



# Eckington School



Issue 2

## AUTUMN 2023 WINTER Newsletter

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# Headteacher Introduction



As we approach the end of Term 1, I would like to start by thanking you for your support in ensuring a successful start to this academic year. I hope this newsletter provides you with an insight into the school improvements and accomplishments that have occurred since September. I would also like to thank Eckington's staff, who have demonstrated a shared commitment to school improvement and our wonderful students, who have adapted to our new systems remarkably well.

Since September, I am pleased to inform you that there have been numerous whole-school improvements, including:

- **The Eckington Way Launch** - these 5 principles (safe, calm, polite & kind, prepared and ambitious) underpin Eckington's new school culture.
- **A new in-class behaviour system** - student feedback suggests the new system is understood by all and is being applied more consistently than in previous years. During a Department for Education Behaviour Hubs visit, year 10 student voice stated, 'the school is calmer, safer and we can learn more'.
- **A new out of lesson behaviour system** - our new commendations and corrections system focuses on both positive out of lesson conduct (such as being polite and kind) alongside correcting students when their conduct isn't following The Eckington Way.
- **5Rs Attitude to Learning (A2L)** - we have launched our new assessment system (used in all Chorus Schools). Five times a year, students will be issued with an A2L score for all of their subjects. All students averaging 1.8 or better are deemed to have excellent levels of A2L and are more likely to achieve academically in their GCSE and A Level examinations.
- ◆ **Curriculum Developments (Curriculum Roadmaps)** - during INSET days and after school meetings, our middle leaders and teaching staff have been making improvements to their curriculum and have produced over 70 new curriculum roadmaps. In the New Year, these roadmaps will be communicated to parents; I hope parents will spend some time at home supporting their child's educational journey by discussing specific topics outlined in the curriculum roadmaps.
- ◆ **New Website Launch** - our new website will have a Parents' Hub section that will signpost parents to most areas of our new website in 3 clicks. We hope this, alongside our new Arbor System (replacing SIMS in January) will help improve communication with parents.
- ◆ **Eckington Enrichment** - we are now offering over 30 after school clubs and an increasing number of educational trips and visits, including the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The Eckington Enrichment booklet can be found on our new website.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the improvements and opportunities planned for the rest of this academic year. I remain committed to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures not only academic excellence but also the social and emotional growth of our students.

I wish you and your families a restful and joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

