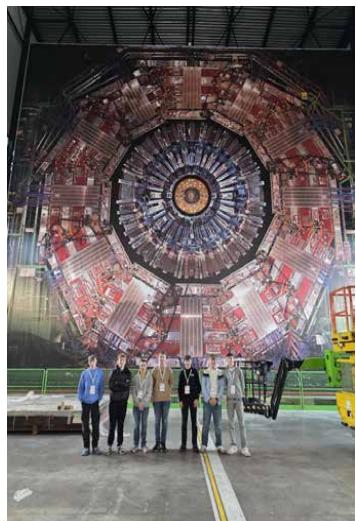


# Eckington School



**COMPLETE**  
CAREERS CAREER MARK

Issue 8

## AUTUMN 2025 WINTER **Newsletter**

Dronfield Road, Eckington, Sheffield.  
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# The Eckington Way



# Headteacher's introduction



**Richard Cronin**  
Headteacher

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I am immensely proud to reflect on what has been a genuinely positive and successful start to the academic year at Eckington School. Since September, there has been a real sense of purpose, momentum and optimism across our community, firmly rooted in our shared motto: Ambition for All. This ambition is not just a slogan; it is something we see lived out every day in classrooms, corridors, on the sports field and beyond.

This term, our three key school improvement priorities have been clearly visible in practice and are already strengthening the quality of education our students receive. Firstly, staff have focused relentlessly on checking students' understanding in lessons. Teachers are making greater use of questioning, retrieval and feedback to ensure that misconceptions are identified early and addressed promptly. As a result, lessons are increasingly responsive, and students are more confident, engaged and secure in their learning.

Secondly, we continue to ensure that our curriculum is ambitious for all learners. This means high expectations, rich subject content and careful sequencing so that all students, regardless of starting point, are supported to achieve their best. Departments have worked hard to refine schemes of learning and assessment, and this is translating into stronger progress and deeper learning across subjects.

Thirdly, attendance remains a major priority because we know it underpins everything else. There has been a clear improvement this term, supported by strong systems, early intervention and positive relationships with families. Our target of 97% attendance for all students reflects national evidence showing that good attendance is closely linked to stronger academic outcomes, better wellbeing and positive social development. Every day in school really does matter.

We are also delighted to celebrate the significant investment from Chorus Education Trust over the summer, including the installation of new external windows. This work has already improved the learning environment and we are excited about the planned programme of continued improvements over the next three years, ensuring our school buildings reflect the high standards we expect for our students.

The Eckington Way continues to shape our culture powerfully. This term, there have been countless examples of kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration shown by our students, who represent the school so well every day.

Educational visits have been another real highlight, with students benefiting from a wide range of enriching experiences, many of which are showcased elsewhere in this newsletter. My sincere thanks go to staff who have given their time and energy to organise these opportunities.

One of the most moving moments of the term was our annual Remembrance event, where the entire school community came together to pay respect. It was an impeccably conducted and deeply respectful occasion, reflecting the maturity and values of our students.

Sport has also been a source of pride, with outstanding individual and team achievements. In particular, our girls' football teams have excelled and will now represent the region in the New Year; a fantastic achievement!

Finally, we are proud to have achieved the Careers Platinum Mark, recognising the outstanding careers education, advice and guidance we provide to our students.

Thank you to our families for your continued support. I wish the entire school community a happy, restful festive season and a successful New Year!

**Mr Richard M Cronin**  
Proud Headteacher  
Eckington School

# Business Manager



**Mrs K Pardoe**

Business Support Services  
Manager

As we approach the final days of the year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the key improvements made across our school during the past year. These developments represent our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, welcoming, and positive environment where all students can thrive. We are very proud of the progress that has been made and remain focused on continuing to improve our school for the benefit of our whole community.

## New Windows Installed

One of the most noticeable improvements this year has been the installation of new windows throughout the school. This work has transformed both the look and feel of the building, making it brighter and more welcoming. Importantly, classrooms are now significantly warmer and more comfortable, creating a better environment for learning and teaching. Staff and students have already commented on the difference this has made, particularly during the colder months.



## Superloos Makeover

We have also completed a facelift on our Superloos. These updated facilities are cleaner, brighter, and much more pleasant to use, which has had a positive impact on students' day-to-day experience in school. Providing well-maintained and comfortable facilities is an important part of supporting student wellbeing, and we are pleased with the improvements achieved.

## New Catering Offering

This year has also seen the introduction of a new catering offer, designed to give students greater choice and variety. We are committed to listening to student voice and will continue to gather feedback so that we can make further adjustments and improvements. Our aim is to ensure that the catering service continues to develop in line with students' needs and preferences.

