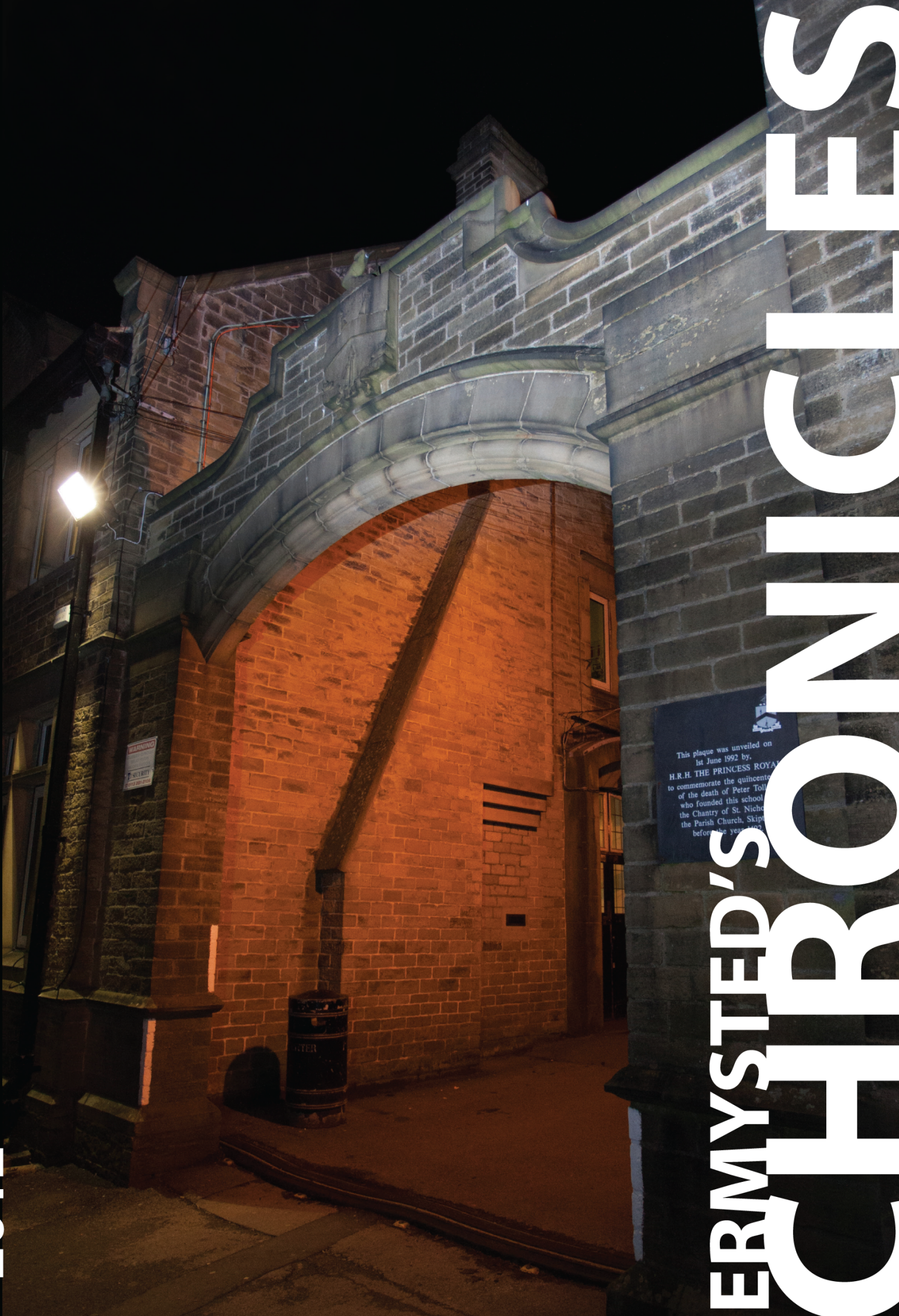


2012



ERMYSTED'S CHRONICLES

This plaque was unveiled on
1st June 1992 by
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL
to commemorate the quincentenary
of the death of Peter Tolson
who founded this school
the Chantry of St. Nicholas
the Parish Church, Skipton
before the year 1400



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Editorial

Whilst my new found reliance on caffeine can be blamed on the Chronicles, I'd say that editing this year's edition has been a genuinely worthwhile experience. It has been extremely rewarding to be involved in helping to bring the publication to print.

Thanks to many hours chasing staff and students alike, this year's magazine plays host to the usual range of articles from each department. More students than ever before have contributed to this year's Chronicles, which I think is a real credit to the work that Ermysted's does, in terms of producing boys who are determined and willing to put in the effort to help out wherever they can. Thank you to all of the students and staff who have contributed this time around.

You'll notice a range of new features in this year's publication. I hope that you'll enjoy hearing about aspects of the school that don't always receive the coverage afforded to some of the more academic departments, and I trust you will be suitably impressed by the school's sporting achievements over the past academic year! We've made a concerted effort to produce an array of articles that we hope people will be genuinely interested in, and the inclusion of lots of photos, along with pictures of all of the contributors, should help to lend a more human aspect to a publication that has been in production for over 80 years.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at John Mason's printers in Skipton for their patience and willingness to help throughout the process!

I hope that you enjoy reading the Chronicles this year,

Liam Hopley

PS: A massive shout out must go to everyone who has helped with the graphic design of this year's Chronicles. Producing a professional-looking magazine in less than a week is no mean feat!



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Headmaster's Letter



Mr Hamilton
Headmaster

Welcome to the 2012-13 Chronicles. It seems little time at all since I sat down to write my submission for last year's magazine, but twelve months have passed; a new set of boys have entered Year 7, another group of Year 11 boys have completed their GCSEs, and a further set of Year 13 students have gone off to seek fame and fortune, via universities and apprenticeships, or in the world of work.

Such is the nature of schools: we are but a fleeting moment in the lives of the boys here, yet we hope we can provide sufficient experiences to influence them throughout their lives and help them to develop into fine members of society, ready to play their part in a rapidly developing world. I was particularly struck by the degree of change which I have witnessed in careers education when we held our biennial Careers Fair in October. Year 9 & 10 boys were invited to meet 45 delegates who explained what their different professions involved, as well as the qualifications and experience required, the different routes to employment and the personal qualities required to succeed in their particular fields. The feedback from the evening was particularly encouraging; boys and their parents appreciated the opportunity to have so many professionals available for advice and guidance in one place and on one evening. How very different from my experience in the 1970s! I can't recall my school having any sort of organised careers programme. What I do remember is being given a card index box, similar in size to a small shoe box, where various jobs were listed in alphabetical order. I was puzzled, initially, by the first card which had, as its heading, 'BUTCHER'. This was clearly the back end of the 'B' section, and therefore all of 'A' (and most of 'B') had either been lost or stolen. Gone forever was the prospect of being an astronaut, architect or barrister. I quickly decided being a butcher wasn't for me and rifled through the cards looking for something more to my tastes. The box had to be handed back in 10-15 minutes so there was an air of panic about the whole thing! I honestly can't remember how those 10-15 minutes ended – but by the same token, I cannot remember a time when I didn't want to be a teacher.

Teaching has, quite simply, been the only job I ever wanted to do. And whilst it hasn't always been plain sailing I have never been disappointed by the rewards or challenges. There were other professions I could have considered, and had I been able to attend a Careers Fair similar to the one organised here, then a whole alphabet of other occupations could have been open to me.

In retrospect my choice was a simple one. The world of work which our students will enter bears little comparison with that of the 1970s. The myriad of choices, courses and the routes into so many different professions is greater than ever before, yet the opportunities for employment seem ever more restricted.

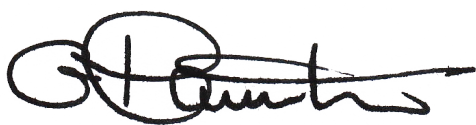
The only advice I can offer to those boys choosing professions is to work hard, to aim for the highest levels of success in examinations and to seek out opportunities which help to inform their decisions. We have a growing careers library in school and a number of people in a position to offer careers advice. Boys are given opportunities for careers interviews and access to an internet guidance programme.

The day of the card index box as the only source of advice is thankfully long gone. Students today have many more choices, bringing difficulty, opportunity and responsibility in equal measure. Going to university is a good route for qualifications but it doesn't suit everyone and is not the only direction.

In 'The Road Not Taken' the American poet Robert Frost reflects on life-changing decisions when he concludes:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less travelled by
And that has made all the difference.'*

The route which is 'less travelled by' may be an alternative one – but it can lead to fulfilment and success.



Mr G Hamilton

Headmaster

Staff News

At the end of the autumn term in 2011, we said goodbye to Mrs Russell. Rita worked at the school for 6 years, acting as the school librarian, although she also helped out as a careers adviser. Although she is now officially retired, she will continue to help out with careers guidance, particularly in terms of university applications. You can see a full interview with Rita on page 82.

Summer 2012 saw Mr Thackrah make the long trip to Japan to captain Great Britain's team at the Ultimate Disc World Cup. The team finished 5th overall but the sport continues to grow within the school. Mr Thackrah is currently in the process of putting together a team of Sixth Formers and the plan is to organise some competitive matches against other local sides by the end of the new school year.

Over the summer, Mr Clough underwent an operation on his knee, causing him to miss the start of the new term. Despite developing a worrying fondness for daytime television, his recovery is going well, and he continues to help out with university applications. We wish him all the best and hope to see him back at the school before too long!

With Mr Clough out of action, Mark Boardman has joined the English department and will be teaching English Language and Literature to A Level classes for the remainder of the autumn term.

Mr. White, of the PE department, and his wife Mrs. White, (formerly Miss Wolfenden) from the English department, will look back on 2012 with fond memories. Their first child, a little girl called Alice May White, was born in the early hours of the 31st of May this year. We're pleased to report that the whole family is doing well. Mr. White has returned to work, with Mr. Nabarro rejoining the staff as a result of Mrs. White's maternity leave.



Head Boy's Letter



Chris Loadman
Head Boy

Being Head Boy of Ermysted's Grammar School is exactly what you'd expect: hard work, responsibility and a mountain of organization. It is, however, a hugely rewarding job, allowing me to give something back by way of thanks for the support and guidance which the school has provided to me and so many others.

The school is not just successful with regards to the outstanding examination results achieved year on year. There is so much more: a real buzz and sense of community throughout the school, generated by a close link between teachers, pupils, and support staff.

However, opportunities do not end within the curriculum. The House System, reinvigorated last year, provides a healthy sense of competition in which boys are encouraged to thrive. From experience, competitions are truly enjoyed by all, from Cookery to Rugby, House Quiz to School Cross Country. Sport, Drama, Music, Debating... there really is something for everyone at Ermysted's.

My personal roles within the school are plentiful. From entertaining guests (including teachers and students from Zahira College, our partner school in Sri Lanka) to tours of the school, organizing school events to acting as chairman of the School Council, managing the House System to corridor, canteen, and litter duties... the list goes on. I do in fact enjoy the majority of these roles, and the benefit gained is undoubtedly worthwhile.

Finding a balance between carrying out these roles and keeping on top of school work is a difficult task. "Delegation is key" they said. The Deputies are without fail willing to work with me, constantly offering their hand at any opportunity. The team of 38 Prefects mirrors this determination, fulfilling their responsibilities (often outside of the school timetable) punctually and responsibly, as well as being fantastic role-models for younger pupils.

I can only hope that the short remainder of my time at Ermysted's will be as enjoyable as the past six years, and that working together with the Deputies and Prefects, we will be able to make positive changes, as well as upholding the values key to the longstanding success of the school.

Chris Loadman
Head Boy

Prefect Profiles



James Davey
Deputy Head Boy

Chris Loadman
Head Boy

Harvey Briggs
Deputy Head Boy

Jagjit S. Chaggar
Deputy Head Boy

Left to right



Ermysted
Robert Beresford
George Jowitt

Hartley
Oliver Preiss
Michael McColgan

Toller
Luke Sumnall
Simon Mousdale

Petyt
Ben Lowry
Peter Wrixon

Left to right

Art Department Review



Mr Mathews
Head of Art

Students of all ages have continued to challenge themselves and develop their creative potential using a wide range of media. Boys in Year 7 have explored alternative ways of drawing including using salt and a stick. Year 8 pupils have considered representation of the human form and how it can be abstracted, whilst Year 9 have explored conceptual art through idea-driven creations.

GCSE and A Level Art students continue to push the boundaries through the use of a wide range of materials, with years 10 to 13 developing their analytical skills through trips to the galleries of London and Art Biennale in Venice – an amazing experience which allowed boys to view cutting-edge contemporary artwork from around the world.

“Students have continued to develop their creative potential using a wide range of media”



The Department would like to thank all pupils for their continued energy and creativity!

These pictures are from year 9 art lessons. Pupils were encouraged to develop their creativity by using a range of materials, in order to produce abstract artwork



GCSE Artwork



Sam Fletcher
11PO

Past the library and up the stairs, there is another world: the Art department, the school's home of creative thinking.

The subject is unique. It's a very different creature from any other on my timetable, and it's far from easy – taking up a lot of time and effort – but I find lunchtimes meticulously polishing a clay flower (with the back of a teaspoon!) far more enjoyable than those spent staring in exasperation at simultaneous equations, hoping the numbers will somehow fall into

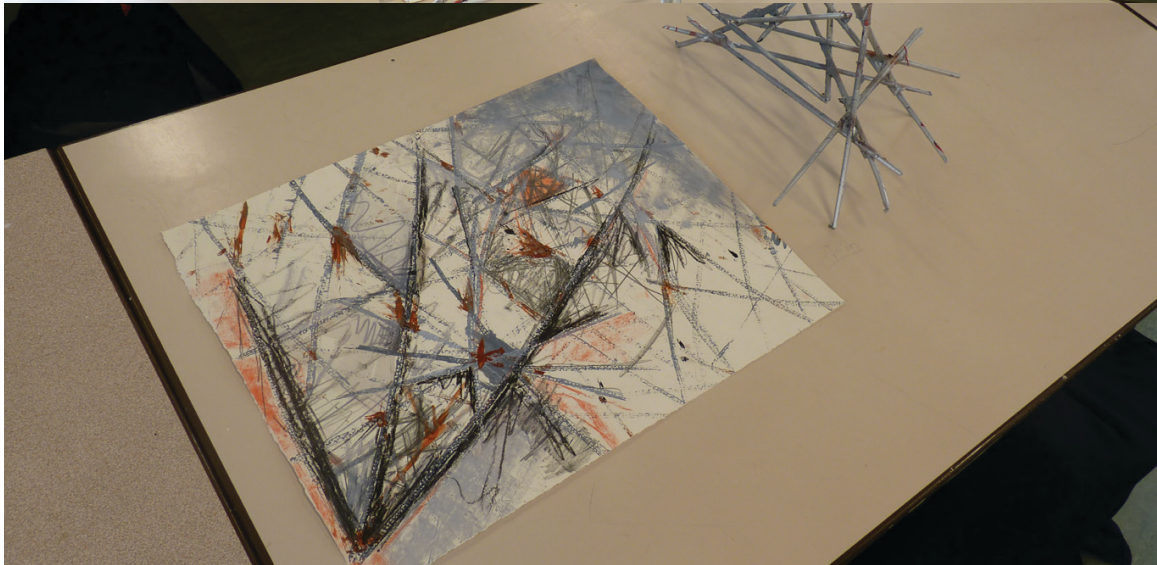
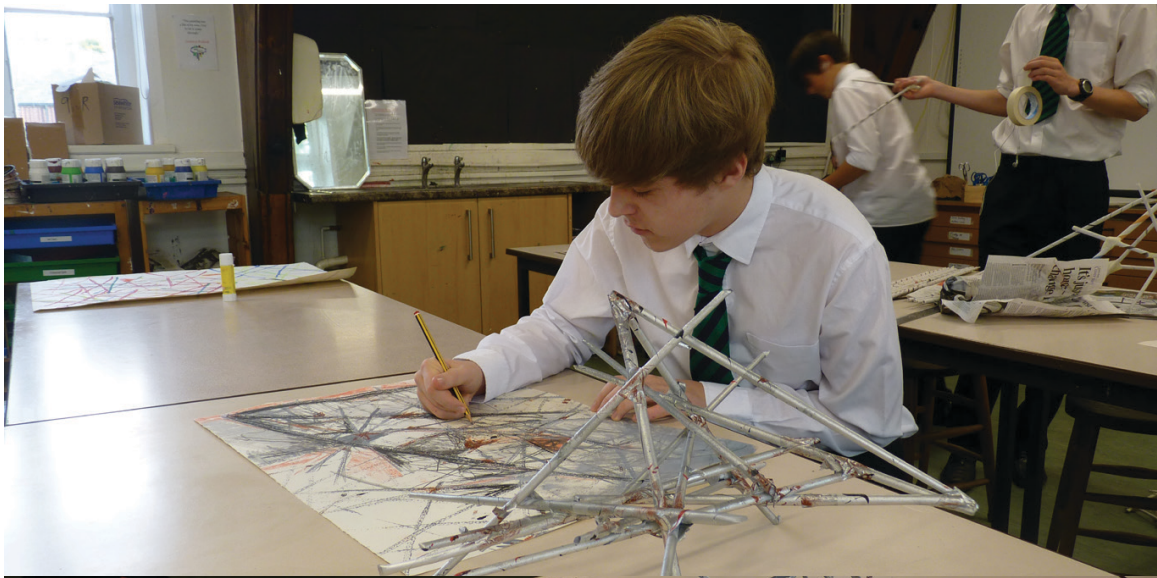
place. The nature of the Art GCSE course means that you will, by the end, have developed a project more exciting than any essay on the Cold War will ever be, and something that no-one else will ever create – this year's topics, natural forms and man-made structures, allow you to create pretty much anything.



Art encompasses many skills that you don't often get the opportunity to develop at school, such as the ability to think for yourself, to design and create. These are incredibly useful skills for life

"I find lunchtimes meticulously polishing a clay flower far more enjoyable than those spent staring in exasperation at simultaneous equations"

after school where you're expected not to give answers for questions already answered, or to cover ground that's already been covered, but to think "outside the box". This is why choosing art at GCSE is a decision about which I have no regrets.



These images show a variety of Sam's coursework pieces that will contribute towards his art GCSE. The pieces show a real range of media being used to produce both 2D pieces and 3D sculptures, giving just a small snapshot of the range of creative options for students involved with GCSE Art

A-Level Artwork



Toby Symonds
13HI

The creation of art is generally a solitary pursuit, with the artist left to his own devices to produce the products of his imagination 'on canvas'. This is how it has been for A-level artists at Ermysted's in years gone by, and it will continue this way for years to come; it's just the way it's done. However, this year literally everyone at school can say that they played a part in my A-level project. 'Crowds' were the subject of my work, therefore it made perfect sense to use a crowd to collaborate with me on the creation of the art, as Anthony Gormley did in his 'Clay Fields' project.

He gave hundreds of primary school children a block of clay each, and asked them to mould it into their idea of a person. With no 'army' of primary school children to hand, I turned to Ermysted's own Year 7.

The students of forms 7LA and 7CL performed the task admirably, producing a vast array of imaginative figures – the weird and wonderful alike – but I was not done yet. Ermysted's has a population of around 900, each boy with his own personality and creative abilities – a diversity that I wanted to harness. My idea was to create a body of identical paper figures, with each representing an Ermysted's resident, and showing off the imagination of a member of the school community.

