



# Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

14.02.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful achievements and progress our school community has made, and to express my heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support.

We have had a number of successes to celebrate this term:

## Successful Sixth Form Enquiry Visit

In January 2025 we were delighted to host an enquiry visit from Chorus Education Trust's Director of Education. The enquiry visit focused on assessing the quality of teaching and learning within our sixth form provision, and I am pleased to report that the findings were very positive. The feedback highlighted good teaching with excellent subject knowledge, and exemplary standards of behaviour and attitudes across the entire sixth form.

## Improvements in Attendance

This term, we have also seen marked improvements in our whole school attendance, which is incredibly encouraging. The Eckington Way (Safe, Calm, Polite and Kind, Prepared and Ambitious) is having a tangible impact on our students' school experience and improvements in attendance. As always, we strongly encourage all families to prioritise good attendance, as we know that consistent attendance is key to educational achievement, as well as an important life skill.

## Excellent Careers Fair

Recently, we also celebrated a truly amazing Careers Fair in which our sports hall was transformed into a vibrant marketplace for careers, with over 60 employment providers offering invaluable insights to our students from Year 7 to Year 13. It was fantastic to see so many of our students taking the opportunity to ask questions and explore potential future career paths.

## Student Engagement in Eckington's Enrichment Programme

Our Eckington Enrichment programme continues to thrive, with students engaging in a wide range of lunch and after-school clubs. I am also delighted to share that the second cohort of Duke of Edinburgh students are being enrolled onto the course with the expedition planned for the summer term. I would like to extend a special thank you to all the staff who volunteer their

## *Outstanding Achievement for All*

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time to run these enrichment clubs and Period 6 lessons for our Year 11 students; these are not paid positions, and staff do this because they genuinely care about the well-being and success of our students. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team at Eckington.

### **Our Heartfelt Condolences**

I know that many of you will be aware of the recent tragic events at All Saints School. Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to Harvey's family and to the friends and wider community affected by this tragedy. We will continue supporting any students at Eckington who has been directly affected and actively encourage students to talk to their parents and/or members of Eckington's pastoral team should they need any additional support.

### **Keeping Children Safe – Our Collective Responsibility**

At Eckington School, being safe is in the heart of "The Eckington Way" and will always be our number one priority. We regularly deliver education around keeping young people and our local communities safe via tutor time sessions, Character lessons (PSHE & RSE) and during themed assemblies. Please visit our personal development section on the school's website for more details. We also collaborate with external agencies, including the local police service, who deliver assemblies on topics such as anti-social behaviour. As we reflect on recent events, I encourage all parents/carers to take the time to speak with their children about staying safe—both in school, at home, and in the local community.



At Eckington School, we carry out planned fire and lockdown drills periodically throughout the academic year, with our next lockdown drill planned in March. These drills are commonplace in schools and help ensure the school is safe in the event of a critical incident (such as a fire).

Should you have any concerns about your child's safety, I urge you to reach out to our pastoral team or a member of Eckington's safeguarding department; we are here to offer the support you and your child need, to ensure that they feel safe and secure in their learning environment and beyond the classroom. Please email [safeguarding@eckington.chorustrust.org](mailto:safeguarding@eckington.chorustrust.org) should you have any concerns.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your child a happy and safe February half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming all students back on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** for the second half of the Spring term. Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Richard M Cronin  
Headteacher