



# Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

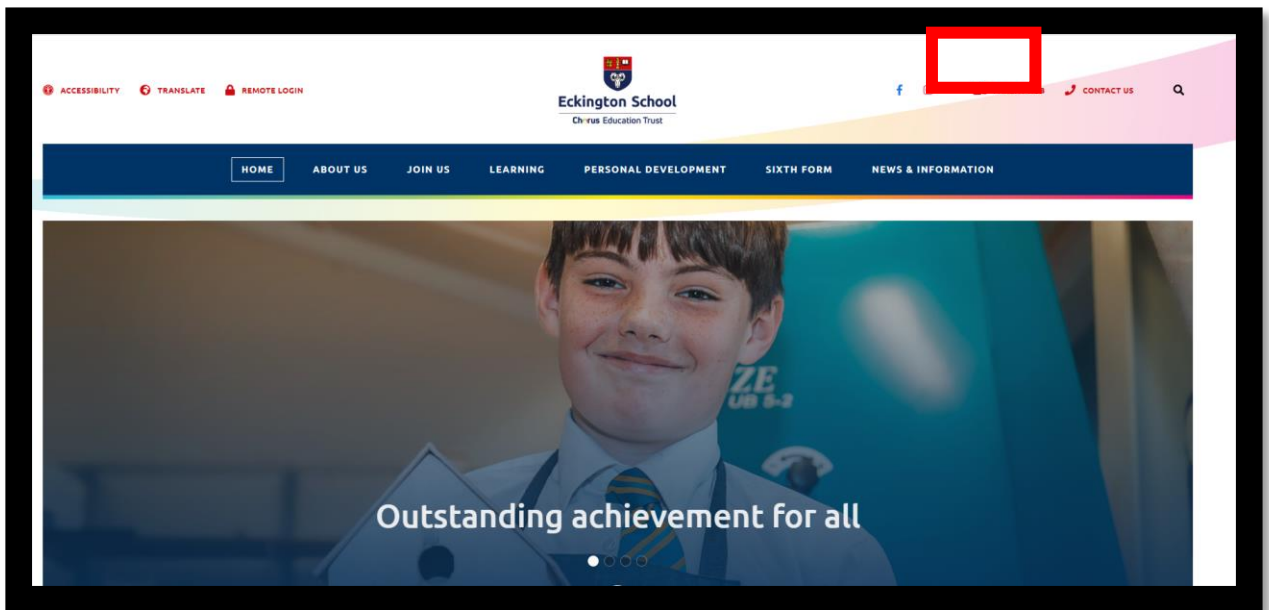
### End of Half-Term Letter (February 2024)

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

In what has been a busy half-term, I wanted to write to you to provide some updates regarding a number of developments at Eckington School that have been designed to enhance student experience, academic success, and school communication/parental engagement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

### New Website Launched

Our new website has been launched. Within the new website, there is a Parent Hub tab (red box below). This shortcut function has been designed to help parents navigate to frequently visited areas of our new website within 3 clicks.



### Regular Social Media Updates (Facebook and Instagram)

The school regularly updates its Facebook and Instagram pages. I welcome all parents to follow, like and comment on these platforms. We endeavour to respond to all comments.

### New Reporting and Communication System and Parent Arbor App Launched

The school has introduced a new operating system in January 2024 called Arbor. This has replaced our old system that was called SIMS.

The Arbor parent app has also been launched. This app provides parents with information about their child's academic progress alongside behaviour information (positive and negative) and their attendance summary.

## *Outstanding Achievement for All*

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Arbor App will also be used for regular communication updates, such as text messaging (push notifications) and pastoral updates. As with all apps, Arbor will continue to develop their product accordingly. Thank you to the **79%** of parents who have already downloaded the Arbor app or logged into the desktop version. Parents who are experiencing difficulties logging in can contact [Mr Horsfield](#) (Assistant Headteacher), or [Mrs Bradwell](#) (Data Manager) who will provide you with your log on details.

### **The Eckington Way Focus between February to April:**

#### **“Polite and Kind”**

This term’s focus will be on being “Polite and Kind”. During this term, students will also be reminded that it is against the law to discriminate against a Protected Characteristic (Equality Act 2010). Students will also be reminded about how tolerance (one of our Fundamental British Values) is also an essential personal characteristic trait. To help reinforce this term’s focus, students will receive double commendations when staff observe students being polite or kind.

#### **Eckington Enrichment Booklet**

You can find our Eckington Enrichment programme on our new website in our Parent Hub section. This outlines all of the extracurricular opportunities available for our students. Over the next twelve months, we are hoping to increase this offer further, including additional residential visits.

#### **Period 6 for Year 11 Student**

I am pleased to inform you that many teachers are offering period 6 sessions (3pm to 4pm) designed to help year 11 students prepare for their summer examinations. I encourage all year 11 students to take up this opportunity. Students can speak to Mr Shore (Assistant Headteacher i/c Interventions) if they require more information. I would like to thank the period 6 staff who are running these sessions voluntarily, without remuneration.

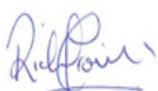
#### **Online Safety**

Ensuring the online safety of our students is paramount in today's digital age. As technology becomes an integral part of education, it is crucial to promote responsible online behaviour. Teaching our students about the importance of safeguarding personal information, practising good digital citizenship, and recognising online threats empowers them to navigate the virtual world securely.

By fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility, we not only protect our students from potential dangers but also equip them with essential skills for a future where online interactions play a significant role. Together, let us prioritise online safety to create a secure and conducive learning environment for our students, at school and at home. Mrs Moor, Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead is planning to run a parents’ evening in the Summer Term to provide parents with useful tips about keeping children safe online. The resources produced by the NSPCC are also excellent and can be found here: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

I wish you and your family a pleasant half-term holiday.

Yours faithfully,



Richard M Cronin  
Headteacher

