

Eckington School







Issue 6

SPRING Newsletter 2025 Newsletter

Dronfield Road, Eckington, Sheffield. S21 4GN 01246 432849



The Eckington Way



Headteacher Introduction



As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I want to take this opportunity to share some important updates and celebrate the many achievements. I hope this newsletter outlines some of the amazing events and achievements that have taken place this term.

Attendance Update: On the Rise!

We are pleased to report that attendance is improving across all year groups, with whole-school attendance now higher than at the same point last year. As highlighted in a recent Department for Education report, good attendance is directly linked to academic success and future earnings.

Our goal is for all students to maintain attendance above 95% to maximise their opportunities for success. If you have concerns about your child's

attendance, please reach out to our attendance team for support.

Examination Season is Approaching for Year 11 and Year 13

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are working incredibly hard in preparation for their upcoming exams, and we are extremely proud of their dedication. Recently, we hosted a well-attended 'How to Support Your Child's Revision' event, where our Heads of English, Maths, and Science provided invaluable advice to parents and students.

We encourage all students to continue their preparation over the Easter break. Additional revision resources are available on the school's website and SharePoint. I wish every Year 11 and Year 13 student the best of luck in their forthcoming examinations.

Major Investment in School Buildings

We are thrilled to announce that Chorus Education Trust has made a substantial financial investment to improve our school facilities. The first phase, focusing on new external windows and doors, is about to commence and will significantly enhance our learning environment.

New Catering Company – A Fresh Start

After Easter, we will be welcoming a new catering company, and we are confident this will lead to a significant improvement in the quality of food available to students. We are committed to ensuring all students have access to nutritious and appealing meals.

Improving Parental Engagement

We are delighted to see increasing parental involvement, with over 80% attendance at our Year 9 Options Evening—the highest in over 20 years!

We continue to value your feedback and use it to guide school improvements. I personally review the feedback from parents' evening surveys, and I am pleased to see significant improvements in parental satisfaction over the past two years. Your insights are crucial to our continued success, so please keep sharing your thoughts with us.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break!

Mr R M Cronin Headteacher, Eckington School

Business Manager



School Business Manager Update: A Busy and Exciting Time at Eckington School

As we approach the end of a busy term, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work of our support staff, whose efforts often go unseen but are vital to the smooth running of the school. A special thank you to our site team, who have worked tirelessly to keep the school open, safe, and well-maintained throughout the challenging winter months. Looking ahead, we have some exciting developments to share, including the introduction of a new catering company after Easter (more details can be found later in this newsletter). In addition, we have a number of planned improvements to enhance our facilities. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make Eckington School the best it can be for our students and staff.

School Site Improvements Update Starting May 2025

New External Windows and Doors Project

We are excited to announce that, as part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students, we will be starting a significant improvement project at our school. Thanks to the generous funding from Chorus Trust, we will be replacing the external windows and doors across the school. Work is set to begin in May 2025 and the aim is for this project to be completed by the start of the new academic year in September 2025.

The new windows and doors will enhance both the appearance and the climate efficiency of our buildings. Not only will these improvements create a more comfortable learning environment for our students and staff, but they will also help with energy efficiency, reducing heating costs for the school.

We understand the importance of maintaining a smooth and quiet learning environment during this time, and we are committed to keeping disruptions to a minimum. While work is being carried out, we will do everything possible to ensure that it does not impact daily school activities.

Building on Last Year's Achievements

As you may recall, last year, we successfully installed new interactive screens in every classroom, significantly enhancing the learning experience for our students. This alongside with an improved physical environment this year, demonstrates our commitment to providing the best facilities to support our students' education.

Our Commitment to Continuous Improvement

These upgrades are part of our ongoing efforts to align the school environment with our high aspirations for our students' success. We believe that a well-maintained, comfortable, and efficient learning space plays a key role in helping students thrive.

Thank You for Your Understanding

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we undertake this important work, and we will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the work and let you know if any further changes arise.

Mrs K Pardoe
Business Support Services Manager

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education



As we approach the Easter holidays I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the continued progress we are making in our teaching and learning environment, as we remain committed to our Vision of 'Outstanding Achievement for all' and our teaching ethos of "High Quality Education. Every Day. In Every Classroom. For Every Child."