**Mr RM Cronin, Headteacher**



# Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education

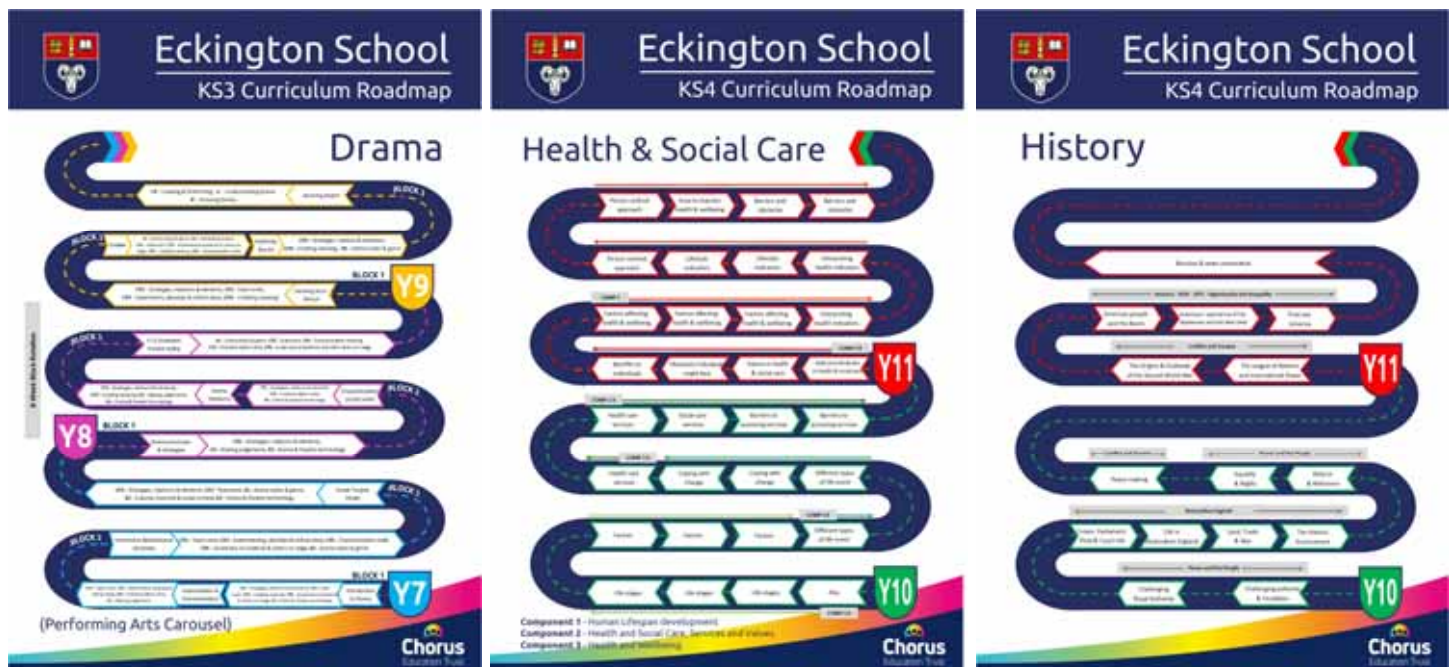


## Teaching and learning update.

Curriculum innovation and design (what we do and when).

Exciting developments ahead. Lots of hard work and effort from all the staff at Eckington over the past term has been ongoing to ensure we are at the forefront of curriculum design. Staff have been working on a new way to share our curriculum journey with the Eckington community so that we can all be a part of our child's development. The new approach to our curriculum road maps will allow anyone to engage, develop outside knowledge and enhance their time at Eckington, which in the long run will help enhance your child's education and raise aspirations. The new curriculum road maps will be launched on our brand-new website by the end of the year and there will be over 70 bespoke subject areas to look at.

The design of the roadmaps has been developed with the parent and student in mind. We have created a pathway from Year 7 through to Year 11 and on to our Sixth Form. This new approach, we are hoping, will allow families to prepare in advance for learning, spark conversations at home, create curiosity around topics and content and ensure every student knows what the future holds for them at Eckington school. It will also allow our Year 9s the opportunity to see what their options will look like in Year 10. This new vision for the curriculum will put parents in prime position to support their child every step of the way.



Mr D Steed

Deputy Headteacher, Quality of Education

# Deputy Headteacher - Culture (Behaviour & Attitudes)



## Deputy Headteacher's End-of-Term Update: Celebrating Success at Eckington School

As we approach the end of a busy term, I am thrilled to share some remarkable highlights from the past few months. This term has been a journey of growth, learning, and above all, a celebration of the exceptional qualities that define The Eckington Way.

The launch of The Eckington Way has proven to be a real success, and I am delighted to witness our students wholeheartedly embracing and embodying its values. Thirty outstanding students have truly stood out, earning themselves a commendable 15 commendations each in a single week - a testament to their dedication and commitment.

Incredibly, over 1000 pupils have achieved the impressive feat of receiving five commendations in a week, showcasing the widespread dedication to excellence that permeates our student body. This is a remarkable achievement and a reflection of the collective effort put forth by our students.

This term, we introduced the "Star of the Lesson" initiative to recognise exceptional performance in lessons. I am proud to announce that an astounding 9955 students have been awarded this distinction for their outstanding contributions and commitment to learning. It is heartening to see our students consistently striving for excellence.

Equally noteworthy is the remarkable enthusiasm for learning demonstrated by our students, with an impressive 62,126 achievement points earned for being 'Keen to Learn.' This remarkable figure is a testament to the culture of preparation and ambition at Eckington School.

One of the highlights of the year was the touching remembrance activities that took place. It was heartwarming to witness the calm and respectful demeanour displayed by Eckington students during these moments of reflection and remembrance.

