

SPRING 2026

ERCALL WOOD ACADEMY

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NEWSLETTER



Principal's Address

As we reach the end of another successful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect and express how incredibly grateful I am to serve as Principal of such a remarkable school community. It is a privilege to work alongside our inspiring students, dedicated staff, and supportive families. Together, we continue to build something truly special, and once again, I find myself in awe of the young people who make our academy such a vibrant and exceptional place. Our shared commitment to our core values of Empower, Respect, and Aspire is evident in all that we do.

This term has seen an extensive and highly impactful focus on careers education. We firmly believe that equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to shape their futures is essential. Our careers fair was a standout success, bringing together a wide range of employers and providing students with invaluable insights into the world of work. It was fantastic to see students engaging so confidently, asking thoughtful questions, and beginning to visualise their own pathways.

In addition, our Key Stage 3 work experience week was a tremendous achievement. We were delighted to welcome visitors from a diverse range of industries into school, giving students meaningful exposure to different career opportunities. Alongside this, a number of carefully planned trips and visits further enriched students' understanding of future pathways. These experiences are vital in helping our students to Aspire and to feel truly Empowered to manifest their ambitions.

One of the undeniable highlights of the year has been our outstanding musical production of Matilda. The talent displayed by our students was simply exceptional, and we are immensely proud of every single individual involved. However, what makes this achievement even more special is the dedication, resilience, and hard work that took place behind the scenes. This production was a true reflection of our values in action, students supporting one another with Respect, striving for excellence, and showcasing what can be achieved through commitment and perseverance.

Principal's Address

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise our Year 11 students, who continue to demonstrate outstanding commitment to their studies. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination they are showing as they approach their final examinations. I would like to thank both students and families for their dedication during our second round of mock exams. This is a crucial time, and it is essential that students carefully reflect on feedback and use it to strengthen their performance as we move closer to the summer GCSEs.

We fully recognise that this period can feel challenging, and at times overwhelming, but I want to reassure both students and families that they are not alone. Our staff are here to support every step of the way, whether that be through academic guidance, pastoral care, or simply being there to listen. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns; working in partnership is key to ensuring every student can Aspire and achieve their very best.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting summer term planned, filled with further opportunities, events, and achievements that we cannot wait to share with you. In addition, we are thrilled to be developing plans to enhance our school environment, ensuring that our facilities reflect the high-performing academy we are - one in which all students feel inspired, supported, and able to thrive. As Principal, I am delighted to warmly welcome our new Year 6 students and their families who have been successfully allocated a place at our academy for September. This is an exciting milestone, and we are very much looking forward to supporting each student as they begin the next stage of their educational journey with us. At our academy, we are fully committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and empowered to achieve their very best. We also recognise that transitions can raise questions, and we encourage any prospective families or students who may still be considering their options to get in touch with us directly. Our team is always happy to discuss placements and provide guidance, ensuring that every young person receives the support they need to thrive.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable Easter break. Thank you, once again, for your continued support and commitment to our school community. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 14th April, ready to embrace a successful and fulfilling summer term.

Mr N. Murphy,
Principal.

Important Dates:

- Monday 13th April - PD Day, school closed to students
- Thursday 16th April - Year 10 Family Consultation Evening
- Monday 20th April - Year 8 PGL trip
- Thursday 30th April - Year 8 Family Consultation Evening



Spotlight on...

DANCE

Thomas Telford Dance Festival

At the end of January, our extra-curricular dancers took part in the Thomas Telford Dance Festival, performing alongside schools from across Telford. It was a wonderful celebration of dance, providing students with the opportunity to showcase their talent while also appreciating the creativity and hard work of others.

The students from Erccall Wood were absolutely fantastic, performing their routine to 24K Magic by Bruno Mars with energy, precision, and commitment. Their performance was a true reflection of their dedication and enthusiasm for dance.

We are always incredibly proud of what our students achieve, and this was once again a brilliant showcase of the exceptional talent within the Dance department at Erccall Wood. A sincere thank you to Thomas Telford for the invitation and for organising such a fantastic event.

BCDH Dance Careers Day

At the beginning of January, KS4 dancers attended The Black Country Dance Hub's Annual Dance and Careers Event at Walsall Arena. It was an inspiring and engaging experience for all students involved, giving our KS4 Dance students the opportunity to connect with professional artists, performing arts colleges and universities, as well as industry professionals. The event provided valuable insight into future training and career pathways available through the study of Dance and Performing Arts.

Throughout the day, students took part in a wide range of activities designed to both challenge and motivate them. The practical dance workshops, led by professional organisations, offered a real taste of industry practice and allowed students to develop new skills within a supportive environment.

The Marketplace was a particular highlight, providing students with the opportunity to explore a variety of courses, workshops, and performance opportunities. The question and answer sessions helped students gain a deeper understanding of the different routes available within the dance industry.

Students also benefitted greatly from meeting working artists, current students, lecturers, and representatives from dance organisations, colleges, universities, and dance companies. These interactions helped to make potential career pathways feel more accessible and achievable. Overall, the event was highly successful in inspiring students and broadening their awareness of opportunities within Dance and the performing arts sector. It was a pleasure to take our students to experience such a valuable and enriching event.



