or our annual community Christmas party it has been wonderful to create Christmas memories with you all and to see our students carrying out selfless acts to support others is fantastic.

Our performing arts team has been extra busy recently and it was a joy to see students marvelling in the winter showcase, LCT choir and their performance for the Telford music association in the town centre. Their talents across Music, Drama and Dance continue to wow me. Thank you to all the staff who support outside of lessons with the preparation for these events, but also please can I thank all the parents and carers who support regarding attendance at rehearsals but also proudly cheer our students on from the audience time and time again.

Principal's Address

Year 11 have really impressed with how they have conducted themselves through the first round of mock GCSE examinations, it is a credit to them to see the dedication that has been shown in preparation for these mocks and I know so many of the students will have seen rewards for their hard work when they opened their mock results as part of our mock results day. With this said for many of our students the mocks will act as a catalyst to identify areas where they would like to strive for further improvement, it is essential students work with their teachers who will use mock results to inform curriculum and create bespoke packages of support. Students should ensure they are fully dedicated to the advertised intervention programme and are supplementing this with a robust independent study plan. Should parents/carers wish to discuss year 11 related topics in more detail please feel free to contact Vice Principal, Mrs Fraser on lisa.fraser@lct.education.

This term has once again seen students fully embrace and engage with our character education framework. It was incredible to see so many students receive their respect badge this term. The respect badge was awarded to those students who completed a range of activities inside and outside school showcasing integrity and empathy such as always wearing uniform with pride, helping those who are less fortunate and evidencing how they have learnt from mistakes. Those students who achieved their respective respect badges last year were challenged to go one step further and achieve the Principals Commendation and it was a privilege to recognise these students and provide them with their commendation certification.

Another highlight of the term was when members of the student leadership team laid a wreath as part of the Wellington remembrance service, and I would like to thank them for the representation in what was a very thoughtful and reflective service. We also welcomed veterans and ex-service men and women into the school to join our current cadets and the whole school community for a moment of reflection following a well-co-ordinated parade which saw students and staff working in collaboration with dignity and respect. This is one aspect of the work the student leadership team has undertook this term and once again I would like to thank them for their feedback and work helping to shape our wonderful school.

Can I take this moment to thank all parents and carers for your on-going support, I speak on behalf of all the staff body when I say how much your support and positive comments means to all of us. We are all proud members of the educational sector, and for us working in this sector is a real vocation where we are privileged to serve this community and working positively in collaboration with you and your children is an honour.

Finally, can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Enjoy the festivities and we look forward to welcoming all students back into the academy on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Nicholas Murphy
Principal

Important Dates:

- **Monday 5th January 2026- Staff PD Day- No students on site.**
- **Tuesday 6th January- All students return, normal school timings, students to wear full school uniform.**

Spotlight on...

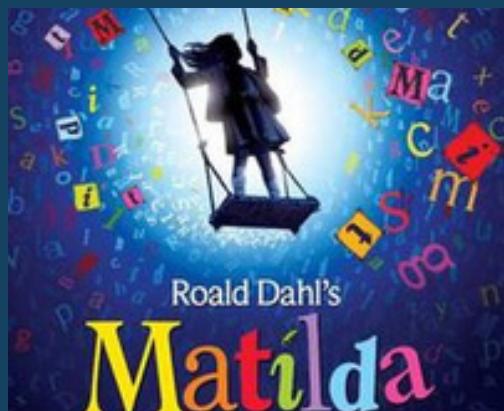
DANCE

Open Evening

Our dancers once again put on a wonderful show at Ercall Wood Academy's Open Evening. They created a flash mob performance from 'Matilda', giving prospective new students a sneak peek at our upcoming musical. Students performed with energy, commitment and enthusiasm, truly showcasing what we are all about here at Ercall Wood Academy.



Flash mob!



Upcoming Event

Ercall Wood Academy Dance, Drama and Music students have been hard at work rehearsing for our next school production, 'Matilda The Musical', the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company is inspired by the beloved book by Roald Dahl. Ticketing details to follow!

See Miss Davies for details.



• Student showcase...

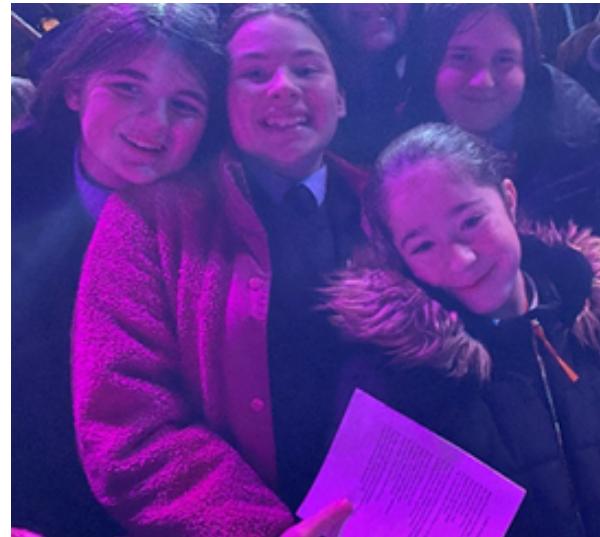
As a special reward for our Performing Arts students, we arranged a trip to see 'Cinderella' at Telford's International Centre. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience professional performers on a professional stage, while also getting into the festive spirit. Students watched in awe as the magical pantomime came to life, featuring fantastic songs, dazzling dance routines, stunning scenery, beautiful costumes and amazing special effects. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

Spotlight on...