As a school, we continually strive to make our students the focal point of all our efforts, 'keeping the main thing the main thing'. We believe that learning is not merely an act but rather a permanent change in a student's knowledge or learning behaviours, fostered through the experiences they encounter and the supportive classroom environments we create together.

This term, we have made significant strides in embedding a culture of 'Give it a go, be brave in your learning'. Through strategies that encourage Oracy (Speak it) and Literacy (Write it). Also, during assemblies, we have reinforced the message that encountering failure is often a stepping stone to success. To illustrate this concept, we have shared inspiring stories of renowned figures who faced adversity, such as Michael Jordan, who was cut from his high school basketball team; Walt Disney, who was told he lacked imagination early in his career; and Albert Einstein, who had the unfortunate label of "mentally slow" stamped on his permanent record. These examples resonate with our students, encouraging them to embrace challenges with resilience and determination.



I am pleased to report that our efforts have led to an impressive increase in positive student voice responses. Recent school reviews have highlighted that the positive relationships between staff and students are the primary reason why our pupils enjoy their time here. This achievement is a testament to the hard work undertaken by our staff to create an engaging environment and instil ambition into every lesson, which is one of our four strategic anchors.

As we look forward to the two-week Easter break, I wish you all a restful holiday. Following this, our attention will quickly turn to the final preparations for the upcoming exam period. I would like to extend my very best wishes to our Year 11 and Year 13 students; please be assured that we will support you and your

parents/carers, every step of the way during this crucial time.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure that we maintain a high standard of education and foster a love of learning within our community.

Warmest regards

Mr D Steed Deputy Headteacher Quality of Education

Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)



As we approach the end of what has been a highly successful term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made as a school. This term has been one of growth, improvement, and collaboration. The culture here at school continues to evolve in such a positive direction, with noticeable improvements in both behaviour and attendance. We are seeing the impact of our collective efforts in the way students are engaging with their learning and with each other.

At a recent governors' meeting focused on Attendance, Behaviour, and Safeguarding, the Co-Vice Chair of Governors had this to say: "The rapid progress we are making on school improvement is a direct result of not just the hard work of our leadership team, but of every single member of staff. From teaching and support staff to admin and the site team, everyone plays a vital

role in our success. It is clear that everyone knows their role, understands the vision, and is working together to drive the school forward." This quote perfectly captures the spirit of our school community — we are all working together towards the same goal, and it's showing in the results.

One recent highlight was our Work Experience placements. I'm proud to say that the conduct of our students was widely praised, with many positive emails sent to us from employers. One employer reflected on the outstanding contributions of our students, saying: "In my ten years here, we will have had in excess of 100 students take placement with us, but the four we have had this time have hands down been the best." Another employer shared this glowing feedback: "He's been excellent since he came on with us, conducted himself really well, asked lots of questions and took on everything we've said. He's not only built up and helped us with customers' PC systems, but he's also learnt and troubleshooted a really tricky system that was having issues. We couldn't be happier with the experience and we wish him all the best." Thank you to all the students, families, and staff who made these placements possible. Your support and commitment continue to make a real difference.

Looking ahead to next term, our focus will turn to preparing for the upcoming GCSE and A-Level exams. This is a critical time for our Year 11 and 13 students, and we are committed to supporting them as they work towards their exams.

We will also be placing an emphasis on preparation and uniform — ensuring that our students are always prepared, not just in terms of knowledge, but in how they present themselves. Please take a moment to read the letter I sent out detailing preparations for next term. It's important that we all continue to support each other as we work towards these key milestones.

Wishing you all a restful break and a positive start to the new term ahead.

Warm regards,

Mr Power Deputy Headteacher Culture

Thanks to our Site Team

We were thrilled to welcome everyone back to school after the holidays.

Our wonderful site team went above and beyond, working on Sunday and early Monday morning to clear snow and ice allowing students and staff to return to school after the break.

Thanks to the team's dedication, the site was safe and ready for learning.