Dance Festival



Spotlight on...

MUSIC

Ercall Wood's singing group, have this term, joined with Lichfield Cathedral School and other schools in Telford in preparation for a fantastic evening of music at 'Telford Sings'. Students participated in two workshops with a professional singer where we were treated to a host of fun warm up activities that tested not only our vocal skills but also our memories and aural perceptions. Through Laura's fun and professional delivery, we learned the repertoire for the Telford Sings evening performance. The final evening performance took place on March 24th. Our excellent singers performed brilliantly, showing their abilities, their confidence and their professionalism.



Telford Sings

Spotlight on...

DRAMA



EWA Dramatists were treated to a performance from visiting industry professionals, Theatre Centre this term.



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...

PERFORMING ARTS

Matilda Jr the Musical

This term, the Performing Arts department were delighted to present their production of Matilda Jr. On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of March, 70 students from across Years 7-11 delighted audiences with a show filled with energy, creativity, and an infectious sense of joy that captivated the audience each night.

Every student involved demonstrated remarkable dedication and teamwork. The cast delivered confident and engaging performances, bringing their characters to life with enthusiasm and charm. The musical numbers were performed with impressive energy, timing, and unity, reflecting the many hours of rehearsal and commitment these students devoted.

Equally commendable was the work of the students supporting the production offstage. From set design to lighting and sound, the attention to detail and professionalism shown by all involved contributed significantly to the overall success of the show.

What stood out most was the strong sense of unity among the group. With 70 students working together, the production showcased collaboration at its very best. Each individual played an important role, and together they created something truly memorable.

We are incredibly proud of everyone involved. As teachers, it was a genuine pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated group of students. This musical is one we will remember for many years to come.

Matilda Jr.



Spotlight on...

GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 geography students recently took part in an engaging practical lesson using rock identification kits to explore the fascinating world of geology. During the activity, students examined a variety of rock samples, learning how to identify key features such as texture, colour, and mineral composition. Working in small groups, they used identification charts to classify rocks into the three main types: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The practical encouraged students to think like geologists, carefully observing each sample and discussing their ideas before reaching conclusions. The hands-on experience helped bring classroom learning to life, allowing students to apply their knowledge in a practical setting. Many students said they enjoyed the opportunity to handle real rock specimens and develop their investigation skills.



KS3 Geography



• KS3 Curriculum

Year 8 geographers have been currently looking at settlement this term, classes took part in a decision-making activity where they had to choose the best location for a new settlement. To do this, they used an OS map and carefully considered environmental factors such as relief, water supply, transport links, and the risk of flooding. Students also used four-figure grid references to identify and compare possible locations. This activity helped students to think critically about environmental factors and build judgements and arguments about their selected site building debate skills.

scribes where the settlement is in relation to other settlements
the natural features of the surrounding area!

Exercise: Where will you choose to settle?

Figure grid references
den rule: Along the Comer, up the stairs.

Resources	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
Water	1	2	1	4
Grazing land	3	1	4	3
Crop land	4	1	5	1
Fuel supply	1	1	5	1
Building materials	2	1	4	3
Protection	3	3	1	3
Flat land that doesn't flood	5	2	2	5
Total score	19	11	22	17

Grid reference of the best site to settle: 64, 32

Grid reference of the worst site to settle: 71, 25

In my opinion I believe that site B is the best site because it is by a river which can be used for fishing for food. It is also close by roads which can be helpful for transport. The high land can be helpful for protection and land that is flat. However a disadvantage to this is that the site is near a river, which could have a chance of flooding.

Spotlight on...

ENGLISH

Young Writers Competition

Budding writers from Yr.7 to Yr.10 were inspired to be creative this term and entered the Young Writers competition – ‘Wicked Sagas.’ This was a national competition with thousands of entries so it was exceptional that 35 of our talented students were selected to be published. The amount of entries chosen, is a credit to the young writing talent that we have at Erccall Wood Academy. All published writers were awarded a certificate and will be published in the Young Writers ‘Wicked Saga’ book. We can’t wait to read their mini sagas in the published book, which will be on sale very soon across book stores! Congratulations to all our published students – a copy will be available in the academy soon!



• KS4 Curriculum

Year 11

A notable success this term has been the preparation, revision and determination of our Year 11 students. They have sat their second round of mock exams this term and have been preparing for these with: revision flashcards, attending revision sessions, completing practice papers and taking ample revision notes. A particular credit to the dedication of students was the excellent attendance to breakfast intervention, which was held the morning of the English Literature and English Language mock exam. These sessions were an opportunity for students to share their quotations and to foster a revision culture before the exam. Well done to everyone who attended the morning interventions; the revision efforts were a credit to you all.



LITERACY

This term, the library has continued to go from strength to strength. Our chess sessions, held on Mondays and Thursdays, have been well attended and provide a great space for students to build strategic thinking skills. We've also seen a noticeable increase in book borrowing, reflecting a growing reading culture across the school. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation from our local Wellington Library, which has helped us expand and refine our collection. The library now boasts a carefully curated selection of over 800 books, offering something for every reader. Please do keep the donations coming they make a real difference!