All of these changes form part of a broader, ongoing programme of investment in our school. We remain focused on improving our facilities and services so that they support learning, wellbeing, and a positive school experience for every student. I will continue to keep you updated as future plans and projects move forward.



Finally, as we come to the end of the year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful, and successful New Year.

# Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education



**Dave Steed**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Term 1 - Celebration

As we reach the end of a truly remarkable Term 1, it's impossible not to pause and reflect on the dedication, ambition, and resilience shown by our students and staff. This term has reminded us all that hard work really does pay off, that determination in the "dark nights" of early mornings and late-evening revision matters, and that ambition - when carried consistently throughout the term - creates a school culture filled with possibility and pride.

We would also like to recognise the journey our staff have taken this term in embedding the latest teaching and learning strategies, including our Thinking School approach. Their dedication to fostering confident speakers, reflective thinkers, and writers who can transform their ideas into clear, coherent communication has been outstanding. Through thoughtful planning, purposeful questioning, and innovative practice, staff have created classrooms where curiosity is encouraged, thinking is visible, and students feel safe and empowered to express themselves. Thank you to every member of staff for your ongoing commitment to nurturing talent and providing a safe, supportive environment where every young person can build, grow, and thrive.

Our PE department has continued to shine as students pushed their limits in a wide range of sporting opportunities. From impressive football victories for the girls in the Utilita Cup to determined performances in cross-country events, their commitment has been inspiring. Year 9 students in particular have shown superb leadership through the 'This Girl Can' initiative - demonstrating confidence, teamwork, and the power of encouraging others. Staff have been on hand every step of the way, coaching, mentoring, and celebrating successes big and small.

Beyond sport, we've seen a wonderful passion for extracurricular learning. Arts Club and Diamond Art Club have flourished, giving students a space to express creativity, find calm, and build new friendships. These clubs - and many others - highlight a powerful truth: learning does not stop at the classroom door. It lives in the passions students pursue and the confidence they develop along the way.

One of the most heartening parts of this term has been the strengthening relationships between students and staff. Every day, we see growth together - through challenges, through achievements, through laughter, and through diversity. This shared journey is what makes our school community so special.

A particular mention must go to Year 11, who have demonstrated incredible drive as they prepared for their mock exams. Their focus, revision routines, and determination to complete all NEAs and exam preparation to the highest standard have not gone unnoticed. The road through exam season is not easy, but their resilience and motivation continue to set an inspiring example for the rest of the school.

With so much to celebrate this term, it's impossible to mention everyone - but every student and every member of staff have contributed to what has been a fantastic start to the year.

And finally, a huge congratulations to Year 7. Your energy, passion, and enthusiasm for learning have been evident in everything you've done this term. Whether it has been through practical work, written communication, or crafting materials to create festive reindeer for Christmas, you have approached every task with a smile on your face and a determination to succeed. You have made an exceptional start to your secondary school journey, and we cannot wait to see all that you will achieve.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Mr D Steed**  
Deputy Headteacher  
Quality of Education

# Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)



**Chris Power**  
Deputy Headteacher

## Term 1 - Behaviour & Attendance

As we round off what has been a busy, rewarding and genuinely rewarding first term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on just how far our students have come. The atmosphere around school has been increasingly positive, and it's been fantastic to see pupils engaging so well in lessons and around the site. I am always proud to walk visitors around our school who all remark on the calm and purposeful atmosphere.

Behaviour continues to improve in all the right ways, and that's down to the hard work, maturity and positive choices our young people are making every day. Between the end of November and early December, we recorded **99 fewer removals from lessons** compared with the same period last year which is

an achievement that really highlights the progress being made. Even more impressively, students clocked up **over 1,500 more "Stars of the Lesson"** than this time last year. These are big numbers, but behind them are real moments of effort, kindness and determination, and we couldn't be prouder.

A big part of sustaining this positive culture is ensuring that every student feels safe, respected and valued. I'd like to remind families that our **Anti-Bullying Thresholds** are available on the school website, and I encourage you to familiarise yourselves with them. We are committed to being a school where **there is absolutely no place for hate**, and we will continue to promote open conversations around respect and inclusion. During Half Term 1, I had the privilege of meeting with a group of BAME students to explore their thoughts and experiences around racism and inclusivity. Their reflections were powerful, honest and incredibly helpful in shaping our whole-school approach. As a result of these conversations, we developed an assembly centred on racism, protected characteristics and Black History Month. These assemblies reinforced our message that we stand firmly against all forms of discrimination. It's something we are proud of and something we will continue to champion throughout the year.

