

Ercall Wood

Winter / Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the Winter/Spring edition of the Newsletter. We have had another great start to the academic year. It gave me great pleasure to see our pupils make two very significant transitions. The move to and from secondary school marks times in our lives that many of us never forget. Discovering and realising potential is what school is all about.

The Class of 2010 exceeded our expectations securing the best results Ercall Wood has seen for many years. 68% of our pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs at C or above. Of that group, 48% achieved 5+ GCSEs at C or above including English and Maths. Both of these figures exceeded the challenging target set for the school by the Governors and represents an 11% increase on the previous year. I am immensely proud of the pupils who worked very hard to secure these results and would like to thank the staff and parents for the support they gave to allow them reach their potential.

As much as I will miss the Class of 2010 the cycle continues and we have welcomed the new Year 7 pupils to the school. They have now settled in and have made a good impression on myself and the other staff here. This process has been greatly helped by the new and improved peer mentoring service coordinated by Mr. Will our Educational Welfare Officer. Not only has this year seen a new team trained up to this important role they have also established a new base, known as 'The Shed'. This class room has been totally redecorated and refurnished to provide the perfect environment to support the group and 1:1 mentoring for our students. All the refurbishments were completed by students. Their work with our Year 7's allowed us to apply for national recognition for our peer mentor programme.

Further national recognition was achieved when the school was accepted on the exciting Build a Plane project. Offered by the British Aeronautical Society, we are the third school in the country to be awarded this rare opportunity. Mrs. Parry-Sargent and a team of pupils will be receiving the kit, donated by Boeing, in late January. With the help of local engineers pupils will construct a real two seater light aircraft. The project should last around 18 months and will see us working in collaboration with HLC and Phoenix school. This has really captured the enthusiasm of the pupils and while I am obviously excited about the prospect of being a passenger in the first plane built by the school, it is the impact on the pupils that makes this so rewarding.

It seems strange to mention the leaving of the Class of 2011 but the school year goes so quickly. The Spring term is when the last preparations should be made for the final exams. The early indicators are that this year group should sustain the school's upward trend. I would urge all pupils to focus their attention on the task ahead. The caliber of these pupils is reflected in the quality of the Prefect Team. They have already impressed me with their impact on whole school life.

Late September saw another first of the school, the Technology Fun Day. I hope many of you were able to attend. It was wonderful to share in such a fun packed day with members of the local community. The weather was fantastic, we had loads of exhibitions and activities from local businesses and colleges. We even had a 'fly by' from the same model of plane that will be built by the pupils. It was a great success and one we will repeat next year. I hope you will join us again in September 2011.

This term has seen our dedication to pupil welfare recognised through the Healthy Schools Programme. There are four areas that make up the accreditation. We have just had our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Healthy Eating programmes reviewed by an external assessor. I am very pleased to say both areas met the necessary criteria. Particular thanks go to both Mrs. Hasenauer the PSHE coordinator and Mrs. Parry-Sargent, Head of Design and Technology. We will be submitting the final two sections shortly to achieve the full accreditation.

These are just some of the highlights so far, as you read on you will see many more. This has been a good start to the new academic year. I hope you can share in my pride in the pupils and staff at Ercall Wood.

Best regards.

Chay Davis - Headteacher



THE SHED



HALLOWEEN



EID



SHOWS!



SPORTS!

*All in this
issue!!*

THE SHED

Ercall Wood are proud to share their latest edition "The Shed" with you, we are now able to offer a designated room for both peer and learning mentor work to be conducted within the school. The pictures speak for themselves; it is a calming and relaxing environment for students to use who have been signposted by staff at the school. Alternatively young people can self refer themselves to the scheme, by posting their concerns in the Peer Mentor Box which is housed outside The Shed, which sits alongside our schools "Anti bullying box", which allows students from all year groups to post any concerns or issues that they may be experiencing. This will then be addressed by a designated staff member within the school.

The Peer mentoring scheme requires parental consent, after which the young people are then mentored individually by the team of seventeen year ten peer mentors, who work alongside year seven students engaging in our one to one support scheme. Alison Warrington, Ercall Wood's Learning Mentor is also based here; she works with young people individually and in small groups to overcome any difficulties that may cause a barrier to their learning.