My ideas were brought to life with vigour by staff and students alike, including characters from Spiderman to The Snowman, and patterns ranging from computer jargon to Latin phrases being used to decorate the cut-outs, with each sporting a unique design. The final piece of this collection was a long paper chain of figures completely uniform in size and shape, yet also completely different, instilled with the character of their creators – my very own way of representing diversity in a crowd in an artistic way.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the project: I couldn't have asked for more, and I must take this opportunity to congratulate you all on the whole school's successful art project!



These pictures show the process of the production of Toby's artwork. The top image shows a couple of the cut out shapes decorated by younger students, who are shown in the central image making 'people' from modelling clay. The bottom image shows one of Toby's other pieces, a more abstract piece, a branch of artwork that is encouraged at A Level

Venice Trip



Zach Bullock
12MA

October 2011 saw a group of students from the Sixth Form and Year 11 make the journey to Venice. The main attraction was the Biennale Festival of Art, held in the city every other year. Zach Bullock, in Year 11 at the time, gave us this report of his experiences...

Lovely food, beautiful architecture, and amazing art works all helped to make the Venice Biennale Festival trip an enjoyable and great experience. The exhibits ranged from strange sculptures to mad paintings, with much of the work being extremely helpful for my art GCSE, and a lot of my developmental work trailing back to pieces I'd seen.

"The exhibits ranged from strange sculptures to mad paintings, with much of the work being extremely helpful for my art GCSE"



Everyone on the trip found some inspiration in the exhibits, and you can find evidence from each student that pieces from the Biennale influenced his work - even now at A-Level I look back at pictures from the exhibits for ideas and inspiration. The Venice trip was definitely worthwhile; I would urge any students taking art to visit, and recommend it to anybody interested in art in general.

These images show students soaking up the Italian sun, in a group photo as well as an image showing pupils sketching the picturesque city

Department Review



Mr Herring
Head of Biology

It has been another successful year in Biology, with very pleasing exam results at GCSE and A Level. The Biology teachers are Mr Edwards, Mr Speak, Ms Johnston, Dr Merrall, and Mr Herring.

Members of the Year 7 Science Club have enjoyed a range of activities in their lunchtime meetings which is organized by Year 12 scientists, with anything involving burning being among the most popular and eagerly anticipated attractions.

Year 7 also enjoyed a visit from 'Environhawks' as part of their Sustainability Day. They found out about using Harris Hawks to control pests, removing the need to use environmentally-damaging chemical controls.

A talk by a haematologist was attended by Year 12, who learned how knowledge and understanding of haemoglobin can be used in the hospital environment.

Year 12 also enjoyed a day of river ecology fieldwork in Malham, undertaking kick sampling and invertebrate identification, whilst they and Year 13 participated in a Revision Conference in the autumn, hosted by the school and attended by students from other schools in the surrounding area.

*"Year 7 Science Club
enjoyed... anything involving
burning"*



This image shows a year 7 class being introduced to a Harris Hawk as part of the school's annual Sustainability Day event

Departmental Review



Mrs Hilton
Head of
Chemistry

This past year has been another great success for the Chemistry department, with excellent exam results (see EGS website) and an increased uptake at A-level, leading to an all time high in student numbers in Year 12.

For the Year 2011-2012, staff consisted of Mrs Hilton, Mr Kelly, Mrs Abbey, and Mr Fearnley who joined us at the start of the year from South Craven. The department was involved in a range of enrichment activities over the past academic year...

“an increased uptake at A-level led to an all time high in student numbers in Year 12”

- Year 13 visited Leeds University to research spectroscopic techniques in Organic Chemistry.
- Year 12 boys attended an A-level Revision Conference at Manchester University
- A group of Year 12 boys attended a Practical Skills day at Leeds University with Mr Fearnley.
- Year 9 boys made biodiesel, while Year 7 considered packaging materials and the use of the earth's natural resources as part of their Sustainability Day.
- Trips in collaboration with the Geography Dept included visits to White Scar Caves, Ingleton Quarry, and Norber Erratics for years 8 and 9.
- Four Year 8 boys (Joshua Robinson, Benjamin Archer, Jacob Jackson, and Toger Christiansen) attended the Salters Festival Chemistry Challenge at Leeds University with Mrs Abbey.
- Mrs Abbey and Mrs Mousdale took a group of Year 12 Chemists considering a career in Chemical Engineering on a trip to Drax Power Station.

There were numerous other activities that were shared with the Physics and Biology departments, including the popular Science Club run expertly by Year 12 for the interest and enjoyment of Year 7.

Salters Festival



Ben Archer
9TA

On Thursday 10th of May, a group of Ermysted's students was invited to take part in the Salters Festival of Chemistry at the University of Bradford. Toger Christiansen, Jacob Jackson, and I were asked to represent Ermysted's in this challenge.

After arriving at the university, we started our first challenge: a murder mystery where we had to find the killer by using clues left behind at the scene. A sample of dust and some forged notes were found at the scene. We had six suspects, with each volunteering a sample of dust and forged money, along with an alibi. We had to establish which person's dust and pound notes matched the ones found on the victim by using a series of tests, but even if they did match, we had to establish if they had in fact committed the crime. We eventually found the culprit, though we did not win this particular contest.

“ Though we did not win the competition, we enjoyed being there and taking part ”

After lunch, we were given a second, more creative, task. We had to design our own toothpaste! We were given a range of ingredients to choose from. We chose to go with a minty, white toothpaste which we named 'Fresher'. Unfortunately, due to health and safety regulations, we were not allowed to take it home, though I bet it would have done a good job!

Next, we witnessed an extremely interesting lecture about microbiology, and how using soap really is better than just washing your hands with water. We were shown just how many organisms were on our hands, and, using a UV light, were shown how well we had washed our hands to get rid of them.

Finally, we received the results. Though we did not win the competition, we enjoyed being there and taking part, and are thankful for the opportunity

Science Club

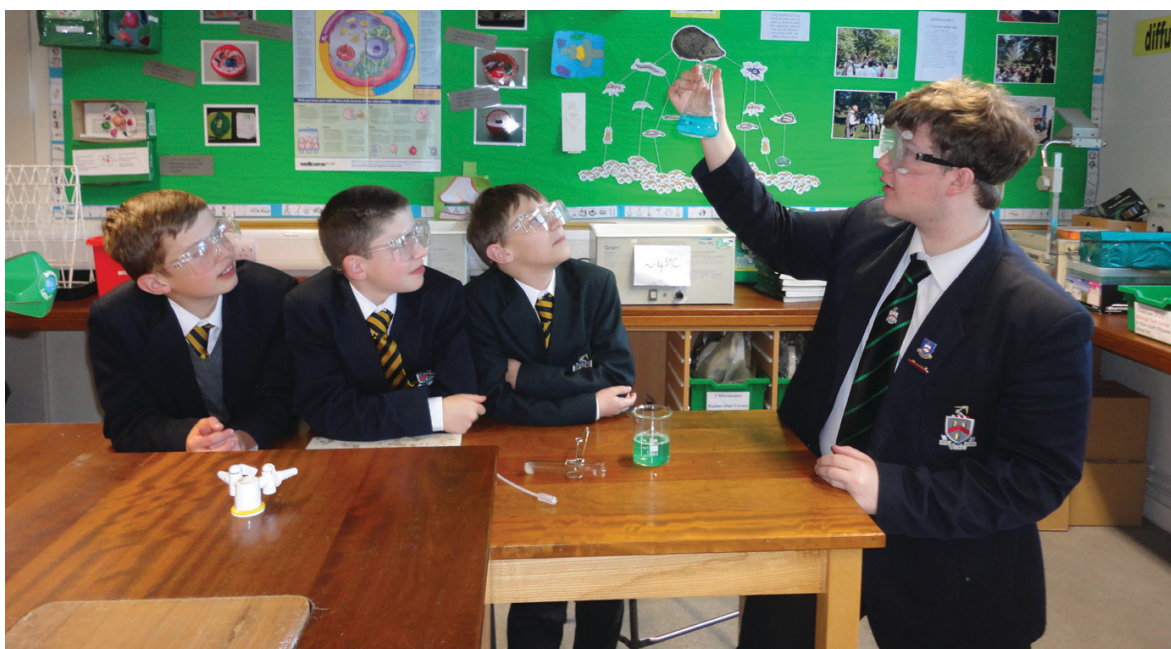


Pete Wrixon
13FT

Throughout the year, boys from Year 7 took part in various experiments related to physics and chemistry which are considered to be outside the 'standard' curriculum. The flame test for metals, 'invisible' fire writing, and the creation (and detonation!) of hydrogen bombs were some particularly popular experiments over the course of the year. Of course they did also learn how to produce fire extinguishers, in order to combat their growing pyromania!

Overall, the Science Club was a great success, with the Year 7 boys thoroughly enjoying an engaging start to their scientific studies at Ermysted's, and Year 12 boys (many of whom were in the science club when they were in Year 7) showing great enthusiasm while running the club. Special thanks must go to those boys in Year 12 as well as Mr Herring who ensured safe practice and conduct, and, last but by no means least, the science technicians, without whom none of this would have been possible.

"They did learn how to produce fire extinguishers in order to combat their growing pyromania"



Department Review



Jacob Baldwin
13CO

The past academic year has been hectic but successful for the vibrant Classics Department at Ermysted's. The year began with the Classics 'hut', dating back to 1960 and in a very poor state of repair, finally being demolished. The Classics Department is now housed in a brand new demountable villa with state-of-the-art facilities to aid teaching and learning.

The Department supports Classical Greek as an extra-curricular subject, taught by Mr Llewellyn in a mixture of lunchtime and twilight sessions. In the last academic year, two boys worked towards GCSE Greek, two boys sat the AS Level, and Michael Loy even earned a coveted A* grade at A2 Level. At the end of the summer term, a new beginners' Greek class was formed, with more than twenty interested pupils hoping to take a GCSE in the subject in two years' time.

While Latin remains a popular choice at GCSE, in recent years a second option of Classical Civilization has also been offered. This year saw the first cohort of students earning GCSEs in the subject. Two boys attained A grades, with one boy earning a B. At A Level, the Latin and Classical Civilization groups continue to be small but enthusiastic.

The timetabled lessons in Latin and Classical Civilization are always complemented by a number of extra-curricular trips. This year, Sixth Form students attended a Study Day at Manchester University to enjoy commentaries from academics concerning the prescribed literature for A Level. In April, a mixture of students from Ermysted's and Ripon Grammar School made the trip to Greece to explore the remnants of the ancient world over the course of a week. Pupils saw first-hand the Acropolis of Athens, the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, the theatre in Epidaurus, and the ancient racetrack in Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

In July, the Classics Department staged an evening of Greek tragedy, after only one month of intensive rehearsal and a considerable amount of direction from Ms Constantine. The plays, Aeschylus' Oresteia, were originally performed in Athens in 458 BCE, and are the only surviving example of a trilogy of ancient Greek tragedies. 26 pupils were involved from all school year-groups.

Most years see at least one Latin A2 Level student gaining entry to Oxbridge to study the subject further. This year, Michael Loy secured a place to read Classics at Queens' College, Cambridge.

Annual Review



Mr McMechan
Deputy
Headteacher

The Extended Project (EPQ) entered its third year as an AS qualification at the school in 2011-12. 31 students took it, gaining 12A*s, 14A's, 2B's, 2C's, and 1E: a cumulative A*-A rate of 90%, comfortably beating the 2010-11 mark of 76%. Candidates are invited to submit a dissertation of 6,000 words, a field study, a performance, or an artefact. This year saw our first venture into the last category when Ted Westwood produced a CD of his own re-interpretations of, and responses to, music by Wendy Carlos. As this suggests, the possibilities are, if not quite limitless, fairly broad.

The 2011-12 EPQ vintage harvested dissertations on Prohibition and the reasons for its repeal; the impact of a newly engendered cash economy on the people of the Solomon Islands (the researcher, Theo Baker, had been fortunate enough to spend some time there in 2011); the Hull Barrier (James Boobier had been there, less luckily perhaps); Minoan mythology; the incidence of coronary heart disease amongst Britons of South East Asian descent living in the Bradford area and Free / Open-source software (a project cunningly entitled "What's All The F/OSS About?").

One of the least promising topics under consideration (at least to this marker) was the franchising of the rail network in North Wales and elsewhere. That the eventual dissertation was so interesting to read was testament to the enthusiasm and engagement of Will Etherington, the researcher, who drew some genuinely striking conclusions about privatization and the possibilities of extending the model across the country.

Will is now happily at work with a major rail company – his involvement with the subject of his submission for the EPQ is typical of the sort of depth and detail which the qualification tends to generate amongst those who do it, as well their levels of personal interest and the relevance of the work to them.

One of the other very satisfying aspects of the Project is its requirement that participants conclude their work by giving an assessed oral presentation about what they have done, to an audience of their peers. Many of the resulting speeches are genuinely excellent.

The Project continues to gain currency with universities – Southampton rang the school in October to discuss our progress – and amongst students and staff, for many of whom it remains a highly rewarding thing with which to be involved. Once again, those who supervised are warmly thanked for their efforts.

Departmental Review



Liam Hopley
13SM

The past year has been another successful one for the Design and Technology department. Following on from last year's success, with three students receiving Arkwright Scholarships, a further two students received this prestigious award. The Arkwright programme, which offers an annual sponsorship to aid students in their studies of Design and Engineering, also offers a significant advantage to students applying to university for these subjects. Congratulations to this year's winners Richie Dadhley and Daniel Judkowski.

In the autumn term a group of year 12 pupils, accompanied by Mr McLean and Mr Edmondson, visited Hope Technology in Barnoldswick. This local company designs and produces high end accessories for cyclists and the aim of the visit was to gain an understanding of the processes that this involves. It was fascinating to see how products are manufactured on an industrial scale, and the trip was a great help to students, who then went on to produce their own bike lights as part of their AS coursework.

A group of year 13 students undertook a visit to another Barnoldswick factory, the town's Rolls Royce facility. The trip gave everyone an insight into the sheer scale of the aviation industry. As more and more students choose to study engineering at university, this visit also gave them an idea of the sort of ingenious ideas and precision for which the company is famous.



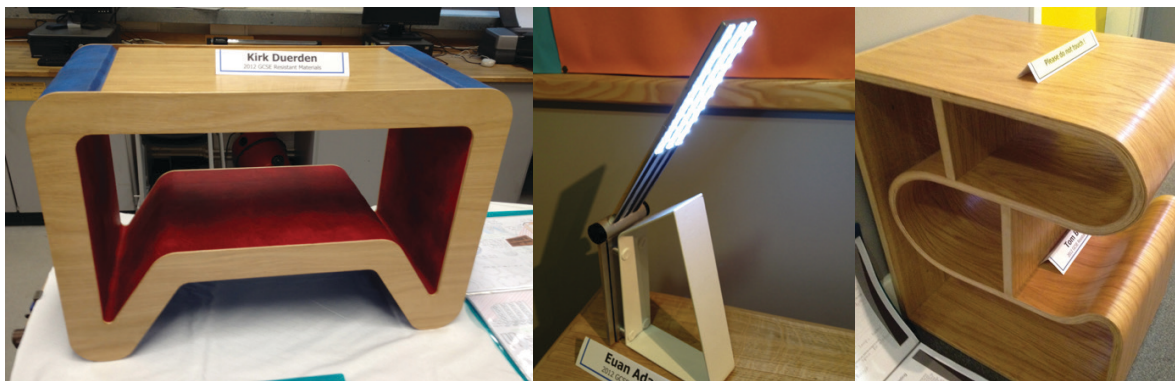
A special mention must go to Thomas Plummer: the year 13 student attained an A* grade in his DT A Level and has gone on to study Product Design at Nottingham Trent University.



The picture above shows a range of electronic products produced at GCSE level with the support of Mr McLean. Two of the products are money boxes, designed to be used by charities, whilst the image on the right is of an alarm system. Two electronics students, Daniel Judkowsi and Richie Dadhley, were this year awarded Arkwright Scholarships, continuing the school's successful record of students achieving this prestigious award.



Under the guidance of Mr Edmondson, students studying Graphic Design at GCSE produce a range of prototypes of ideas for packaging. This year, many students chose to produce models linked to the London 2012 Olympics; the images above show a couple of ideas from Sam Bowdler and Alex Wade-Smith which were particularly successful

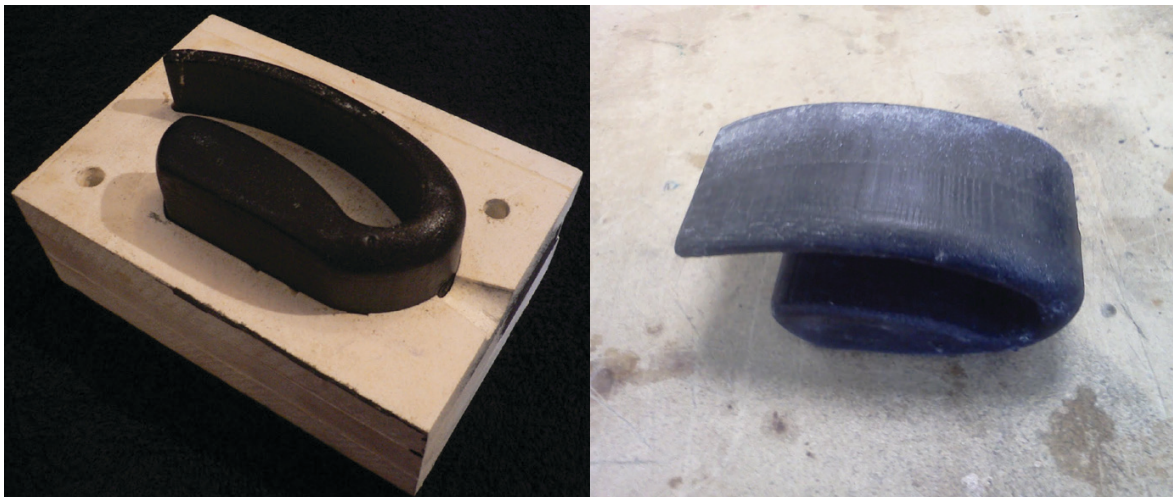


Resistant Materials at GCSE involves extensive design work towards the creation of a final product. Building on the success of last year, Mr Patrick's class produced a diverse range of pieces including lamps and furniture from a variety of materials: laminated wood pieces were particularly popular, as you can see from the images above!



Y12 Product Design

In Year 12, pupils are tasked with producing a range of products which this year comprised a diversity of pieces, including bike lights and drinks containers. The image above shows a couple of examples of scaled-down chairs. With creative input from John Bollen, a furniture designer based in Skipton, students produced chairs by using materials including bent aluminium and plastic, with some also featuring upholstery and forms bent from wood. Last year, all five pupils at AS Level attained A grades – the first time that this has happened at Ermysted's!



Y13 Product Design

In the final year of A Level study, students produce a final product which they feel is good enough to be sold to the mass market. Tom Plummer, whose product is shown above, achieved an A* grade, the first pupil from Ermysted's to have done so! His potato peeler, produced after a lot of design work and development, is adapted to be easy to use and aesthetically pleasing. Tom has gone on to study Product Design at Nottingham Trent University, and he says that he is really enjoying the creative freedom on offer there.

Department Review



Michael
McColgan
13SY

This year has been very busy for the English department. Firstly, Mrs White has been off on maternity leave (both her and the baby are doing very well), Mr Nabarro made a glorious return in the summer term from Beckfoot, and has now settled into a permanent role, teaching English Language and Literature across all year groups.

Aside from staffing issues, the new specification for GCSE Language and Literature meant huge changes in the department. The shift from coursework to controlled assessments may not have been desired, but the results across the board were excellent.