Attendance is another crucial part of our school's success, and I can't emphasise enough how important it is for students to be in school every day. Consistent attendance supports academic progress, builds confidence and helps students stay connected socially and emotionally. I want to give special recognition to the many students who have maintained **100% attendance** throughout the year so far. To celebrate these achievements, we send weekly emails home to congratulate students on perfect attendance, and we look forward to recognising even more students as we move into the new term. Let's keep pushing for strong attendance across the board, as every day really does count.

As we head into the festive break, I want to thank all students, families and staff for their ongoing support, positivity and teamwork this term.

I wish you all a **very Merry Christmas** and a **happy, healthy and restful New Year**.

# Welcome back

Our school grounds looked beautiful as students returned from the summer break.

We've welcomed our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to the Eckington community and hope they have settled in well with the new routines.

Welcome to all our students – it's great to have everyone back!



## Site transformation

### Out with the old and in with the new!

The school is going through a huge transformation at the moment, as the site gains new windows, doors, and fascias.

We are excited for the benefits these modernisations will bring to our staff and students now and into the future.

It is looking fresh and fantastic.



## MND fundraiser

Just before the summer break we had our last non-uniform fundraising day.

We are proud to announce that we raised a fantastic £464.15 on the day in aid of the MND Association.

Thank you to all who donated to this amazing course, we could not be prouder of our Eckington community.



## Y10 Art project

Some of our very talented Year 10 students created a stunning mural for Killamarsh Junior School just before the summer break.

The mural has been created for the children's library and features an oak tree with various well-known characters around it.

Our students had a fantastic time painting this wonderful artwork and have created a welcoming space for the children to enjoy for years to come.

Well done to all involved.



# Year 6 open evening

At the end of September we welcomed primary school students and their parents and carers to Eckington School to show them all that we have to offer.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents and students who came to our event. We hope you found it useful in figuring out if we are the right place for your child.

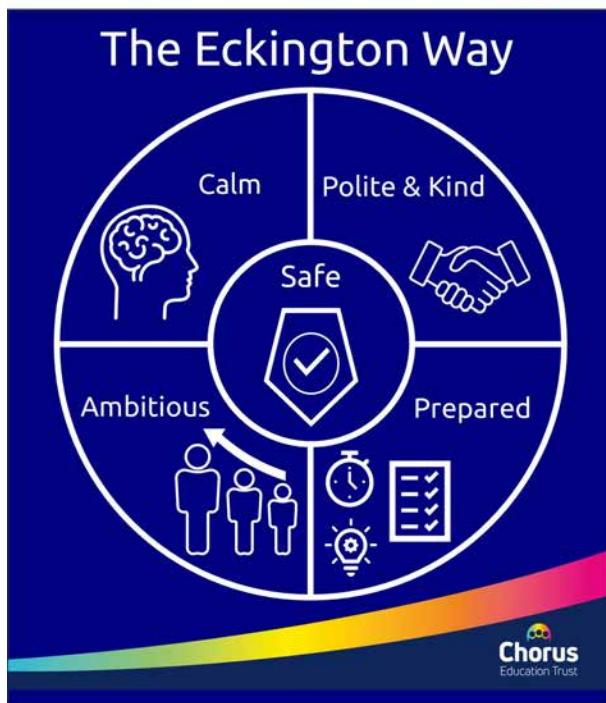
A massive thank you to all our student volunteers who helped show off the school and the subjects in the way only they could.



# "The Eckington Way in Action"

## Eckington School

*Outstanding Achievement for All*



A group of our students showed incredible kindness and maturity when they came to the aid of a vulnerable member of the community who had fallen. They stayed with him, called for help, supported the emergency services, and made sure he was cared for until an ambulance arrived.

Their actions were noticed not only by local residents but also praised by the emergency services for the way they handled a difficult situation with compassion and responsibility.

**"We are incredibly proud of our students for the way they represented themselves and our school. Their kindness, teamwork, and community spirit truly reflect The Eckington Way - Safe, Calm, Polite & Kind, Prepared and Ambitious. They are a credit to their families and to Eckington School."**

**Mr R Cronin, Headteacher**

## School trips

### Art & Photography autumn at Chatsworth

Students and staff were once again treated to the delights of Chatsworth House at the end of October. A group of Year 11 art and photography students made the trip to experience the private art collection of the Devonshire's and the house and grounds to support their GCSE coursework. Although wet and grey all the students made the most of the day.

Chatsworth house holds one of the largest privately owned art collections in the UK. Students were able to see paintings, ceramics and sculptures as they toured the estate looking for inspiration.