The young people also have the option to spend break and lunchtimes in The Shed, where they can play a variety of board games or just relax in conversation with their friends. The team of peer mentors along with myself and Alison, designed how the room was going to look and together decorated, named and furnished it. It's proved to be a valuable resource for our school which is very popular with the peer mentors and students alike.

Mr Will, Educational Welfare Officer

WRITE ON READING CHALLENGE

On 4 February ten Year Seven students went to a seminar attended by other schools in the local area, which was designed to promote reading skills and enjoyment. The activities were based upon F.E. Higgins' novel "The Black Book of Secrets." Our students acquitted themselves very well in all the activities, particularly in the debate (some budding public speakers there!) The students had a very enjoyable and productive morning, and were rewarded with small gifts in recognition of their success. We have now entered a creative writing competition, producing our own "confessions" in the style of the novel, so watch this space for the results!

Mrs Mole
English

ERCALL WOOD TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE ATTENDANCE...LATENESS.....APPOINTMENTS

ATTENDANCE... at Ercall Wood attendance is monitored on a weekly basis by our on site Education Welfare Officer, we pride ourselves on being proactive and keeping our attendance at a high level to meet the targets set by the local authority. Parents /carers of young people who have low levels of attendance could be subjected to legal action being taken against them by the local authority. Early intervention by the EWO and staff helps to maintain good levels of attendance for all year groups.

LATENESS... every child is expected to arrive at school no later than 8.50am each school day. If a young person arrives late for registration more than once a week they will be sanctioned with a detention. It is asked that you contact school if you are aware that your child is going to be late. If they arrive after 9.30am they will be coded as 'unauthorised late'.

APPOINTMENTS... we understand that all young people will be subject to doctors/dentist/ hospital appointments, however we do request that where possible these are made at the beginning or the end of the

school day. We do ask that your child when possible returns to school after any appointment and does not take the whole school day off.

To report an absence please contact Julie Cartwright Attendance Officer on 01952 387336.

To speak about any attendance related issues please contact Stuart Will on 01952 387342 or 01952 387300

VACANCY!

Ercall Wood are seeking school cleaners.
Anyone interested should contact Wendy Hartland at Telford and Wrekin on 380956.



We collected 2141 Morrison's Let it grow vouchers.

We have chosen staging for our greenhouse a composers an apple tree and lots of seeds and compost

PEER MENTORING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Our Peer Mentoring Scheme over the last three years has gained greater recognition within the school and community, with the number of students wanting to undertake the role increasing year on year. With this in mind I decided to apply to the National Body for Mentoring and Befriending. Our aim was to be nationally recognised for the work that goes into implementing what is a fantastic resource for the school. In April 2010, I registered our interest with the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation; they provide support and offer guidance to schools and organisations who are already involved in mentoring. The MABF foundation is supported by the Cabinet Office and The Department of Children, Schools and Families. To reach the threshold for APS Approved Provider Status, our scheme had to be able to evidence twelve elements, our project had to have a clear rationale and purpose within the school, that it ran effectively, that students who used the scheme were briefed and prepared for their involvement in the programme, that regular supervision was available for both peer mentors and mentees, and that it took place, to name a few.

It took from April 2010 to January 2011, for our scheme, which now includes our one to one programme to feel ready to be put under the spotlight,. After many hours of hard work from myself and the Peer Mentors, evidencing all the work that was taking place we contacted the foundation and requested an assessment date, which took place on February 16th. The assessment was held at school and involved both Peer Mentors and Mentees being interviewed by independent assessors, and the scheme as a whole being scrutinised by them. The result was that Ercall Wood achieved outstanding in every one of the twelve elements and was provided with National Recognition from MABF, for the work that the scheme had evidenced. We are one of the first schools in Shropshire to achieve such an award.

I personally would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Peer Mentors both past and present for enabling this scheme to be such a success, without all your hard work and commitment we would not be where we are today. And on a personal note I would like to thank the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation for all the extra help and guidance which has enabled me to take the Peer Mentoring Scheme to the next level. Watch this space our aim is to go higher.