School trips

York food trip

Some of our Year 11 hospitality and catering students took part in a guided tour at the York Chocolate Story. Students learnt about York's confectionary past where they discovered the stories of those who pioneered the chocolate industry, from its exotic origins in the rainforests of Central America to the cobbled streets of Yorkshire.

The students also learnt interesting facts about iconic brands such as Kit Kat and Aero, and how to taste chocolate like a true chocolatier, indulging in numerous chocolate samples hand-crafted by on-site chocolatiers.

They also managed to fit in a visit to the Market, where they looked at local crafts, artisan products, and delicious seasonal treats.







Leeds Beckett trip



Some of our Year 12 students visited Leeds Beckett University as part of the Building Futures Programme, during which a number of different universities are visited.

Leeds Beckett University is an example of a campus-based university. Students experienced a tour of the site, a workshop on what universities have to offer in one of their lecture theatres, talks from student ambassadors on choosing their pathway and student life.

They were very well looked after and particularly enjoyed lunch in the student canteen.

Sheffield Hallam University science trip

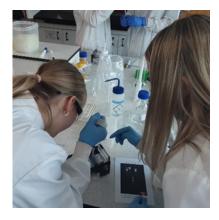
Our Year 13 A-level biology students recently visited the laboratories at Sheffield Hallam University where they performed different tasks including polymerase chain reactions (PCR) and blood crossmatching techniques to determine a suitable match for a transplant.

They also attended a biochemistry lecture and had a tour of the university.

This was a valuable opportunity to sample what science involves at university, chat to current students and experience advanced laboratory equipment.







Sheffield Hallam University - Women's Day and Bioscience Day





Some of our Year 9 and 10 girls went to Sheffield Hallam University and got involved in talks and practical STEM activities for International Women's Day. They had a great day.

Also, as part of Sheffield Hallam University's outreach program for science week, some Year 9 and 10 students attended a Biosciences day and experienced being in a university laboratory.

Magna science trip

The Science Department took some Year 8 students to Get up to Speed with STEM, a live annual careers showcase event which aims to introduce, inform and inspire students, parents and teachers about the world of work in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) sectors. It's a superb, highly interactive careers showcase which, for over ten years, has promoted STEM-related career opportunities.









History - English Civil War Centre



Earlier in March, our Year 10 GCSE History students had another fantastic day out at the English Civil War Centre in Newark.

While there they enjoyed a range of activities including "armours and armour" where they got the opportunity to try on Civil War armour and complete musket rifle drills and explored the museum on a treasure hunt for 17th century artifacts. Also, they took part in a role play trial and execution of Charles I, including the fake beheading of a student! Alongside a "last town standing" town tour of Newark including the Castle.

This was an excellent opportunity for students to gain a wider understanding of the events of the English Civil War beyond the classroom, and was enjoyed by all!

















Year 9 Options Information Evening



Over the past few months our Year 9 students have embarked on the key stage 4 options process. This is the first time in their educational careers that they have an element of choice over what they study.

We welcomed Year 9 students and their parents to school for the Year 9 Options Information Evening. This gave the chance for them to learn more about the process and speak to teachers about the range of subjects available to them at Eckington in key stage 4.

There was plenty of information, guidance and support available to them so that they could be confident in their decisions.

Further information is available at www.eckington.chorustrust.org/ks4options.

Careers Fair

The school gym was buzzing as it played host to the 2025 Eckington School careers fair.

This annual event gives the opportunity for every one of our students to consider their future, and to meet professionals representing a wide variety of career paths and education providers to discuss their future options.

The students made the most of the opportunity to speak to experts representing routes that they are considering – and even a few that they hadn't. We welcomed visitors from universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers as well as local and national employers representing careers as diverse as construction, hospitality, manufacturing, the emergency services, and technology. We were lucky enough that Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service brought one of their fire engines with them for our students to explore.









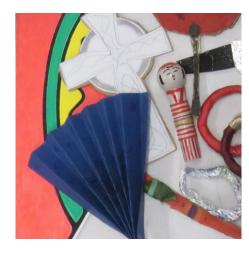
Thank you to all our visitors, who helped to bring the choices available to Eckington young people to life.