With the English Language exam being taken in Year 10, a year earlier than on the old specification, there were worries about how well the boys would perform, but these proved to be unfounded. 23 boys achieved A*s, with all 109 boys achieving A*-C, an outstanding set of results. In addition to this success, the same year group achieved another impressive haul when they took their English Literature exam this summer. Another 19 A*s were gained, and the entire year once again achieved A*-C grades.

The department has also helped to organise a number of trips, including visits to see King Lear at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, as well as our participation in the Shakespeare Schools Festival which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.



The English department has indeed had a good, if eventful, year, and is looking forward to another great one ahead. That is, if Mr Clough ever returns!

Dead Poets Society



Adam Crossley
13TH

Founded in September 2011, Ermysted's Poetry Society is a student-run association whose primary aim is the encouragement of original work. Founders Adam Crossley and Frank Gillies spearheaded the recruitment campaign, deploying posters which bore both an example of famous verse and a short invitation. Needless to say, the crusade took the school by force, and was entirely successful: a single upper-sixth student joined the initial contingent of rhymers and relaters.

During the year the Society hosted a range of activities, including readings, discussions, and appraisals. Noteworthy amongst our contributors was Tom Crossland, our upper-sixth addition, who is a keen poet, and to whom we sadly said goodbye at the end of the year. The Dead Poets wish him all the best, wherever his fancy takes him.



The image above shows founders Adam Crossley (left) with 'the esteemed Mr Charles Counsell' sitting on the right, deep in concentration

Now in our second year of association, we hope to draw a cohort from the current lower-sixth, lest our beloved Society fail to survive into the next year. Poets (and authors) from across the sixth-form are welcome, though we ask that any younger poets get in touch with Messrs Crossley and Gillies, or with our chairman, the esteemed Mr Charles Counsell

This year, we plan to reinvent our meetings by using a system of presentations, and by procuring the attention of local, professional poets.

Shakespeare Schools



Joslan
Scherewode
12AB

On October 5th 2011, Ermysted's Grammar School put on the greatest production of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure ever seen in the West Yorkshire Playhouse Courtyard Theatre for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Well, maybe not the best ever, as Tim Pigott-Smith was performing as King Lear at the same time in the Quarry Theatre next door, and he's supposed to be pretty good.

When Mr Hodgson first proposed the play in early 2011, I think we had our doubts. Especially me, having been cast as the leading lady, a nun called Isabella.

However, with the excellent direction and experience of Michael Loy, we were safe hands. The rehearsals for the Festival are fun every year, and with an incredibly strong cast including many festival veterans, it felt like just another reunion of a great family of thespians. Unreliability and incompetence make the rehearsals all the more... interesting. As ever there was the last minute line learning and panic costume making, but we believe that's all part of the process.

Part of the festival includes visiting the theatre beforehand to attend a cast workshop. I don't remember a lot about this, except that I think we arrived late. It involved all the predicted character development and the kind of games you'd expect children to play, which unsurprisingly we enjoyed the most. We'll never forget the penguin song: 'Have you ever had a penguin come to tea...'

The experience of performing in the West Yorkshire Playhouse is one that I'll never forget. The dressing rooms were clean and spacious (a must when you have twenty lads wanting to change into dresses), and the atmosphere in the auditorium was amazing. There was such a buzz amongst both the performers and the audience of mostly parents. Mr Hamilton was there to watch, as well as Chris Grace, the director of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

We were scheduled to perform last in the running order and the general rule is to "save the best 'til last". We really gave a fantastic show, one the audience seemed to love, with all the cast acting at their best. I have many fond memories of the last Shakespeare Schools Festival that I was young enough to perform in.

"As ever, there was the last minute line learning and panic costume making but we believe that's all part of the process!"

Debating Squad



Robert
Beresford
13HI

Last year, the Sixth Form established the Debating Squad. The club meets every Tuesday lunchtime, debating topics ranging from Scottish independence to the ethical issues regarding abortion. It is open to all Sixth Formers and we hope it will continue for many years to come!

Apart from our passionate and often intense lunchtime debates, we entered the European Youth Parliament debate in Sheffield. Eight of our finest debaters won our debate arguing against developing further EU trade with BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China). We loved the experience of a formal debate, and of competing against 11 other schools (there was a particular rivalry with our female neighbours!). In the current school year, we have also taken part in the Association of Speaker's Competition held at Bradford Girls', and won the MACE debate in Harrogate to qualify for the next round. We also have a competition in Bath to look forward to in March, so watch this space next year!

I have thoroughly enjoyed a year of debating, and should like to thank our captain Dominic Tucker for inaugurating the group, along with Mrs Simms and Mr Nabarro for their work behind the scenes!

This picture shows Dom Tucker, captain of the Debating Squad, locked in heated discussion as author Rob Beresford (left) looks on



Zahira College Visit



Dom Tucker
13TH

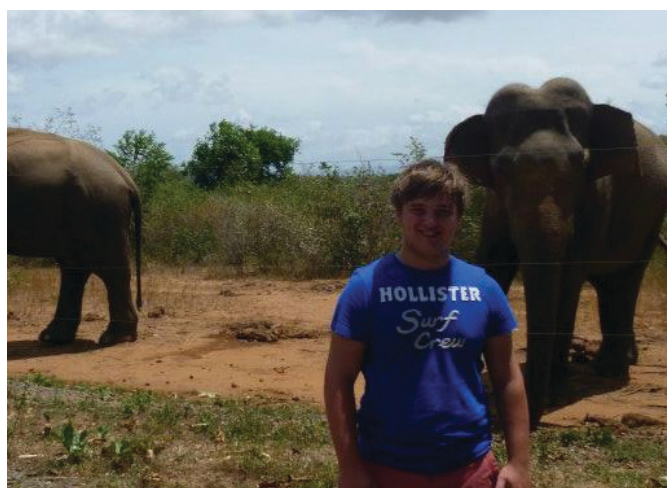
Although Harry French and I went on a Global Schools Partnership Project and the project I ran was a success, it was far from being all about work. Harry and I were invited into people's homes every day for breakfast, lunch and tea and every single time, we were met with a huge spread of food. I had my first ride in a Tuk-Tuk and the wildlife was absolutely wonderful. I never thought I would have the opportunity to feed bananas to wild elephants or to see monkeys at the sides of main roads. The people there are just mad about cricket; Harry and I struggled to watch the school's cricket team as it was so hot (even in the shade!) and yet the students battled on under the glaring sun in the middle of the day!

To represent Ermysted's at Zahira College was truly an honour and a privilege. The trip was certainly a unique experience; I have never eaten spicy cuttlefish or curry sandwiches for breakfast before!

We were plunged into the culture right from the start which proved to be something of a shock. Certain customs presented quite a challenge, like eating everything with your hands. Yes, even the curry! Your host in Sri Lanka will not sit at the table and eat the meal with you either; they will treat you like a royal guest and wait on your every need.

I would say that the thing that sticks in my mind most about Sri Lanka is the people. Every day they invited us into their humble homes and made us feel so incredibly welcome. The wonder and beauty of Sri Lanka was totally overshadowed by the people I met there. It was, without a doubt, one of the most incredible weeks of my life.

Dom seeks out some of the Sri Lankan wildlife (right), after spending plenty of time with the locals, along with Harry French (above, far right)



Sustainability Day

On Monday 28th May, Year 7 pupils were offered the opportunity to participate in a Sustainability Day. The day was about preserving our environment and keeping it safe.

One of our favourite presentations was by 'Enviro-hawks', a company who use Birds of Prey to scare away pests instead of using damaging pesticides and traps. After this activity we learnt about recycling. Mr Speak led this activity, which was based around the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

With Mr Marsden, a group planted trees and did some gardening around the school site. Hopefully the trees will flourish and be part of the school's exterior for many years to come. Gardening is important for the environment because plants take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Another group went on a trek around Skipton to consider our local heritage. This gave us a sense of our past, and helped us think about how we can give the world a better future.

In Science we were set a challenge to see which packaging was best for wrapping a sandwich. We tested whether it could withstand acids, alkalis and fire! With Mrs Taylor we looked at how sustainable the packaging was. We also learned about another 3 R's: Refuse, Rethink and Restore.

On the whole, Sustainability Day was a fantastic experience for all of Year 7 and gave us a chance to really get to grips with the whole idea of sustaining the planet for future generations. All of the groups found each of the activities a real eye-opener and we will definitely continue

to think about sustainability for the rest of our school lives.

As part of the Sustainability Day event, pupils were tasked with producing a newsletter based on what they had learned, an example from a year 7 form can be seen here

Wednesday 30th May 2012

That's Rubbish, Or Is It?

Have you ever wondered what happens to things you recycle? This is a plastic bottle with about twenty of them you could make a dress jacket!

A group of Year 7's found this out at last week's science lab with Mr Speak. A lot of used materials were laid out on the floor (including milk tins) containing off milk that really wasn't used and the children had to sort the materials that could be recycled and be reused into great new things.

Afterwards there was a ZeroWaste presentation to the effects of recycling and a number of other activities. The result of one was there is no such thing as a free lunch!

This was related to Sustainability Day because pollution is killing the world and recycling is helping.

This means we should make the best of the resources we already have instead of extracting more. That way

we won't run out of resources and will pollute less.

By Nicholas Nylundgaard and Ben Cowley

Recyclables	Glass	Cans	Paper/Carboard	Plastic
Study	Lamp bulb	Printer Paper	Milk bottle	
Kitchen/Dining Room	Drinking Glasses	Tomato Cans		
Lounge	Beer Cans	Newspaper		
Bedroom	Clock	Newspaper		

History in the Making

On Monday, 28th May 2012, a group of Year 7's went to the historic market town of Skipton.

The arches below the tower were part of a brick wall around the ancient community. It was built in the 12th century and is made of red sandstone. The tower is made of the same stone and is the only one left standing in the town.

We learnt many facts about the workhouse that was once a place that poor people went to get a physical job or get some money. They could either work there or get some money to live on.

We then walked down to the canal and the mill and learnt about the mill and what the canal was used for like corn to the corn mill and wool

to the woolen mills. Next, we walked along to the canal and saw the water wheel before going further along to the 17th Century canal and looking at the chimneys for the limestone from the quarry behind the canal.

To get to the last limestone chimneys we had to walk down the Springs Branch of the canal, where you can find a stone of Fossil Trees, the Devonian fish fossil.

After that, we arrived at the canal and subsequently the church. The church was one of the last buildings in Northern England and you can still see the wooden beams.

The church has been around since the 12th century.

We learnt from this that the past is important for the future of Skipton and that local history can do a lot for us. Skipton's heritage is one of the most important parts of sustainability. It is clear that buildings that have been used for centuries can be reused and used today.

By James Wood, Joe Darcy, Sam Ghose and Samuel Oshro

Wednesday 30th May 2012

One-off Sustainability Edition!

KI Klassik

Sustainable 7

On Monday, the 28th of May the whole of year 7 took part in sustainability day. The day was about preserving our environment and keeping it safe.

One of the most interesting activities was Envirohawk. This activity was led by people who used birds of prey to scare away pests instead of using pesticides and traps. Doing this is better for the environment.

After this activity we went to learn about recycling. Mr Speak was leading this activity. This activity was based around the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

With Mr Marsden a group did gardening and planting trees. Gardening is useful for the environment because plants take in carbon dioxide and let out oxygen.

Another group of year 7's went on a trek around Skipton to look at our heritage. This gives us some sense about our past and how we can make the world a better place.

In Science we were set a challenge to see which packaging was best for wrapping a sandwich. We tested if could withstand acids and alkalis and fire.

For one he has short round wings and long tail feathers. He needs his feet, round wings for flight and his tail to use as a rudder, and a stick.

We learnt that the Earth's resources are not infinite. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them.

We learnt that the Earth's resources are not infinite. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them. We need to use them wisely because there are too many of them.

The article was produced by: Jack S. Harry S. Thomas S and Patrick R. B.

Year 10 Transition Day



George Lee
10HE

As part of our GCSE Geography transition day, we looked at the flood defences in Skipton. Building design, to prevent the damage caused by flooding, has become important in the town. For example, we saw houses which were built on top of their garages in order to stop flood water from damaging people's homes.

Eller Beck is a potential cause of flooding to residents. To try and prevent damage, a culvert has been constructed to divert the flow of water underneath the car park at Morrison's. Opposite Morrison's, the old mills have been converted into flats, and the car parks have been built underneath the apartments to reduce the risk of flooding to people's homes. If Eller Beck were to flood it could potentially cause

"This was a great way to start our GCSE Geography course"



the Canal to flood in Skipton. Walking alongside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, we saw examples of flood defences such as patio decking raised up on stilts to stop floodwater from the canal damaging the garden.

I thought that the day was useful because it helped us to understand more about flood defences and how people can cope with the damage caused by floods. This was a great way to start to our GCSE course.

GCSE Fieldwork Trip



Sam
Simmonite
12CL

Early last year we went to Clapham Beck to collect data for our Year 11 coursework with the aim of measuring the river's characteristics. The long but pleasant walk to the river's source at Ingleborough Cave was followed by wading in the river, with the slippery rocks providing lots of entertainment for all.

Amongst all the fun, we used a range of techniques to measure the different properties of the river, with one of the best being the orange method to measure velocity – dropping an orange in the water and timing how long it takes to travel a set distance. Catching it at the other end proved a bit more challenging! The trip gave an interesting insight into the complexities of a river system but was also an enjoyable experience.

A-Level Fieldwork Trip



Tom Kennedy
13HO

As part of our A-Level studies, we spent a day collecting data from Skyreholme Beck in order to complete the fieldwork section of our course. The location we chose was ideal because it was so close to school, meaning that the trip could be undertaken in a single day.

During the day we collected data from the beck in accordance with the hypotheses we had devised at school. River characteristics such as width, depth, velocity, gradient, bedload angularity and bedload size were all measured at four different sites. The sites were selected along the river to show features of the upper, middle and lower course of the river. This allowed us to see first-hand the differences between the sections of a river.

As the weather was good and the river was low, we were able to go into the river ourselves and everyone had a chance to record their own data. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and the data we collected was collated back at school and used to plot graphs so we could analyse and interpret our results.



Drama 2011-12



Hadley James
Hoyles
12PR

The only characteristic shared by the myriad of productions to which Ermysted's gave its name, time and actors this year is that all of them were so unpredictable as to defy common interpretation and appreciation.

In the last year, we have seen another round of Drama competitions, where a host of new dramatic enthusiasts gathered together to create innovative pieces for their houses, with Isaac Culshaw, the winner of Best Actor, showcasing his uncanny talent for convincing regional accents, including a particularly convincing Glaswegian brogue. Commendable indeed.

Last year also saw the recurring characters that populate the ranks of Senior Drama doing much the same thing as every year. Predictably, comedy sketches were the pick of the day, and, as usual, these didn't receive the reception expected from a demanding audience. In true Ermysted's spirit, they stuck to their guns and gave their all to their performances, even if no-one wanted to watch them.

There were Shakespeare speeches all round, emphasising the fetish with the Bard that we Ermystedians seem to share, some of which came directly from Measure for Measure, performed by a small cast at the West Yorkshire Playhouse earlier in the year. For convenience, and out of a wish to keep young actors enthused, the Shakespeare Schools Festival never categorises the plays or selects a winner, so you'll just have to trust us when we say that we were the best, as always. Featuring Shakespeare veterans such as Joslan Scherewode, Fabian Gartland and co. along with a collection of new enthusiasts like Zach Webster, the performance was invigorating and, traditionally, planned on the day.

The day after the show ended saw the auditions for the SGHS/EGS spring musical begin, which was, somewhat unsurprisingly, a Shakespearean adaptation, taking the story and script of Twelfth Night and catapulting it into an Eighties setting, complete with a full band pelting out classics from the era.

"In true Ermysted's spirit, they stuck to their guns and gave their all to their performances, even if no-one wanted to watch them"

“We have only ever ruined Shakespeare before, so the opportunity to defile another artist’s work excites us immensely”

Painstaking choreography and onstage vomiting were recurring themes of rehearsals, and the actors suffered greatly to meet the high standards of Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Dadhley - but all’s well that ends well; Candice McKane delivered the role of Olivia with eloquence and sensitivity, and the rest of the cast did well, too.

The Ermysted’s boys were exposed to a new and thrilling phenomenon at the girls’ school: proper costumes, which were exploited to no end, resulting in snakeskin leggings for some, outrageously convincing frontal implants for others, and measured, considered clothing for the girls, who were much more used to that kind of thing than us.

We returned once again in the summer for a bout of Greek Tragedy, covering the trilogy of the Oresteia, which, as Zachary Webster said, “was interesting to make forays into and inspiring to be involved in”. We were horrendously underprepared, as much of the main cast was on Study Leave throughout the rehearsals, but the creative adaptation of old Forum set designs into a makeshift scene made for a convincing recreation of Greek acting methods and stage management.

We are currently poised to hit the Craven area with a new spring musical, a piece based on a short story by Saki (H.H Munro). We have only ever ruined Shakespeare before, so the opportunity to defile another artist’s work excites us immensely. This new project will, along with the House Drama 2012 competitions (which will have finished by the time of publication), will ensure that the cycle continues.



This image shows Hartley house’s contribution to this year’s Junior House Drama Event

Battlefields Trip



Mr Howarth
Head of History

In the very last week of the school year, a party of 27 boys and three staff made what has become an annual pilgrimage to the Battlefields of the First World War. The outward journey was an early test of the group's endurance, with frequent traffic jams, but fortunately they coped well with these set-backs, and made the best of the remainder of the trip. Our accommodation was at de Lep in Ypres, which was a convenient spot for a bit of extra-curricular ten-pin bowling on the Tuesday evening.

The itinerary followed a well-worn path for the staff, Messrs Howarth and Blanchard: veterans of many a trip to Belgium, who shared the bulk of the guiding responsibilities. The group did exceptionally well to keep up with a punishing itinerary on the two full 'trench-intensive' days on the Somme and the Ypres Salient. Staff commented on the high level of interest taken by the boys who took part. This year's winner of the traditional quiz on the coach journey home was Paul Figg. The Battlefields Trip has always been a much-loved trip, with this year being no exception.



Liverpool Trip

A new addition to the Department's trips came in the form of an excursion to Liverpool with year 12 students to look at the city's rôle in the Atlantic Slave Trade. Liverpool became the dominant slave trading port in Britain from the middle of the 18th Century, and continued as such until the abolition of the trade in 1807.



Our first task was to undertake a walking tour around Liverpool's city precinct, which was made more testing by the prematurely wintry weather. Our guide was Laurence Westgaph, a Liverpoolian with African-Caribbean roots and a deep knowledge of the City's slave-past. Laurence showed how the memory of Liverpool's slave trading past is captured in the streets themselves,

many of which are named after prominent slave-merchants of the 18th Century: one is immortalized by the Beatles' song 'Penny Lane'. Laurence explained that Mathew Street (the home of the Cavern Club, responsible for launching the Beatles' career) was a centre for small manufacturers and traders, providing the paraphernalia of slave ships and slave trading. Laurence also gave us an insight into the strong links between the slave trade and Liverpool's many 18th/19th Century private banks. For instance, the Heywood Bank - founded by a slave trading family - eventually found its way into Barclays.

In the afternoon, the International Slavery Museum, part of the impressive Albert Dock development, provided a warm refuge for the party of 28. As well as the traditional displays of exhibits and artefacts, the Museum provided a stimulating multi-media experience. In Liverpool, a strong political agenda is never far from the surface, and the exhibition is keen to make links between slavery and more contemporary issues of race relations and discrimination. As well as being largely informative, the visit was also intriguing, bringing the subject to life in a way that's a bit different from simply reading from a textbook!