Stuart Will
Peer Mentor Coordinator



Free School Meals—You may be entitled!

To find out if you are eligible for free school meals please contact Mrs T. Ricketts on 01952 387303

Moving House? Changing Phone Number?

Please keep the school up to date by contacting Mrs T. Ricketts on 01952 387303



'The school fund accounts for April 2009 - March 2010 are available for inspection on request to the Business Manager.'



IT Diploma students get iPhone 4's!!!



As part of the IT Diploma, students have been issued with iPhone 4's to help with their learning. I bet you wish you were doing the IT Diploma now?!!

Students have been visiting companies such as Capgemini and The University of Wolverhampton to help them complete their assignments. The iPhone has allowed the students to log key pieces of information, through taking pictures, storing information, researching on the internet etc. It has also enabled them to keep in contact with other students and teachers involved in the course.

Some comments from IT diploma students



Atif, "It is good because it has enabled me to keep in touch with other students on the course".

Liam, "It is cool because I have been able to research on the internet even when I'm on the move".

Nick, "It's spectacular because I've been able to download a lot of educational apps onto it and I've been able to take lots of notes".



Written by: Jak Humphreys

Pictures taken by: Nicholas Jessup

Help: Sumair Nawaz, George Foxon, Liam Price

Sport Trips!

An evening with David Lloyd Ex England Cricketer

Courtesy of Mr Davis, I had the privilege of taking four students (Chris Birkett, Sam Morgan and Matthew and Rachel Chesters) to an evening with David Lloyd. We met him before the show where the students had the opportunity to ask him questions relating to his cricket. We also had our pictures taken with David for the local newspaper. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Rugby Trip to Twickenham, London

For the second year running, Mr Creed took a coach load of students to watch the varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge at Twickenham. Oxford won it this year 21 – 10. Everyone behaved extremely well and was a credit to the school. Well done to all those who attended. I do hope you have all recovered from seeing the streaker on the pitch!!



Mr Creed

R.E. Department



Just before Christmas we decided to collect money for the children at Hope House. We did this by selling stars, in memory of people who had died, for our Christmas tree. The stars cost

50pence and everyone who bought one also had a certificate to take home. The stars were bright colours and made our Christmas tree especially cheerful. It was a way of remembering people special to us and also collecting money for the Hospice. Altogether we collected £66-50. Ms Sarah Elms, the Fundraiser from Hope House, came to our school to meet us and to tell us how the money will be spent.

Matthew Owens and Tom Price
8 Green



Army Chaplain

Reverend Alcock, a chaplain in the Royal Navy visited the year 10 R.E group in January. It was a great experience! He explained about his job and what is expected from him in the navy as a naval chaplain. He works

with soldiers aged 19 and above. He has to wear the same combat uniform but also has red crosses on the labels and 'Rev. Alcock' over the pocket so that he can be recognizable; they also wear red arm bands. As protection they give him body armour and a heavy helmet but he is not allowed to carry weapons. Overall this was a great insight into what navy life is about.

By Chelsea Olliver -10 Blue & Isbah Begum -10 Orange

War Memorial Trip

Visit to National war memorial Arboretum.

On the 17th February year 10 students who are studying GCSE RE with Mrs Jennings went to the National war memorial to get an understanding of the subject that they were studying which was war and justice.

The group was taken around the grounds of the arboretum and shown many memorials to do with the 1st and 2nd World wars. Each memorial had a great emotional impact on the students and staff alike when they realised the significance of each memorial and the history behind each one.

When we arrived at the war memorial and were shown how to make Poppies with our eyes shut to show us how soldiers who have become injured in the war and sometimes blinded make poppies for the help the heroes' charity.

This visit was an amazing experience and a very sad one when you realise the many lives

of service men and women who were killed fighting for their country but for the students and staff it was a beneficial one and one I hope the school continues to go on in the future..