# School trips

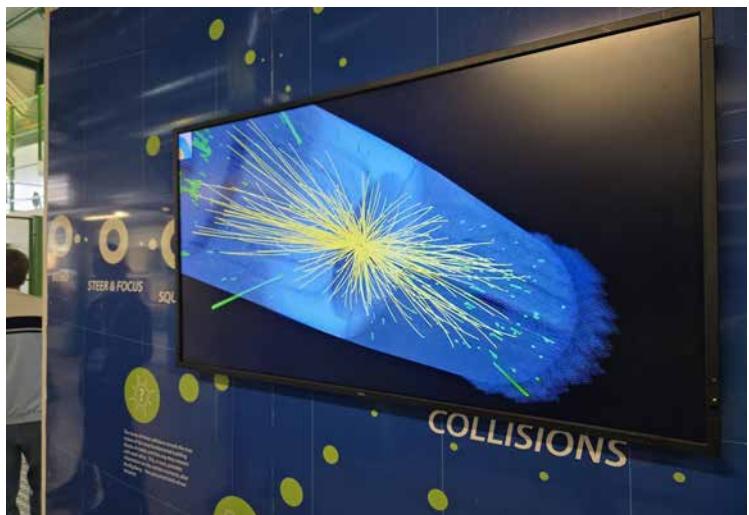
## Students explore science and culture on CERN trip

Earlier this term, our Sixth Form students embarked on an unforgettable journey to CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, located near Geneva. Known as the world's largest particle physics laboratory, CERN is home to groundbreaking experiments that have transformed our understanding of the universe.

The visit offered students a rare opportunity to step inside the heart of modern physics. Highlights included a guided tour of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) facilities, where scientists probe the fundamental building blocks of matter. Students learned about the discovery of the Higgs boson, the role of particle accelerators, and how international collaboration drives innovation in science.

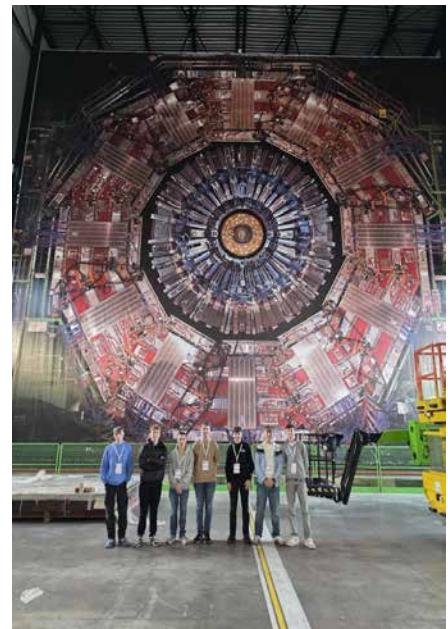
Beyond the scientific experience, the trip also allowed students to immerse themselves in the culture and beauty of Geneva. They explored the city's prominent attractions, including the Old Town, and the United Nations headquarters, while enjoying time to discover local cafés and lakeside views. This balance of science and sightseeing made the trip both educational and enriching.

Reflecting on the experience, many students described it as "eye-opening" and "inspiring," with several expressing a renewed interest in pursuing physics and engineering at university. The visit to CERN and Geneva was not just an academic excursion - it was a glimpse into the future of scientific discovery and a celebration of global culture.



# School trips

CERN trip continued...



# School trips

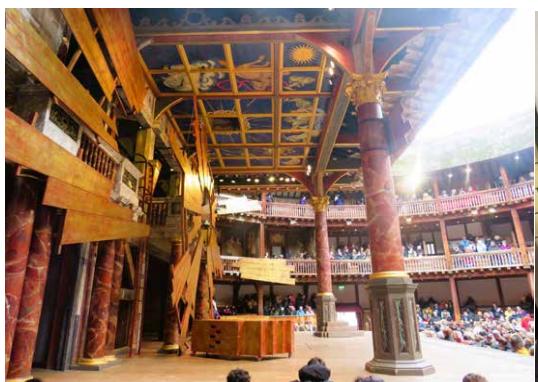
## English Language, Literature, Film and Art and Photography London residential

The Year 13 English Literature, English Language and Film Studies, and Year 12 and Year 13 Art students, went on a 2-day trip to London.

Staying right next to St Paul's Cathedral, we were instantly surrounded by iconic London sights and took in many more: we explored Camden, walked along the River Thames, visited the West End, went to Borough Market, saw the sights of London from the top of Sky Gardens and, respectively, visited Tate Modern, and Saatchi Gallery (Art) and the Prince Charles Cinema, to watch *The Lost Boys*, and The Globe Theatre, to watch the A 'level Shakespeare text *Twelfth Night* (English and Film).