MUSIC

Choir performance at Festive Gardens

Over the term the school choir has steadily increased in numbers and volume and they have been very busy during this festive season performing at many occasions. After a week of rehearsals and concerts we turned out one more time on a very cold, dark Friday evening to join other schools for the Festive Sing in Southwater. This event, organised by Telford and Wrekin Music Service, required the students to learn and rehearse 6 festive songs and to be part of the massed choir singing for the opening of the Festive Gardens in the Chelsea & Maxell Gardens in Telford Town Park. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and the smiles on their faces say it all! A lovely way to finish a week of concerts.



Choir performance Festive Gardens

LCT Trust Choir Concert



A small group of students from the Academy were selected in September to be part of a new and exciting opportunity: to join the new LCT Trust Choir. Our group of 8 students came together with students from the primary and secondary schools in the Trust to form our first Trust Choir. The students have shown great commitment and should be commended for their participation in joint rehearsals, attendance at our own school rehearsals and the practise that they have completed at home in their own time. These rehearsals culminated in two performances, the first at Ercall Wood's own character awards evening and the second; a night to remember: the very first LCT Choir concert where the choir performed four joint pieces along with individual school pieces. What a sound! The strong lyrical melodies accompanied by luscious alto and tenor harmonies filled the room and were met by a standing ovation from parents, carers and Headteachers from all schools. Congratulations to our students.



Extra Curricular

We are delighted that we have had a recent increase in students wishing to have lessons on an instrument through school. Telford and Wrekin's dedicated team of music teachers provide weekly tuition on a variety of instruments in pairs or small groups.

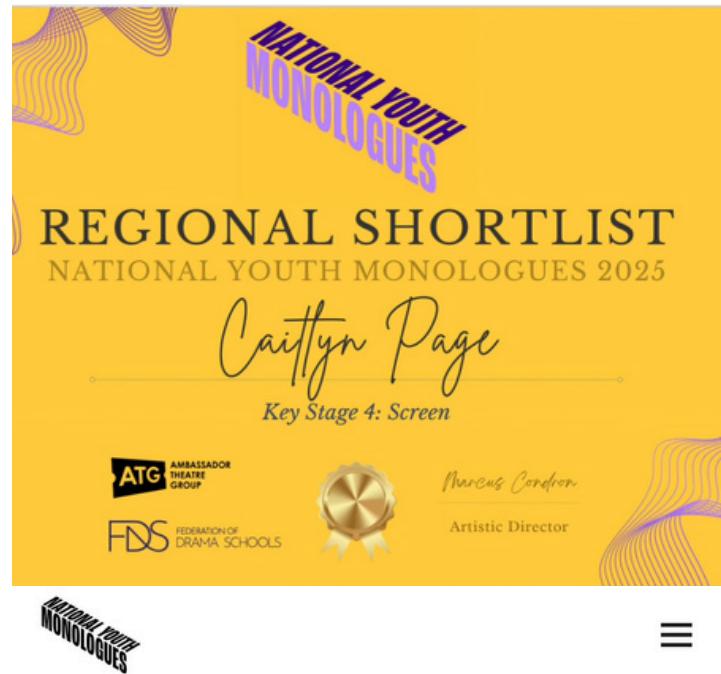
See Miss Bradburn for details.

Spotlight on...

DRAMA

Student Spotlight...

Year 11 dramatist Caitlyn Page recently entered the National Youth Monologues 2025 competition. Caitlyn's monologue was selected for the Regional Shortlist meaning judges considered it amongst the best speeches from the region and in contention for the National Final. Caitlyn's performance was selected from thousands of entries, congratulations Caitlyn!



Upcoming Event

Drama rehearsals are well underway for our school production of 'Matilda the Musical' with students displaying dedication and commitment.

Drama Club returns in the new year! All welcome!

See Miss Bowater for details.

Screen
Alfie Brown
Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre
Amelia Mendis
DGGS
Anika Shah
North London Collegiate School
Blaine Conneely
Skegness Academy
Caitlyn Page
Ercall Wood Academy
Edward McCrum Tredinnick
Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre
George Elder
New Rickstones Academy
Iris Vinti
Light Hall School
Isabella Leasor
ArtsEd
Louis Maria
Etonbury Academy
Maddie Gravel
Trinity Academy
Oluwadarasimi (Dara) Olunloyo
North London Collegiate School
Rupert Willoughby
Radley College
Sophie Rawlings
Thomas Knyvett College

Spotlight on...

PERFORMING ARTS

On 10th December, Dance, Drama and Music came together to entertain the community at their yearly Winter Showcase. It was a fabulous evening that allowed everyone to truly get into the Christmas spirit. Students wowed the audience with their incredible skills across all areas of the performing arts, presenting a mix of festive Christmas numbers alongside performances to their favourite songs. It was amazing to see so many students take to the stage, and they were a true credit to our school.



Winter Showcase



Extra Curricular Performing Arts clubs:

Monday: Drama Club

Wednesday: Rock School & Dance Club

School Musical Production rehearsals - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

See Miss Davies for details.



Community Christmas

On 16th December, Ercall Wood Academy welcomed residents from the local community to be entertained by our wonderful Performing Arts students. The students performed a range of festive pieces to truly get everyone ready for the big day. From 'Fairytale of New York' to 'All I Want for Christmas', our students sang, danced and played instruments with great enthusiasm. Well done to everyone involved!