By Jason McKernan 8 Green

Community Day



Year 7 Halloween



EID



Ercall Wood
Performing Arts Committee
Presents



On The 20th July, 21st July 22nd July
Ticket prices Adult £5 Child £3
Family (2A&2C) £13

Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Hopelessly Devoted to You &
You're The One That I Want
presented by arrangement with Robert Stigwood

Grease is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 1359 Broadway, Suite 914, New York, NY. 10018. www.theatricalrights.com

Ebenezer

The Ercall Wood Performing Arts Society



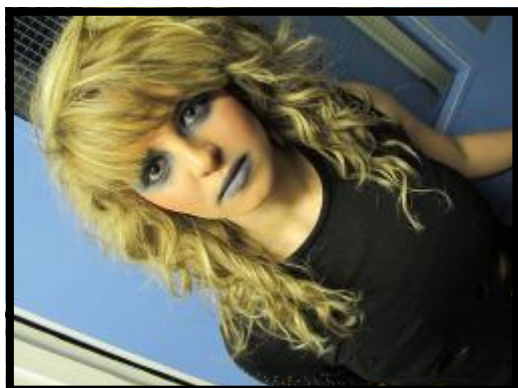
The Ercall Wood Performing Arts Society was set up at Easter 2010, made up of a combination of staff from various departments and Year 11 pupils, all with an interest in the performing arts and an ambition to revive musical productions in the school.

Thanks to the on-going support of Performing Arts by our Headteacher, Mr Davis and our Business Manager, Mrs Barnett, we have been successful in securing grant funding and this has enabled us to refurbish our stage and replenish our resources.

'Ebenezer!' was only our second production and involved pupils from every year group as well as staff from across the school. An adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, it featured songs from the present day alongside some of the original dialogue. It was certainly not 'Bah Humbug' at Ercall Wood as the musical play brought Victorian England to life and the heart back into Christmas.



There were some stunning performances, notably from Will Strickland (Yr 11) as Ebenezer Scrooge as well as Robin Taylor-Jenkins who stole the show as the rapper Ghost of Christmas Present. Xenna



Kristian sang beautifully as Belle and Matt Pugh really entertained as the ghost of Jacob Marley. It was, however, very much a team performance and praise is also due to the band, the make-up artists led by Mrs Harvey, the backstage crew led by Mr Cooke and supervised by Mr Andrews as well as Mrs Dodd and Mrs Hasenauer who supervised in the green rooms on the night. Thanks also go to Mr Dale-Jensen who led the props team, Miss Roberts for directing the show and Mr Norman Jones of Starlight Lighting Ltd and The Stage Door, Wem for costume loan.

Our Year 11 Student Director of Performing Arts, Chloe Edwards, has now successfully secured our next grant funding and we are very pleased to officially announce our forthcoming musical production of 'Grease' in the last week of the summer term.



Liz Upton – Chair, Ercall Wood Performing Arts Society
Chloe Edwards – Year 11 Student Director of Performing

School Sports Coordinator News



going through to the Regional finals in Birmingham!

A **Girls Active Programme** has started after school with sports to try including Golf, Archery, BMXing, Tae Kwon Do, Street Dance and Boogie Bounce. In addition Handball, Rugby & Dance clubs have been running and the **Change4Life Fencing Club** has had its 2nd match, this time against Wrekin College.

This term got off to an exciting start with a variety of new activities on offer and record numbers of pupils attending.

Wrekin Sword Club now holds an after school club at Ercall Wood and our school team took part in its first Competition at Wrekin College. Chris Thomas, Josh Matthews, Alistair Houlton & Alex Baines successfully beat a team from Shrewsbury School! We also have Rugby with Telford Hornets, Table Tennis, Martial Arts & Dance Clubs now in place.

Boys Active Programme has been a great success with sports to try including Golf, BMXing, Kung Fu, Archery, Tae Kwon Do & finished with an afternoon of Water polo & Trampolining at Madeley Sports Centre.

20 Yr. 8 pupils are now participating in the **T&W Physical Activity Reward Scheme** with 3 pupils already reaching Level 1. 20 Year 7 students have registered on the **Living for Sport Scheme** with activities starting in January. The **Sport Unlimited Programme** for girls also starts again next term with Tag Rugby.

The Living for Sport Programme started this term with 20Yr 7 pupils participating in a variety of activities including Fencing, BMXing & Ice Skating and also enjoyed a visit from the British Bobsleigh Gold medallist, Nicola Minichiello.

