

Eckington School Prospectus



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

Welcome to Eckington School

As both a parent and the Headteacher of Eckington School, I understand the expectations and aspirations we all hold for our children. We want them to feel safe and valued; to develop confidence and resilience and to achieve success both at school and in their adulthood.

Eckington School has made significant improvements over the past few years; these improvements were recognised during our 2026 Ofsted inspection, when inspectors celebrated the school's positive culture, inclusive approach, strong leadership, Sixth Form provision and good behaviour and attendance. We were particularly proud that inspectors stated that, 'Pupils begin the day in a calm and orderly way. They greet staff and one another politely, creating a positive atmosphere from the moment they arrive.'

These improvements reflect the school community we are continuing to build together - one in which students feel that they belong, conduct themselves with respect and are encouraged to achieve their very best.

At Eckington School, we believe that education should be a rich and rewarding experience, not simply preparation for the next stage of life. Our aim is to develop confident, knowledgeable and well-qualified young people who understand the importance of education and the vital connection between strong academic outcomes and future success.

We are an ambitious school, and we expect everyone connected with Eckington to share that ambition.

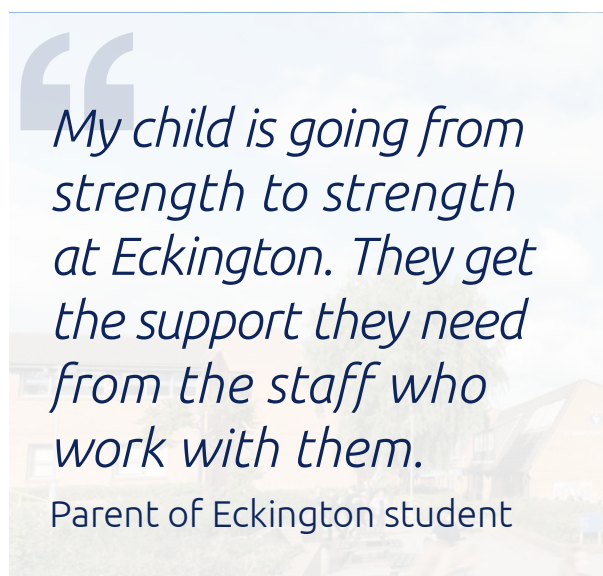
Together, we aim to inspire and support every student to fulfil their potential, whatever their starting point. We want our young people to aim high, challenge themselves and leave Eckington equipped with the qualifications, character and confidence to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Our experienced school leaders, teachers and support staff work closely with students and families to create a strong partnership with one common purpose: to maximise every child's potential.

Our growing Sixth Form offers a wide range of A-level and vocational courses and welcomes students from Eckington and other local schools. It provides a vibrant, inclusive and aspirational post-16 community from which our students progress to university, higher-level apprenticeships, employment and a wide range of exciting future opportunities.

We are proud of the progress Eckington School has made but we remain determined to improve further. By working together and living our values of Ambition, Belonging and Integrity, we will ensure that every student is known, supported, challenged and prepared for a successful future.

Mr Richard Cronin
Headteacher, Eckington School



The Eckington Way

At Eckington School we strongly believe that our ethos and culture is at the core of all we do. Therefore 'Ambition, Belonging and Integrity' is at the centre of all practices in the school, ensuring all students have the best chances of success, and their outstanding behaviour makes this possible.

To support this, we have identified the principles underpinning the 'Eckington Way':

- **Safe:** safety is at the heart of everything we do at Eckington School.
- **Calm:** students are expected to be calm on corridors, in lessons, around school and on school buses.
- **Polite and kind:** students are expected to treat other students and staff with respect and kindness.
- **Prepared:** students are expected to have good levels of attendance and punctuality. Students are also expected to bring the correct equipment to school and wear the correct school uniform.
- **Ambitious:** students are expected to try their very best in all aspects of school life to enable them to maximise their full potential and leave Eckington School with excellent qualifications.



Teaching and Learning at Eckington

At Eckington School, teaching is underpinned by three key principles: Maximising Learning, Supportive Environment, and Expert Knowledge. Teachers use evidence-informed teaching strategies to ensure that every pupil is challenged and supported to succeed. Lessons begin with retrieval activities, such as Do Now starters, to strengthen long-term memory, before moving into carefully modelled explanations, explicit instruction and scaffolded learning. Teachers continually check for understanding through cold calling, mini white boards and deeper questioning, ensuring misconceptions are addressed promptly.

Learning takes place within a welcoming, inclusive and purposeful environment where consistent routines and high expectations enable pupils to feel safe and ready to learn. Positive relationships, mutual respect and clear classroom expectations create a calm climate that supports engagement and achievement. High challenge is combined with warm, supportive interactions so that every learner can flourish.

Teaching is informed by expert knowledge of pupils, the curriculum and effective pedagogy. Assessment and feedback are used thoughtfully to identify next steps in learning, while curriculum sequencing ensures that knowledge and skills build progressively over time. Staff draw upon research, such as the Education Endowment Foundation into how pupils learn, including metacognition and cognitive load, to maximise learning.



Throughout our broad and balanced curriculum, there is a strong emphasis on developing pupils' oracy, literacy and numeracy, providing the essential foundations for future success.

Eckington is a Thinking School, which means that lessons are structured to maximise student thinking and we include opportunities to speak it or write it to deepen understanding, build on foundational knowledge and check their ability to articulate their learning.