As I reflect on my first term here, I am filled with gratitude and pride in being part of such a vibrant and dedicated school community. The energy and enthusiasm of our students, coupled with the unwavering support from our families, have made this term a success.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all Eckington School families. May your festive season be filled with joy, warmth, and precious moments with your loved ones. Thank you for a fantastic term, and I look forward to many more successes and milestones in the upcoming year.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

**Mr C Power**

**Deputy Headteacher for Culture Eckington School**

# Remembrance at Eckington - 10th November 2023

During the week prior to Armistice Day, students took part in assemblies led by Mr D Steed, Deputy Headteacher (and ex-Royal Marine Commando), and additional activities focused on remembrance within curriculum areas.

These included the creation of a poppy display by Year 7 students that incorporated 85 poppies, one for each of the Eckington residents who lost their life during the First World War.

On the morning of Friday, November 10, our student Community Committee joined with the wider Eckington community at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Eckington where a wreath was laid on behalf of the school.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 11AM, the entire school community of 1,250 students and staff gathered together for a ceremony of remembrance. The last post heralded the start of a two-minute silence, respectfully observed by all.

Remembrance is a national opportunity to pay our respects to the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended the British value of democracy. As a school we remembered the armed forces service people, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth. We also reflected on the vital role played by our emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

I was extremely proud of our students, whose conduct was exemplary. Every young person was a credit to their parents, the school and the local community.

**Mr R M Cronin, Headteacher**





## Remembrance Parade



A number of Eckington School students took part in the Eckington Remembrance Parade last month, representing the local scout group. It was well attended by several scouts but note worthy mentions go to Carys W, Year 11, who read names of fallen soldiers in the church service, and a Year 8 student who carried the Scout Section flag in the parade. Huge well done to all the young people involved, showing their respect for those local people who gave so much for all of us.

## Fantastic success for Wakeboarder

Year 11 Charlie has been riding at Sheffield Cable waterski on Rother Valley since he was 8 years old. Last year he began competing and achieved podium places in three different competitions. Charlie finished the season by competing in the Nationals and got through to the Last Chance Qualifiers where he placed 10th in the UK. This year he has competed in the Nationals in August and got through to the finals where he placed 5th in the UK, beating some of the Team GB riders. Over the summer he also gained sponsorship from two different water sports companies.

Charlie was recently invited to participate in a professional wakeboarding camp in Turkey, run by 'The Peacock Brothers', one of whom is a two time World Champion Wakeboarder. They are both highly respected professional wakeboarders who have competed around the world at the highest level. Charlie had a great time and hopefully will represent GB in the Olympics one day in the not too distant future. Well done Charlie!



## Children in Need 2023

The money has been checked and balanced following last week's Children in Need non-uniform day and we raised a whopping £1,104.21 this year!

We are proud that this wonderful contribution is being put to good work, supporting those children in the UK who are most in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.



## Shoebox appeal

The parents and students at Eckington School have donated a variety of items to fill up shoeboxes which have now been donated to the Sheffield Shoebox Appeal. These boxes are now winging their way to the homeless, the elderly in care homes and women and children in refuges in time for Christmas.

Thank you to all who donated to this fantastic cause.



## Visit to Sixth Form

We recently welcomed 65 Year 11 students from our Chorus Trust sister school, Westfield, to sample a day in the life at Eckington Sixth Form.

During the day, we showed these aspiring Sixth Formers around our site and the dedicated Sixth Form facilities. They sampled their choice of five lessons that interested them including maths, criminology, health & social care, geography, sociology and digital film & video production.

Our visitors also had the chance to sample the goodies from Eckington Sixth's Snack Shack and our finest hot chocolate, liberally topped off with cream and marshmallows!

We loved meeting the Westfield Year 11 students and look forward to welcoming them back to Eckington very soon.



## Art & Photography trip (Chatsworth)

Last week, our GCSE art and photography students visited Chatsworth House to view the paintings of Rembrandt, Renoir, Frans Hals, David Hockney and Lucian Freud to name but a few.

Eckington School has had a long link with Chatsworth, due mainly to the attraction of Chatsworth's incredible private art collection, ranging from Egyptian sculptures to more modern pieces of art recently added to the collection by the current Duke. A more personal connection is that one of Eckington's art teachers worked at Chatsworth for a number of years and can provide rare insights during our students' visits there.