We also managed to fit in a visit to the famous graffiti tunnel at Waterloo station which became a wonderful setting for staging the photography students shoots.

We had a brilliant trip with all pupils adapting to the hustle and bustle of London well.



# Eckington School Remembrance day



## Eckington School Remembers

On Monday 11th November, the entire Eckington School community came together to mark Remembrance Day with a moving and reflective whole-school ceremony.

At 10:30am, over 1,150 students and 120 staff left their classrooms and gathered in silence to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of others.

The ceremony began with words from Mr Cronin, Headteacher, about the meaning of remembrance and the importance of taking time to pause, think, and be thankful for those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. The event particularly recognised the 85 young men from Eckington who lost their lives during the First World War, as well as the countless others from across the British Armed Forces and the Commonwealth who have served, and continue to serve, in conflicts around the world.

Following the ceremony, a group of students accompanied Headteacher, Mr. Cronin, to the Eckington Cenotaph, where they laid Eckington School's wreath on behalf of the school community. The wreath symbolised the school's shared respect, gratitude, and ongoing commitment to remembering those who have fallen.

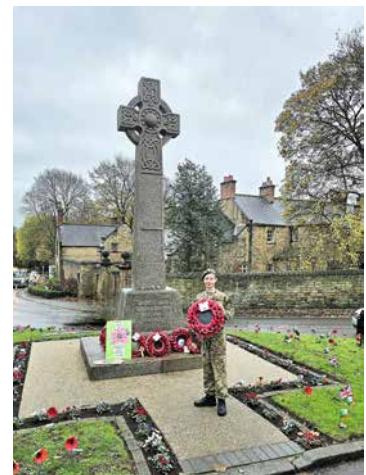
Reflecting on the event, Mr. Cronin said:

“It is vital that we take the time to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by others so that we can live in freedom today. Acts of remembrance teach us about respect, gratitude, and the importance of upholding the British values of democracy, tolerance, and mutual respect. They remind us of the strength that comes from unity and compassion, even in the most difficult of times.”

He continued:

“I am incredibly proud of the conduct of every student who observed the silence impeccably. Their maturity, empathy, and respect were evident throughout the ceremony, and they represented Eckington School with great dignity.”

The whole-school remembrance was a powerful moment of unity - linking Eckington's proud history with the values that continue to guide its students today.



# Eckington School Remembrance day



# Sporting success

## Girls football

Our Eckington Girls Football teams have been playing brilliantly.

They won 7-1 against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in the U12's County Cup and now proceed on to the second round.

They also had a great tournament against Dronfield, Whittington Green, Netherthorpe, and Outwood Newbold where they won 3 of their 5 games.

In December our two girls' teams represented Eckington School exceptionally well at the Utilita Cup Tournament at Gosforth Playing Fields, in performance, attitude and respect. Both teams supported one another very well and we are very proud of both teams. Furthermore, the parental backing was amazing and for that we share our thanks to those that came to support Eckington!

### **Year 7 and 8 Girls:**

Year 7 and 8 girls topped their group stages, won the quarter final (2-1 against Netherthorpe), went to penalties to decide the semi-final winner and secured their place in the final in the morning. The girls were up against Dronfield in the final and won 4-0, with some incredible girls, winning the Utilita Cup and also winning their spot at Nationals, which will be on in early to mid-January 2026.

### **Year 9 and 10 Girls:**

Year 9 and 10 girls then played in the afternoon and made it through their group stage on penalties, then secured a win in the semi-finals, with a 1-0 win against Outwood. They then had an impressive final match where Ellie scored in the final 2/3-minutes to secure them the win and win the Utilita Cup for their age group.

Both teams came back with gold medals; a fantastic result for Eckington!



# Sporting success

## This Girl Can

The **This Girl Can** ambassadors had a fantastic day packed with leadership, teamwork, resilience and reflectiveness. Students took part in a teambuilding session before leading a year 7 lesson. The year 7 students were inspired by the ambassadors and shared some incredible feedback.

Following this, the TGC ambassadors selected their chosen charity for this year: Weston Park Cancer Charity and they look forward to fundraising for this worth course.



We are extremely proud of the students that took part in the training day!



## Blaze Academy player of the year

Left-arm spinner Maria A (one of our Year 13 students) enjoyed a thoroughly productive summer across The Blaze's Academy and Second XI sides, as well as turning out regularly for Derbyshire in tier two of the recently reimagined women's structure.

A massive well done to Maria, who has now been named in the England Under 19s Cricket Winter Training Squad.

We wish her all the best in her training.



## Sporting success

### Golfing glory

Calum is just 12 years old and is a member of Chesterfield Golf Club and the Derbyshire junior team, he's also a member at Hallowes Golf Club where he has been having lessons with John Oates the golf pro there since the age of 8 years.