Year 7 Art project

Year 7 have been completing a culture project in Art, and for their homework they were tasked with a project to create a 3D relic from their chosen culture. Year 7G in particular have absolutely blown us away with the time and effort put into their research and creations. The Art department are so impressed with them and we encourage them to keep up the good work! In particular there were some students that went the extra, extra mile, Sophie, Joe, Ivy, Leo, Oscar and Archie.

Well done to all Year 7s that took part.









Sporting achievements



Sports Leadership event

Some of our Year 10 and Year 12 students were involved in a sports leadership event called The Cube and led a key stage 2 primary event at Eckington School.

The student leaders did an amazing job of delivering several activities that involved outdoor and adventurous focus-involved tasks. This was a fantastic way of improving our young guests' skills and confidence as they took on challenges such as getting through the spiders' web quickly, collecting specific bean bags as fast as they could as a

team and building the tallest tower by stacking cups.

The atmosphere was wonderful and our students led with confidence and enthusiasm, receiving positive feedback from the primary school teachers; we were very proud of them.

Huge congratulations to the student leaders without whom the event could not have taken place.

Bouldering competition

Eleven of our Year 7 and 8 students represented Eckington School in the qualification round at the Sheffield Schools Bouldering Competition held at the Climbing Works in Sheffield. There were some excellent Eckington performances with one student successfully climbing 10 of the 15 boulders.

Well done to all our students who took part in this amazing event.







Mathematics



Year 7 Chorus Maths Challenge 2025

In January our Year 7 mathematicians took part in the first ever Chorus Maths Challenge against other secondary schools across Chorus Trust. Activities included team challenges, speed rounds and logic games.

The competition involved two teams of four from each school (Hope Valley College, Eckington, Silverdale and Westfield Schools) and comprised several rounds with different maths challenges in each. It was a thoroughly enjoyable few hours and wonderful to see the amazing talents and enthusiasm of the maths

students who took part.

This was the inaugural event, held at Eckington School. It will become an annual competition, and we can't wait until next year for more exciting challenges.

The competition was tight, with only a few marks separating the teams so all deserved the medals and certificates awarded to the mathematicians. Well done to all!

Thinking Reading



On 21 March, we welcomed Alison Rounce from Thinking Reading for a consultation day. The Thinking Reading programme has been up and running since January. All the students involved have made rapid progress in their reading and it was clear from their input on the day that they really value what they've been doing.

One Year 7 student said, "Before I only read when the teacher said to read this. I never read from my reading log. I couldn't be bothered to but now because of Thinking Reading I feel like I can read more now.

It's easier."

And a Year 9 student said, "When we read in English I can read the book. I couldn't before."

Others commented how their reading age has gone up by over a year after only 6 weeks on the programme and all agreed that they have become much more confident in their reading as a result of engaging in the programme. As a result of this success, we will be extending the programme after Easter so that more students, who are currently struggling with their reading, can also become confident and happy readers.

Sixth Form

National Apprenticeship week

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2025 at the end of last term, a group of our sixth form students attended the Degree Apprenticeship Fair hosted by The University of Derby.

Students opted in to talks on various subjects and heard from degree apprentices all about how to make their applications stand, and what life is really like as a degree apprentice. Our students were also able to meet



the companies who work with the university and find out about their current and future degree apprenticeship vacancies.

Year 10 work experience

In March our Year 10 students had the opportunity to participate in a week of work experience, and we couldn't be more proud of their efforts. We've received fantastic feedback from employers, praising the students for their professionalism and enthusiasm.

A big thank you to all the local employers who made this experience possible by offering placements and supporting our students' learning and development. Your contribution has truly made a difference!



Hospitality & Catering

We are thrilled to share the latest update from our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students!

This week, our aspiring young chefs have been hard at work baking and decorating Chocolate Easter Gateaux in the kitchen.

Students put their culinary skills to the test by preparing this delicious and festive dessert. From mixing the perfect batter to carefully decorating with chocolate ganache and Easter-themed toppings, our students demonstrated creativity and precision every step of the way.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students for their dedication, passion, and hard work in the kitchen.













Charity events

Some of our sixth form and lower school students held a very successful bake sale in March to raise funds that the Eckington School Charity Committee will use to donate to various charities.

The items on offer looked rather delicious and were very popular with students and staff.