READING FOCUS



Upcoming Events

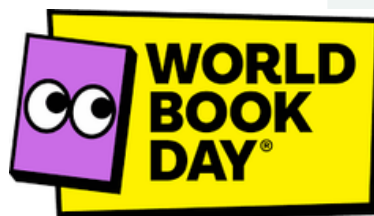
Looking ahead, next term will bring exciting opportunities, including a summer reading and writing competition. We look forward to seeing even more students get involved.

See Mr Singh for more information.

- **World Book Day**

World Book Day 2026 was a fantastic celebration of reading and creativity here at Erccall Wood Academy. Staff fully embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as a wide range of literary characters, and students thoroughly enjoyed trying to guess who was who, from a mysterious raven to a brooding Byronic hero, and even a dramatic jilted bride. The buzz around school was brilliant to see, with conversations about books and characters taking centre stage.

Students were also given both physical and digital book tokens to exchange for this year's World Book Day titles, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to take home something new to read. In addition, many students showed enthusiasm in taking part in the national World Book Day token design competition, demonstrating both creativity and a love of literature.



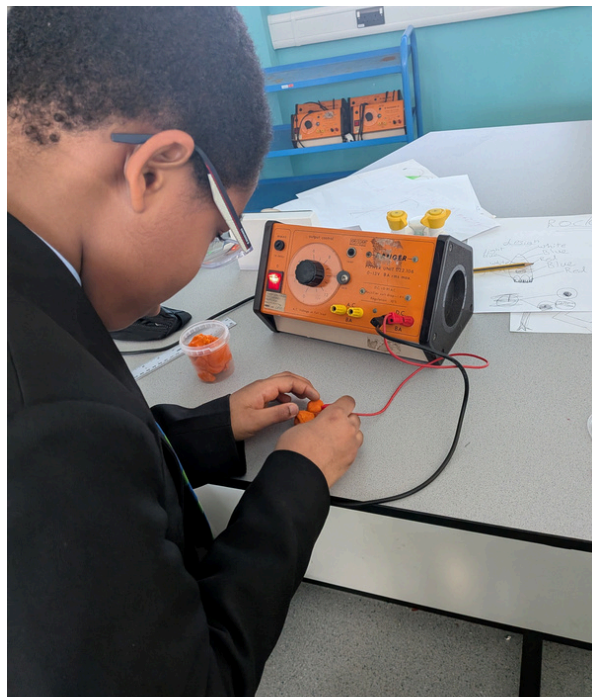
Spotlight on...

SCIENCE

• Curriculum

Students have been continuing to develop their understanding of the scientific world by exploring key concepts through practical work. Students in Year 10 have been developing their scientific skills in practical tasks including electrolysis and other chemical reactions. Electrolysis is a core practical for the GCSE exams and allows students the opportunity to link their current knowledge to prior learning about the reactivity series.

Students also took part in British Science Week, they all had a science quiz to complete on Satchel One and we had almost 500 students successfully complete the quiz. House points have been awarded to all successful students, and the top prizes will be coming soon. Also, as part of British Science Week students have been producing a poster on the topic of curiosity. The winners in each category will be announced after the Easter break.



KS3 STEM Club

Extra Curricular

STEM club have been continuing to meet and have done a series of experiments including making electrical circuits using salt dough. The salt in the dough will allow electricity to pass through it and they could check this as it would light up a LED bulb.

STEM club will be continuing next half term, please come along to Miss George's room after school on Wednesdays.

Advance notice – after Easter we will be launching the first Erccall Wood Science Fair. Look out for more information from your class teachers!

Spotlight on...

PE

PE has continued to thrive this term, with students showing great effort and enthusiasm across activities. The boys have performed particularly well in badminton, demonstrating strong skill development and teamwork. The boys also completed outdoor adventure activities whilst the sports hall was out of action. Girls have excelled in handball with impressive progress and competitive spirit. After half term, the girls will begin their rounders unit, and the boys will move on to athletics.

Our Year 10 OCR Sport Studies students are coming to the end of their first unit, with the final stage focusing on completing their action plans and log books.

Meanwhile, Year 11 OCR Sport Studies students are nearing the end of their course and have recently completed their mock exam as they prepare for their final assessments.



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 for Summer 2026 and see how you can get involved. All are welcome!

See Mr Furlong for details.



Ercall Wood Academy students were fortunate to be involved in the 'Schools Inclusion Event 25/26' at The Cavalier Centre in Much Wenlock recently. Students participated in a range of activities including Cricket, Pony Care, Team building and Silhouette Dance!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Oracy Ambassadors

Year 10 Oracy Ambassadors have been appointed to this new role this half term following a rigorous selection process. Students will work to support our whole school focus on developing oracy, look out for them at upcoming events! Our congratulations go to: **Gifty, Eva, Isabelle, Caitlyn, Harry, Riley, Aadi and Maya!**



Student leadership continues to go from strength to strength, with the team meeting every two weeks and also once each half term with Mr Murphy to share ideas and drive improvements across the school. Recent discussions have included brainstorming creative ideas to name the new science block.