Spotlight on...

GEOGRAPHY

In the Autumn term our wonderful **year 11** geographers completed their second fieldwork data collection at Trentham Gardens in Stoke-on-Trent. Students investigated if the regenerated site has improved the social and environmental opportunities in the local areas. Students got to learn about the site and its background history in their lessons at the academy, before going to visit Trentham Gardens to collect their data on how the regeneration has impacted the site. Students undertook different data collection methods looking at land use, the popularity of the site and spoke with members of the public to further consider if the site's regeneration has been a success. Our students spoke confidently to members of the public and their conduct on the day was fantastic. Some of our students even had a few minutes to collect some of their data from Santa's sleigh.



Trentham Gardens



• KS3 Curriculum

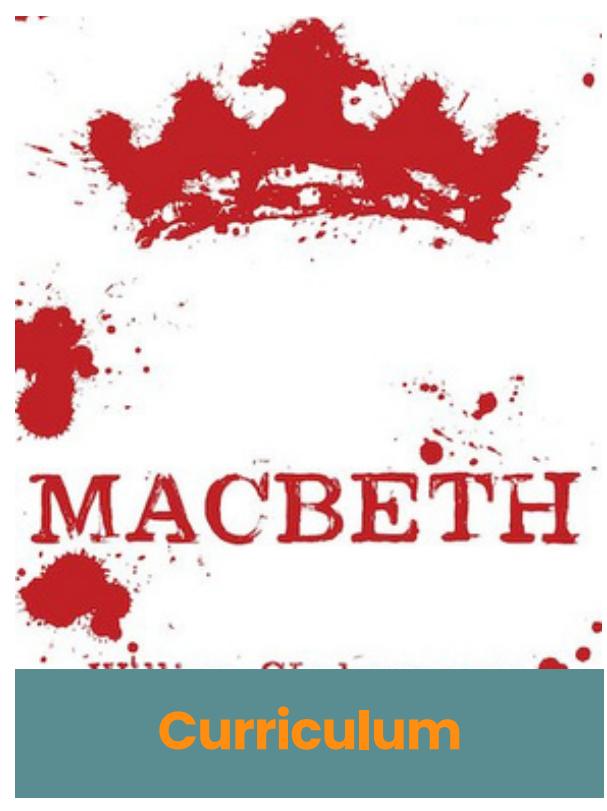
This term our **year 7** geographers have been studying the fascinating topic of global tectonics. Students have learnt about volcanoes and the process of eruption. As part of our enrichment opportunities, Miss James tasked some of her students to produce a volcano and we have had some fantastic entries, showing lots of care and dedication in their projects. There were four fantastic winners Oliver, Frimpong, Henry and Petru.



Spotlight on...

ENGLISH

In Autumn term, English students begin at the earliest point of literary heritage studied at Ercall Wood Academy, as part of their chronological sequencing of the curriculum. All year groups have been engaged in their study of William Shakespeare – **Year 7** have judged whether Shylock is an outsider in Merchant of Venice; **Year 8** have analysed tragic love in Romeo and Juliet; **Year 9** have evaluated the impact of the supernatural in The Tempest and **Year 10** have begun their GCSE Literature course with the study of Macbeth.



Extra Curricular

Students this term have been given an exciting opportunity to take part in the Young Writers competition – ‘Stranger Sagas’. The top prizes for this competition are £100 in Amazon gift vouchers and a chance to become a published writer. We have been overwhelmed with the number of students who have chosen to take part in this competition. As a result, we have sent off a record number of entries. The engagement for writing has been wonderful and we are therefore going to host more writing competitions throughout this academic year.

• KS4 Curriculum

Year 11 – Mock Exam Outcomes

We are incredibly proud of all Year 11 English students. They have shown maturity, commitment and dedication to both their English Language and English Literature mock exams. There is a clear culture of ambition and drive throughout the year group in English, as seen through: attendance to intervention sessions, dedication in lessons and independent revision at home. All the English department would like to congratulate our superb students on their successful results in the recent mock exams. We are looking forward to supporting you on your final race to the GCSE exams from January, we are predicting a very successful year for all our students!

Year 10 – Speeches

Year 10 have been busy writing their speeches for their upcoming Spoken Language Endorsement as part of their English Language GCSE. Students will be completing their speeches after the Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to hearing the topical and interesting issues chosen by students. Furthermore, this is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate oracy and demonstrate superb public speaking skills, please encourage students to practise their speeches over the Christmas holidays to prepare for this element of their GCSE.

LITERACY

Year 7 students have been enthused this term to have been given an opportunity to choose a reading book from a selection provided by the reading initiative - 'Bookbuzz.' Once decisions were made, students delighted in receiving their new book which is for them to keep and read. It was great to see the buzz that was created for books and reading. Some students are being encouraged to read these at the start of lessons whereas others might choose to read their book over the Christmas holiday. If your child has received a book, please encourage them to pick it up and read, read, read!



READING FOCUS



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair arrived to Ercall Wood Academy for a week in Autumn term. This was a great opportunity for students to browse the books on offer and purchase, if they wished to. It provided an opportunity to talk about and celebrate reading across our school community.

• Book Donations

We have a wonderful new addition to Ercall Wood Academy – a school library. This term, we have added amazing artwork to the walls, and it is already becoming a valued space for students who wish to borrow books for their own reading.