2 classes of Yr. 7 pupils participated in the **Golf Extreme Programme** this term with our competitors going on to win the Schools Team competition held at Horsehay Golf Club!

The **Yr. 7/8 Indoor Athletics Teams** have also been very successful with the girl's team coming 2nd in the Telford Competition and the boy's team winning both the T&W and County Competitions which means they now



Miss Turner

Sports Leaders Level 1

We now have 26 new Yr 10 Sports Leaders, who have been leading classes of KS1 children at Short Wood and Yr 7 pupils at Ercall Wood. 6 of the Leaders attended the KS1 Active Lifestyles Training Day at Madeley & all Leaders received training to run the Multi Skills activities at T&W's KS2 Gifted and Talented Day. 4 of our students also attended their first Leadership Academy Day. In addition our Yr11 Leaders have continued their skipping sessions with all classes at Short Wood & our BTEC PE students are involved in refereeing school & Short Wood Football Matches.

A very busy autumn term!

The Yr10 **Sports Leaders** continue to teach a variety of activities to classes of KS1 pupils at



Short Wood each week. Our 4 Academy Leaders have attended the T&W training days this term and learnt how to coach Basketball & Rounders to KS 2&3 pupils. In March 60 KS1 children participated in a Mini Games afternoon organised & run by the Sports Leaders. In addition Ercall Wood, BRJ & Charlton schools also ran a highly successful Club Links afternoon with over 100 KS1 pupils trying out new activities led by coaches from local clubs & our school Sports Leaders.



Miss Turner

Results!

Yr 7

**21st September
Year 7 Boys
Football Telford Cup v Abraham
Darby – Won 9-8 (after
extra-time)**

This was the first ever game that the new Year 7 students had played for the Ercall Wood and what game it was. An unbelievable game, which at the end of full time was 7-7 but at 8-8 in extra-time Matt Riddell scored the winner. Eshan Greer was man of the match netting 5 goals for the Ercall Wood. Second round will be played in the new year. Well done lads.

**15th October Year 7
Football County Cup v
Madeley Academy –
Lost 5-0**

**3rd November Year 7
Football County Cup v
Charlton – Lost 5-2**

Yr 9

**28th September Year 9 Boys
Football Presidents Plate v
Priory – Lost 8-2**

6th October Year 9 Boys Football Presidents Plate v Burton Borough – Lost 4-3

Another scratch year 9 side went to Burton Borough with little optimism but plenty of heart. The boys went 3-1 down at half-time, the Ercall Wood boys started to work together and it all started to click. Year 7's answer to Alan Shearer, Eshan Greer got the game back to 3-2 with a neat finish and then Jack Gurney scored a cracker to level the game 3-3. With quite literally seconds left on the clock they scored to make it 4-3. Very proud of everyone of them playing. **Star man was Chris Birkett**

12th October Year 9 Football County Cup v Thomas Telford – Lost 9-0

Yr 8

27th September Year 8 Boys Football Presidents Plate v Mary Webb – Lost 4-1

1st October Year 8 Boys Football Telford Cup v Thomas Telford 'B' – Lost 4-1

The boys gave a spirited performance against the mighty Thomas Telford. The boys never gave up and gave absolutely everything for the cause. Thomas Telford were not the clear winners and Ercall made it very hard for them throughout the whole game. **Star man was Bradley Howes but a close second was Joe Driver**



14th October Year 8 Football County Cup v Abraham Darby – Lost 4-2

Yr 10

**23rd September Year 10 Boys
Football County Cup v HLC –
Lost 2-0**

8th October Year 10 Boys Football Presidents Plate v Madeley Academy – Won 4-3

Another 4-3 result but this time we were the ones celebrating. Ercall didn't start well and conceded some soft goals in the first half but just before half time Tom Albutt got us back in the game to go in 2-1 down at half-time. Madeley then scored again to make it 3-1 and then Ercall started their great escape. First it was Josh Pidgeon's neat footwork and cross that gave James O'Neill the easiest of tasks to make it 3-2. Then Albutt again scored to make it 3-3 and Ryan Gowan steamed down the right hand side and crossed for O'Neill to make it 4-3 and send Smithson and Creed into massive celebration! **Star man Luke Pickering again who was unbelievable.**