Our Equality and Diversity Prefects have been busy designing a poster for the Culture Exhibition, which will be used within school and shared with local primary schools. Performing Arts Prefects played a key role in supporting the recent school production of Matilda, while Literacy Prefects have worked closely with Mr Singh to re-stock the library in preparation for primary engagement visits in the summer term. Anti-Bullying Prefects have also been proactive, creating a poster and PowerPoint presentation that will be shared during assemblies and displayed in MRB. Our Charity Prefects have supported numerous events and we are pleased to announce a total of £628.82 was raised toward Comic Relief 2026.

House Captains

It was fantastic to see our House Captains supporting the organisation and running of the House Handball competition, demonstrating excellent leadership and teamwork throughout.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

CHARACTER AWARD FOCUS

It was our absolute pleasure to award over 100 EMPOWER badges at our recent celebration event. Proud families were in attendance to see their loved ones pick up the coveted silver or gold badge. For our Year 7 students, it's the second of the set with blazers now starting to fill up with this important visual marker of what success at Erccall Wood looks like. For our Year 9's who have already completed the silver awards, it's was their second experience of being rewarded for completing the EMPOWER set of tasks. Year 8 and 10 students who have needed a second year to collate their evidence and those students who were unable to attend the ceremony, will have their badges distributed in assembly.

The tasks themselves were deliberately designed to be much more challenging than last term. Aligned with the focus on 'confidence' and 'responsibility', they required students to 'dig deep' into their reserves of self confidence. Students have spent weeks demonstrating their capacity to lead, support and raise awareness empathetically. All this terms tasks required a level of selflessness and an ability to go beyond comfort zones. For all those awarded, we should show our appreciation. Next term, students will start working on the Aspire set of challenges with the level of difficulty ramping up again.

The evening itself was opened by our fabulous performing arts students showcasing the amazing talent we have for dance and music, in particular. Following a presentation of what students had been working on, the badges were awarded by Miss Jones and then it was over to families to capture those special photographic memories over some of our generously prepared catering.

Silver E badge winner Behzad in Year 7 commented, "I was very proud to have collected my badge in front of my Mum and Dad. I will definitely be trying by best to get the third silver badge for my blazer".

Character remains a vitally important part of the Personal Development aspect of the work done at the academy. We still believe that it as important as your academic qualifications and when you combine them together, it prepares our young people to follow their lofty ambitions with belief and confidence.

You can find more about all aspects of Personal Development via the academy website.

Our Character Education programme is a distinctive feature of our work and is a great example of what can happen when the whole community works collaboratively.

It couldn't happen without the dedication of students, the support of parents and the generosity of staff' many of whom volunteer additional time to help encourage and celebrate students.

Well done to all EMPOWER badge winners! The Principals Commendation will be awarded to Year 8 and Year 10 students who have gone 'above and beyond' after completing the requirements for the badges. This will happen after the Easter break.



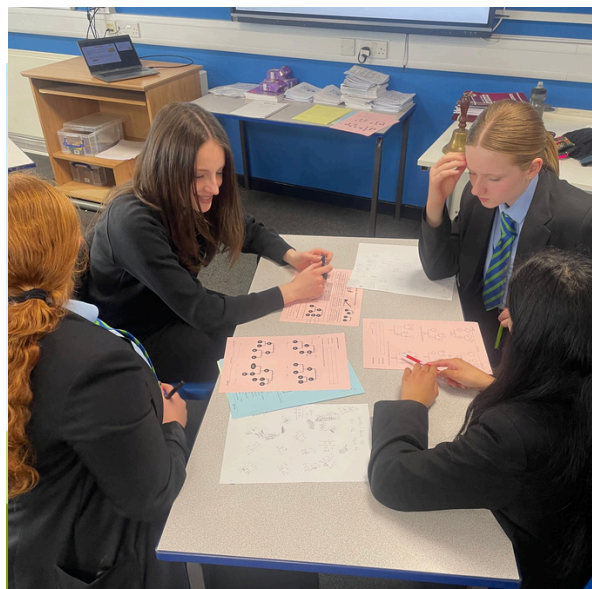
Spotlight on...

MATHS

This half term, Burton Borough School hosted an exciting Maths Picnic event, where Year 9 students Rayyan, Sophie, Erin, Grace, Poppy, Freya, Finlay, and Lexi proudly represented our school.

Competing against other schools within the trust, our students demonstrated strong mathematical thinking, problem-solving skills, and excellent teamwork throughout the day.

As part of the experience, pupils were also introduced to an A Level mathematics concept—pivots—and had the opportunity to apply their newly developed skills in a range of challenges. It was fantastic to see them engaging confidently with more advanced ideas. Although we did not take home the top prize, the group produced some impressive work and embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. We are very proud of their efforts—well done to everyone involved!



Maths Picnic

This term, 60 of our year 9 and 10 pupils took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, a national competition designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency. The challenge features a wide range of questions, most of which are accessible to all students while still offering a level of difficulty that stretches and engages more experienced mathematicians. It provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop careful thinking and problem-solving skills. We are delighted to share that one of our pupils achieved a Silver Award—an excellent accomplishment in such a competitive field. Well done to all students who took part for their effort and enthusiasm in representing the school.