Well done to all who helped with the stall.



Hutchisons Catering to provide school meals from Easter 2025



We are delighted to announce that, following an in-depth tendering process, we have appointed Hutchison Catering to provide our school catering services. The service will start after the Easter holidays. Tasting sessions run as part of the tendering process received the thumbs-up from Chorus students and staff alike, so we're looking forward to welcoming the new menus next term.

Hutchisons will be present at a school event after Easter to showcase the range of delicious food that will be on offer to our students, and to give parents the chance to taste it for themselves. In the meantime, a newsletter from Hutchisons is attached to introduce themselves, along with a form for any specific dietary requirements.

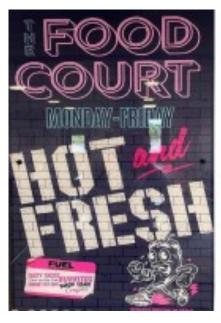
£3.00 meal deals from Tuesday 22 April

The price of a meal deal will be £3.00 from Tuesday 22 April. The meal deal price has remained the same for two years, and this increase reflects the national rise in food and overhead costs during this time. For this price, Hutchisons have committed to provide delicious food using high quality ingredients and to use local suppliers wherever possible to provide a wide range of tasty main meals and snacks. This includes a budget range of options to suit all pockets and appetites. Please note that there will be no change to current free school meal arrangements; if you think your son/daughter may be eligible for free school meals, you can find out more at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.



Hutchinson Catering are delighted to be working in partnership with Eckington School following the successful award of the new catering contract. So let us tell you what is going to be new:

- We will offer meal deals per day at £3.00 each offering new tasty dishes and great value for the students.
- We are a family business who champion local suppliers and employment bringing great food to you.
- Our Food Court concept brings innovation and variety to the menus.
- We will offer a range of nutritious and affordable morning break snacks to keep students fuelled throughout the day.
- Samples for students to try of the new dishes that will feature on the menu.
- A budget range of options for those students on a smaller budget or looking for a smaller portion.





We love feedback

Lisa and her catering team are dedicated and passionate about preparing and presenting the very best food for the students at Eckington School. Please complete the feedback forms in the school restaurant so we can hear views and continue to improve our service.

Our work with Olio...



The food waste heroes program. A hassle free way for us to share any surplus food delivered by volunteers back out to the community and local families in need.

FOOD COURT Tariff

Mid Morning Break	2	<u>Lunch</u>	
Piece of Fruit	£0.50	Cold Wrap	£2.20
Pancake with Honey	£0.90	Baguette	£2.20
Toast	£0.40	Sandwich	£2.20
Croissant	£0.95	Meal Deal	£3.00
sausage bap	£2.00	Main Meal	£2.40
6" Sausage Roll	£1.40	Street Kitchen	£2,20
Plain Waffle	£1.10	Jacket Potato	£1.20
pizza	£1.65	Beans	£0.55
pizza bagel	£1.30	Cheese/Tuna	£0.65
Sausage and Bean		Hot Pudding	£0.95
Wrap	£1.75	Homemade Cake	£0.95
Croissant	£0.95	Flapjack	£0.95
Pain Au Chocolate	£1.00	Yoghurt	£1.00
Cheesy Topped Nachos		Jelly	£0.95
Salsa	£1.00	Mousse	£0.95
Tikka Topped Naan	£1.75	Piece of Fruit	£0.50
Loaded Waffle	£1.60	Meal Deal 1	
Garlic Bread Slice	£0.50	Main with a Dessert or	
Plain Pancake	£0.55	Plain Water	£3.00
Fruit Pot	£1.00	Meal Deal 2	
Bacon Bap	£2.00	Hot G&G with a dessert	
Hash Brown Bites	£1.20	or Water	£3.00
Crumpet	£0.70	Meal Deal 3	
		Sandwich with a	
Drinks		Dessert and Water	£3.00
		Jacket & 1 filling	£1.65
Plain Water 500ml	£1.00	Jacket & 2 fillings	£2.30
Radnor Fizz 330ml	£0.90	Panini	£2.40
cartons	£0.80	salad box	£2.10
radnor aqua 500ml	£1.00	Pizza Slice	£1.65
milkshake	£0.90	Street Kitchen	£2.20
miiksnake	20.90		



Managing Special Diets - Parent information

A school lunch is an important part of a child's day, providing an opportunity for them to socialise with their friends, try new foods and re-fuel ready to continue their learning in the afternoon. However, for families of children with special dietary needs, we appreciate that eating a school lunch may cause nervousness. We have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that children with special dietary needs are kept safe at lunch time but also get the opportunity to have a balanced lunch with their friends.