To further improve this space, we are going to be asking for book donations next term that we could use to add to our library space. If you are having a tidy up over the Christmas holidays or know of anyone that has surplus books, please consider donating them to our school so we can further widen the amount of books available to students in our new library space.

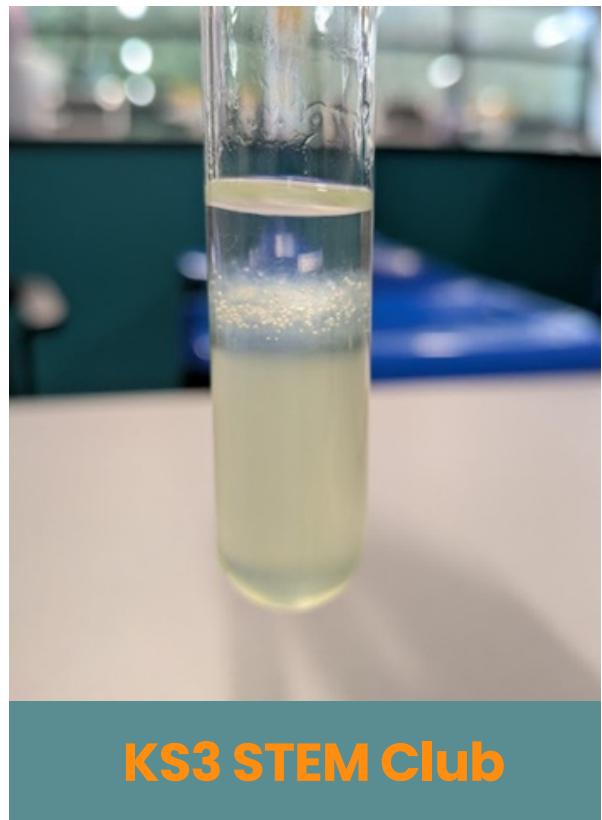
Have a wonderful Christmas holiday, from Team English.

Spotlight on...

SCIENCE

We have launched a brand new STEM Club in our new building this term. It is open to all of KS3 and is well attended. This term they have made slime, extracted DNA from fruit and tested Mrs Claus' cookie recipes.

We also had a session with the Lab Rats, our reward session for our best scientists. Our Lab Rats are nominated by their class teacher based on their effort and enthusiasm in lessons. This half term, the Lab Rats made cardboard cannons to knock down towers of cups.



KS3 STEM Club



• Curriculum

In lessons, our **Year 8** students have been introduced to sound and light waves and our **Year 10** students have been studying the deeper explanations of waves using ripple tanks to measure frequency and wave length.

Year 11 have been learning about electricity in Physics including the properties of static electricity.

Spotlight on...

PE

It's been a great term in the PE Department with the students braving some wintery conditions to achieve well in the core Football and Basketball units they have been studying. The assessment results clearly indicate that students have developed their motor skills and have become competent in applying them in a range of game-based scenarios. It has been especially important to see students using key terminology when providing feedback and coaching tips to their peers. The newly introduced observation and conversation sheets have allowed staff to demand even higher quality verbal responses, building a wider and more fluent understanding in the process. In Basketball, it has been nice to see students improving their tactical knowledge and awareness.



Extra Curricular

Club Calendar...

The Ercall Wood Academy PE Department runs a wide range of extra curricular clubs. Look out for our new timetable of opportunities from January 2026 and see how you can get involved. All are welcome!

See Mr Furlong for details.



Many students have also tried our Outdoor and Adventurous activities lessons for the first time. The new unit has been well received by students who have excelled in their problem solving, orienteering and team building skills. We are hoping that this will develop further and will also include a core part of the OCR Sport Studies offer at key Stage 4. This term, a group of **Year 11** students went climbing near Shrewsbury and really impressed instructors with their appreciation for Health and Safety and their positive words of encouragement for their peers.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Principal's Commendation

The Principal's Commendation was awarded in a special celebration breakfast at the end of term for those students who have continued to work on their character charter even though they have already achieved their ERA badges demonstrating aspirational attitudes.



Literacy Ambassadors

During National Libraries Week Mr Singh and our Literacy Ambassadors visited local primary schools to celebrate. Students shared stories and reading recommendations with primary pupils and discussed reading at secondary level.



Prefects

Our Charity prefects have been busy this term coordinating chosen charities for the academic year 25/26. Students have opted to support Macmillan Cancer Support and Hilbrae Rescue Kennels.

A range of fundraising activities will take place throughout the year to raise funds for these worthwhile causes.

Year 9 and 10 Charity Days ran in December. Tutor Group 10 Green successfully completed a Rowathon Challenge covering a distance of 104,500 metres - the distance from Ercall Wood Academy to Sheffield!



CHARACTER EDUCATION

CHARACTER AWARD FOCUS

One of the highlights as we reached the end of a fantastic term, was the celebration evening for our 'Respect' Awards. Over 200 families came to see their loved one be awarded the coveted 'R' badge in gold or silver. For all of our **Year 7** and **Year 9** students, it was the result of a terms worth of work completing the tasks we assigned in September.

Students had to provide evidence of demonstrating that they understood the fundamentals of 'Respect' including how they present themselves, their learning and their equipment. The whole academy focused on 'Integrity' in the first half of term. This was extended during the next focus on 'Empathy', the second component of our 'Respect' focus. Students explored different points of view, shows of kindness towards others and appreciate that others need help and support. It's amazing to see young people so committed to being a better citizen, a better student and a better person. We all hope this work will bring them opportunities in the future.