Spotlight on...

HISTORY

Year 7 have been learning about the Tudors and we have just moved on to learn about the English civil war. We have been thinking about how the war impacted ordinary people in England and why Parliament was in conflict with the king.

Year 8 are learning about world war one. This is such a famous period of history that lots of year 8 students already know quite a lot about it. We have learnt why the armies were forced to dig into trenches and how the war contributed to the development of new technologies. We are going to study some of the art and poetry produced by the people who fought next.



KS3 Curriculum

• KS4 Curriculum

This term, **Year 11** historians have been immersed in the high-stakes world of Elizabethan England, navigating the political and religious minefields of the late 16th century. We've focused on how Elizabeth I established her authority through the Religious Settlement and successfully outmanoeuvred threats like the Spanish Armada and the plots surrounding Mary, Queen of Scots.

With mock exams completed, our lessons have shifted gears toward rigorous exam technique based on the results of their exams. Students are mastering the art of the "how convincing" source question and learning to build the structured, evidence-heavy arguments required for the 16-mark essays. As we move toward the final exams in May/June, the focus remains on transforming detailed historical knowledge into top-tier marks.



Extra Curricular

We would love hear about any of our students' family members who have been involved in conflicts over the years. We are all so proud of our service men and women, it would be lovely to see some photos of medals or other mementos of their time.

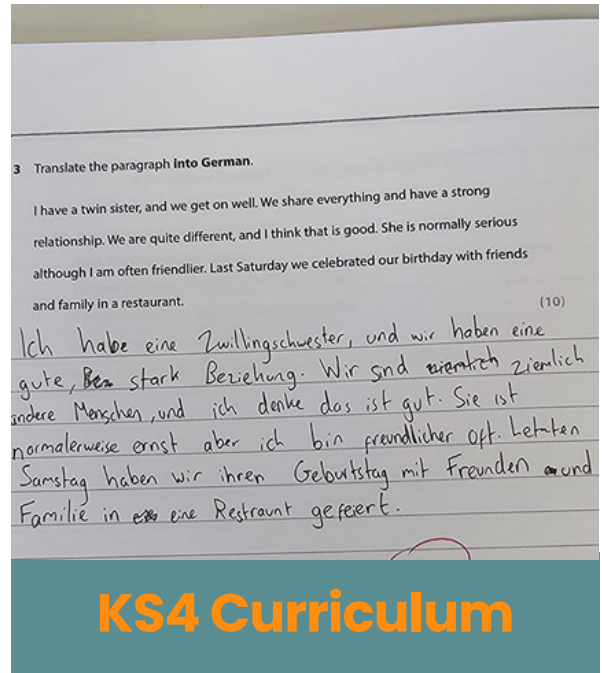
See Miss Evans for details.

Spotlight on...

MFL

We are incredibly proud of our Key Stage 4 students following their most recent round of summative assessments. Our Year 11 students have shown great determination in their second set of mock examinations, with particularly outstanding results from 11/1A: Well done to all students for their hard work and commitment.

Our Year 10 cohort has also impressed us during their midpoint assessments. It has been clear that many students have put significant effort into their revision and preparation, and this is reflected in their positive outcomes.



KS4 Curriculum



Congratulations!

Our congratulations to Miss Bastow on the recent publication of her book, 'Succeeding as an MFL Teacher', available from Bloomsbury.



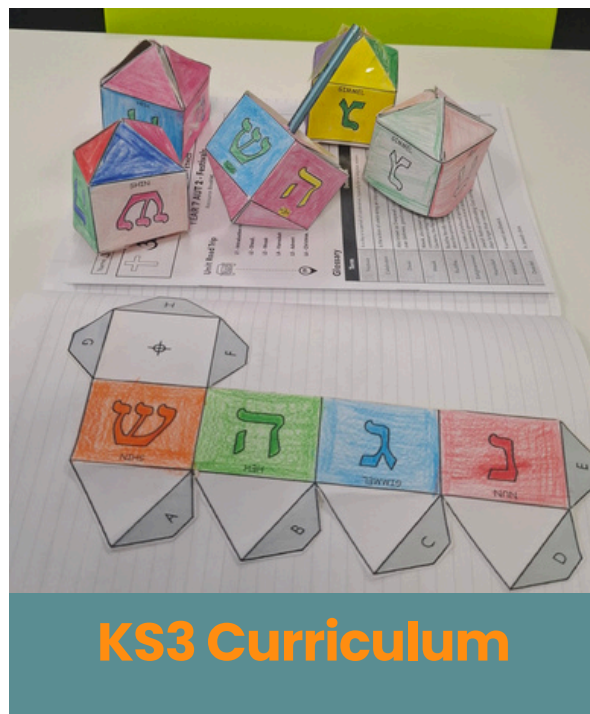
Extra Curricular

We are excited to share that on Wednesday 25th March, we will be departing overnight for our Year 10 German and History combined trip to Munich. We look forward to sharing more news and photos from this experience in our next newsletter: Watch this space!

Spotlight on...