He qualified for the Lee Westwood junior masters final by gaining second place at Worksop Golf Club in May this year. He played brilliantly in gale force winds at the masters final on October 28 at Close House Golf Club in Newcastle to win the tournament outright against juniors from around the UK up to the age of 18 years.

An outstanding achievement for such a young player.



### Football scholarship

We are incredibly proud to share the exciting news that Lenny (Year 11) has been offered a 2-year football scholarship with Rotherham United. This is a remarkable accomplishment and a true reflection of Lenny's hard work, dedication and passion for the sport.

As a school we are very proud of him and his achievement, and we wish him all the success for what lies ahead.

Well done Lenny!

## Sixth form

## Sixth form destinations

Every year we're excited to see where our Sixth Form students go in their post-Eckington journeys.

This year, the majority of our sixth formers went on to university or employment around Sheffield, Yorkshire and the Humber, the Northwest, and the East Midlands.

We are so proud of what they achieved in their results, and we cannot wait to see what they go on to do in the future.



## A day in the life of a sixth former



At the beginning of October, we were thrilled to welcome Year 11 students from Westfield and Birley to our exclusive event, 'A Day in the Life of a Sixth Former'.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of our dedicated sixth form space, connect with our inspiring teachers and students, and take part in engaging taster sessions for a range of Level 3 subjects. They also received valuable guidance on how to make confident, informed choices for their post-16 journey.

It was a pleasure to host such enthusiastic and curious future sixth formers. We hope they left feeling inspired and excited about what's ahead!

## Sixth form open evening

We welcomed Year 11 students from Eckington, and a host of other schools, to our dedicated Sixth Form facility for our Sixth Form Open Evening at the end of October.

During the evening, students and their parents and carers had the opportunity to hear from school and sixth form leadership, hear a range of subject presentations and speak to staff and students.

We met next year's potential Year 12 students and showing them the range of subjects we offer as well as our excellent careers programme and extensive range of personal development opportunities.

## **Sheffield Hallam University trip**

Just before the Autumn break, our Year 12 students had an inspiring day exploring Sheffield Hallam University!

They enjoyed a guided tour of the fantastic facilities, got a real taste of university life, and took part in subject talks to spark ideas for their future studies.

A big thank you to Sheffield Hallam University for the warm welcome and valuable insights!



# Sixth form

## Autumn Ball

### Autumn Ball Magic!

In mid October, our Sixth Form students lit up Mosborough Hall for the annual Eckington Autumn Ball!

Organised by our incredible Year 13 prefects and dedicated sixth form staff, the evening was a warm welcome for our new Year 12s. Earlier in the day, students carved pumpkins together - adding a personal, seasonal touch to the stunning venue decor!

From dazzling outfits to non-stop dancing, it was a night to remember and a true celebration of the vibrant community we're so proud of here at Eckington Sixth Form.



## Lord Young of Cookham visits Eckington School



Lord Young of Cookham took part in a 45-minute online question and answer session with 23 of our Year 10 and Sixth form students as part of the popular 'Learn with the Lords' programme.

During the event on Friday, 7th November 2025, Lord Young talked about the role and work of the House of Lords, before answering questions from students on a range of topics, including his time as a cabinet minister for the Conservative Party, what it is like to serve as a Lord and the laws he has been involved in making.

Our student asked Lord Young questions on a variety of topics and issues. It was fascinating to hear his views on which Prime Minister he had found the most inspiring, how the government are held to account by the House of Lords and the growing involvement of women in politics.

We were proud of the way our students asked their insightful questions with confidence and interest. Lord Young commented on how impressed he was with them, and how he hoped they would go on and make a difference to the lives of others in their careers. We are sure they will!

Learn with the Lords is a unique opportunity for students to interact with a member of the House of Lords and learn more about the vital role of the House of Lords in the UK Parliament. We were very pleased to be chosen to take part in this experience.

# Sixth form

## Inspiring futures at Oxford University!

In November, sixth form staff took 12 Year 11 students to visit St Edmund's Hall, Oxford University. They explored what life at university is really like - from discovering why higher education is such a valuable next step, to learning how to choose the right A Levels and degrees. Students even toured the beautiful college grounds, viewed books that are hundreds of years old, and enjoyed lunch in the historic dining hall!

It was an unforgettable experience that truly inspired our students to start thinking about their futures. A huge thank you to everyone at St Edmund's Hall for hosting such a fantastic day!

## Student leaders making a difference

Our new student leaders have been incredibly busy this term, showing great enthusiasm and commitment to making a positive impact across the school community.