Many **Year 8** and **Year 10** students have now secured their badge after narrowly missing out last year. A distinctive feature of our character framework is that opportunity to keep striving for things even if they allude you at first attempt. It's almost the whole point of developing your character.

Our final week of term culminated in the Principal's Commendation breakfast. This was for those who achieved all their badges last year but have continued to work independently towards a higher level of commitment and understanding linked to each of our values. These prestigious awards are celebrated by many families who can proudly say that their child has gone above and beyond to develop the skills needed to overcome barriers, to unlock opportunities and to reach their full potential.

It all starts again after Christmas with new values, new tasks and new opportunities. Our Character Framework continues to grow from strength to strength and remains a key part of what makes the academy distinctive and successful. Character matters and will always be championed at Ercall Wood Academy!



Spotlight on...

MATHS

In October, 7 of our brightest **year 10** pupils entered the LCT's first Maths feast. The competition was hosted at New Road Academy and was run, and designed by Christine Watson from Worcester University. Pupils team working, problem solving, logic, and mathematical abilities were all tested.

Lily, Charlie, Oliver, Zoheb, Alicja, Alimat and Tinsley did Ercall proud with fantastic effort, particularly their problem solving. Hopefully all students involved will be aiming for a career in Mathematics!



LCT Maths



Further Maths

On 11th November 2025, our **Year 11** Further Maths students attended the Maths Inspiration: Maths in the Real World show at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham. The event featured fascinating talks from Ben Sparks on The Sacred Geometry of Chance, Matthew Scroggs on Maths at the Video Game Arcade, and Ayliean MacDonald on Maths and Art.

A highlight of the day was when our very own Jay was invited on stage to help demonstrate the famous birthday paradox, discovering that with just 23 people there's a greater than 50% chance two will share the same birthday!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring day, showing our students the beauty and creativity of maths beyond the classroom.

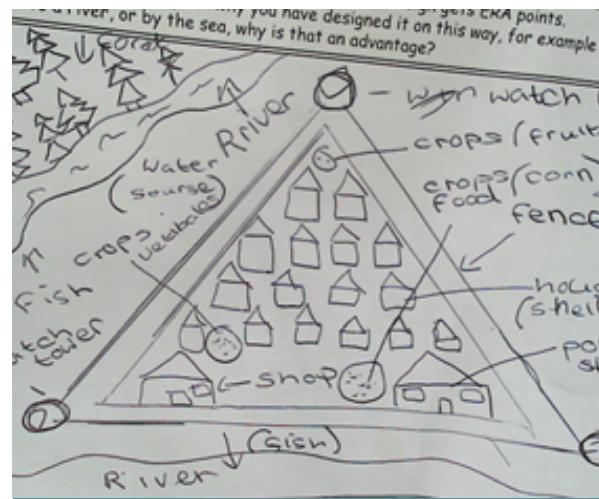
Spotlight on...

HISTORY

Year 7 have settled in fantastically well to Ercall Wood Academy and have been exploring the very foundations of Britain with a look at the raiders and migrants who lived on this island before the Norman conquest.

We then went on to learn about the Norman conquest and how William of Normandy changed England to take control.

We had a lot of fun acting out the feudal pyramid!



KS3 Curriculum



Extra Curricular

Independent revision is essential so please take some time over the holiday to plan how you will tackle your revision next year. If you would like to purchase revision guides.

See Miss Evans for support.

• KS4 Curriculum

Year 10

We have made a really positive start to the course we have covered the history of migration and empires from 790 to around 1800 so far. This is a huge swathe of history with so many changes and differences in culture and the students have taken it all in their stride. We have also launched our new supported revision preparation with **year 10** and it has been a huge success. Everyone has engaged with it and made some fantastic resources which will support their learning this year and all the way up to the final exams in June 2027!

Year 11

We are so proud of our year 11 mock results, everyone is working so hard and we are definitely on the final leg of the course now. We have just started learning about Elizabeth I and we all agree that it is our favourite unit so far!

Spotlight on...

MFL

Cross-curricular trip to Munich – 26th-29th March 2026.

We are excited that our Year 10 GCSE students of German and History will be taking part in a joint Trip to Munich from 26th to 29th March 2026. This enriching four-day visit will bring their classroom learning to life.

Students will take part in an insider Third Reich-themed walking tour of Munich, exploring key locations. They will also visit the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, a powerful and reflective experience that supports their studies of the period.

The itinerary includes time at the Olympia Shopping Centre and the Allianz Arena, offering opportunities to practise their German language skills. The group will then travel to Nuremberg to visit the Documentation Centre and former Nazi Party Rally Grounds, followed by the Memorium Nuremberg Trials, where students will learn about the post-war pursuit of justice. We believe this special trip will provide students with meaningful insights into Germany's history, culture, and legacy, supporting both their language learning and their historical understanding.



KS3 Curriculum



Languages Department Celebration

The Languages Department are super proud of our GCSE Germanists, who have performed amazingly well in their recent mock examinations. Their hard work, resilience and dedication have truly paid off.

This **Year 10** cohort is one of the strongest we have had, and we are delighted to see their enthusiasm for language learning shining through in both their results and their classroom work.

Well done to all our German students — we are very proud of you!

Spotlight on...