Simbach Exchange 2012



Will Borrows
11ST



Tom Blanchard
11FE

After a few months of keeping in touch and organizing events over the internet, the long awaited trip to see our German exchange partners, who had visited us in March, had finally arrived - after a 24 hour coach journey! Still, we entertained ourselves in whatever ways we could between the dull service stations: card games, singing and worrying about what our new families would be like

or whether we would just completely forget all the German we had learned once we arrived. After travelling through France and Belgium, we arrived at our homes for the next week.

On our first full day in Simbach, we were greeted by Tassilo Gymnasium's headmaster and then given a tour of the school before splitting into groups to sit in on lessons for the morning. Next, we walked into Simbach itself to be formally welcomed by the Town's Burgermeister (mayor) im Rathaus (town hall). Here, Mr Whittington was our liaison as he was an old friend of the mayor's and we received special neck key straps as a gift. After that, we proceeded to see the rehearsal of the Tassilo musical and the pupils whose partners were involved even got to join in. That ended our school day in Simbach and so the weekend began with our partners.

At the weekend, we all took part in whatever activities our partners' families had planned for us. It gave us the opportunity to see any places of interest that we wouldn't be seeing next week, so many of us went off to Munich to see attractions such as the Allianz Arena, the Olympic Stadium, and the BMW museum. On Sunday, most of us spent time with our families, visiting local landmarks, and nipping over the border to Austria.

This exchange was the first to occur during the summer, the idea being to leave the snowy hills behind to visit sunny beaches. However, the summer was a bit of a disappointment, some Germans complained that it was too cold. We didn't see the problem since it was still 17 degrees outside at the coldest, a lot better than anyone at home experienced!

Our first trip was to the lovely city of Passau, which included a boat trip along the river Danube where we learnt about the river, and experienced awesome views of the town. We were then allowed to wander about wherever we wanted, with many choosing to visit the grand cathedral, an excellent piece of German architecture.

Next up was Salzburg, Mozart's home town, something which was made clear wherever you went: the majority of shops seemed to be filled with themed souvenirs. The weather was the best of the whole trip, temperatures reaching 30 degrees, and what a place to enjoy it! Salzburg was picturesque, its preserved baroque architecture makes it look as if Mozart might still be around, especially in the old town. Side streets packed with fountains, churches, and statues showed that Salzburg really is worthy of its World Heritage status. We travelled up to the Festung Hohensalzburg, a castle with views over Salzburg, via the castle lift, after looking around we were allowed to go off and explore Salzburg ourselves for the rest of the afternoon.

Our final trip was to Königsee over the border in Austria. The day started with a trip down a salt mine where we learnt about the production of salt, which I'm sure everyone found fascinating. This was followed by a breath-taking trip across the lake itself, with many of us snapping pictures of beautiful cliff sides and mountains.



The trip ended with all of the pupils involved attending the annual party. We all had great fun socializing and dancing, with Mr Whittington showing the younger generation how it's done on the dance floor.

The following day we said our goodbyes, which brought some to tears, before returning to the coach and commencing the long journey home. We'd like to thank Mr Humphreys, Mr Gregory, and Mr Whittington, along with their German counterpart Herr Rosenburger from Tassilo Gymnasium, for making it an amazing and unforgettable visit.

Château de la Baundonnière



Harry Ward
11JA

Je viens de visiter la France très récemment et particulièrement la Normandie. J'y suis allé avec mon collège pour me perfectionner en français, et nous sommes restés dans un château qui s'appelait 'Château de la Baudonnière'.

Il y avait des animateurs qui nous ont présenté les activités et étant donné qu'ils étaient français, cette expérience m'a beaucoup apporté. Les activités étaient vraiment amusantes et interactives. Sans perdre un instant, nous les reprenions juste après avoir mangé.

En ce qui me concerne, l'aéroballe a été la meilleure activité, parce que c'était amusant et j'étais fort en aéroballe.

Quand nous avons fait de l'escalade, nous avons mis la pression à Madame Lagrange en la faisant chanter pour qu'elle en fasse. N'ayant pu la convaincre, nous sommes allés à-t-une crêperie et j'y ai savouré la nourriture, c'est-à-dire que nous nous sommes régalés. C'était vraiment chouette et tout à fait délicieux. Après cela, nous avons la peau du ventre bien tendue!

Un jour, nous avons eu la possibilité de manger des escargots et des cuisses de grenouilles, ce qui était, à ma plus grande surprise, assez savoureux. Cependant, à mon avis, les cuisses de grenouilles n'avaient pas de goût.



Avant de prendre le déjeuner nous devons faire un 'petit boulot' comme, par exemple, abreuver les animaux. C'était génial, vu que les animaux me passionnent et que mon père est fermier.

Malheureusement, les chambres étaient assez délabrées et donc, un matin, la poignée de porte s'est cassée. Heureusement, les animateurs étaient au courant du problème puisqu'elle avait déjà cassé auparavant. Quelle histoire !

French Trip 2011



Jack Coyne
11ST

Château de la Baudonnière was unique: not only did it help improve my French, but it also gave me the chance to try sports I had never done or even heard of. Most of all, Château de la Baudonnière was great fun: an overall fantastic experience which I would recommend to anyone taking French for GCSE or A Level.

At the start of the week, I was not at all confident with my French, and being told everyone who worked at the Château spoke only French was quite daunting. Even if you

asked Madame Lagrange or Dr Heron for something, they replied in French!

However, over the course of the week, both my confidence and my French speaking ability improved. Even the work became easier, and as the week progressed I found myself becoming more capable at speaking, listening, writing, and reading, so that after going to the Château for just a week, my average grade rose from a C- to a B+!

Aside from the learning, we had the chance to play football, volleyball, a bit of table football, and, most popular of all, table tennis. We all tried fencing and climbing, and had a go at "l'aéroballe" which I can only describe as a mixture between basketball and trampolining, played with small beanbags. Most of us also fed llamas and horses, and some brave members of the group tried eating cooked snails - which were surprisingly tasty.

We all had great fun in the evenings, whether they involved getting beaten by Madame Lagrange at bowling (she managed to get a strike almost every time), eating delicious galettes and crêpes at the local crêperie, or even learning circus skills!

By the last day, when we travelled to the market, we all honestly felt fully capable of talking to the French locals. I was sad to leave, as I could see how much it had helped me improve my French. I think I speak on behalf of most of the Year 11 boys currently taking French when I say that, if the opportunity to go came up again, we should grasp it with both hands.



Departmental Review



Mr Hopkins
Head of Maths

The Mathematics Department has had another successful year. At GCSE, the results were the best the Department has ever achieved, with 49.5% of the boys achieving the top A* grade. At AS Level, 77.8% achieved an A or B grade, while the Year 12 Further Maths class produced an astonishing nine A* grades, three A grades, and a B grade at A Level. In Year 13, 90% of the boys achieved A* - B.

Throughout the year, boys are entered into a number of competitions. All of Year 8, and Sets 1 and 2 in Year 10, are entered into the Junior and Intermediate Individual Maths Challenges respectively. In Year 8, the top three boys were Akash Mathew, Matthew Thompson, and Ross McIntyre, while in Year 10 Fernando Georgiou, Jonathan Holland, and Arron Curtis-King were the top three.

“At GCSE... 49.5% of the boys achieved the top A grade.”*

Years 10 and above take part in the IFS Student Investor Challenge, where the boys in teams of four can invest a virtual £100,000 in buying and selling shares in the stock market. The boys also take part in the ‘Jaguar Challenge’, an online Formula 1 game, in which Fernando Georgiou and Julian Roche reached the National semi-final.

15 boys from Year 10 were given the opportunity to visit York University to attend a course on ‘Taking Maths Further’.



Department Review



Liam Hopley
13SM

The start of the school year saw a landmark as, for the first time in the school's 500 year history, boys began Food Technology lessons. These early lessons proved to be a bit of a change from the rest of the curriculum for the younger years, and a number of Sixth Form students signed up to learn a bit about cooking on a budget, in preparation for the step up to independent living at university.

Throughout the year, there were a number of visits from local primary school pupils,

which allowed us to show off our new facilities and give the public a 'taste' of life at Ermysted's (if you'll pardon the terrible pun!). In November, Hartley students came together to raise over £600 for Children in Need, thanks to a bake-sale in the Food room.



Over the course of the year, the department played host to a number of contests including a Fairtrade Bake-off and the inaugural Inter-house Cooking competition, which was won by Petyt. In May, we were visited by a TV crew from BBC4 as part of a documentary about Dorothy Hartley, the daughter of the school's famous headmaster, who produced a famous cookery book called 'Made in England'.



In June, we laid on a show as part of a transition day for new students joining the school in September. Students were offered the chance to bake cookies as part of a day designed gently to introduce pupils to the new environment. Later in the month, a group of year 9 students travelled to Birmingham to

have a look at the BBC's 'Good Food Show' event.

It was an action packed year, but there's plenty more excitement planned for the next one. In addition to the current classes for Key Stage 3 students, year 10 pupils will also be offered the chance to gain a GCSE in Food and Nutrition, which has proved to be a popular addition to the existing range of GCSE courses.

Departmental Review



Mustafa Sultan
12HE

The 2011/2012 academic year was another successful one for the RS department. 81% of all full-GCSE students received A* or A grades, with a similarly high standard of success across the other year-groups.

Key Events over the course of the year included:

In November, Nigel, an undertaker from Howcroft's Funeral Services in Skipton, came in to talk to year 10 students regarding funerals. This allowed the year 10 students to get an insider's perspective on how funerals work. The talk was met with great curiosity, and allowed them openly to discuss a subject which is often considered taboo in today's society.



Dr Crossley, head of A&E at Airedale Hospital, visited school to talk to year 12 students about her job and medical ethics. Her opinions regarding when not to resuscitate patients were met with a lot of interest from year 12, and provoked a lot of debate amongst them.



In February, Year 10 students travelled to the Lake District to visit its legendary stone circles. They learnt about the religious significance of the Stone Circles to the Neolithic people such as Castlerigg and Long Meg and her daughters. They also got to witness their tour guide, Neil, using Dowsing Rods.

Jerome, the department's new teaching assistant, is a 6-foot tall foetus who sits in the corner of Room 24. Rumour has it that he was pickled for not handing in his homework! Despite his silence, Jerome sets a stellar example to all RS students.

Departmental Review



Adam Crossley
13TH

What with the Big Band's annual trip to Morecambe, the Jazz Quartet's production of a CD, and the regularity of school concerts, the Music Department has had a busy year.

For four years now, the Big Band has travelled to Morecambe, upon a May Wednesday, to play on the promenade. They have been invited, in what is now a well-established tradition, to play at The Platform which is the town's favourite venue for jazz and blues. The Big Band's famed repertoire of swing and funk was, as usual, a great success, and the Band spent the afternoon on the promenade (and on the beach) enjoying a well-deserved rest.

In the sixth-form, The Southpaw Jazz Quartet spent the year industriously. Not only were they invited to play at such prestigious events as the passing of the Olympic Torch through the Dales, but they also produced their first CD, From Concentrate.

The department was proud to send the following students to Music College:

- Ted Westwood and Patrick Martin to Leeds College of Music
- Max Verity to St Petersburg State Conservatoire
- Jacky Naylor to Birmingham Conservatoire, with a full scholarship!



Department Review



Mr Suter
Head of
Physics

It has been another good year for the Physics department, with a very pleasing set of results at GCSE and A level. A detailed analysis of the results can be found on the department's page of the school website. A number of Year 13 students participated in the National Physics Olympiad with all students acquitting themselves well. The same can be said of a number of Year 11 boys who took part in the Physics Challenge.

Away from the classroom, Dr Gill organized a trip to Lancaster University Physics Department for Year 13 boys along with a very successful Summer School which ran during the first week of the Summer Holiday, organized in partnership with the Ogden Trust, for Year 12 students aiming for the top grades. This was open not only to students at Ermysted's, but also to those from further afield.

"A trip to CERN is planned for next March. We are looking forward to visiting the world famous Large Hadron Collider"

A group of Year 9 boys spent an afternoon at Leeds University attending the Institute of Physics' Annual Schools Lecture, this year's theme being the Physics of Sport. We are honoured to be hosting next year's lecture on the 19th April 2013. Entitled "Defying Gravity"; the lecture will look at how physics is used in the exploration of the Cosmos.

The GCSE astronomy course continues to go from strength to strength, with a number of Year 9 boys successfully completing their GCSE at lunchtimes, together with a number of older students from the wider community who met one evening each week.

Finally, a trip to CERN is planned for next March for Key Stage 5 students. All involved are looking forward to visiting the world famous Large Hadron Collider. Watch this space for news of this exciting new venture!

Physics Summer School



James Davey
13FT

For the first time, Ermysted's Grammar School ran a summer school for aspiring physicists to gain a taste of the subject at degree level. Over the course of the week, students experienced a series of lectures and problems classes aimed at developing their skills and introducing some hard concepts with which to grapple. Ideas such as special relativity and superposition were introduced by lecturers from Leeds and York Universities, enabling students to gain a flavour of both University style teaching and the material involved in a Physics Degree. The school had a heavy focus upon Quantum Physics, teaching a mathematical grounding to some of the qualitative explanations given in A Level Physics.

The course was a fantastic opportunity to confront some of the harder aspects of Physics and realize why the phrase 'a Quantum leap' is complete nonsense.

Aside from the higher level Physics introduced, a problems workshop run by Mr Fry, a very traditional Physics teacher (complete with sliderule) was both enjoyable and engaging, including questions such as calculating the



mass of the sun. In addition, an experiment involving bottle rockets was run on the top field, with teams of students applying their Physics and Mathematics to gain the greatest flight time for their rocket.

In summary, the school was a fantastic learning experience, and many thanks must go to Dr Gill who organized the school and the Ogden Trust who funded it. All who attended benefited greatly from the intellectual challenge, and hope the school will continue to run in subsequent years.

Bletchley Park Trip



Edward Hobbs
13SM

At 7 o'clock on a Thursday morning, a group of 13 bleary-eyed students crawled its way onto the school minibus, with the aim of visiting Bletchley Park, "Station X". When we finally arrived at our destination, we tumbled out of the bus, and piled into what can only be described as a small green hut. Little did we know that that hut contained some of the world's oldest known computers. Before we could begin the tour, we had a quick talk about the museum itself. The National Museum of Computing is an archive of everything from the great Colossus through to the

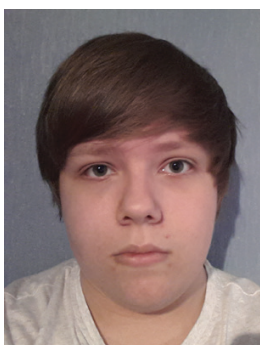
CRAY supercomputers of the 80s, with most exhibits still in full working order, and every room having at least one computer that you can have a play with. We started the tour with the main attraction: Colossus - the first ever digital computer, with an impressive 0kb of RAM, and absolutely no hard drives in sight!

The next leg of the tour gave us the chance to look at some more modern computers, where hard drives had been introduced, though they were the size of washing machines. One particularly interesting exhibit was the first electronic calculator. It was the size of a room, could only do simple functions, and was only three times faster than a human! What we can do on our pocket calculators would have taken that machine three weeks.

After lunch, we spent half an hour on the ancient BBC Microcomputers, before going on to the home PC room! This was full to the brim with personal computers from the 70s to the present day, all loaded up with games that pleased us all no end, and after a quick play on Mac Paint, we were onto the last leg of the museum tour: the supercomputers. The most prominent was about five foot tall, four feet across and, when plugged in, made all the lamps dim slightly. After the museum, we had a whistle-stop tour around the main park and a quick look at the huts where all the code-breakers actually worked, as well as the exhibition of code breaking equipment featuring a rather impressive statue of Alan Turing, made entirely out of sheets of slate.



Bradford University Trip



Ashley
Williamson
13HI

At 9 o'clock on a Wednesday morning, the Year 12 computing students departed on a journey to Bradford. On arrival, the group had to stumble its way through the city towards the Media Museum, where it managed to get lost on the fourth floor playing a variety of old and new video consoles, including some of the earliest games. The games played included 'Prince of Persia', 'MarioKart', 'Sonic', and the original 'Asteroids' displayed on a CRT monitor screwed to a table, making for awkward playing. There was also an original 'Pong' console from 1985, on which Mr King and Mr Justice both competed against students. Mr King decided to give up after losing by three points, complaining that "this is a stupid game"; however, Mr Justice rose to the challenge, and came incredibly close to winning!

Shortly after, the group made its way down the stairs towards the 'culture' display to look at the effect the internet has had on youth culture. After spending a short while here, we met Mr Justice and Mr King in the café for lunch before heading off to the university.

On arrival at the computer science department at Bradford University, we were directed to one of the many computer rooms, where they had two monitors to every computer! We were joined by Professor Cowling and Steve, who introduced the basic concepts behind Artificial Intelligence (AI) by demonstrating the use of AI in modern games, such as 'Call of Duty' of which we found Professor Cowling to be a devoted player. The group had the task of developing an AI 'agent' for the game, and was shown the use of a method known as 'Monte Carlo' where the AI would play over 1000 simulated games, and choose the best move to play! This provided a very convincing and difficult opponent. Afterwards, we had a short session which showed the group some techniques for capturing movement and translating it into 3D models, resulting in the virtual fighting of 'Zelda'. Overall, we had a fun (and of course highly educationally relevant) day of playing and developing games, games, and more games.



PE Department Review



Mr Douglas
Head of PE

What is PE? Should we measure success based on competitive events? Should we strive to be inclusive? Is PE about motivating pupils to be the best that they can be? Should our philosophy be that if a pupil leaves EGS with an interest in a sport, we have succeeded? 'Yes' is the answer to all of these questions and I'm delighted to report to you that the PE department at EGS ticks all of those boxes, as you will see in the pages that follow.

It has been another eventful year for the PE department, where the numbers of people studying PE at examination level continues to grow. Our traditional sports of Rugby and Cricket are supported by newer additions including Basketball, Athletics and Hockey, in which we regularly compete at a high level. The climbing club continues to attract great numbers, as do the lunchtime gym clubs. 2012 also saw the introduction of a new Ultimate Disc club, which has attracted a number of enthusiastic students.

In the past year we have introduced new assessment strategies, which can be seen in the EGS planner. The days of the most able footballer in the group being classed as the 'best' are not necessarily over, but success is measured in terms of knowledge and understanding, as well as ability. We now set regular homework and project work, enabling our pupils to put what they have learned into practice.

We are very proud of the positive atmosphere which exists in PE at Ermysted's. All students are encouraged to do their best, and this seems to have paid off in the past year, with 6 Ermysted's students representing their countries in a number of sports.

Oliver Cicognini was again selected for the England Rugby Union squad, as one of only 3 wingers. Unfortunately, his impressive season was cut short after he tore his ACL in a game in February against Leicester Tigers.

Sam French plays Hockey for England at U18 level, and this year helped them to the Four Nations title. **Josh Sykes** represented England in the U16's Four Nations Tournament, which was held in Holland.

Ed McParland is currently the British number 3 in youth cross country mountain biking and is a member of British Cycling's Olympic Talent Team.

Muhammad Ali was crowned National Boxing champion for the third successive year, winning 31-8 on points in the under 48kg category.

James Dawson continues to excel in the pool, representing Wales. His goal is to compete at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

We have many more athletes who perform at a fantastically high standard. Whether it is at regional or county level or even at school we are very proud of you all.