13th October Year 10 Football Telford Cup v Charlton – Lost 4-0

Yr 11

**30th September
Year 11 Boys
Football Telford Cup v Abraham
Darby – Lost 6-3**

The lads were really looking forward to this game as they wanted revenge for last years defeat. The tactical genius that is Mr Smithson changed the formation and went to a 3-5-2. At half-time the score was 4-0 to Ab Dab. Oh dear. After some inspirational words at half-time the lads went out for the second half a changed team. Reese Fyfield got a goal back soon after the restart and then Mitchell Brassington got a second making it 4-2. Ab Dab then increased their lead to 5-2 then 6-2 and with two minutes to go Brad Bowden scored an absolute screamer to finish 6-3 to Ab Dab. The second half performance was their best ever by a mile, just a shame it came when it did. **Star man was year 10 Luke Pickering at centre half. Played like a 14 year old Tony Adams, awesome!!**

**18th October Year 11
Football Presidents Plate
v Phoenix – Lost 4-1**

This game turned out to be the game that Ercall should of won but didn't. The first half was fairly decent and the score was 1-1 at half-time, Reese Fyfield scoring for Ercall. The second half was a lot different. Ercall lost their discipline, will to win and determination. They looked like they didn't want it which was very disappointing from the lads. **Star man was Steven Monk who was one of few lads who didn't give up despite the score line.**

Sports News & Results

An extremely busy autumn term in the PE department. Many fixtures played, lots of students representing the school and all giving 110% for Ercall Wood.

Year 8 boys indoor athletics team who on Thursday February 17th went to Charlton school to compete in the Shropshire Indoor Athletics finals. The lads ended up winning the competition by only 2 points. The top three in reverse order was Thomas Telford = 3rd, William Brookes = 2nd and **ERCALL WOOD = 1ST!!!!**

The lads are now through to the West Midlands Final to represent Shropshire on Thursday 23rd March.

The following boys were as follows:

Mark Bleasdale, Hallam Corbett-Jones, Dudley Howes, Bradley Howes, Danny Harrison, Anthony Ayres and Jamie Austin.

11th November Year 10 & 11 Rugby v HLC

We cheekily gate crashed HLC's rugby training night and at the end played them in a competitive game. Both sides were very even and could not be separated in terms of score line. However, in the last seconds, Tom Albutt picked the ball up on the left hand side from of the pitch and ran almost one half, scoring in the opposition corner to win the game for Ercall Wood. Well done boys!

11th October Year 8 County Cup rugby v William Brooks

A full strength side played an under strength William Brooks team. However, we agreed to reduce our numbers to make the game fair for William Brooks. A move we later regretted! William Brooks had two unstoppable forwards who won the game for them. The score finished 19 – 22 to William Brooks.

Netball



The Year 7 & 8 Netball Teams have made a very good start to their season, playing friendly matches against BRJ & Charlton Schools. They have participated in the T&W Netball Tournaments & continue to practice with great enthusiasm & commitment each

week. Well done girls!

Well done also to the Yr. 11 girls who entered a team in the Senior Netball Tournament.

Netball Teams

The Year 7 & 8 Netball Teams have had a very good season playing successful, friendly matches against BRJ & Charlton Schools. They are participating in the T&W Netball Tournaments & continue to practice with great enthusiasm & commitment each week. Well done girls!

Well done also to the Yr. 11 girls who entered a team in the Senior Netball Tournament at Charlton and came 2nd!



12th November U14/U16 Badminton v Phoenix School

We took an all boys team to Phoenix School due to the lack of uptake by the girls at Ercall Wood. Playing in a full size sports hall with a high ceiling gave the lads a real opportunity to demonstrate their skills. We drew the U14 game 4 – 4 however we lost the U16 game 5 – 3. Well done to all that took part and keep practising!

10th December U14/U16 Badminton v Charlton

A home fixture saw our lads win both the U14 and U16 tournament to our local rivals Charlton. Well done to all the boys involved especially Amir Fiaz and Josh Pidgeon who both played with injured hands!