ETHICS

New Learning Resources

This term we've introduced a series of new booklets designed to support students in developing a deeper understanding of ethical and religious principles and themes. These resources aim to make learning more accessible and interactive, helping students apply their ethical and religious learning to real-world situations.

Curriculum Enhancements

To better meet the needs of our learners, we have updated and enriched the ethics curriculum. These changes focus on critical thinking, oracy and discussion-based learning, and practical application, ensuring students are well-prepared for the complexities of modern society.

Year 7 have been looking at Ethics and morality – themes of what is right and what is wrong and how we learn this – ‘Where do we learn our moral compass?’

Year 8 have been looking at small religions such as Paganism, Cao Dai and Shintoism.

Year 9 have been looking at one of the themes at GCSE Religion Crime and Punishment, considering what a crime is and the different methods of punishment, whether punishment works and how some religion's view criminals.

Year 10 have begun the GCSE course, and I am really pleased with their enthusiasm. So far, we have covered Islam Beliefs and Practices, and they have recently sat a full paper on Islam, results to be given back to them very soon!

Year 11 have been hard at work on their Mock exams these last few weeks, but since September they have now completed all the content for paper 1 - Christianity and Islam, Beliefs and Practices. They have 2 more Themes from paper 2 to cover, ‘Religion, Relationships and Family’ and ‘Religion, Peace and Conflict’, then we are on the road to revision. Well done them!!

Looking Ahead

Our goal is to create an environment where students feel confident exploring ethical and religious issues and developing their own informed perspectives. We look forward to working together to make ethics an engaging and meaningful part of their education.



KS4 Curriculum



REWARDS



AUTUMN TERM LEADERBOARD

Winners	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Most merits overall	Ehman Mehmoond	Alfie Hissey	Aneeq Ahmed	Keegan Mcallister	Alfie Breeze
Most Empower Merits	Scarlett Hemmings	Amelia Dayus	Denisa Bianchin	Jake Young	Millie Khan
Most Respect Merits	Amelia Worrall	Arlo Duce	Harley Goodwin	Kiyara Wepola Pathirannehelage	Theresa Dankwah Fosu
Most Aspire Merits	Holly Winnall	Ben Chadderton	Finlay Langard-Brown	Kaiden Westlake	Thomas Cowan
Form with most merits	7 Purple	8 Turquoise	9 Blue	10 Yellow	11 Blue
Form with best attendance	7 Orange	8 Yellow	9 Red	10 Blue	11 Silver

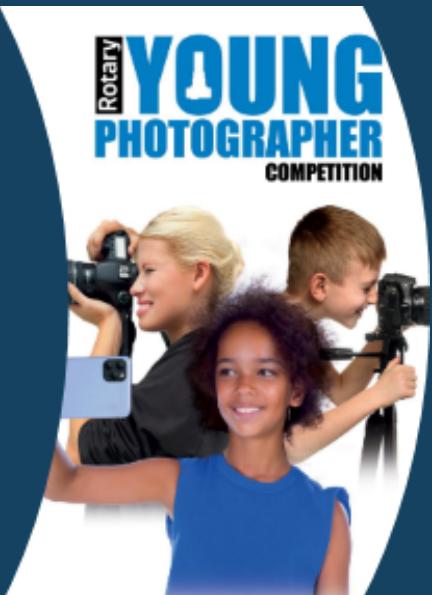
Spotlight on...

ART

It's been another jam-packed term in the Art department, with some fantastic work being produced by students in lessons, for homework and in clubs. Thank you to all those who are regularly doing their homework to a high standard and those who are attending art and photography clubs, it's lovely to see how everyone expressed themselves in different ways using different materials. Students are taking time to observe and use tone to a great standard.



Extra Curricular



Photography entries for the Rotary Young Photographer Competition have been coming in thick and fast; we have had some very talented photographers take part so far from all year groups. We shall keep you updated on student progress in this exciting national competition.

• Student celebration

Year 10 student Saffy Middleton attended Wolverhampton Art Gallery in the Summer to work with local mixed media artist Caris Jackson. Saffy produced a fantastic collage which has is currently on display at Wolverhampton art gallery. Congratulations Saffy!



This artwork is part of a nine-piece Visual Arts Trail across Wolverhampton, co-created by young people and artists through hands-on workshops.

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been some great results for our Football Teams with the following teams making it to the Quarter Final stage of competitions.

Year 7 boys

Year 11 boys

Year 9 boys

Year 9 girls

Year 7 beat Langley 6-1 in a notable performance. Not to be outdone by the younger students, **Year 11** boys also put five past Lakelands in the Presidents Trophy.

Of all the great results this term, we have to mention the **Year 9** girls team who scored 13 without reply against Madeley in the District Cup. Incredible.

Our **Year 7 and 10** Netball Teams also remain unbeaten. We have enjoyed enormous success in the Winter League and have been grateful for the student helpers that have made lots of Netball possible. Whether its umpiring, scoring or generally supporting, the assistance goes a long way. Thank you!

NATIONAL DODGEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



This term has seen incredible results in the National Dodgeball Championships. Our team goes from strength to strength and came third overall after some incredible displays of skill and agility.

INTERHOUSE COMPETITION

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Inter-House Dodgeball tournament.

We had 130 students participate and after a hard-fought battle on the dodgeball courts, the results were:

1st Place - Farah - 16 Points

2nd Place - Burrow - 14 Points

3rd Place - Storey - 10 Points

4th Place - Ennis - 8 Points



A great example of the competitive fun that we are looking to drive with the House Competitions.

