



Eckington School

Headteacher Update Letter – 4 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of a productive and inspiring term, I would like to update you on the many positive developments at Eckington School since September. Our students have demonstrated excellent attitudes, our staff continue to go above and beyond, and our school culture remains a real strength of the school.

Positive Parental Feedback

Thank you to the 188 parents who responded to last year's parental questionnaire. I am pleased to share that the vast majority of responses were significantly above the national averages published by Ofsted. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us continue to refine and strengthen our provision. As ever, if you have any concerns, particularly if your child does not feel safe for any reason, please contact the school's pastoral team immediately so that we can support you.

Helping Parents Engage in their Child's Learning Journey

Whilst overwhelmingly positive, one clear area for improvement identified in the parental survey was that the school could improve by helping parents better understand their child's educational journey. In response to this feedback, I have asked Mr Shore (Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning) to design a termly **Learning and Teaching Newsletter** that will outline what your child will be studying. In the meantime, please explore our Curriculum Roadmaps on the school website (Parents Hub → Curriculum), which outlines subject learning journeys from Year 7 through to Year 13 or click [here](#).

Christmas Foodbank Form Competition

Supporting our community is a fundamental part of the Eckington Way as it demonstrates the values of being polite and kind. This year, we are running a Christmas Foodbank Form Competition. All food donated will be given to our local community foodbank in Eckington. We encourage every student to bring in donations. The form with the highest number of donations will receive a reward! Useful items include:

- Tinned meats, fish, vegetables, soups, and puddings
- Pasta, rice, cereal, long-life milk
- Toiletries and hygiene products
- Christmas treats such as biscuits, chocolates, mince pies, and selection boxes!

School Car Park Request to Parents

A polite reminder that parents should not block parking spaces in the mornings, as staff need to be able to access the car park promptly to ensure the smooth running of the school day. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Eckington Enrichment

Our enrichment offer continues to expand, and we are delighted to see so many students taking part. A recent highlight was the educational visit to the Hadron Collider at Cern in Switzerland, an unforgettable opportunity for our students to see cutting-edge science in action. Also, the Diamond Art Club continues to grow in popularity! Period 6 sessions are already very well attended by our Year 11 students, who have shown real maturity and determination during their mock examinations.

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Eckington School

Improving 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 (right). 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 should you need any support with your child's attendance.

In a year this means...			
Days Missed	Lessons Missed	Attendance %	Category
		100%	Exemplary
4	20	98%	Excellent
6	30	97%	Expected
7.5	38	96%	Almost there
13	65	93%	Needing Improvement
19	95	90%	Concerning
28	140	85%	Significantly concerning

Remembrance Event



A standout moment this term was the whole-school Remembrance event, featured in the Derbyshire Times. Over 1,200 students and staff came together in a moving and respectful ceremony. As always, our students were outstanding!

Improving Communication with Parents

Improving communication remains an ongoing priority. To help you contact the most appropriate member of staff, please refer to the communication tables attached with this letter. While many teachers teach full timetables throughout the day, our staff will always strive to respond to emails in a timely manner. I will write again at the end of this term and will include our Term 1 Newsletter, which highlights many of the wonderful achievements so far this year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Richard M Cronin
Headteacher

Please note contact sheet and information attached below:



Eckington School

Useful Eckington School Contact Details

Faculty Email Contact Details (for educational communication)

Faculty Name		Email Address
English Faculty (includes Media Studies)	Mrs. L Thompson	english@eckington.chorustrust.org
Mathematics Faculty	Mr. A Hylan	maths@eckington.chorustrust.org
Science Faculty	Mrs. H Streets	science@eckington.chorustrust.org
Humanities Faculty (History, Geography and Religious Education)	Mr. B Jessop	humanities@eckington.chorustrust.org
Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish, French and German)	Mrs. D Atkin	mfl@eckington.chorustrust.org
Technology Faculty (Technology, iMedia and Catering)	Mrs. D Robinson	technology@eckington.chorustrust.org
Social Sciences Faculty (sociology, psychology, criminology business studies and travel and tourism)	Mrs. Needham (pending recruitment)	socialsciences@eckington.chorustrust.org
Creative Faculty (Art, Drama and Music)	Miss. H Partridge	creative@eckington.chorustrust.org
Physical Education Faculty (PE and Health and Fitness) –	Mrs. Clarke and Mr. R Roberts	pe@eckington.chorustrust.org

Pastoral Email Addresses

Should you need to contact one of our Pastoral Support Assistants (PSAs), regarding a pastoral matter, please use the new email addresses below:

	PSA Name	Email Address
Year 7 PSA	Ms. J Cliffe	Year7@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 8 PSA	Ms. A Turner	Year8@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 9 PSA	Miss J Timms	Year9@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 10 PSA	Mrs. J Woodhead	Year10@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 11 PSA	Mrs N Marshall	Year11@eckington.chorustrust.org
Year 12 and 13 PSA	Mrs. R Exley	Sixthform@eckington.chorustrust.org

Safeguarding Concerns

- If you would like to raise a non-urgent safeguarding concern, please email: Safeguarding@eckington.chorustrust.org
- If urgent, please contact school reception and ask to speak to a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- If you are concerned about the wellbeing of a young person, you can also contact Derbyshire Social Care via Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190
- If you believe a child is in immediate risk of harm, please call the police on 999.