North of England Cup



Harpreet S.
Chaggar
12HP

We arrived in Manchester anxious and nervous, yet still quietly confident about progressing to the final round of the National Cup. With some very unfortunate, very late setbacks, including the withdrawal of Josh Sykes, a talismanic figure for us and a centre forward for England, due to injury, we knew it wouldn't be easy - especially as many of the opposing teams were of an especially high standard. Despite this, and the absence of Sam French, our inspirational coach, we left school bright and early, searching for more silverware to add to our very impressive collection.

Our opening match was against Egglecliffe School from Middlesbrough. We had beaten them 5-3 the week before, but this time circumstances were different and they attacked us right from the start and before we knew it we were a goal down, despite a string of magnificent saves from our keeper, Jack Baker. Chances in the first half were few and far between, and in spite of Izaak Beck's tireless efforts up front, the goal wouldn't come for us, as Egglecliffe kept pressing, eventually doubling their

"Rossall had their chances but to no avail, thanks to Jack Baker our incredible centre back duo: Henry 'Lightning' Locke and our magnificent captain, Nick Woodhead"

lead. After some tactical changes by Mr Douglas at the half time break, things started to look slightly better and the breakthrough came through Ali Jordan as he beautifully converted from a short corner strike from Nick Woodhead, but it wasn't enough as Egglecliffe held on to a narrow 2-1 victory. Not quite the start we'd been hoping for; our first defeat of the season.

Our next match was against Rossall School from Fleetwood and we knew things had to change. Despite finding ourselves a goal down quite early on, we kept our composure and played some nice hockey. Ali Jordan sublimely levelled the scores just before the half time whistle so we went into the break at 1-1, but still feeling confident. After another silky run from Ali, Joe Brown brilliantly slotted home our second to give us a slender advantage with only 5 minutes to go. Ali scored a merciless third to put us 3-1 up, but not without Rossall having their chances but to no avail, thanks to Jack Baker our incredible centre back duo: Henry "lightning" Locke and our magnificent captain, Nick Woodhead, with some covering tackles too from the ever-reliable Dan Judkowski on the right and the rapid and efficient Harpreet Chaggar on the left. The final score was 3-1 but we knew we would be under considerable pressure going to the final match, knowing that we needed to win by more than 2 goals to go top of the table...

We raced out of the blocks in the final match, with Toby Waring terrorising the opposition defence, effortlessly skilling defenders and posing a constant threat on the right, combining with Richard Melia, who also played a major role in unlocking the defence. Calday Grange (from the Wirral) were playing well, though our midfield trio of Elliot Dowley, Ross McMillan and Ali Jordan always seemed to be in control. Elliot displayed fantastic close control whilst Ross did brilliantly to create space and made some superb passes, allowing us to score 3 goals within the first 10 minutes, including a fine finish from David Squirrel, along with goals from Nick Woodhead and Ali Jordan.

We continued to have our chances, but failed to capitalise, though we'd already done enough to secure the victory. A superb effort from our captain was stopped by a defender's foot on the line, resulting in a penalty flick. Captain Nick stepped up to take it but their keeper reacted brilliantly to keep it out. Toby Waring suffered an unfortunate blow to the face, resulting in a temporary substitution, before being harshly sin-binned in the final ten minutes. Calday Grange tried to make use of their numerical advantage, but we held on to our lead thanks to a brilliant defensive effort, emerging victorious and being crowned the North of England U16 Hockey champions!

“Calday Grange tried to make use of their numerical advantage, but we held on to our lead thanks to a brilliant defensive effort, emerging victorious and being crowned the North of England U16 Hockey champions!”



ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
NATIONAL HOCKEY FINAL



National Finals

The National Finals were a completely new experience for us, a stage that many athletes can only dream of competing at. Cannock hockey ground near Birmingham boasted very high quality pitches, and we were the first ever non-private school to compete at the National Finals, a very proud achievement for all of us. Josh Sykes had returned from injury, however we were struck by another; Mr Douglas, team coach and tactician, unfortunately couldn't join us. We were very fortunate to have very slick new kits for the finals thanks to generous sponsorship from Skipton Building Society. We knew that all if we played as well as we looked, we'd win the tournament!

We kicked off the two-day affair with a match against Trinity School, who were very well drilled and despite some good chances, Trinity beat us 1-0 in horrendous weather conditions. This put us in a difficult position as we played our 2nd match of the day against a very strong Ipswich school who dominated the match and put three past us as we failed to convert any real chances.

After a good night's rest we recovered to play our final match, knowing that unfortunately we would be unable to go through, having lost our first two games. This time we were only playing for pride but the strength of Dean Close meant that even this would not be easily done. We were forced to admit that we were truly outplayed - suffering a heavy 7-1 defeat to an extremely professional side with the only positive being a powerful shot from skipper Woodhead which led to our only goal. I think on whole, many positives can be gained from this experience: playing against the best schools in the country and forcing us to try and perform better than we've ever needed to before.

As a state school, I feel that all did tremendously well to get so far, especially considering some of our players are very new to hockey, for them to have competed so well at such a high level is a credit to them. We would like to build on our successes next year by competing as U18s, with a year 12 squad as well as entering the National Indoor Hockey competition. Despite not finishing in the position we would have liked, we can look forward to next year, when I'm confident that we shall progress just as far, if not further. The boys can hold their heads held high after a successful and enjoyable year, having played some beautiful hockey, becoming the best team in the north of England, as well as having a great time at the Finals. With a little more training and experience, 2013 should be an exciting year for EGS Hockey!

"We were very fortunate to have slick new kits, thanks to Skipton Building Society. We knew that if we played as well as we looked, we'd win the tournament!"

1st XV Season Review



Mr Douglas
Head of PE

The season began with renewed optimism. Despite the loss of leaders like Lloyd Davies and Paul Mahler, the 'class of 2011' also had some stellar performers. England U18 wing Oliver Cicognini and West Yorkshire's Matthew Hall would lead a side which included fantastic senior players in Jake Waring, James Smith, Jake Norton, Jake Lockwood, Peter Howarth, Theo Baker, William Smith and Sam Lund to name a few. This, combined with the exciting younger players coming through, gave the squad a feeling of optimism.

The season began in unusual style, with a 'Rocky Balboa' type training session at the tough Sandygate Amateur Boxing Club in Burnley. The ferocity of the work was astounding and boxing coach Nik Tucker was taking no prisoners. The 'option' to spar with teammates was very popular and 40 dirty, sweaty and tired rugby players were under no illusions as to what would be expected of them in the coming season. The effect that this day had on team morale was noticeable, adding to an air of excitement in the camp.

Useful training games against Yarm and Ripon Grammar were followed by a trip to the North East, where we entered the Tynedale RFC Schools tournament. Despite a tough loss to RGS Newcastle, wins against the Tynedale Colts side and MacMillan Academy were sufficient to get us into the last 4 of the tournament. However, injuries to full back Cicognini and our talented fly half Chris Loadman meant that in the semi final against the Northumberland County side, hooker Jake Waring played at fly half and flanker Murray Campbell was on the wing. Nonetheless, a narrow 16-10 defeat against a representative side was something to be proud of.

Our first regular season fixture was against Silcoates, and despite the loss of Cicognini, who would be unavailable to play until October, the side performed exceptionally well, winning 24-7. A further win against Queen Ethelburga's (63-3) and a 12-12 draw with Bradford GS proved that the Ermysted's 1st XV were on a bit of a roll and things were looking up. Then we hit a blip...

"The season began in unusual style, with a 'Rocky Balboa' type training session at the tough Sandygate Amateur Boxing Club in Burnley and the 'option' to spar with teammates was very popular"

A visit to Leeds Grammar School with a weakened team was always going to be tough. They are currently national champions at U15 level and have an excellent 1st XV. However, nobody was expecting a 75-7 defeat. The confidence that we had built up in the early part of the season was wavering. A 13-8 defeat away at Crossley Heath meant that we all had to take a long, hard look at ourselves and it was our work horse, Peter Howarth, who set the target that we would not be beaten again that season, winning the Daily Mail Vase and the County cup on

“Our work horse, Peter Howarth, set the target that we would not be beaten again that season, winning the Daily Mail Vase and the County cup on the way”

the way.

Peter’s target was always ambitious, but the half term break brought a week long trip to Holland, where the 1st and 2nd XV would play 2 games each. The 2 victories for the 1st XV in Holland, whilst not insignificant, were not the greatest success of the trip. Instead, it was great to see a team live and breathe together for 5 days and the amount of fun we had as a group provided the team with everything that they needed to get back on track. On our return to school, the phenomenal leadership of Matthew Hall, inspired motivational speeches from William Smith and Howarth and gutsy determination from Jake Lockwood got us moving again. All of this coincided with the return of Cicognini and we were off!

Victories against Harrogate GS (15-5), Sedbergh (24-12) and Ashville College (22-0), were complimented by Daily Mail Vase victories against Ilkley GS (53-0), Crossley Heath (39-14) and Ullswater CC (51-0). Suddenly, Peter Howarth’s ambitious plan looked like it could come to fruition as we were undefeated between October 8th and January 14th!

Young players like Harris Edwards, Chris Loadman and Luke Sumnall were now fixtures in the 1st XV. Year 11’s such as Matt Price and Ben Robinson were starting week on week and the core of Year 13’s knew that their time playing schoolboy rugby was coming to a close. We knew that if we could keep the 19 established players fit, we would achieve our goal. Then on Saturday 28th January, whilst playing for England, Oliver Cicognini tore his ACL, putting him out of action for 8 months. The following Wednesday, we played Wirral Grammar School in the quarter finals of the Daily Mail Vase and, in truth, we never recovered psychologically from losing Cica – the player that could score from anywhere on the pitch, the one who had scored in every game that he played. Disappointingly, we lost 13-0 at home.

The county cup became unplayable, due to teams not hitting deadlines and unfortunately we went out on the toss of a coin. A run of victories that had promised so much fizzled out into nothing. 15- a-side rugby for our Year 13 boys, was over.

We had a few weeks break before an action packed 7's season, possibly our favourite time of the year. Tournaments in February and March are always cold, and the boys have a love/hate relationship with them, but trips to the Kirkby Lonsdale School 7's, the Queen Ethelburga's School 7's, the North of England Schoolboy 7's at Birkenhead Park, the Keswick School 7's all went well, with us reaching the at least the last 4 of all bar 1 of the above tournaments. James Smith was his brilliant self during these tournaments. Then, fantastically, we won the Austin Friars School 7's with a hard fought victory over Giggleswick in the Final. This provided us with fantastic motivation going into the National School 7's at Fylde RUFC, where we performed fantastically to reach the last 8 of the tournament, losing to eventual finalists Adams Grammar School in the quarter final.

A great deal of thanks should go to all of the players who have moved on to pastures new, including Theo Baker, Oli Cicognini, Matthew Hall, Sam Heaton, Peter Howarth, Jake Lockwood, Sam Lund, Peter Messenger, Dan Moon, Jake Norton, Will Smith, James Smith, and Jake Waring. We wish you the best of luck and are proud that you wanted to devote so much of your time to EGS Rugby.



ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2011/12
1ST XV RUGBY



Sevens Tournaments



James Davey
13FT

The Rugby Sevens season kicked off with a wet and windy tournament at Queen Ethelburga's. Despite exiting at the quarter final stage to a strong side from Ripon, we took many valuable lessons from the tournament, which served as a testing ground for the coming season. We were extremely confrontational throughout the tournament, perhaps due in part to our long Daily Mail Vase run, and were quite happy to run into the teeth of the opposition's defence when contact might otherwise have been avoided.

Learning from the experience at Queen Ethelburga's, we entered the next tournament with confidence, and easily progressed from our pool to the knockout stages.

Unfortunately, we were pitted against a well drilled side from RGS Lancaster, whose remorseless exploitation of our mistakes put them on the front foot for most of the game. Although there were strong performances from Jake Lockwood and captain Matthew Hall, whose savage rucking turned over plenty of ball, we were beaten by a narrow margin.

The third tournament of the season was held at Austin Friars in Carlisle. Forced into the Vase by our old foe RGS Lancaster, Ermysted's rose to the occasion. Battling through the group stages, we appeared to mould together firmly as the tournament progressed, with scything runs from James Smith and Sam Blakely effortlessly dissecting the oppositions' defence. The team's hard work earned them a place in the final, and although hard pressed by a formidable side from Cumbria, we eventually triumphed and won our first piece of silverware. The Year 11 players (Toby Waring, Adam Chown and David Squirrel) must be congratulated, not only standing up to, but knocking back, players much older and larger than themselves.

A successful and enjoyable season was concluded with a tour to Blackpool and a Cumbria Sevens tournament. The season was marked by hard work and equally hard fought victories, and a remarkable tackle by Harris Edwards, who managed to tackle a player through a fence. The season also saw Chris Loadman make his mark at Fly half, and was



one last hurrah for the old guard: Peter Howarth, Jake Waring, Jake Lockwood, Jake Norton and Captains Oliver Cicognini and Matthew Hall. We hope build on last season's progress this year!

ESA: Track and Field Cup



Mr White
PE Teacher

It only takes a trip through the best past performance lists of the Track and Field Cup to realise how many Olympic dreams have been forged on the Gateshead track. Famous faces include Mark Lewis-Francis, Phillips Odowu, and Paula Radcliffe as well as my hero, Steve Ovett - in the 400m of all things!

For the first time in many years we entered two teams into the junior and intermediate classes of the Cup. In recent years, Athletics at Ermysted's has been forced into a siding due to the proliferation of modular examinations and testing in the summer term. All summer sports, including cricket and tennis, are being systematically strangled by inane targets to the extent that the only sport that students will do well in is jumping through hoops!

Thanks to England Athletics allowing qualifying rounds to be played on a range of dates, a rare sunny day at the end of June saw Ermysted's teams from Year 8 and 10 respectively step out onto the track to do battle with the rest of Yorkshire. The black and white vests of Ermysted's were back. And back with a vengeance!

The format of the track and field cup is excellent. A team of 14 students is entered and they each have to compete in two events, including an obligatory relay event. It's difficult to decide who will do what, and you often end up with a big, strong field event thrower running the relay to gain those vital extra points.

The first round was held at Huntington Stadium in York. Unfortunately the Year 10 team narrowly missed the cut for the North of England final (Coming 5th overall - the top 4 progress to the next round). This was due in many respects to their not being involved in athletics in previous years. Conversely, the Year 8 team (who had signed up, rather than being chosen using a selection policy) demonstrated the true ethos of Ermysted's sport. They worked together, gave it their all and won the competition to progress through to the North of England final. There were indeed some notable individual efforts but it was as a team that they took part and so the team must take the plaudits. Thank you to Mrs Adamson, who kindly came along to offer support on her day off, bringing cakes and sweets aplenty!



We worked out our best chance of getting to the All England Finals in Essex was via the North of England finals at Gateshead International Stadium. We knew it would be a tall order as last year's finalists had all amassed substantially more points than us at this stage. Many schools who take the competition seriously invest in pole-vault and hurdles equipment as well as having access to synthetic tracks. These resources simply do not exist in the rural areas of Yorkshire.

"As always it was the students who made this trip both possible and highly enjoyable. We will enter the cup again, and continue to fight the good fight for sport in our little corner of Yorkshire and we will win"

On the day the boys competed out of their skins and finished in a commendable 2nd place, just missing the cut for the overall finals. In reality this means that they came 10th in the whole of England - which is no mean feat for a relatively small school which focuses on rugby rather than athletics. My thanks this time must go to Mr Douglas for coming with us, even though he had recently undergone major knee surgery. His understanding of the Geordie language was of great assistance as we travelled the roads of the Tyne and Wear.

As always it was the students who made this trip both possible and highly enjoyable. We will enter the cup again, and continue to fight the good fight for sport in our little corner of Yorkshire and we will win. However, I know that the students who took part gained much more than a victory alone would have secured. They competed in a massive event against students from all over the North of England. Perhaps in years to come I will add other names to the roll of honour at the beginning of this article. Maybe one of our boys will remember the day they raced a future Olympic Champion such as Steve Ovett. Maybe, just maybe, it could be one of them...



School Cross Country



Mr Speak
Biology Teacher

The weather was really kind in the run-up to our second attempt at this year's Cross-Country. No rain for over a week had firmed up the ground, with only the long grass in the golf course and the obvious hills slowing down the runners. The good conditions made breaking records possible, as shown by our illustrious Year 7s. Although it wasn't a record in terms of turnout, the event was notable for 1 or 2 unusual running outfits, with Morphsuits aplenty and even a cheerleader!

Our Y7 runners showed just how good Jimmy Lund and Charlie Lowrie are as they ran away from everyone else and both came back ahead of the old record. Charlie beat it by a credible 12 seconds but Jimmy was an incredible 44 seconds under the old mark. When we consider who else has run round this course and think he is nearly a minute quicker than the likes of Billy Pinder, it shows what a talent he is. Third place was claimed by Oliver Bullock who just beat fellow Petyt runner Alex Blake. Hartley just beat Petyt by 6 points.

The Y8/9 race saw a great contest as Y8 Alistair Harvey led from the start, but Rob Thompson of Y9 wouldn't let him get away and did him at the finish. Max Smith once again showed his talent as a runner as he came home in third. With 5 out of the first 10 home, Toller won the House event.

The Y10/11 race saw a good race between Adam Sayedi and Harry Whyte which was only decided on the run in to the line. Joel Birks, Alex Saldhana and Ali Jordan all showed what the school teams are missing at this age group as they occupied the next three places, while Petyt showed how important every runner is to the team as they won in spite of their first runner being only 14th.

In the Seniors, we lost pre-race favourites Mr. Edward & Mr. Edmondson but it looked like Dr. Needham had held up the staff's honour as he built a convincing lead. However, Toller House Captain and elite cyclist Ed McParland had other ideas and on the second lap, Ed reeled him in and broke clear up the last hill. Christian Dunne was the second student back, just ahead of George Meehan, Mr. Speak and Ian Newall. Ed's work for his house supported by 3 Toller teachers in the first 10 helped them to a decisive second House victory and with it took the overall House Competition.



English Schools' XC



George
Maloney
9NA

Round 1: North Yorkshire Round

The Year 7 and 8 team are a real force to be reckoned with, combining some brilliant talent from both years. The first round at Giggleswick was the team's chance to shine, with Jimmy Lund being the first man home, proving himself as a real class act this season. Charlie Lowrie, another talented Year 7 runner, was marginally beaten to 2nd place by a Year 8 student from St Aidans – another great run from him. The next two home were George Maloney in 4th and Luke Thompson in 5th to complete the top five places, putting the team in 1st place with an impressive score of 13. Matthew

Thompson, Will McCallum, Ben Archer, Ben Speak and Danny Pow also had great runs, coming within the top 30.

Round 2: North East of England Round

With the National Final within their grasp, the team knew the second round would be tough. Despite the pressure, they maintained excellent performances with Charlie coming 4th, Luke 5th, Jimmy 6th, George 8th and Alistair Harvey 14th which meant an overall team victory with 23 points. The team showed exceptional endurance with some consistent and solid runs from all.

Round 3: National Final

The National Final saw the clash of 24 teams, out of an original 400. After the stampede at the start, the runners held their ground to come home 4th in the country, a brilliant achievement. Jimmy finished an unbelievable 16th place while Luke followed in 25th, just getting the edge of his brother Matthew in 26th. Charlie rounded the off the team's counter, coming in 36th to give the team an overall score of 103. Alistair put in a great run for 48th and George managed 114th, despite battling with the flu. Both the boys and Mr Speak were extremely proud of



the outcome. The team performed spectacularly and will return next year with the hope of winning the National Final.

