

SPRING 2026

NEWS BULLETIN

ERCALL WOOD ACADEMY

www.ercallwood.co.uk

Principal's Address

I felt it important to begin my address by reflecting on the recent guidance for schools regarding mobile phones. This has been a topic which has gathered traction in the media with schools nationally including those local to us at Ercall Wood Academy engaging in a range of strategies to address. The guidance is clear and outlines 'all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, prohibiting their use throughout the school day including breaks and lunchtimes'. I am keen to address this sensibly recognising the guidance but also not over engineering a solution as I am aware that as parents/carers students having access to a device on their journey to and from school is essential. My stance for now is clarity that all phones must be switched off and in bags for the duration of the school day, including social times. Phones will not be used as a learning aid in any form and should not be used to "check the time" or consult student's timetables. We will be communicating with students that in respect of mobile phones we will operate a "see it, hear it, lose it" stance, should we see or hear a mobile phone these will be confiscated immediately as per policy and will not be returned to the student, instead these will only be returned to parents/carers at an arranged time within 48 hours. As with all new guidance it is important we communicate our stance clearly with all stakeholders, but we also ensure that we are constantly reviewing our approaches in line with the desired impact. I thank you all in advance for your support with this matter and reinforcing our expectations with your children.

Please could I encourage all parents and carers who visit the academy or drop off/pick up from the school to ensure that we are mindful of our wider community when parking cars, this includes ensuring that disabled bays are only used by appropriate blue badge holders. Many thanks in advance for respecting this request and ensuring our community can work harmoniously together.

This half term we have celebrated Careers Week and enjoyed welcoming in a number of external providers including former students to discuss a range of careers and opportunities our students may wish to explore in their future. Many thanks to all the staff who worked diligently to provide these opportunities and many thanks to those local businessmen and women who gave up their time to visit the academy and inspire our students. We are committed to ensuring students can access positive post 16 destinations and have contact with a range of industries so they can make informed choices in their futures. We look forward to ensuring this continues throughout the academic year.

Sporting prowess has continued throughout this half term with successes across Swimming, Football, Netball and Cricket to name a few. Well done to all involved, the students have represented the academy with pride showcasing the perfect partnership of hard work and talent. Special thank you to our PE department who braved the weather conditions weekly to ensure our students have these opportunities to participate.

Children's Mental Health Week has been recognised, celebrated and reflected on during this half term with a key focus of Children's Mental Health Week being the concept of fostering a positive sense of belonging; with this in mind each day at the academy we have focused on a letter to make up the word PLACE.

Monday- P- People- Who are the people in the world who makes us feel safe, who we can trust and who make us feel recognised and appreciated.

Tuesday- L- Like/Love- What is it we like doing that makes us feel good and is positive for all aspects of health, who do we love and who makes us feel loved and cared for.

Wednesday- A- All about me- What is unique about you that makes you wonderful, we should celebrate our differences and be united in how together we are team.

Thursday- C- Community- What does community mean to you, the idea of community is different across the globe but big or small having solidarity in our community and knowing our community will always support allows us to be strong.

Friday- E- Empower- How can we make a difference in our lives and the lives of others, what can we set our mind to accomplish and feel amazing with that sense of achievement.

Thank you to all the staff and students who have united throughout Children's Mental Health Week but also throughout every week to ensure we create an environment at Ercall Wood Academy where all can thrive.

N Murphy
Principal



Academy Crest

The Ercall Wood Academy crest represents unity, leadership, and shared values expressed through strong heraldic symbolism and house colours. The shield brings together the houses of Ennis, Burrow, Farah, and Storey, each contributing unique strengths while standing equal within a single community. The colours signify growth, wisdom, courage, ambition, excellence, and resilience. The open book, crown, and sword imagery reflect learning, responsibility, justice, and honourable leadership. The white doves with an olive branch emphasize peace, integrity, and respect. Anchored by our values, Empower, Respect, Aspire, the crest embodies a commitment to personal growth, mutual respect, and striving for excellence together which is at the heart of all we do at EWA.

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School Production

Rehearsals and preparations for Erccall Wood Academy's production of 'Matilda' have been well underway this half term. Tickets for performances on 3rd, 4th and 5th March 2026 at 7pm are now available from ParentPay.

House Competition



Highland Cow photographed by Bailey Edwards.

We received an overwhelming number of entries to our house photography competition, with students demonstrating real talent. The 17 internally shortlisted photographs will be presented to Wellington Rotary Club who will select their winners and submit them to the final round of judging in the Rotary Young Photographer Competition 2026.

Congratulations to Bailey, Mia, Ethan, Mollie, Jess, Tommy, Amelia, Scarlett, Elbie, Taylor, Lola, Oscar, Erin, Willow, Petru, Eva and Harry!

Upcoming Events:

- 2nd -7th March - National Careers Week
- 3rd/4th/5th March - School Production 'Matilda'
- 5th March - World Book Day
- 20th March - Comic Relief

Sporting Success

A huge well done to all students involved in recent sporting activities, with standout performances across multiple events. Our KS3 swimmers delivered an excellent showing at the HLC gala, achieving an impressive 12 wins on the day, with Alessio winning every race he competed in by significant margins – an outstanding achievement. The whole team demonstrated fantastic effort and attitude throughout. Congratulations also go to our Year 10 OCR Sport Studies students, who have led high-quality sessions for Years 7 and 8 over the past few weeks, delivering engaging and effective lessons. Finally, thank you to the 50+ students who represented their houses in handball; after two competitive competitions, Burrow claimed the overall victory across KS3 and KS4, with Ennis and Farah joint second and Storey in third, rounding off a fantastic afternoon of sport and sportsmanship.

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).



Telford and Wrekin

FAMILY HUBS

Right help at the right time