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

This term has been another busy one and I am so proud of all our students. Key Stage 3 have sat their first assessments, and it was so pleasing to see so much progress being made. This was Year 7s first Secondary assessment and I felt that they had really pushed themselves, so well done to them! It's an exciting time for our department, and I'm eager to share some important updates that will enhance learning and engagement for all our students.



Curriculum developments.

Now that we are two terms into the year, the changes that we have made to better meet the needs of our learners can be seen in the progress that the students are making. Having updated and enriched the curriculum, students are more engaged and interested in the topics covered. We have focused on critical thinking skills, oracy and discussion-based learning.

Year 7 have been looking at Festivals – Thinking about the difference between a ‘festival’ and a ‘celebration’. Considering the reasons behind these festivals, the history, traditions and cultures. Whilst learning about the festival of Hanukkah, students had the opportunity to make Dreidels. They were super excited and made some amazing colourful Dreidels.

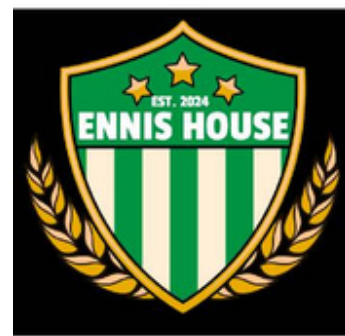
Year 8 have been looking at the religion of Judaism. The importance of the founding fathers, different types of Jewish traditions, practices and Synagogue worship.

Year 9 are looking at one of the themes in Paper 2 of the GCSE, Religion and Life’. Navigating some tricky concepts such as the origins of the universe, where humans have come from, the abuse of the earth and animals and the idea of ‘Dominion’ and ‘Stewardship’.

Year 10 have begun the GCSE course, and I am really pleased with their enthusiasm. This term they have started on the Themes unit of Religion, Family and Relationships. Looking at topics ranging from what makes a family, different types of families, the importance of marriage, what can lead to divorce and gender equality. They will be sitting a full paper on Islam and this theme very soon – results to follow!!

Year 11 has also been hard at work completing the Themes on Religion, Family and Relationships. They are now on their very last topic of the GCSE, Religion and life. We were very lucky to secure some guest speakers in their lessons to talk about the importance of marriage and the vows that Christians take.

REWARDS



SPRING TERM LEADERBOARD

Winners	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Most merits overall	Harry Humphries	Karam Saladdin	Heidi Dowd	Keegan Mcallister	Kate Dilnot
Most Empower Merits	Scarlett Hemmings	Alfie Hissey	Finn Cosh	Robbie Hotchkiss	Laylah Vince
Most Respect Merits	Ehman Mehmood	Amelia Dayus	Finlay Langard-Brown	James Lloyd	Millie Khan
Most Aspire Merits	Jack Park	Gentian Serjani	Raahil Sohail	Gifty Abankwa Donkor	Zoyah Jahangir
Form with most merits	7 Green	8 Turquoise	9 Blue	10 Green	11 Turquoise
Form with best attendance	7 Blue	8 Red	6 Orange	10 Yellow	11 Blue

Spotlight on...

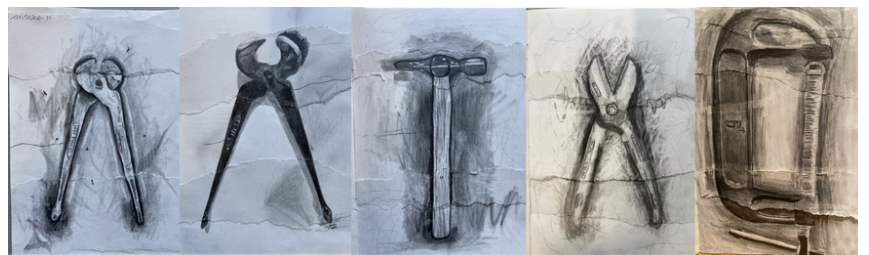
ART

It's been another exciting term for Art students, lots of new skills have been mastered and the final outcomes have been outstanding. Student's material handling, drawing and observational skills and digital photography have all been put to the test this term with wonderful results!

Year 8 students have completed wonderful onomatopoeia Pop Art inspired relief sculptures . They have printed Ben Day dots, thought about layering and composition and created these wonderfully high-quality pieces of work. Well done year 8!



Year 9 students have been on the tools, creating these fantastic drawings in the style of Pop Artist, Jim Dine. Dine found beauty in everyday objects and celebrated the humble tools that are used to create. Students have captured his expressive style with these impressive pencil drawings.



• Student celebration



Future GCSE star Liv Fill
Year 9 student Olivia continues to wow us with her work, she is practising her drawing skills, pushing herself to work on portrait and figures using a variety of mediums. well done Liv, we can't wait to see what you produce for GCSE .



SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Sporting achievements this term have been outstanding, with many teams and individuals enjoying great success. Our U13 and U15 girls were crowned Shropshire Handball Champions, a fantastic accomplishment, while the Year 11 boys and Year 9 girls have once again reached their district cup finals, matching their impressive achievements from last year. The U15 girls also performed brilliantly in netball, taking silver in the Telford and Wrekin competition, and the Year 11 boys secured silver in the Telford and Wrekin basketball competition.