(from left) George Maloney, Luke Thompson, James Lund, Charlie Lowrie, Matthew Thompson, Alistair Harvey

Basketball Report



Ryan Coones
12KE

Basketball, as a sport at Ermysted's, has grown vastly over the past two years. There has been a growing interest in the sport ever since the arrival of Mr Stewart whose passion for it has clearly rubbed off on all the students he coaches. All year groups have teams, which are divided by Key Stage. Key Stage 3, which contains the newest members of the school, has fixtures organized throughout the year against other local schools.

"There has been a growing interest in the sport ever since the arrival of Mr Stewart"

Key Stage 4 has also greatly developed under the guidance of Mr Stewart and, more recently, Mr King. They will no doubt continue to improve this season with games against some of the best teams in the area. Key stage 5 has a plethora of promising players who will continue



to gain both experience and skill as the season progresses, playing in several fixtures and tournaments against other schools, sometimes at a national level.

Finally, an annual inter-house basketball competition is to be held, which will be worth valuable house points. All the students have put in hours of hard work, giving it their all, and the benefits are becoming evident.



Climbing Club Report



Joslan
Scherewode
12AB

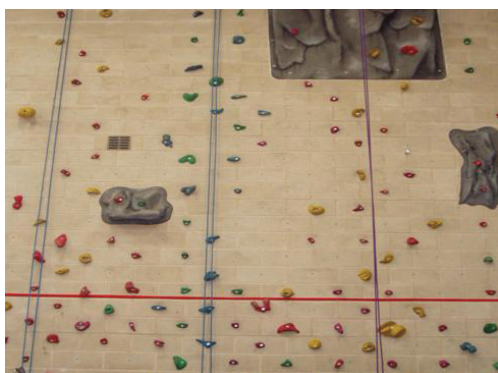
The climbing club has really progressed over the course of the past year. The regular weekly fun continued throughout and in the junior club some very promising talent is coming through, supported by the omniscient Mr. White and Mrs. Abbey. On Mondays the usual shenanigans with the seniors also continued. Spreading gossip, playing Spiderman on the wall and, of course, climbing, kept us entertained for the far-too-short one hour sessions.

The highlights of the year were unquestionably the two climbing competitions we attended. Firstly, the inter-house competition took place, with a tough contest among all

years. As expected there was plenty of healthy competition and the day was a huge success.

Just one week later the senior group (Year 11s) competed at an inter-school competition, which was enjoyed by all. Though unfortunately we didn't win, Sam Abbey did actually come first individually, finishing every

route first time. We were, without question, the manliest team there. That's a lie actually as there was much girlish squealing from us all. The catchphrase of the day soon became 'Real men eat chalk'; to prove to the other teams we were the manliest.



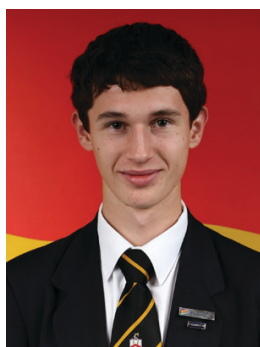
Another first for the climbing club was the trip outside. For many of the senior team climbing outside on real rock was a new experience and we had a fantastic time. It now seems the custom to come up with catchphrases for each trip and for this one it was the joke 'why did the Mexican throw his wife off a cliff? Tequila...' That joke works much better

when you say it out loud!

We, as a school, love our climbing club. The social and physical opportunities very much enrich our school experience and we will continue to cherish the quality time we spend on the wall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. White and Mrs. Abbey for the hard work they put into the club and we will always be very grateful for their time.

"We were, without question, the manliest team there. That's a lie actually, as there was much girlish squealing"

Annual Report



Daniel Judkowski
12HP

Over the past couple of years, the amount of boys coming to badminton training during a couple of lunchtimes in the week has steadily increased to over 60 in number, and the hard work is paying off, with several successes.

Following a successful outing in the regional round, the Year 10 and 11 team (made up of Oliver Hutchinson, Jack Coyne, Ben Anson and Daniel Judkowski) headed to the North Yorkshire County Championships in Hull. The competition was much tougher this time, but the boys were undeterred, and having only dropped 4 games through the whole day, they were deservedly crowned North Yorkshire champions, emulating the successes of the KS3 team last year.

2012 also saw the first ever fixture for the Year 7's, with 12 of them being selected to play against a squad from Hanson School. Each boy played 2 singles and 2 doubles games, with the overall score being added up throughout the event. Both sides won matches, but it was Ermysted's that triumphed, amassing 504 points compared to Hanson's 310.

This success can only continue, and there is no doubt that there will be even more achievements like these next year.



The Year 7 team from left to right: Daniel Arnott, Jake Woodward, Matthew Ramshaw, Gregor Myles, Jordan Harding, Freddie Binns, Elliott Hall, Will Horner, Joe Buckley, Daniel Banner, Jonny Macha and Harvey Newiss.

BHF Event



Mr King
PE Teacher and
Head of KS4

This year's Ermysted's entry into the British Heart Foundation golf event, which took place at Cleckheaton District Golf Club, consisted of three Year 11 boys in the shape of James Beatham, Ali Jordan and Nick Woodhead.

On a very blustery but dry day, it was always going to be won by the team coping best with the difficult conditions, and, more importantly, not letting the inevitable mistakes affect their mindsets.

On a day which saw more than one eagle putt, as well as birdies and sand saves, it was QEGS, Blackburn who came home with the best team score. Close behind, trailing by only two stableford points, was the Ermysted's team.

Nick Woodhead was also recognised in the prize presentation for his tremendous individual score of 40 points, which was the best in the entire field of over 60 players. Well done Nick!

The real winner today though was the charity. The Ermysted's team managed to raise £140 for the British Heart Foundation. This amount would pay for the cost of a defibrillator, similar to the one that so publicly saved the life of footballer Fabrice Muamba recently.

"Nick Woodhead was recognised for his tremendous individual score of 40 points. Well done Nick!"



The Ermysted's team at the British Heart Foundation event. From right to left: James Beatham, Ali Jordan and Nick Woodhead

Ermysted's Open



Mr King
PE Teacher and
Head of KS4

Thanks to the generosity of Skipton Golf Club, the 'Ermysted's Annual Open' was held at the venue for its second year. The ideal growing conditions of late, combined with the hard work of the greenkeeping staff ensured that the course was presented in superb condition.

Sixteen boys, from Year 7s to Sixth Form, competed for the silver platter, which was won last year by Michael O'Rourke. Unfortunately, due to exam commitments, Michael was unable to defend the title which caused excitement and tension in equal measure among those hoping to claim the prize. In perfect conditions, the boys set off in fours, and early moves were made. Sam Goodfellow, George Jowitt, and Year 7 student Max Berrisford got off to tremendous starts, whilst some struggled to come to grips with the long rough and tight nature of the opening holes.

Nick Woodhead, who had managed a steady start, was the only one to maintain his scores through to half way, being only three over par (gross) for the front nine. Playing off a handicap of 18, this meant he amassed a remarkable 23 points at the turn. Gregor Myles managed 21 and Nick Jenkinson 20, but they were the only real challengers to Woodhead at half way. Sam Goodfellow and Jordan Harding made impressive starts to the back nine, but Woodhead kept up the pace with a series of 3 pointers and a birdie 4 on the par 5 17th to keep some distance between himself and the rest of the pack. A special mention must go to Year 7 boy Henry Croft who held his own and kept hitting the middle of fairways and greens with his controlled and sensible shots. Surely, with six years of attempts remaining, he should push hard to get his name on the platter at some stage?

Despite three putting the 18th green, Nick Woodhead (pictured on the right!) posted his impressive 77 gross score, which converted to 47 stableford points to take the prize. Gregor Myles was second with 40, and Sam Goodfellow came third with 39 points.

With so many strong 12-14 year olds in the field, the future of golf in the area looks in fine shape, and as competition increases, surely handicaps will tumble down!





Mr Jackson
PE Teacher

The 1st XI only managed to play one game, thanks to a very damp 'summer'. The school's long-running, annual fixture pitted them against MCC at Bolton Abbey Cricket Club, a quintessentially English ground surrounded by the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. The ground staff did an excellent job in preparing a very good wicket considering the conditions and the rain held off for the majority of the day, replaced instead by a bitterly cold wind.

As the fixture's tradition dictates, MCC batted first, with Patrick Martin and Steve Bell opening the bowling.

Martin bowled 6 overs, conceding just 18 runs. Bell picked up an excellent early wicket in the 8th over, and finished with economic figures of 8-3-29-1. Izaak Beck replaced Martin and bowled 5 overs, going for 22 runs. The wet, damp conditions certainly did not favour our seam bowlers. A change of tactics was required and captain James Smith called for spin bowler Rory Stead, who produced a Man of the Match performance to finish with figures of 4 for 57 from 15 overs, assisted brilliantly by wicket-keeper Nick Woodhead. Ben Stockton had a short but effective bowling stint, picking up 2 wickets for 4 runs from 3 overs. After 47 overs, MCC declared on 179-8, with batsman S. Naylor hitting a powerful 82 from 91 deliveries.

With the target set, Smith elected to open the batting with Saleem Qureshi. Smith was caught out early, facing only 2 balls without troubling the scorer. Experienced vice captain Will Driver came in at number 3, but he too was caught without scoring. Qureshi played an excellent innings of patient, attacking shots. He was well supported by Jack Beetham and they did well until Beetham fell for 21. Old Boy T. Smallwood caught Qureshi out after a strong innings worth 40 runs. From this point on, the remaining batsmen contributed with single figure scores (Tyler McGladdery and Stead, 9, Beck, 2, Woodhead and Martin, failing to score) with the exception of Stockton who scored 12. The Ermysted's innings finished on 102 all out, losing by 77 runs.



The Ermysted's team ahead of the summer's only fixture against MCC at the picturesque Bolton Abbey Cricket Club

Go Karting Tournament



Will Lockyer
13GI

The stage was set for a momentous evening at Pole Position Indoor Karting track at Leeds late in January. Tension was high on the outbound journey as Jake Ryder was absent, leaving the Ermysted's camp faced with the task of defeating the other two teams without their most experienced driver. To further complicate matters, they would be facing the National Go Karting Champion...

Suited and booted, the lads underwent a short safety briefing before making their first foray into the adrenaline fuelled world of Go Karting. Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton started their careers this way and the time had come to see if we had any aspiring F1 champions in our

ranks. Despite a good initial performance from our youngsters, a technical error led to a re-race, in which they lost out to the National Champion. It was down to Mike Moon to put his years of playing 'Need for Speed' into practice. He didn't disappoint, putting in a dazzling performance which Nigel Mansell would have been proud of!

Despite being up against such formidable opponents, the results started flowing in, with the C Team being the main attraction, even without Ryder, who would only have increased their dominance in this contest. A frantic Mr Stewart watched on from the side, providing expert race knowledge to ensure that the team worked well together.

A Special mention has to go to Frazer Briggs and Zitian Harper who, on their racing debuts, put in a shift worthy of a podium and also the brave and outrageous Joe Slater who caused a 6 car pileup to help Team C to gain valuable seconds on their rivals.

Moon maintained his form in the next race, with Chris Loadman, Ollie Preiss and Will Lockyer inspired by his stupendous display to secure a podium finish. Dan Bates also did his bit by putting in some sizzling laps. Other team players who deserve a mention include Marc Doherty, Harry Cuffe and Max Nicoll, whose blistering pace and intense cornering were a great asset.

After the final race, the Ermysted's crew gathered around nervously to await the results - a position in the next round was up for grabs. 2nd place was awarded to Armthorpe School, though Ilkley Grammar School, the pre-race favourites, were still in contention. Much to the disbelief of everyone it was Gold for Jack Cooper, Rayyan Khan and Thomas Fryars, our C Team, who deservedly collected their certificates and celebrated, leaving a gratified Mr Stewart dreaming of a national championship winning team...

On behalf of everyone involved, I'd like to say thanks to Mr Stewart for his patience, benevolence and Christian Horner-esque expertise. Another shout out must go to Mike Moon's 'unbelievable tekkers' which saw him deservedly take the 'Racer of the Day' award.

First XI Report



Mr Speak
Biology Teacher

It's been an interesting year for the first team football squad. Our overall form was inconsistent: we won 4 games yet lost the same number. The Autumn term was a bit different, with the tour to Holland being a particular highlight for all of the students involved.

In terms of competitive games, it's fair to say that we didn't fare too well. We exited the English Schools Cup in the second round after suffering defeat against Ripon Grammar School. The match was made harder by gale force winds, though we showed spirit to come from 2 goals down to level in the last ten

minutes before losing on the lottery of penalties.

In the Harrogate & Craven Area Cup, we fell at the hands of Ripon College, slipping to a 2-1 defeat in March. We were more successful in friendly games, beating Craven

College's 2nd XI on separate occasions as well as grabbing a win away at Settle thanks to goals from James Arnott and Jack Beetham.

The big event of the year was our trip to Holland, which you can read more about on page 70 in an article written by goalkeeper Mikey Davidson. The season's top scorers were Will Driver and Jack Beetham who both netted 3 times for the school. Will received the most Man of the Match awards with 3, though overall the team performed solidly, if not spectacularly, throughout the year.

The year ahead looks bright with the team, now captained by Dan Bates, winning their first game 6-1. With some impressive players

coming through from the current Year 11 and 12, maybe this could be the year that Ermysted's starts to make its mark on the local football scene...



The Ermysted's first XI before their defeat against Ripon Grammar School in the season's first competitive fixture.

"The Holland tour was a particular highlight for all involved"

Holland Tour



Mikey Davidson
13SY

Never before had an Ermysted's football team travelled abroad to play competitively; this was the case until last year, when they flew to Holland to play two teams from a strong footballing nation. It was a great experience for the players to have a chance to play against teams from such a different culture and style of play.

The first game was at night on a pitch which was in pristine condition, very different from some of the pitches in England. The players were adapting to the Dutch style of the game: passing it around and dominating possession. However, Ermysted's could not capitalize on their opportunities, spurning chance after chance. Each team had their fair share of chances, the best falling to the home side when their striker rounded the keeper only to miss an open goal.

Physically, the Ermysted's boys were stronger, lunging into tackles in the good old English way. The game, in our eyes, was influenced by some very dubious decisions from the referee. The referee comically sin-binned one of our players, forgetting the game was football rather than rugby. The stalemate between the two teams carried on through extra-time, and inevitably the game was settled by a penalty shoot-out. Unlike the England national team, Ermysted's were much more confident when it came to penalties, winning the shoot-out 3-1, with successful penalties from Ben Lowry, Mike Davidson, and Jack Beetham. Dan Bates was named as Man of the Match, despite missing a penalty, he put in a solid all round performance.

"Unlike the England national team, Ermysted's were much more confident with penalties"



The Ermysted's team in action, defending a corner against SC Zand in a match played on astro-turf



After a day's rest, the Ermysted's team set off for their second, and final, game against another Dutch club. Unlike the last game, which was played on grass, these opponents opted instead to play on astro-turf. Ermysted's put their goalless first game behind them with a quick, energetic start to the next game, slotting in a goal through Miles Thompson in the third minute. The game was full of end to end action, with the home side gradually playing true Dutch football. Just before half-time, they pulled a goal back, thanks to some poor defending by Ermysted's.

After an inspirational half-time talk, the Ermysted's team looked harder to beat, building up some pressure in front of goal. It was only a matter of time before we scored, and there was a sense of relief when Will Driver skilfully scored an impressive individual goal. The next goal would be crucial, and sadly the home side scored an equalizer after a



fine string of saves from Mike Davidson in goal. Then, catastrophically, the home side scored again to make the score 3-2. The result stayed the same until the full-time whistle went, and after a great team performance everyone was disappointed with the outcome. The Man of the Match was Mike

Davidson in goal, but everyone had put in their shift in that game.

The tour was a great success for the school football team, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves both on and off the pitch: well done, boys!

Risoul Ski Trip



Frazer Briggs
9HO

In the early morning of Saturday 4th February most of Year 8 along with some Year 10s gathered in Coach Street Car Park in eager anticipation of our journey to Risoul in France. Buses loaded, doors closed, the happy (and sometimes tearful) farewells over with, the party could finally depart. A drive to Gatwick airport, a flight and another three hours on buses along the narrow and windy French mountain roads later, we arrived at Hotel le Morgan!

A lucky group got a very large room, however the first boy to reach the room claimed the double bed as his own and gave no option for negotiation (that was me)! Our boots and skis were fitted, then it was time for bed after at least twelve hours of travelling.

Most groups woke at around 7:30 am to have a breakfast of croissants, ham, cheese, bread, yoghurts and cereals. After breakfast the groups were ready for their first expedition onto the ski slopes. The boys sorted themselves into their appropriate skill groups with their respective ski instructors and quickly were off! The first day's skiing was easy enough; however, little did we know that by the end of the week we would be tackling the highest and steepest of the slopes!

Halfway through the skiing day we stopped for lunch at the hotel. Every day the food was tasty and high in carbohydrates! Once the day of skiing was complete we were able to explore Risoul before dinner. Popular favourites in the town included the local Spar, the extremely



good pizzeria and the (overpriced) sweet shop.

In the evenings there were activities such as exploring Risoul using some obscure clues. Many boys were stumped by the French vocabulary! The next day we were offered the choice between a games night or a film night.

I chose the games night, expecting board games, however we actually made paper aeroplanes and clothes out of bin bags, and participated in a quiz with some 'different' team names! On the Wednesday night we were treated with a trip to a local crêperie.



During the visit a few funny things happened. While going up a ski lift, a boy's ski fell off and began to slide down the hill. Luckily the instructor was amazing and retrieved it. Also, a boy thought it would be a good idea to rub his glove on his face. Normally this would be fine but when the glove had metal on it that was below

freezing temperature and there was moisture on his face it stuck to him! Fortunately it could easily be released and nobody saw. (Yes, it was me!)

On the final day of skiing all the groups were experiencing adventures from as high as we could imagine, thanks to the brilliant instructors, who taught us superbly over the week. That evening Mr Footitt gave us all a huge surprise; he had bought us all tickets for the tobogganing ride on the slopes. All the boys were very excited and it was amazing fun.

We all thanked Mr Footitt, and in Ermysted's skiing trip tradition we all pitched in to buy him a new ski item. Two boys made speeches to thank him and I think I almost saw him become a little emotional!

The final day arrived and, although we had an amazing time, all the boys were ready to return home. Before we left we had an awards ceremony in which we received our ranks from the instructors. During this ceremony the instructors were given their gifts which were well received. Now we only had the long journey home! After several long hours we were back, exhausted but exhilarated.



I would personally like to thank Mr Footitt and all the staff involved in the trip for providing an excellent experience for all of us and I'm sure the rest of the boys would agree. We hope to have many more fun adventures with all of you in the future!

Colorado Ski Trip



Ian Newell
Head Boy
2011-12

Last Easter, 32 sixth formers from Ermysted's and, for the first time, 4 girls from the High School, embarked on the biennial Sixth Form ski trip. The destination this year was Winter Park, a resort in Colorado at 9000 feet above sea level.

We arrived late in the evening after a journey which went smoothly apart from a sniffer dog which stopped Alex Scott for trying to sneak scotch eggs into the States. The next morning, we were straight down to the ski hire shop which was conveniently located within the hotel

and then on to the shuttle bus for a five minute trip into the resort. We didn't seem to be too jet-lagged, but could definitely feel the altitude!

Once in the resort we were split into groups based on ability and met our instructors for the first time. All the instructors proved extremely friendly: Barry, with his humorous approach and strong American accent, was the most entertaining.