Spotlight on...

BUSINESS



Year 11 Brave the Dragon's Den!



Extra Curricular

Ercall Wood Academy is proud to announce that our participation in the Hope House £50 Challenge has raised a total of £565.89 which will help Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith care for babies, children and young people who have life-threatening conditions. A huge well done goes to our Charity Prefect team and a thank you to all who supported their fundraising efforts!

Our **Year 11** Enterprise and Marketing students have been stepping into the world of real-life business this term as they prepare for their Cambridge National R069 – Promotion and Branding coursework. One of the most exciting (and nerve-wracking!) parts of the unit is their Dragon's Den style pitch, where students must present their business idea to a panel of "Dragons" acting as investors.

Over the last several weeks, students have been working hard to develop their own product concepts, conduct market research, and create promotional strategies that would stand out in a competitive marketplace. From logos and brand identities to full promotional campaigns, each group has shown impressive creativity, teamwork, and determination.

The Dragon's Den pitch gives students the chance to bring their work to life. They must sell their idea, justify their decisions, explain their target audience, and persuade the Dragons that their product is not only viable but worthy of investment. Presentation skills, confidence, and clear communication are key, and it has been fantastic to see students practising their pitches, refining their slides, and rehearsing their key talking points.

Our panel of Dragons will be looking for:

- ✓ A strong, well-researched product concept
- ✓ A clear brand message and promotional strategy
- ✓ Professional presentation skills
- ✓ Evidence-based answers to challenging questions

We are incredibly proud of the effort and professionalism shown by our Year 11 cohort so far. This experience not only prepares them for their R069 assessment but also gives them invaluable insight into the world of business pitching, an essential skill for entrepreneurs, marketers, and future leaders.

We wish all our young innovators the very best as they step into the Den. Good luck, Year 11 - you've got this!

CAREERS

BAE Systems Roadshow

On 5th December students in **year 7** and **year 8** took part in the BAE systems roadshow delivered in partnership with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Artificial Intelligence (AI) was the theme, in which pupils had the opportunity to control an AI dog - Lexi, and use AI to produce a song with a music video, whilst also highlighting the dangers of a deep fakes. The highly interactive roadshow also discussed the role of different engineers and the use of AI within the Armed Forces.



ROYAL ARMY



On Wednesday 10th December pupils who study Health and Social Care in **year 10 and 11** took part in a workshop run by the Royal Army Medical Services. The pupils learnt all about the different medical careers within the Armed forces, which routes to follow, and the salary they would expect to earn. Pupils also had a look at different medical kit used and had a go at applying a tourniquet and responding to a casualty.

On Thursday 11th December Year 11 pupils had an assembly from Telford College, to explain the different qualification routes available. The new centre at Station Quarter, called Telford 6th, is still in construction, and pupils will have another opportunity to find out more about Telford 6th and the new A levels, in the new year.

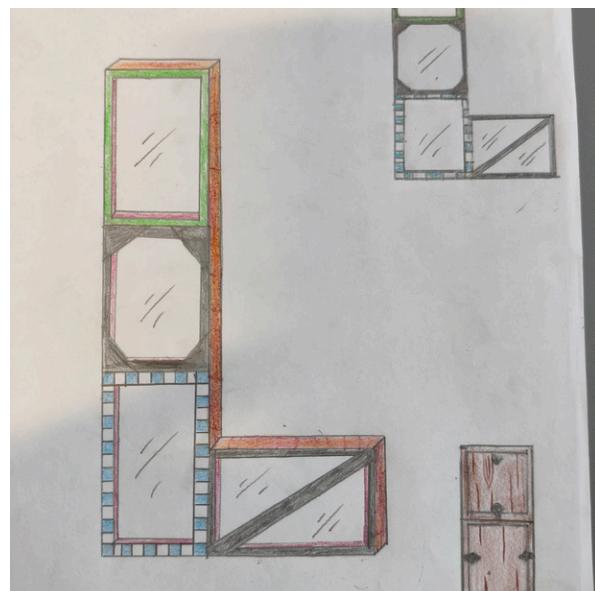
**TELFORD
COLLEGE**

Spotlight on...

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design Technology has had an exciting change in **Year 10** this term, where we have decided that this year's 10's will be our first group through a new course, Engineering Design.

This begins a new exciting chapter and we are looking forward to seeing how everyone progresses. The work so far is looking promising, skills are developing fast.



KS3 Curriculum



Extra Curricular

Product Design club runs on Mondays after school and is becoming increasingly popular, which is fantastic to see. Currently there's a strong Christmas decoration theme.

See Miss Phillips for details.



• KS3 Curriculum

KS3 students are also well into their projects now making:

Block bots in **Year 7**, this project has been reintroduced this year to give students practice on their basic woodworking skills and creativity Pewter keyrings in **Year 8** where students are now using sand casting to produce a 3D keyring, practicing their metal working skills

USB lamps in **Year 9** where they are now working on laser cutting alongside their wood working Design Technology is also working with Food Technology to produce some table settings for Ercall Wood's Christmas party, we hope they'll bring a smile to our guests. They're corktastic!

Spotlight on...

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Key Stage 3

During the Autumn Term our Key Stage 3 students have been very busy in the kitchen developing new skills and reinforcing skills from last year.