A broad and balanced curriculum

At Eckington, we are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that allows every student to excel and be the very best version of themselves. This equips them with the knowledge, skills, and strength of character necessary for success in an ever-changing world and to live exceptional lives.

Our core values are Ambition, Belonging and Integrity. We want to create a culture of excellent teaching and learning is fundamental to our students' growth and development. We pride ourselves on making a positive impact on the personal development of each student, valuing the uniqueness and potential of every individual who walks through our doors. Our dedicated staff work collaboratively as a professional community, ensuring that every student receives the support they need to achieve their full potential.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

During key stage 3, all our students follow a comprehensive programme of subjects aimed at providing them with essential skills in literacy, numeracy, and oracy. Our curriculum includes a wide range of subjects such as art, character education, design technology, drama, English, food technology, geography, history, ICT, mathematics, modern languages, music, physical education, religious education, and science.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

In Year 9, students select their optional subjects for key stage 4, which they start to study in Year 10. Our students have the opportunity to pursue traditional

GCSE courses alongside vocational qualifications. Core subjects include English (English language and literature), mathematics, science, character development, and physical education. All students also study at least one humanities subject (geography or history) or a modern foreign language (French or German). Optional subjects encompass a diverse range including business, product design, drama, fine art, health and fitness, health and social care, hospitality and catering, imedia, media studies, music, performing arts, photography, physical education and religious studies.

The Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)

As an 11 to 18 school, we are proud of the students who choose to continue their education with us into Years 12 and 13. Based in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre, students study from a range of over 20 A-level and equivalent courses. We provide early and on-going guidance to identify post-18 destinations for all our students, and through a strong careers service and guaranteed work experience, we help Eckington Sixth Formers achieve their goals.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our curriculum evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of our students, enabling them to thrive and succeed in a complex and dynamic world. We are committed to fostering a love for learning and personal development, nurturing individuals who are not only academically proficient but also possess the resilience and character required to lead fulfilling and exceptional lives.



Beyond the classroom

We believe that school is more than attending lessons and students should be given opportunities to develop skills and interests outside the classroom. We call these 'enrichment clubs'.

We run an extensive number of enrichment clubs throughout the school year with some during lunch time and others after school. The expectation is that every student will take part in at least one enrichment club per term. This is not a finite list and others will run based on staff availability but some of the activities on offer will include:

- Art
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Book/reading lunch
- Coding club
- Derbyshire Schools' Book Award
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Year 10)
- Football
- Games club
- Greenhouse club
- Netball
- Photography
- STEM club (science)
- Table tennis

In addition to these activities, there are also many student leadership opportunities across the school. Previously students have applied to become student committee representatives, wellbeing ambassadors, anti-bullying ambassadors and house captains. These roles provide students with the opportunity to develop

skills such as resilience, teamwork, communication and organisation.

There will be opportunities for enrichment trips within subjects to enhance the taught curriculum, some of which may be residential. Some trips have included visits to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Etihad Stadium, York Minster and Shambles, Bletchley Park, Civil War History Museum, Chatsworth House, CERN (a residential trip to the the European Organisation for Nuclear Research), Alton Towers and many more.



We want to thank you... we really believe that the trip has been an education for them and it's been great for their independence.

Parent of Eckington student

Care, wellbeing and safeguarding

At Eckington School, nothing is more important to us than the safety, happiness, and personal development of every child in our care. We are committed to providing a nurturing environment where every student can thrive. Our strong pastoral team includes a dedicated year group pastoral support assistant and experienced key phase leaders. Additionally, we aim for every student's form tutor to stay with them throughout their time at Eckington, offering support, guidance, and encouragement.

Safeguarding is at the heart of 'The Eckington Way'. Our trained professionals are always available to support both students and families. We regularly share advice and information to help families support their child at home. By working in partnership with families, we ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn so that they can grow into kind, confident, and resilient individuals with a strong moral compass and 'good character'.

Personal development and life skills

We prepare our young people not just for exams, but for life. Through our carefully planned PSHCE (personal, social, health, citizenship and economic) curriculum, students learn how to stay safe, make wise choices, and confidently navigate the challenges that life can bring, both in school and beyond. Eckington young people learn how to recognise healthy relationships in all aspects of life. They learn how to spot when something isn't right and how to seek help when they need it.

We support Eckington students to dream big. High-quality careers education is woven throughout their time at school, giving them a clear sense of what's possible and how to get there – turning their ambitions into reality.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support Department offers a caring and supportive environment that aims to help all our

Careers education is a strength of the school.
(Ofsted 2026)

students achieve to the best of their ability. Established to help remove barriers to learning, the team is led by the school's special educational needs and disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo), the SEND manager, and other experts including our invaluable team of teaching assistants. The team works closely with subject teachers and external agencies to remove any barriers to learning, allowing our students to become independent and resilient learners. Our provision varies from ensuring we deliver quality first teaching in the classroom, targeted support both in and outside lessons, to long term personalised provision to support students with specific disabilities. Support, wherever it is needed, is individual to the student. It is provided for those students who have significant difficulties in making academic, emotional, and social progress when compared to their peers. The team welcomes enquiries from parents and carers. They aim to work closely with all our families, consulting with them on a regular basis to review and improve the support offered using a personalised support plan for each student.

Leaders have created an inclusive culture where pupils feel understood and supported.
(Ofsted 2026)



Find out more about joining Eckington School

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