To ensure your child is catered for safely each day, we need to collect some essential information about your child's requirements. Please complete the form on the following page and return to the school. If the special dietary need is a medical need (e.g. allergy or intolerance), please also provide a note from a health professional (Doctor or Dietician) confirming your child's needs. This can be a letter from your health professional confirming the diagnosis, an exert from medical records which are freely available your GP or through the NHS app. Private commercial laboratory reactivity results, such as York tests and homeopathic diagnoses will not be accepted, as these are not validated methods of diagnosing an allergy or intolerance. **We will not be able to process this request without this information.** This will then be passed on to the catering team who will work with the Company Nutritionist and Operations Manager to assess whether it is safe for us to cater for your child.

We will do our upmost to cater for all children, where it is deemed safe to do so, and individual menus will be put in place for each child registered with us as having a special dietary requirement. However, on occasion we may feel it is not safe to cater for a child. This decision is not taken lightly and will always have the safety of the child as the highest priority. It usually occurs when a child has a very restricted diet or medical condition, coupled with the limitations of catering for large numbers in a school. We are not legally obliged to cater for all pupils, but we will do our upmost.

Following this assessment, we will work with you to devise a menu suitable for the child that is in line with the menu available to the rest of the school, adapting recipes where possible. We will endeavour to provide you with a bespoke menu for your child within 10 working days of receiving the request. In the meantime please provide a packed lunch or we can offer a jacket potato with a suitable filling and fresh fruit.

Partnership approach

To provide a meal for a pupil with an allergy that is balanced, safe and something they like, it is important that schools, caterers and parents (and/or pupil in secondary schools) work in partnership. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that they provide Hutchison Catering with accurate, detailed information about their child's dietary requirements and to provide updates, in writing, if these change at any point whilst we are catering for their child. Depending on the severity and complexity of the special diet we may want to meet with you to discuss your child's needs.

For details on how we process and store your child's personal data please see our privacy notice on our website https://hutchisoncatering.co.uk/.

L Whiting

L Whiting RPHNtr

Nutrition and Food Development Manager



Special diet request form

Data Protection

Hutchison Catering Ltd will only collect the personal information necessary to safely provide a special diet menu for a pupil and communicate with parents on this matter. Personal information will be kept secure and not shared with any third party. Personal information will be destroyed once we no longer cater for the pupil.

Pupil information		
Name of pupil:		
School:		
SCHOOL.		
Year/Class of child (if known):		
Details of special dietary requirement:		
Is this request for a special dietary menu the result of: (please tick)		
to this required a special arctary month and results of (preced their,		
Medical diagnosis Personal preference (cultural/lifestyle)		
If medical diagnosis, please provide a medical note from a health professional		
If medical (e.g. allergy/intolerance), what are the symptoms if ingested?		
Epipen (Auto Injector) required in an emergency:		
Yes No No		
Treatment/care if ingested:		
Parent/Guardian contact information		
Name:		
Contact telephone number:		
Email address:		

Date:

The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial as it supports academic success

and personal development. Good attendance ensures students engage with the school's curriculum, grasp key concepts, make outstanding academic progress and develop essential social skills for adulthood.

Attendance of above 95% will provide your child with the best chance of success in school. Please contact your child's form tutor, head of year or our attendance team if you require support regarding your child's attendance.

Attendance Ladder



Term dates

Half Term 5

Tuesday 22 April 2025 - Friday 23 May 2025

(Bank Holiday: Monday 5 May 2025)

Half Term 6

Monday 2 June 2025 - Friday 25 July 2025

(INSET day: Friday 27 June 2025)

Website News

You can visit our website at www.eckington.chorustrust.org



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.