The runs looked rather bare as we ascended the chairlift for our first run – it had been a poor season for snow – but as we got up



higher the muddy brown patches became somewhat fewer and further apart. The first few runs are always entertaining, especially with the added excitement of sheet ice and rocky patches - there were many falls on the first day, notably Abi Rhodes' argument with a fence.

Every day, after a hard morning's skiing, we enjoyed the luxury of eating out on the slopes. Basking in the sun while enjoying a large American lunch was a nice way to relax and prepare for the rigours of the afternoon. 'Sunnyside' and 'Derailer' were particularly popular lunch stop destinations.

After four days of skating on the ice and some excellent mogul (lumps and bumps) skiing, we finally woke up to the sight of snow falling and the prospect of powder skiing. It proved to be some of the best skiing most of us had ever done. We spent the whole day descending through the trees in knee-deep, virgin powder. Awesome!

Although it was the main attraction, it wasn't just the skiing that made the holiday. The hotel had two hot tubs and a pool where we spent many hours playing pool volleyball with the staff – a great way to wind down each evening.



“After four days of skating on the ice, we finally woke up to the sight of snow falling and the prospect of powder skiing”

All too quickly, our seven days of skiing came to an end. We celebrated a (virtually) injury-free trip with an award ceremony where members of our team received prizes and we, in return, thanked our excellent ski instructors. However, this was not quite the end of the trip; we now headed to Colorado Mills shopping

mall in Denver. We ended up lost for several hours in the largest mall most of us had ever seen, a great way to end the trip.

On a final note, on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank Mr Footitt, Mr Douglas, Mr King, Mr Thackrah and Mr and Mrs Davey for ensuring the trip ran so smoothly and for making it such a great holiday.

Variety Show



Matthew Taylor
12HP

At the end of the summer term, when most people were looking forward to the summer holidays, a dedicated group of sixth formers, exhausted after their exams and a performance of the acclaimed Greek trilogy (the “Orestia”) only a week beforehand, assembled a collection of variety acts from throughout the school to perform in a show to raise money for Candlelighters – a charity dedicated to raising money to help families affected by childhood cancer in the Yorkshire region.

Each act was introduced by Alan Beaumont, who was an excellent compère for the evening, and the show featured a wide range of performances, including magic tricks from Sam Elliot, Archie Paxton and Harry Laycock; a poetry recital by Tom Crossland; an “Academic Lecture” on the Parthenon by some A level classics students, and even a recitation of Pi to 50 decimal places by Samuel Owers. Of course there was no shortage of musical talent, including a traditional jazz saxophone solo by Sam Abbey; a memorable drum solo from Joslan Scherewode and a Saxophone duet by Michael Loy and James Boobier; not forgetting ex-students Tom Lodge and Alex McIntyre who returned to perform assorted songs from shows and musicals, such as “Together Again” from Young Frankenstein. Bands ‘Explicit Symphonies’ and ‘Outlook Good’, made up of students from Ermysted’s, kicked off each act, and the evening ended with a rendition of “Everybody Ought to Have a Maid” from the reunited cast of the previous year’s production of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”.

The show raised an amazing £670 for the Candlelighters charity, and was described by Mr Hamilton as “Ermysted’s at its best.” Many thanks go to Dr Merrall, whose enthusiasm helped to make the event possible, and to everyone who performed, making it a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Mentoring



Liam Hopley
13SM

The mentoring system arrived at the school thanks to Mr King, Head of Key Stage 4. It is a system that is very popular in the USA, and allows older students to mentor their younger counterparts in subjects with which they struggle. The system works on the basis that younger pupils can benefit from the supervision and guidance offered by people who have had experience of the subject.

The scheme includes students from years 11, 12, and 13, and the main aim is to help the lower year groups through their GCSE and A Level studies. Many of the students involved have taken the subject in the which they mentor to a higher level, or plan to study it at university, so are in an excellent position to help those in lower years who are struggling.

“Older students mentor their younger counterparts in subjects in which they struggle”

Around 50 older pupils have spent time over the past year assisting younger students with a real variety of subjects, including Maths, English, Physics, and even DT. Mr King has been very pleased with the success of the scheme, reporting that the vast majority had really benefited from the experience.

Mr King said of the project...

“The mentoring project has involved over 100 mentors and mentees this year. The mentors applied mid-autumn term, and were invited to an after-school training session. The feedback gathered, anecdotal and statistical, suggests that participation has been beneficial for both parties. Interestingly, many mentees have gone on to take mentor rôles the year after. Surely this is a reflection of the value of the process.”

Duke of Edinburgh



Max Nicoll
10JU

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is made up of Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. This year a group, including myself, are working towards our Bronze award. For this, you are required to do at least three months of volunteering, plus three months on both skill and physical related activities; one of these three sections has to be done for six months to complete the award. As well as this you must complete a practice expedition, followed by a real, assessed, expedition. The practice expedition lasts two days, with the intervening night being spent in a tent on your own.

My group completed our practice expedition in the early summer of 2012, and our real expedition was completed in October 2012. For our real expedition we set off from Carleton. Our route took us over the moors, through farmers' fields, along a canal towpath and on rough farm tracks until we reached Gargrave. We camped overnight in Gargrave; it was very cold throughout the night, and anything that had been left outside to dry had been frozen solid! After these items had thawed, we set out again on our journey towards Long Preston. This took us along roughly the same sort of terrain although the navigation was much more difficult, and Highland cattle with foot-long horns standing on either side of the path didn't help! We ploughed on, though, and we were all very tired by the time we caught sight of Long Preston. It was a huge relief when we reached the village; although the weekend had been highly enjoyable, we were all very tired and ready to go home.



The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme has so far been very enjoyable for me and everybody else in my group. I am planning to continue on, and do my Silver and Gold awards in the future. If any of you are planning on giving it a go then I would strongly recommend it: it's very enjoyable, and I am sure you won't regret doing it.

School Council



Robert
Beresford
13HI

This year, the school council has had a productive term of office. Arguably, this council has had more influence over the school than any previous one, by actually changing the uniform with the introduction of ties for the Sixth Form. The Year 12s and 13s had reported to the council that they would like a way to distinguish themselves from the rest of school, and after extensive designing and planning the ties were finally made available in the summer term.

The council decided to donate £150 to the school library to purchase fiction books after requests from Sixth Formers, with a focus on science fiction novels. The canteen is a topic frequently debated in school, possibly due to the ferocious appetite of the pupils, and after meetings with the proper authorities, this year the council introduced an extra till to be used at breaks and lunchtimes. This has reduced queuing, and made trips to the canteen much faster.

The councillors this year were:

Chairman: Ian Newell

Secretary: Matthew Loy

Treasurer: Oliver Cicognini

Year 7: Douglas Smith, Owen Norton

Year 8: Nick Gregory, Tom Payton

Year 9: Michael Pepper, Owen Cooper

Year 10: Tristan Youngman, Ben McGonigle

Year 11: Azim Haider-Choudhry, Matthew Williams

Year 12: Raison Tozana, Harry French

Community Volunteers



Liam Hopley
13SM

Every Wednesday afternoon, thanks to the efforts of Mr Peters, pupils in years 12 and 13 are given the chance to do some voluntary work in the community. In partnership with Craven Volunteer Centre, around 40 pupils spend time volunteering at a range of local venues, from primary schools to charity shops. Volunteering gives people the chance to put something back into the community, but it also encourages them to try new things and develop their skills. Communication skills are vital, as pupils are working with disadvantaged members of the

community. Voluntary work is a great addition to anyone's CV, and is something that universities like to see in a potential student's application.

Throughout the last academic year, I spent time volunteering at the Swadford Centre, a reasonably priced café for older people which is based in the centre of Skipton. My duties at this placement included washing up and serving customers, and meeting new people was a big part of the job. I feel that this experience improved my customer service skills, and it has been very interesting to work in a real life environment – something which has helped me to find paid work at another café on a part time basis.

For more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact Craven Volunteer Centre

on: **01756 701648**

or email: **info@cravenvb.co.uk**

Alternatively, take a look at:

www.do-it.org.uk

to see what volunteering opportunities are available in your area.

Here's a picture of me serving at the Swadford Centre Cafe on my volunteering placement



Library Redevelopment



Will Johnson
13CO

Whilst many younger students probably never saw the original library, the new and updated version is a vast improvement. Having claimed both the Boarder's dining room and IT1, the library has grown considerably, and now houses 17 computers for student use. In addition, new chairs and tables have been bought to furnish the enormous amount of space that the library now occupies.

A library would be nothing without books, and the new library has plenty! There have been numerous additions, particularly in terms of fiction, as well as magazines. There are also plans to expand the library's horizons with the possible addition of graphic novels in the near future. As well as this, to help find books with ease, the library now has an interactive database. As well as gaining a new library this year, Ermysted's has also gained a new librarian – Miss Lang, who has been perfect for the job, bonding well with students and staff alike. Miss Lang has also had the assistance of Mrs Ibbotson and the library prefects, when it comes to running and managing the library.

With the large investment in refurbishment, the library has seen a surge in interest, especially at lunch and break times. The new and improved library will hopefully continue to thrive as a place where students can read and study.



Mrs Russell Interview



Liam Hopley
13SM

Mrs Russell joined Ermysted's in 2006, and spent six happy years at the school. Working initially as a librarian, her rôle later grew to include providing careers advice, as well as being the driving force behind the new library development. Mrs Russell officially retired at the end of the Autumn term in 2011, though she continues to help out with careers advice, a subject about the which she is very passionate. Here's what happened when we had a chat with her...

What is your nicest memory of EGS?

I attended a conference at Cambridge where they read out a model reference written by a sixth form tutor about one of the boys who had applied there to study. The young man concerned had been interviewed by Cambridge and was offered a place. I recognised this reference as one produced for one of our boys. When the admissions tutor realised that I knew the boy and was there representing Ermysted's he said 'if you've got any more boys like that then please send them our way. Ermysted's is a school where the staff really know the boys'. It was just really rewarding to hear and I felt very proud. It was also lovely on my very last day, when I'd been having a particularly hard time with a 'challenging' Year 11 group, to be cheered and applauded in assembly by the same lads – I thought they were going to boo, but it was just a lovely gesture.

Tell us a bit about the new library...

I'd worked in other libraries that had undergone renovation, so the prospect of redevelopment was something that initially attracted me to the school. The challenge interested me, and though there were problems with the building's complex structure, I really appreciated the support of the headmaster and the staff, and was very pleased with the final outcome.

What was the funniest moment of your time at Ermysted's?

I don't know if I should tell you this! It was just before the Remembrance Service and, as ever, I was wearing very high heels. I was running late and tripped at the top of the stairs on the way to the main hall. I landed on Mr Clough and Mr Hamilton, as well as the Chair of Governors. Mr Hamilton turned and said, 'Rita, I know we're here to honour the fallen, but that's taking it a bit far!' It was very embarrassing at the time, but it's funny to look back on.

"I tripped at the top of the stairs and landed on Mr Clough and Mr Hamilton. Mr Hamilton turned and said, 'Rita, I know we're here to honour the fallen, but that's taking it a bit far!'"

What was your favourite part of life at Ermysted's?

It was great to help the boys. I'd previously worked in all-girls schools, so it was a bit of change. I found the lads a lot less moody! The students are also very down to earth, and a great deal easier to work with than at previous schools!

What aspect of school life will you miss the most?

I really enjoyed the careers aspect of the job. It was great to get to know the boys as people, rather than just being the 'big bad wolf' who was in charge of the library! It was always rewarding to help people to achieve their dream careers, so it's something I'm glad I can continue to do. I was always very grateful for the support of the staff. I actually never intended to stay for six years, but I stayed an extra three years because I enjoyed the job so much. I can honestly say that I didn't dislike a single aspect of the job!

"It was great to get to know the boys as people, rather than just being the 'big bad wolf' who was in charge of the library!"

Have you got any exciting plans for retirement?

It'll be good to go and see my son in Australia. I'm really looking forward to spending some time with him and his family, including my grandchildren. It's just good to have such an amount of free time, and I hope we'll get a chance to visit New Zealand too!

Any final words?

I'd just like the boys to know how fortunate they are to be studying at Ermysted's. The lads don't always realise how lucky they are to go to such a special school. The staff is just so dedicated, and it must be said that the headmaster really cares about the school and its pupils. I was just so pleased to be able to work in such an environment.



Careers Overview



Richard Melia
12SU

Whoever we are, the careers department at Ermysted's will play an influential part in our decisions in terms of whether we choose to go on to future education at university or in the world of apprenticeships, or even to make the move straight into full-time employment.

Recently, the careers department laid on the biennial careers evening. This provided many students, young and old, with an insight into the various careers that interest them. This particular evening boasted representatives from an astonishing 45 different professions and was extremely well received.

Year 10 students are treated to a range of events throughout the year, something for many of you to look forward to! Of late, the careers department has been working tirelessly to organize the mock interviews that took place on the 15th November. 20 business partners participated in the event and the aim of the day was to aid the boys in becoming more comfortable communicating one to one with adults in a formal situation. Later on in the school year, these skills will be put into practice ahead of a week's work experience. Last year all 110 Year 10 boys secured their work experience with placements right across the spectrum with pupils working with a range of businesses, from solicitors to sports coaches.

For Year 12s, another week's worth of work experience is in the pipeline. This will be very beneficial for us, as it give us more familiarity in the line of work of particular interest to us to help with all of our personal statements next year, making us all the more appealing to universities, with the application process seeming to be tougher than ever. Work experience can be a great addition to any CV in the current economic climate, whether you plan to study at university or not, as it can help you to stand out within your peer group.

Finally, an increase in university fees hasn't acted as a deterrent for the vast majority of Year 13s, with only a small handful of boys last year not making a straight transfer onto University after Year 13. Out of the boys who didn't go to university, two boys have already begun apprenticeships; one at Rolls Royce, the well-known car and aerospace engineer, with the other boy going to the agricultural company Klaas. Something else for you free-spirits is the possibility of a gap year with a deferred university place; Ian Newell, last year's Head Boy, chose this route, he's already been trekking in Nepal this year but has now returned to Skipton ahead of jetting off for a season's ski instructing - it's alright for some!

Where are they now?

Ryan Womersley, who left Ermysted's in 2011 to join the Royal Marines, recently completed 32 weeks of gruelling training and can now wear the coveted Green Beret of this elite unit. It's an impressive achievement, and Ryan recently told the Craven Herald that "anything is achievable if you are mentally strong".

Tom 'Morris' Pendlebury, a former student who is now studying at Craven College, has signed a one year contract with Premier Model Management, a big player in the world of modelling and fashion, after winning a national competition. Morris was 'talent spotted' whilst shopping in Leeds, and has already made an appearance at Paris Fashion Week as part of his work.

Nathan Hawthorne, another student who left Ermysted's in 2011, is currently studying English with Creative Writing at Birmingham University. A keen actor during his time at the school, Nathan has continued his involvement with drama, making an appearance in a Royal Shakespeare Company Production of Pericles in the summer of 2012.

Nathan had this to say about his experiences since leaving EGS... "I've had a rollercoaster six months with the RSC! It doesn't seem so long ago that I was performing on the stage at EGS and all of a sudden I'm being praised by the RSC's artistic director, Greg Duran, for my performance as Lysimachus in Pericles at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford. I've had such a good time, developed immeasurably as an actor and gained a number of contacts which will hopefully pay dividends in the future as I look to launch my acting career."

Simon Beaufoy, a student at Ermysted's in the 1980s, has gone on to pursue a successful career in writing for the film industry. After the commercial success of blockbusters such as 'The Full Monty' and 'Slumdog Millionaire', 2011 saw the release of 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen', for which he wrote the screenplay. The film was a critically acclaimed success on both sides of the Atlantic. Simon is already lined up to write the script for 'Catching Fire', the follow up to 2012's record breaking hit 'The Hunger Games'.



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Chris Mason Interview



Liam Hopley
13SM

Chris Mason, who was a pupil at Ermysted's from 1991 to 1998, now works as a correspondent for the BBC, and in the summer, returned to talk at Speech Day. He spoke with us about his time at the school...

What are your abiding memories of Ermysted's?

I made friends at Ermysted's that I'm still very close to. I remember there was always a real sense of camaraderie; I liked the banter between the students. It was great in the sixth form to get to know the teachers a bit more and to be treated like an adult. There is a spirit of friendly competition throughout the school, and not just in terms of sports! Even in lessons, there's a sense that it's a competition, but in a funny, relaxed way.

What areas were you interested in at school?

I was always good at Geography. I think that school really brought out my interest in the subject. I enjoyed studying Economics at A Level, because of the way that it linked up with my interest in current affairs. I'd wanted to be involved in journalism, even as a young child, and this helped me to pursue this goal.

What was your funniest experience in your time at EGS?

It was our last ever economics lesson and we wanted to get something for Mr Sykes to say thanks for everything. We ended up filling a cardboard box with sawdust, making him think that we'd got some sort of animal for him! Inside the box were several cans of ASDA lager, a nod to his constant jokes that he was a bit of a cheapskate. The funniest part of the experience was choosing who would go and buy everything, eventually settling on the only member of the class with any sort of facial hair!

(right) Chris in action for the BBC, filming outside Number 10: "I've reported on some incredible moments"



What happened after you left school?

I studied Geography for three years at Cambridge. After university, I went on to spend a year training at ITN, the company that provides the news for ITV, Channel 4, and Five, as well as a range of radio stations.

I started at the BBC on regional radio in Newcastle. It's been great, I love working here! I've travelled to over 20 countries and reported on some incredible moments. I was one of the first to report on the Italian Earthquake of 2009 and flew to Oslo in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in 2011.

Who's the most famous person you've met as part of your work?

That's a tricky one! I've interviewed three Prime Ministers, but I'd say that it's more interesting talking to normal people about the news and how it's affecting them. Early on in my career, I had to do a lot of 'box-popping' which involved asking random members of the public for their opinions on newsworthy issues, an experience that I initially found quite daunting but one that, in time, became very interesting and enjoyable.

How did you feel about speech day?

I was really surprised to be asked. Normally the speaker is in his fifties, whereas I'm barely over 30! It was a huge privilege to be asked. I'm a firm believer that the worst thing you can do is to be boring! Having sat through seven speech days, I have to admit to the odd yawn on a couple of occasions. It was an experience that I really enjoyed, although it was strange to see old teachers again after a few years away! It was funny to see how, despite the whole range of new buildings and students, the atmosphere at the school was exactly the way I remembered it.

(right) Chris with Mr Hamilton on Speech Day: "it was a huge privilege to be asked"



Annual Review

Len Price
Secretary, Ermysted's Old Boys Society

The Annual General Meeting was held in the School Library at 6:00pm prior to the Founders' Day Dinner, with a total of 16 Officers and Members in attendance. The Vice-Chairman reported the deaths of the following members:

David Thornton
D. Paine
Peter Newton
K. Syers
David H. Brown
A. Graham
B. Aspinall
R. Trussler
R. J. Grundy
Peter Middlemiss

as well as Former Music teacher Mr. Sievewright.
Since the A.G.M. the following deaths have been reported:

Owen Brown
R. T. Hannam
Russell Carlisle
Lewis C. Branston
Anthony L. Dean
Leonard Duxbury
David Speak
Donald C. Binns
Michael Carrington
Maurice Town

and Paul Whittaker, a former member of staff.

The Treasurer reported that the Society was healthy and financially sound. The Income and Expenditure Account shows a balance of £11,542:10, while the Investment Account stands at £18,764:00.