Student Focus

On an individual level, Alessio in Year 8 has had an exceptional year in the pool, being crowned County Swimming Champion for the third consecutive year, winning an incredible 13 gold medals, 4 silver, and 1 bronze. Congratulations also go to Year 7 student Phoebe for achieving her Black Belt First Dan after a gruelling two-day grading process.

INTERHOUSE COMPETITION

It was also fantastic to see over 50 students take part in our House Handball event, with Burrow House emerging as the overall winners.



TRIPS AND VISITS

Students from Year 7 were given an inside the factory tour at Magna Confectionary. The factory produces approximately 95% of the Easter Eggs on sale in the UK, and this year have made close to £140 million Eggs, for most of the major chocolate manufacturers. Robots are used throughout the production line, automated forklift trucks and 3D printers were all seen by the students.

Magna kindly donated a huge Easter Egg which has been raffled at school, to raise money for the academy's charities.



TELFORD SKILLS SHOW

Students from Year 10 and Year 11 visited the Telford Skills Show held at the International centre on Thursday 19th March. Telford Skills Show is one of the largest shows in the region, which gives young people the opportunity to find out more from local employers, training providers, colleges and universities.

Brilliant Club

On Wednesday 25th March, our Brilliant Club students, in Year 10, celebrated the culmination of months of dedication, curiosity, and academic growth with a memorable trip to Manchester. The day began with an inspiring visit to Manchester Museum, where students explored a wide range of exhibits that brought history, culture, and science to life. This provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the themes they had been studying, particularly around identity, history, and cultural significance.

Following this, students enjoyed a guided tour of the University of Manchester. Experiencing the university environment first-hand gave them a real sense of what studying at a leading institution could be like, helping to build confidence and ambition for their futures. The visit was both motivating and eye-opening, bringing their next steps into clearer focus.

This trip marked the final stage of their journey with The Brilliant Club. Over 10 weeks, students have worked closely with their PhD tutor to produce a 2,000-word essay exploring the thought-provoking question: "Who should decide what counts as heritage?" Through this programme, they have developed their ability to think critically, construct arguments, and engage with complex ideas at a university level.

We are incredibly proud of all the students for their hard work, resilience, and intellectual curiosity. Their graduation is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their commitment throughout the programme.

Congratulations to all our graduates—you have truly earned this success.

Spotlight on...

BUSINESS



Enterprise in Action: Students Deliver Professional Business Pitches

Students in the Business Department have recently taken part in an exciting and challenging stage of their coursework which required them to present a professional pitch of their business proposal to an external audience, simulating a real-world entrepreneurial experience. Having spent weeks developing their ideas, from product design and branding to promotional campaigns, students were tasked with bringing everything together in a 10-minute pitch. Their goal was simple but ambitious: convince a panel that their product deserves to be taken to market. The pitches were delivered to an audience that included staff and independent panel members, giving students a valuable opportunity to present in a formal and realistic setting. Throughout the presentations, students demonstrated:

Confident and professional communication

Effective use of visual aids and supporting materials

Strong time management skills

The ability to respond thoughtfully to challenging questions

Persuasive techniques to “sell” their ideas

This task is a crucial part of the course, as it assesses not only students’ business knowledge but also essential employability skills such as public speaking, adaptability, and professionalism. As outlined in the assignment, students must tailor their pitch to their audience and present a compelling case for the success of their product. It was fantastic to see the wide range of innovative ideas on display, from creative product designs to well-thought-out marketing strategies. Many students showed real entrepreneurial flair, confidently justifying their pricing, branding, and promotional decisions. The external panel were highly impressed with the standard of presentations, praising students for their preparation, creativity, and professionalism.

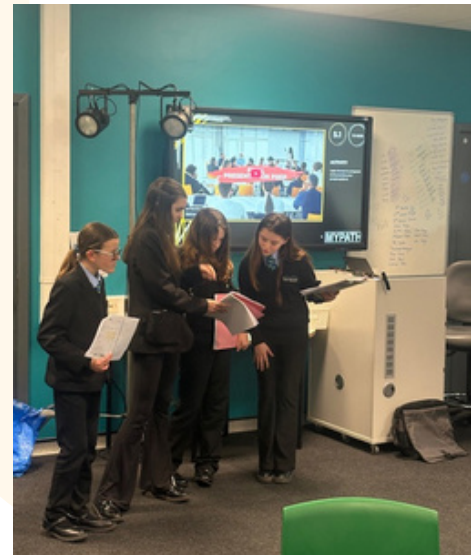
A special congratulations goes to Lois in Year 11, who was selected as the overall winner. Lois impressed the panel with her fantastic business idea, confidence in presenting, excellent rapport with the audience, and a clever mix of promotional materials that worked seamlessly together. One member of the panel, a former Marketing Manager at a leading supermarket, commented that they “would be proud to have Lois in their team” and that she has a fantastic future ahead of her - a truly outstanding endorsement of her performance.

Well done to all students involved - you have taken a significant step towards becoming the business leaders and entrepreneurs of the future!