Year 7 have been learning basic skills in the kitchen which include safety and hygiene, knife skills and safe use of the cooker, and have made fruit salads, a toasty snack and apple crumble.

Year 8 have been focusing on sweet treats, making a selection of rock cakes, biscuits, cookies and a Swiss roll, all of which involved them carefully following a recipe to ensure a good quality product.



KS3 Curriculum



Extra Curricular

The Baking Club is growing from strength to strength, open to KS3 students and runs for an hour after school on a Wednesday, the aim is to have fun, allow students to develop a love of baking and socialise with people they may not normally be with. Students have been making cakes, biscuits, pizzas, Chow Mein as well as pasties.

See Mrs Taylor for more details.



• KS4 Curriculum

Year 10 students have started their first year of their GCSE course where they have been focusing on macronutrients and their function in the diet, producing a range of dishes which include all the necessary nutrients needed for a healthy diet.

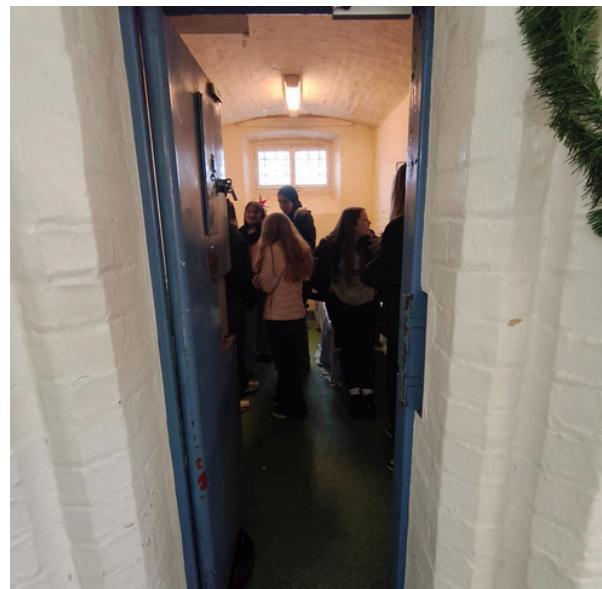
Year 11 students have completed their first piece of NEA coursework where they were looking at - Investigate the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and methods when making sweet or savoury muffins. They are now working on their second task which will lead to a three-hour practical exam at the end of January.

Spotlight on...

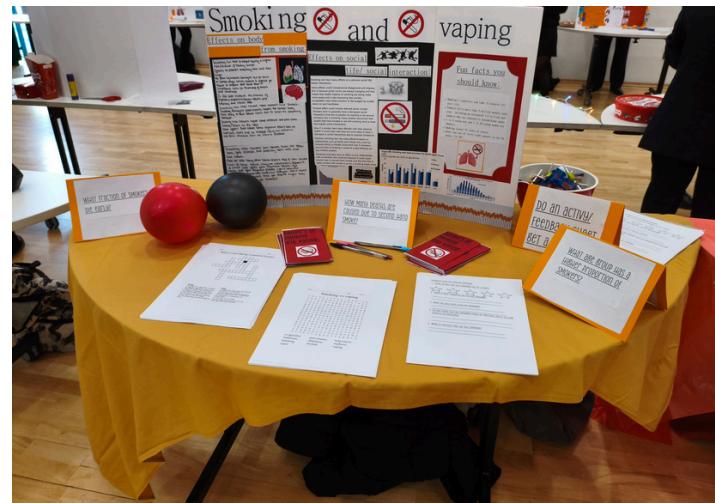
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

This term Year 11 Health and Social Care students went on a trip to Shrewsbury Prison to look at how prisoners receive the correct range of health and social care rights and values in such a tricky environment. We also took part in the escape cells which was lots of fun!

Year 10 Health and Social care students Alicja and April also supported the annual food bank drive by collecting all the donations from the tutor groups. These were all donated to 'Telford Crisis Support' who do an invaluable job supporting the community.



Curriculum Visit



Extra Curricular

Could you help?

Do you work in the health or social care sector? We are always looking for individuals who can come into one of our lessons to talk about their job and give students an insight into that career. If you would like to help please email becky.phillips@lct.education

• KS4 Curriculum

Health and social care Year 11 students completed a 'Health campaign' where pupils from other classes were able to view lots of information about a range of health problems. There was a fantastic standard, variety of stalls and a huge amount of effort put in. Well done all involved!

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety:

As we head into the Christmas break, we appreciate students will have more free time to spend away from home or online. Some of you may already use apps to monitor your child's whereabouts or online activity, however, please see below a list of recommended apps you may wish to consider:

Parentaler
Family Link
Microsoft Family Safety
Life 360
Find my Kids



WELLBEING



Right help at the right time

Family Hubs will be running drop in sessions during the school holidays, these can be accessed at:

Hollinswood - Tuesdays
10am-12 noon.

Southwater Library-
Wednesdays 9.30am- 12.30.

The Hub Newport Thursdays
10am- 12 noon.

Contact: 01952 385385

SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have any concerns over the safety and welfare of a young person during the Christmas break you can contact Family Connect 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).

Parents and Carer Support: Being a parent/carer is never an easy job and many times we are faced with situations that catch us off guard, leaving us questioning have we made the right choice for our child. Telford and Wrekin Family Hubs have an extensive offer for parents and carers all year-round including parenting support, links with Strengthening Families and plenty of information ranging from health, SEND, and finances to education.