They began the year by delivering assemblies to all year groups, outlining their key priorities and goals for the year ahead. Since then, they've been hard at work organising a range of successful charity events in support of Young Minds, Children in Need, and Andy's Man Club. Students raised £66 for Andy's Man Club, £178.31 for Young Minds and £60 for Children in Need.

Highlights have included a Sixth Form charity football match, bake sales, a cake auction, and even a fun-filled pyjama day!

In addition, our student leaders have taken part in the annual Shoebox Appeal, sending off 50 shoeboxes to help bring joy to those in need this Christmas.

Their dedication and teamwork have truly embodied the spirit of leadership and community.

Well done to all involved!



## Christmas festivities

We kicked off the festive season in Sixth Form by decorating our common room and bringing some Christmas cheer to our space! This was followed by our much-loved annual Sixth Form Community Christmas Dinner, where students and staff enjoyed great food and even better company.

To round off the term, we held a wonderful final day of celebrations filled with Christmas quizzes, games, singing, and awards. It's truly one of the highlights of the year for our Sixth Form students, who had a fantastic time and made memories that will stay with them for years to come.



## *Spotlight on Careers Education at Eckington School*

As we continue to celebrate our National Quality in Careers Standard - **Careers Mark Platinum Award**, the excitement certainly doesn't stop there! Careers learning at Eckington is thriving, and 2026 is shaping up to be an inspiring year for all our students.



### *Events happening in the new year*

#### **Careers Fair 2026 - 29 January**

Our biggest careers event of the year is nearly here! We're thrilled to be welcoming over 60 employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges, universities and public services into school to bring the world of work to life. All year groups will visit the careers fair.



#### **New additions next year:**

- Year 7 will be taking part in an exciting careers treasure hunt, exploring different roles and industries.
- Year 9 will step things up with a mini-workshop at every stand, gaining deeper insight into a wide range of career pathways.

It promises to be a fantastic day of discovery for all students.

#### **Year 11 Parents' Evening - Meet the Careers Advisor - 8 January**

During the Year 11 Parents' Evening, our Careers Guidance Professional Mrs Lazenby will be available for drop-in conversations about post-16 options, applications and career pathways. Please do visit her stand for personalised support and advice.

#### **Lunchtime support for Year 11 and Sixth Form**

We know this can be a stressful time for students making big decisions about their future. To help, Mrs Lazenby is available during lunchtimes for informal drop-ins - no appointment needed.

#### **Year 10 work experience launch**

This term has launched the Year 10 Work Experience Programme!

Monday 16 March to Friday 20 March 2026, for one full week.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to step beyond the classroom and gain first-hand insight into the world of work. Whether students already have a career interest or are simply curious about different industries, work experience is an invaluable way to explore options and build essential skills.

#### **Why Work Experience Matters**

Work experience offers a wide range of benefits, including:

- **Building confidence** by working in a real professional environment
- **Developing key employability skills**, such as communication, teamwork, time management and problem-solving
- **Creating links with employers** that may help with future applications
- **Enhancing CVs and personal statements**, showing initiative and commitment
- **Inspiring future career ideas**, especially for students unsure of their next steps

# Careers

Year 10 work experience launch continued...

Past students have consistently reported that work experience helped them understand what they enjoy, what they find challenging, and what kinds of careers might suit them best.

## Start Looking as Soon as Possible

We encourage students to begin seeking placements as early as possible. Many organisations receive high numbers of requests, and popular placements fill up quickly. Starting early gives students the best chance of securing a placement that truly interests them.

## A Simple, Seamless Process via Unifrog

Once agreed with the employer, all placements will be administered through Unifrog, our whole school, online careers platform. This makes the whole process straightforward and fully online, and enable students to check the progress of their placement in the approval chain, at any time!

## How You Can Help

Parents and carers can support students by:

- Encouraging them to research sectors they might enjoy
- Helping them approach employers
- Discussing transport, timings and practical arrangements

We look forward to seeing our students make the most of this exciting opportunity.



## "We Work Here Too!" - Year 8 Work Shadowing - 22 June

Year 8 students will take part in their Work Shadowing Day on Monday 22 June. For those unable to shadow a parent or relative, our Careers Team is developing an exciting series of short video clips showcasing the many varied roles across Chorus Trust. This project, We Work Here Too, aims to broaden students' understanding of the diverse careers that exist within a single organisation.

## Year 9 options - decisions, decisions! from 11 March

Year 9 is a milestone moment as students begin tailoring their learning towards future careers and interests. After exploring decision-making in PSHE and tutor sessions, the process culminates in our Options Information Evening on 11 March. Parents and students will have the chance to speak directly with subject teachers to make well-informed choices for Key Stage 4. We look forward to seeing you there.