CAREERS

KS3 WEX week

During the week of careers-based lessons for years 7, 8 and 9, each year group took part in a challenge day. Year 9 were set a design a well being app, which was launched at the start of the day by Fujitsu, Sainsburys launched and set a challenge for year 8s to design a new click and collect system, whilst Year 7 were set a task to design a cyber security awareness game by SmartTech. All three companies explained the different roles within each company, and the apprenticeships available. During the week, there were talks from Wrekin Housing Trust, Staffordshire University, Aber University, Muller and DWP.



CAREERS FAIR



Years 8,9,10 and 11 visited the academy’s careers fair. Thanks to all the local post 16 providers, training providers and employers that attended - Telford College, Shrewsbury College, Walford and North Shropshire college, Nova Training, Landau, Crossbar, Access Sports, Wolverhampton College, Adcote school, Harper Adams University, Army, Navy (Submarine section), Schneider Electric, Paveaways, Lovells, McPhillips, Wrekin Housing Group Plus, Future Focus, Staffordshire University, Riverside Training, Shrewsbury Town Foundation

Luca Drummond, an ex student, visited the Academy this term, to inspire our year 11 pupils to pursue a career at Bentley Motors. Luca left Erccall Wood after his GCSEs to study at Shrewsbury College, for two years, and has then continued on to an apprenticeship programme at Bentley Motors.



Spotlight on...

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

It's all systems go in Design Technology at the moment with all of the KS3 projects getting finished off ready to take home and KS4 finishing off coursework.

- Year 7 students will be bringing home their Block Bot's
- Year 8 students will be bringing home their pewter keyrings
- Year 9 students will be bringing home their lamps



KS3 Curriculum



Extra Curricular

Can you help us?

We are looking for some plant seeds or bulbs for summer flowering plants that we can grow for our planters. Also any garden/planting trays etc you may be able to spare.

See Miss Phillips for details.



• KS3 Curriculum

Craft/Tech after school club are busy producing small items ready for our craft stall at 'Ercall in the Parkall' in the Summer. So far products range from planters to pompom keyrings. If your child is crafty and likes making things at home including knitting and crocheting, please ask them to come see us, we would love them to make some bits for the stall and may be able to help with materials.

Spotlight on...

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

At the start of February, the Year 10 GCSE food group worked on a Ready Steady Cook Challenge set by the Royal Marines, making spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread and brownies and cream. The aim was to encourage teamwork and competition; the students had an amazing time and created some excellent dishes.



KS4 Curriculum



Extra Curricular

The Baking Club is growing from strength to strength, it is open to KS3 students and runs for an hour after school on Wednesdays, 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 and Chow Mein as well as pasties.

See Mrs Taylor for more details.



• Rotary Young Chef District Final

Martha Heap and Erin Eadie participated in the district round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition at Stafford College in February. Sadly, the girls were not placed but they did an amazing job and did the school proud against schools from Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Spotlight on...

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Alicija in Year 10 has supported the pre-loved uniform drive, helping to organise lots of donated uniform which is now available to families in need of extra support.

All pre-loved uniform can be enquired about by emailing: becky.phillips@lct.education, please let me know what you are looking for and sizes you need and you will be contacted regarding availability and prices.



Uniform

Extra Curricular

Could you help us?

Our next collection straight after Easter will be Ercall Wood's first 'Cereal Box Domino Challenge'. This year will see us set a benchmark for how many new packets of cereal we can get donated to complete our domino run. We think this will be a great bit of fun to video our attempt but we need help from you to donate as many packets of cereal as you can. All donations will then be donated to the Telford Crisis Support for their food bank.

See Miss Phillips for more details.



• KS4 Curriculum

Health and social care students have been hard at work in Year 10, coming to the end of their first coursework focus which looks at the life events of an adult in their life. Students have to interview their person to look at how these events have impacted their life and then go on to look at support that this person could have accessed during the event and how they could have helped.

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety:

As we head into the Easter 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:

- Parentalr
- Family Link
- Microsoft Family Safety
- Life 360
- Find my Kids



WELLBEING

SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough | Telford and Wrekin FAMILY HUBS

ARLESTON & WELLINGTON LIBRARY DROP IN'S

ARLESTON
1ST & 3RD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH 1PM-3PM
ARLESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, ST GILES CLOSE TF1 2AB

WELLINGTON LIBRARY
2ND & 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 10-12NOON
LARKWIN WAY, WELLINGTON, TF1 1LX

Come along and meet your local family hubs practitioners. You'll be able to access advice and support around parenting and behaviours, online and community safety, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities), domestic abuse support, financial support and much more.

Translator service on site
Please call 01952 385465 for any enquires

Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough | Telford and Wrekin FAMILY HUBS

FAMILY HUBS EVENING TELEPHONE DROP IN

6:00 - 7:30pm
Every other Thursday until end of April
Every other Tuesday from May

Pre-Booking Essential
To book your time slot please contact 01952 385465

Our telephone drop in offers you support, advice and information to connect you with local organisations and services for your family.
Translator service available

Support we cover includes
Parenting and Behaviour support, Online and Community safety, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) and more

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have any concerns over the safety and welfare of a young person during the Easter 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).