The visit included a tour of the house and a walk in the gardens enabling our students to take in the delights of the vision of Capability Brown, who designed Chatsworth's famous fountain and cascade. This is an incredible feat of engineering particularly as all water features at Chatsworth are gravity fed.

The weather was kind, and our students had a wonderful time exploring this amazing place and expanding their artistic horizons!



## Art & Photography trip Year 11 (Sheffield)

A group of 40 Year 11 Art and Photography students took part in a trip into Sheffield where they were taken on a small tour of interesting spots to be able to take photos for their current GCSE coursework. The different environments, architecture, sculptures and settings allowed our students to take fantastic photos as well as discover a newfound appreciation for their local area. In the afternoon the artists took part in an Identity workshop at the Graves Gallery which developed their knowledge of artists' approach to identity within their work. Meanwhile the photographers visited the Site Gallery to see two different photography and moving image installations. This inspired them to think more creatively about the presentation of their future final pieces. The students were fantastic and got a lot out of the day. We look forward to seeing what they have learnt in their coursework projects!





## Dronfield Rotary Club Young Photographer of the Year Competition

We are once again proud to have several entrants to a local Rotary Club Photography Competition. Jess, Finley, Sophie and Lily have all entered the competition with the hopes of progressing through the rounds. Winning the first round comes with a cash prize of £30! Last year Isobel managed to make it through to the next round where she received a £50 Amazon voucher and a huge chocolate bar. The theme this year is 'Rebuilding' and the entrants have put forward fantastic photographs. We wish them good luck in the competition and hope for more prizes. The competition will run again next year and all students are welcome to enter. Miss Pickard will have more details next September.

## Year 9 basketball



Year 9 boys went to a basketball tournament at Brookfield School and came out victorious. Playing 7 games and winning 6 and drawing 1.

## Trampolining success

Isabella represented Eckington School in the East Midlands Trampolining Championships on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. She came first place and has now progressed to the next round which is being held in Solihull on 21st January. If Isabella gets in the top 5 she will then represent East Midlands and Eckington School in the UK final. Good luck Isabella.



## Sixth Form Trips

Sixth Form students have already been on many trips and visits this academic year. On a rainy Saturday in October, the Film Studies department met some of their Year 13 film students at Yellow Arch studios in Sheffield to watch a double bill of Buster Keaton films with live improvised piano and percussion. Experiencing the films as audiences would have done in 1923, when the films were first released, gave them a sense of how innovative Keaton was as a filmmaker. The students showed independence, making their own way there and back, and they were an absolute credit to the school.



Year 12 and Year 13 Physical Education students visited Rugby School which has had huge historical influence on the development of sport. The students had a tour from a member of staff from Rugby School who talked to them about the influential headteacher Sir Thomas Arnold who in 1828 used sport to develop his students character and introduced the first house system to help gain control over his students who were extremely unruly at the time. The students saw facilities such as the first ever indoor heated swimming pool, the first gymnasium, and heard about how the rules of sports such as Rugby were developed at the school.



The Sixth Form Art and Photography students have enjoyed a trip to London to visit the Tate Art galleries, Tate Modern and Tate Britain. They enjoyed a photography tour around the London sights such as Big Ben, London Eye and along the Embankment and Thames. The students were able to experience current exhibitions to inform the development of their Art and Photography coursework as well as enjoy the big city and the performers at Covent Garden. The Year 12 & Year 13 English Language and Literature students also travelled to London in November to attend a talk by the well known author Margaret Atwood whose novel they study. This was an opportunity for them to hear her views about 'A Handmaid's Tale'.

We have also welcomed The University of Oxford, St Edmunds College to Eckington, to inform and inspire some of our Year 10 students. The Oxford University team also ran an applications workshop for students in Year 13 who are applying to Oxbridge. In addition to this, 35 prospective Sixth Form students in Year 11 were taken to Oxford University by the Sixth Form Team in November. We had a wonderful day learning about the courses that they have on offer. We even met one of our Alumni students who is now in his second year at Oxford University studying Biochemistry after completing his A Levels at Eckington.