## ...and finally... introducing UNIFROG

All students at Eckington School have access to Unifrog, a comprehensive careers exploration platform. Using their school login, students can:

- Take personality and skills quizzes
- Explore subjects, careers and university courses
- Search live apprenticeship vacancies
- Build their CVs with the in-platform CV writer

Parents can access Unifrog too!

If you'd like a parent account, please contact Mrs Moor at [lmoor@chorustrust.org](mailto:lmoor@chorustrust.org) and we'll be happy to set one up for you.

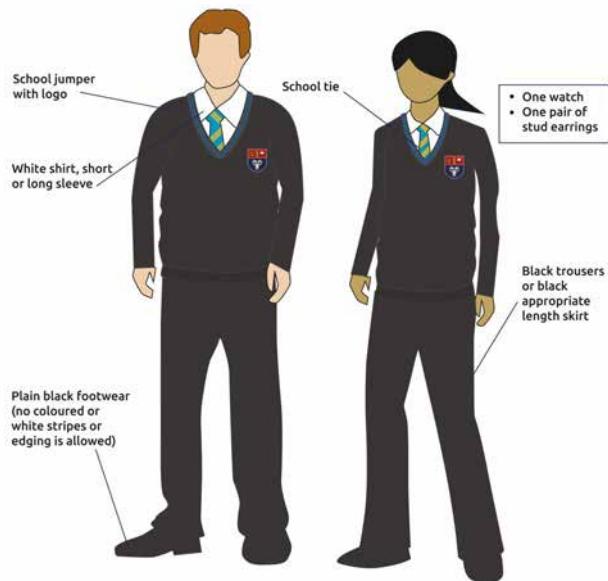


## Christmas Remembrance trees



## Uniform donation

# PRE-LOVED UNIFORM



Do you have any pre-loved school uniform that you can donate?

Please leave any donations (clean and in good condition) with our Main Reception team.

You can also email directly at  
[enquiries@eckington.chorustrust.org](mailto:enquiries@eckington.chorustrust.org).

# The importance of good attendance

Good attendance remains one of the most important factors in a child's academic success, wellbeing, and long-term life skills. Even a small number of missed days can have a significant impact. As shown in the attendance ladder diagram (below).

Our **whole-school attendance target is 97%**, and we thank all families for working closely with us to achieve this.

The **Department for Education (DfE)** is very clear that good attendance is essential for children to achieve their full potential. They state that pupils with good attendance are more likely to make strong academic progress, develop positive relationships, and build the resilience and routines needed for adult life.

Please contact a member of our attendance team if you require support regarding your child's attendance.



# Inspire the future

## Train to teach with Sheffield Teacher Training Alliance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Are you passionate about education and making a difference in young people's lives? Have you ever considered a career in teaching?

The Sheffield Teacher Training Alliance (STTA) is now accepting applications for teacher training, and we'd love to hear from individuals within our school communities who are ready to take the next step.

Whether you're a recent graduate, considering a career change, or returning to work after a break, STTA offers high-quality, school-based training that prepares you to become an outstanding teacher. You'll be supported by experienced mentors and benefit from strong partnerships across South Yorkshire schools.

### Why train with STTA?

- Learn in real classrooms with expert guidance
- Be part of a supportive and collaborative network
- Make a lasting impact on children's lives
- Gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a PGCE

If you or someone you know is interested, please visit <http://www.sheffieldtta.org> to find out more and apply.

Let's grow the next generation of inspiring educators - starting right here in our community.



The advertisement features the STTA logo (a stylized green and yellow leaf) and the text 'SHEFFIELD TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE'. Below this, a large yellow section contains the text 'From Passion to Profession – Train to Teach in Sheffield and Rotherham with STTA' and a 'Apply now' button. To the right, three circular images show a teacher writing on a chalkboard, a teacher smiling with students, and a teacher interacting with a student. A yellow callout bubble contains the text 'Local. Supportive. Life-changing.' At the bottom, there are icons for a phone (0114 235 7980) and a website (www.sheffieldtta.org/).

# Term dates

## Half Term 3

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - Friday 13th February 2026

*INSET day: Monday 5th January*

## Half Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Friday 27th March 2026

## Half Term 5

Monday 13th April 2026 - Friday 22nd May 2026

*Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026*

## Half Term 6

Monday 1st June 2026 - Thursday 23rd July 2026

*INSET day: Friday 26th June 2026*

## Website news

You can visit our website at  
[www.eckington.chorustrust.org](http://www.eckington.chorustrust.org)





**Eckington School**

Chorus Education Trust