In addition, Year 12 students had their first University trip to Sheffield Hallam on Wednesday 8th November. Students in Year 12 are taken to a variety of Universities over their two years with us so that they have the opportunity to speak to University students and staff, learn about the many courses on offer to them and find out what type of University suits them. We will be visiting Leeds Beckett, Derby and The University of Sheffield in future months to help students decide whether University is the right option for them.

## Biscuits & Bingo - Eyes Down!

This December our Community Committee student leaders planned an event to support our local elderly community in Eckington Courts Care Home. Our leaders ran a Bingo event with prizes for the residents of Eckington Court, and a whole of Christmas cheer was had by all. Our Leaders enjoyed their chats with the residents. A huge well done to all the leaders involved in this very kind activity.



## Students Leadership

This term our students have had the opportunity to apply for a role as a student leader or House Captain. These students meet fortnightly to plan activities to improve the school, share student voice, or plan fun filled House activities for all.

In total we have had 84 student leaders applications this year. This is an incredible number!

We have 4 student committees:

- School Improvement Committee
- Charity Committee
- Community Committee
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion - EDI Committee (including anti bullying ambassadors)

Our Charity committee have worked hard to raise money and awareness of various charities this term, including Children in Need where we raised a massive £1,104.21. A huge well done!

Our EDI committee have worked particularly well on various projects throughout the term and are making a huge difference to support those with SEND needs and diversity across school.



## Inter House Events



Our student House Captains meet fortnightly to plan interhouse competitions and events. This term we have held 2 whole school quizzes, a photography competition, and a Christmas card competition. We are extremely proud of all the great work our Captains do, and look forward to seeing even more events and activities next term. Go team Eckington!

## Exploring masculinity and breaking down stereotypes

Don't 'bottle it up' boys.

This term we have joined up with an organisation called Beyond Equality, a charity working across the UK to promote healthy behaviour and an awareness of gender issues amongst young men and boys. The project aims to combat the negative stereotypes and attitudes held by boys towards marginalised genders - as well as themselves - that can lead to violent behaviour in later life. It also tackles issues beyond violence; these include self-esteem, body image, consent, homophobia, mental health, peer pressure and pornography. Our boys in Year 10 have had 3 2-hour workshops to explore these issues in depth with our external visitors.

## Breaking down stereotypes and empowering women & girls

To compliment the work of Beyond Equality, our girls completed 3 workshops to explore gender and equality. The girls looked at stereotypes, the glass ceiling and how to break down gender inequality in the workplace and world around us. The sessions finished with a research project on inspirational and notable women in a range of fields to celebrate the great things that women can do in society.

This work complements our effective careers education in which considering aspiration and addressing stereotypes and equal pay is an important part of the curriculum.

Well done Year 10, we hope you found the event thought provoking and interesting.

## Youth Engagement Team supports our assemblies

This term our local Police have supported our assemblies by presenting a range of topics to our students. We are grateful to our policing partners for the support they have shown the school this term. It has been incredibly useful to hear the policing perspective on these topics and really has an impact on our students.

Topics delivered this term include:

- Bonfire and Halloween Safety
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Radicalisation and the PREVENT agenda
- County Lines – Child Exploitation (Sexual or Criminal)
- Sexting and law around sharing indecent images of young people

## Addressing Mental Health in Year 7

Our School Nursing team have supported our Year 7 students with their mental health and wellbeing by presenting a workshop in LIFE lessons on Managing Worries and Anxiety. Thank you to our school nurses for these sessions, we know they will be useful for our students.



## All things Careers

This term all of our students continue to make use of our amazing careers support platform called Unifrog. ALL students can log in to this platform using their school email address and use it to explore their personal strengths, careers pathways, interests and learn about a range of topics including health and wellbeing. In addition, students can explore college and university courses and create a CV and make applications. Our careers team track all careers interactions our students take part in on the platform so students can look back at what opportunities that have had over their time at Eckington to help them write personal statements and CVs.



### **Year 10 Work Experience, and Year 8 work shadowing...coming soon**

Year 10 students are busy this term finding their own work experience placements ready for their work experience in March next year. Please do offer support to them to do this if you are able to. Parents and the local community are enormously important in providing our students with their much needed experience of the world of work. Students apply for work experience placements through the Unifrog 'Placement' tool or by contacting Mrs Lazenby at school [slazenby@chorustrust.org](mailto:slazenby@chorustrust.org)



In addition, next year our Year 8 students will have an opportunity to have a day out of school on 'Work Shadowing', where they can shadow a parent or close relative or friend in their employment for a day to experience the world of work. Our students have always really enjoyed this opportunity.

## Going for Gold!

Excellent news for our Excellent Careers Education Curriculum

Our school has been awarded for the second time the Quality in Careers Standard 'Careers Mark Gold' award. The Quality in Careers Standard is the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in secondary schools, colleges and work-based learning.

Our school has held the quality mark for well over 10 years, and it was an honour to be awarded recognition for the effective careers programme and work we do across school to embed careers learning into all areas of the curriculum.

The Standard is fully aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks for "Good Career Guidance" and complies with the DfE's Statutory Guidance.

As England's dedicated national quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard – through external assessment – uniquely accredits the four components of the CEIAG:

- Careers Education
- Careers Information
- Careers Advice
- Careers Guidance



Our annual Careers Fair is just one event in the careers programme and will be held on January the 31st which will include over 60 different visitors from local employers, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. We hope all of our students find this event useful and informative.

## Message from the Chair of Governors - Mrs J Wormleighton Eckington School

Our school is looking to recruit two COMMUNITY GOVERNORS to join our experienced team of Governors.

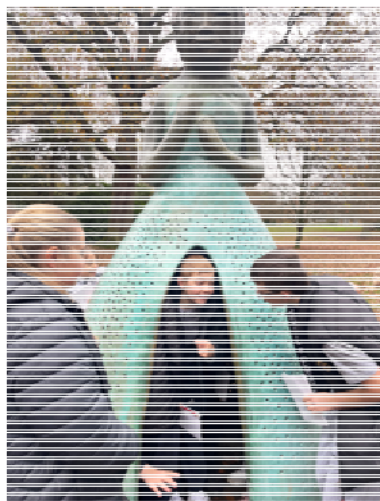
If you would like further information about joining the Governing Body, please email :

Davina Middleton Headteachers PA and Governor Support Officer.  
DMiddleton@chorustrust.org



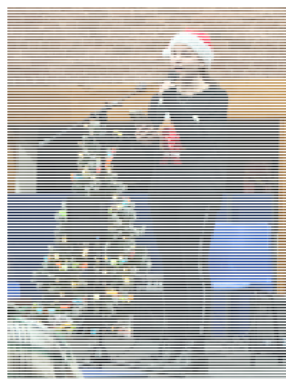
## Art visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park Year 7

The Year 7s have had the wonderful opportunity to visit the fantastic Yorkshire Sculpture Park and experience one of the country's most bountiful collections of sculpture. The day involved a workshop with a sculptor where they were able to create their own sculpture, whilst also experiencing sculptures in the landscape. They were able to find out about the artists and their work and explore the sculptures in beautiful surroundings.



## Music Live Lounge

The Music Department hosted a music live lounge event this term which showcased some of the schools talented musicians and singers. The students had worked very hard to prepare for the event which had a fantastic turn out. The audience was treated to some amazing performances in saxophone, lead and bass guitar, piano and keyboard in addition to a variety of talented singers. The students put on a great performance and should be congratulated on their efforts.



# 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.

All students above 98% attendance were treated to a hot chocolate and shortbread with members of the Senior Leadership Team.



## Website news: Parent Hub!

As part of our ongoing plans to communicate more effectively with parents and carers, we have been busy populating the school website with information that will help keep you in touch with life at Eckington. Launching on Friday 22 December, new elements of the website include information on the curriculum, how we approach assessment, behaviour and culture, student leadership at Eckington and wellbeing. This is all brought together for parents and carers through 'Parent Hub', an easy to navigate space making it easier to find essential information. You can visit our website at [www.eckington.chorustrust.org](http://www.eckington.chorustrust.org).