The development of the school continues, with the President expressing thanks to Ken Oxley for his work on the School's behalf. Without his efforts in generating several hundred thousand pounds in grants and donations, the accommodation on the site would be a great deal less comfortable and attractive.

Wing Commander R. G. B. Summers, an Old Boy who flew as a Blenheim Fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain and beyond, gaining 15 victories, accepted an invitation to be Chief Guest at the "40 years on" event in July. He served in the Royal Air Force until 1968, finishing his career on the V-bomber force.

"the President expressed his thanks to Ken Oxley for his work on the School's behalf"

The President also reported that the Board of Governors has decided, at the present time, there are not enough advantages in pursuing Academy status to warrant further discussion, as the school would not benefit. Ermysted's has, for over 500 years, fought off adversity with fortitude and anticipation; it will carry on as always. The President closed his report by thanking the Society for its support.

The Old Boys were not involved in the traditional cricket and Rugby events this year, though the annual Old Boys versus school golf tournament took place, with the event ending in a tie. Despite suffering defeat in a round against Giggleswick Old Boys, Ivan Rhodes was crowned as the winner of the Hitchin trophy.

Ken Oxley was unanimously elected as Chairman, and indicated that he would be prepared to carry on as Treasurer if the society wished. The election of Treasurer and Secretary was once again straight forward, with both being re-elected unopposed.

Ken Oxley reported that, due to increased postal charges and the increase in the cost of "The Chronicles", the annual subscription was struggling to cover costs. The Committee therefore requested an increase in the price of subscriptions, from £7.50 to £10.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chairman reported that Ivan Rhodes had been the Society Representative on the Board of Governors for some years, and was overdue for re-election. He has been a very good asset on the Board, and if elected, would continue to do so; the motion was, once again, passed unanimously. The school website now has the facility for users to purchase goods from a wide range of suppliers, please use this option if possible – a percentage of each purchase price will go towards boosting school funds.

As you can see, the Society is in good health. We thank you for your support; if you know any Old Boy who is not a paid-up member of the Society please encourage him to join. The more subscriptions we receive, the more we can do to help your school improve its facilities!

Annual Review

Alison McGonigle
Parents' Association

The Parents' Association has once again had a busy year. Our main purpose is to raise funds, primarily through social activities held throughout the year. The funds are then available to the school's departments in order to provide the little extras in addition to the normal school budget. We have helped the school this year by providing:

- trees for the gardening club
- binoculars for the geography department
- rugby kit, a gazebo and climbing ropes for the PE department
- a spotlight for the drama club
- headphones and microphones for the IT department
- a steam engine for the physics department
- funding for the KS3 merit trip and a film night for new students
- a contribution to the cashless catering system in the refectory.

During the last year we held a variety of fundraising events. We started the year in fine form with an evening of wine tasting. This is always a popular event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all (except for Mr Hamilton, who was responsible for keeping a group of increasingly unruly parents under control!). This was followed by our inaugural Wreath Making evening, an opportunity for parents to let their creative side flourish, and a perfect way to get in the mood for the Festive Season. March saw the return of our highly successful curry evening, which combined a cookery demonstration with traditional Indian dancing and an extremely tasty curry dinner. One busy Saturday found us at Skipton Town Hall, running a café providing hot and cold food and refreshments. Towards the end of the school year, we held our first 'swishing' event – an opportunity to swap previously loved items, not including children and husbands!

We have also been able to support Mr Gregory's excellent music concerts by providing refreshments. These range from the tremendously popular Christmas concert to the highly entertaining Jazz and Jive concert. In addition to these events, we have also raised money through the 200 club, the Christmas Raffle, and by packing bags at Morrison's.

All parents are very welcome to join the Parents' Association or to come along and support our events. Further information can be found on the school website, and our events are advertised through Parentpay on a regular basis. Our School Ball, which is held every two years, will take place on Saturday 22nd June 2013. We are already planning the evening, and we are sure it will be a fantastic night out!

GCSE Results

S Abbey	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz**, en**, el*, hi**, it**, la**, ma**, mu*, ph**, rs**
E Adamson	ast**, bi**, ch*, cz*, dt**, en**, el*, gn*, hi*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**
G Albone	ast, bi, ch, cz, en*, el*, gn*, hi, it*, ma*, mu*, ph*, rs*
M Ali	cz, en, el, hi, it, ma, pe, rs, sc, sc ad
O Ali	ac*, bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en*, el*, hi*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**
D Andrews	bi**, ch**, en, el, gy**, gn**, hi**, it*, ma**, ph**, rs*;
B Anson	bi**, ch**, en**, el*, fr**, hi**, it*, la**, ma**, ph**, rs*;
N Ashfaq	bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en*, el*, gn, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**, pe
J Baker	bi**, ch*, cz, en*, el**, gy**, gn*, it*, ma*, ph*, rs**, pe*
M Bates	bi*, ch**, cz, en*, el*, gn*, hi, it*, ph*, rs*
I Beck	bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en**, el*, fa**, it, ma**, ph**, rs*, pe**
A Bendall	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz, dt*, en*, el, fa*, gn*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs
J Birks	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el**, fr**, gy**, hi*, it**, ma**, ph**, sp
T Boothman	bi, ch*, cz, en*, el*, gn*, hi*, it**, ma, ph*, rs*
S Bowdler	bi**, ch**, cz, dt*, en*, el, fa, hi*, it*, ma*, ph*, rs*
M Boycott-Owen	bi**, ch**, cz**, en**, el**, cl*, cl gk*, hi*, it*, la*, ma**, ph**, rs*
T Briggs	ast*, bi*, ch*, cz, dt*, en, el, gy**, it*, ma*, ph*, rs*
H Brook	bi*, ch*, cz, dt*, en*, el, gn, hi*, it*, ma*, ph
J Brown	bi*, ch*, cz, en, el, fa, gn*, it*, ma*, ph**, pe*
M Brown	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, en, el, gy*, gn*, it, la, ma**, ph**
Z Bullock	bi, ch**, cz, en*, el, fa, gn, cl, it, ma, ph*
M Campbell	bi*, ch, cz, dt, en, el, gn, it, ma*, ph, rs, pe**
J Carmichael-Davis	bi**, ch*, cz, en*, el**, gn*, hi*, it*, ma*, ph*, rs**
H Chaggar	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el**, fr*, gn**, hi**, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**
A Chown	bi, ch, cz, dt, en, el, fa, it, ma*, ph*, rs, pe**
J Collins	bi**, ch**, cz, en, el*, gy*, gn, it, ma*, ph**, pe
R Coones	ast, bi*, ch*, cz, en, el*, gn, it, ma*, ph**, rs*, pe**
R Dadhley	bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en*, el*, gy**, gn*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs*
T Denney	bi, ch, cz, en, el*, gn, hi, it, ma, ph, rs**
H Din	bi*, ch**, cz*, en*, el**, gn*, hi*, it*, ma, ph*, rs**
K Duerden	bi*, ch*, cz, dt**, en, el, fa*, gn*, it*, ma**, ph*
G Flesher	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el*, gn*, hi**, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**
F Gartland	bi, ch, cz, en*, el, fa, gn, it, ma, mu, ph*, rs
C Goode	bi**, ch**, cz, dt*, en*, el*, fa*, it, la*, ma*, ph**
D Gott	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el, gn**, hi*, it*, la, ma**, ph**, rs
A Gregory	bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el**, gn**, it*, la*, ma**, ph**, rs**;
H Gregson	ast, bi*, ch**, cz, en*, el*, gn*, cl*, hi*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs
F Griffith	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el*, hi**, it*, la*, ma**, mu*, ph**, rs**, sp

GCSE Results

A Haider-Choudhry J Hall	bi, ch*, cz, en, el*, gy, it*, ma, ph, rs*, pe ast*, bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el*, fr*, gn**, hi**, it*, la**, ma**, ph**, rs**
M Hardington	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz*, en*, el**, gn*, hi**, it*, ma**, ph**, rs**
J Hargreaves	cz, dt, enel, it, ma, rs, sc, sc ad, pe
F Harman	bi, ch*, cz, en, el, gn, hi, it, ma, ph*, rs*
M Hattam	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el**, fr**, gk**, gn**, hi**, it*, la**, ma**, ph**
G Herbert	bi*, ch**, cz, en*, el, gn*, it*, ma*, ph**, rs**, pe;
H Hewetson	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, en, el, gy**, hi, it, la, ma**, ph**, rs
J Hodgkinson	ast**, bi**, ch*, cz, en**, el**, fr**, gn**, hi*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs*
G Holmes	cz, dt*, en, el, fa*, it*, ma, rs, sc, sc ad, pe
J Holt,	bi*, ch**, cz, en*, el, gy*, it*, ma**, ph, rs*
H Hoyles	ast, bi*, ch*, cz, en**, el**, fr*, gn, hi**, it, la, ma, ph*, rs*
H Hussain	bi**, ch**, cz, en, el**, gn*, it*, la*, ma**, ph**, rs*;
O Hutchinson	bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el**, fr**, gy**, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**
J Johnson	ast, bi**, ch*, cz, en*, el, fa, gn, hi*, it*, ma**, ph*, rs
A Jordan	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz**, dt*, en**, el**, fr**, gy**, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs**
D Judkowski	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz**, dt**, en*, el*, fr*, gy**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs*
C Kelly	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en*, el*, fa, gy**, it*, ma, ph**, rs
J Kelly	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el*, fr**, gn**, it, ma**, mu, ph**
J Kemp	bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el, fr**, gn**, it*, la, ma**, ph*, rs*
H Locke	bi, ch*, cz, en*, el*, hi**, it, ma, ph*, rs*, pe*
F Machin	ast, bi*, ch**, en*, el*, gn, hi**, it, ma*, ph**, rs**
A Mallalieu-Black	bi, ch, cz, dt*, en, el, gn, it*, ma, ph*, rs
M Malley	bi*, ch*, en*, el, fr, cl, it, la, ma*, ph*
I Mamoon	bi**, ch**, cz, en, el, gn**, hi**, it*, la, ma*, ph*, rs*
S Mavor	cz, en, el, fa, gn, it*, ma, mu, rs, sc, sc ad
R Melia	bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el*, gy**, it*, ma**, mu*, ph**, rs**
S Middleton	bi, ch, cz, dt, en*, el, gy, gn, it*, ma, ph, rs
C Murphy	bi**, ch**, cz, en, el, gn, hi, it*, la, ma**, ph
J Nixon	bi, ch*, cz, en, el, fr, hi, it, ma, ph, rs, pe*
M O'Dowd	bi*, ch**, cz, dt, en, el, gy, it**, ma**, ph*, rs
C Pang	bi*, ch**, cz, dt**, en, el, fa, gn, it, ma**, ph*
W Peryer	ast*, bi*, ch*, cz, en, el*, gy**, gn**, hi, it, ma**, ph**, rs
O Phillips	bi*, ch**, cz, en*, el, gn, it*, ma**, mu*, ph*, pe**, rs;
M Price	bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el**, fr*, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs*, pe**, sp
C Procter	bi, ch*, cz, dt, en, el*, fa, gy*, it*, ma*, ph*
M Quigley	ast, bi, ch**, cz, dt, en, el*, gn, hi*, it*, ma*, ph*, rs
S Rawnsley	bi*, ch**, cz, en**, el*, fa, gy*, hi*, it, ma*, ph*, rs
W Rix	bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el*, gn, cl, hi, it, ma*, ph, rs;
W Robertshaw	bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el*, gy*, gn*, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs

GCSE Results

B Robinson	ast, bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el*, gy**, gn**, hi*, it*, ma*, ph**, rs**
C Rogers	bi**, ch*, cz, en, el, gn, cl, it, ma**, ph**, rs
A Saldanha	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el*, gn**, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs*, pe**, sp*
A Sayedi	bi**, ch**, cz**, en*, el*, fr*, gn*, hi**, it*, la*, ma**, ph**, rs*
J Scherewode	ast**, bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el**, fr**, hi**, it**, la*, ma**, mu**, ph**, rs**
J Shepherd	bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el, gn*, it*, ma*, ph*, rs*, pe*
S Shorten	bi*, ch*, cz, dt*, en, el, gy**, it*, ma**, ph*, rs
S Simmonite	ast, bi*, ch*, cz, dt, en, el, gy*, hi, it, ma*, ph, rs*
M Smith	bi*, ch, cz, en*, el, fr, gy*, hi*, it, ma, ph*
O Smith	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en*, el*, fa*, gn*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs*
D Squirrel	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz*, en*, el*, gy**, gn, hi*, it**, ma**, ph**, rs*
J Stephenson	bi*, ch*, cz, en, el*, gn, hi, it*, ma, ph, rs*, pe
R Stork-Flatley	bi*, ch*, cz, en, el, fr, gy*, it, ma, ph, pe
M Sultan	bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el**, gn*, hi**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs**
J Summersgill	cz, dt, en, el*, gn, it*, ma, rs**, sc, sc ad
C Sutcliffe	bi*, ch*, cz, dt, en, el, gy*, it*, ma*, ph, rs*
J Sykes	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, enA el**, gy**, gn*, it*, ma**, ph**, rs
M Taylor	bi**, ch**, en*, el*, gn*, it*, la*, ma**, mu, ph**, rs
R Taylor	bi*, ch*, en*, el*, gn*, hi, it*, ma*, ph, rs*
T Throup	bi**, ch**, cz, dt**, en**, el**, gn*, hi**, it*, ma*, ph**, rs*
P Tomkinson	bi**, ch**, cz, en, el*, gn**, hi*, it, ma*, ph**, rs*, pe**
J Twist	bi**, ch**, cz, en**, el*, gy**, gn*, it*, ma*, ph**, rs*
A Wade-Smith	bi**, ch**, cz, dt*, en**, el*, fr, gy**, it**, ma**, ph**, rs**
R Wakefield	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz, en*, el**, gy**, hi**, it, ma, ph, rs**
T Waring	bi**, ch**, cz*, en, el, fr*, hi, it, ma**, ph**, rs, pe**
Z Webster	bi*, ch**, cz, en, el, gy*, gn, hi*, it*, ma, ph, rs*
H Whyte	bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el*, fr*, hi**, it*, ma**, ph**, rs*, pe**, sp
L Wildman	bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el*, gn, hi*, it, ma, mu, ph*
M Williams	ast*, bi**, ch**, cz*, en**, el**, gk*, hi**, it*, la*, ma**, ph**, rs**, sp
N Woodhead	ast, bi*, ch*, cz, en*, el, gy**, gn**, it, ma*, ph*, rs*, pe**, sp*
B Yeh	ast, bi, ch*, cz, dt*, en, el, fa, gn, it*, ma, ph, rs

A-Level Results

S Ali	bi, ch
W Almond	ec*,el*, gt, hi*
G Armour	fa, dt, ea
T Baker	gy*, hi*, py
A Beaumont	cl**, el**, gt*,gn*,la*
S Beaumont	ec*, fm**, ma**, ph*
S Bell	ch*, gt, ma*, ph
N Benson	bi, ch, gt, hi
A Berry	ch*, gt*, ma*, ph*
M Biggin	ec, ea , gt, hi
M Blades	cp**, ec*, ma*, ph
J Boobier	ch**, fm*, ma**, ph**
S Boobier	ch**, cl*, la, ma*, mu*
M Boxx	ch, gt, py, rs
M Bravery	ch, ma*, ph
D Brayton	el**, gt, gn, hi**, ma
J Brook	fa, dt, ea
C Brown	gy*, gt, ma, ph
B Chown	fa, dt, ea
O Cicognini	ch*, el*, gt*, hi*, pe**
O Conti	ec*, fm**, ma**, ph**
T Convery	dt*, ma, ph
T Crossland	ch**, gt*, ma**, ph**
J Crozier	ch*, fm*, ma**, ph*
K Dadhley	fm*, ma**, ph
G Day	ch**, fm**, ma**, ph**
J Dowley	ea**, fa*, gt, ma
W Driver	bi*, ch, ec*
W Etherington	gn, gp, hi
A Farooq	bi*, ch*, ma*
S French	ch*, fm*, gy*, ma*
R Giles	ec*, gt, gy, hi
S Govindaraju	ec, el**, gn*, gp*
J Green	ch, gt, ma, ph
J Griffiths	ea, gt, gy*, ma
M Hall	bi**, ch*, gt, gy**

A-Level Results

N Hartley	ea*, hi*, rs*
S Heaton	bi*, ch, hi
S Hey	bi*, ch*, gt**, rs*
P Howarth	ch*, ea**, el**, hi**
M Hudson	ch**, ec**, gt*, fm**, ma**
D Ideson	hi*, py, rs**
M Jeeps	bi*, ch*, gt, ma*
N Jenkinson	ec*, ea, gn
S Johnson	cp, ea, gt, py
Z Khalil	bi, ch, ea, ma
D Kisiel	cp*, fm**, ma**, ph**
N Kisiel	cp*, fm*, ma**, ph**
J Lockwood	bi, ch*, ma
M Loy	ch**, cl**, gt**, greek**, la**, ma**
S Lund	bi*, ch*, ma*
G Martin	ch, ma*, ph
P Martin	gt, gy, mu, pe
G Mavor	ch, ec, ea
L McCabe	bi*, ch, py
S McCreery-Phillips	ec*, ma**, ph*
E McParland	bi*, ch*, gt*, gy**
J Mell	bi*, ch*, ma*, rs*
D Messenger	ec*, el**, hi*
A Moffat	bi**, ch*, gt*, gn**
D Moon	bi, ch, py
M Musa	ec, fm, gt, ma*
J Naylor	ec*, ea*, gt, mu*
I Newell	bi**, ch**, gt**, ma**
J Norton	fa, ma, pe
M O'Rourke	ec*, el**, ma*
G Padgett	bi*, ch*, gt, ma*
J Palmer	bi, ch*, gy**, ma*
N Peters	ea, el, hi
W Phillips	dt, fa, mu
T Plummer	bi, dt**, gt, hi
M Pollard	cp, ea, gt, ma
J Pugh	ea**, el, hi*, rs*

A-Level Results

J Quantrill	ch, ma, ph*
H Rahman	bi, ch*, ma*
M Reay	ec*, ea, gt*, gy*
A Riley	cp, ec, ma, ph
O Rookwood	gt*, fm*, gn, ma*, ph**
C Rudden	ec*, gt, gn*, ma*
R Salorian	ch, ec, ma,
G Shephard	ec, ma, ph
G Skocki	ec*, gt, ma, ph
J Smith	gt*, gy**, hi**, ma**, ph*
W Smith	ea*, el, pe, py
R Snell	ea*, el**, gp**, hi**
J Snowden	ec*, ma, ph
C Spensley	ch, ec*, ma, ph
W Stanley	ea, gy, gn
C Stapleton	dt, ea, fa, gt
R Stead	bi, ch, el, gt
D Steel	ec, ea, ma
B Stockton	bi*, ch*, hi*
J Summersgill	ea*, el*, gt, gn*
A Tariq	bi*, ch, ec*
J Thompson	bi, ch, ea, gt
M Thompson	ea, el, pe
J Thornton	bi, ch, ma
L Townend	bi**, ch*, gt*, pe*, ph*
J Triffitt	ch*, gt**, gn*, hi*, ma*
E Tumi	bi, ch*, ma*
M Verity	bi, ch, mu**
M Walker	ch, ea, gt, pe
J Waring	ch, ma*, pe
J Weaver	ec*, gt, ma*, ph
E Westwood	el, gy, mu
T White	ch*, ec*, ma*, ph*
B Whiteside	ea, gt, gy, py
C Whitwham	bi, ch, gt, gy
M Wilson	ch**, fm**, ma**, ph**
C Winstanley	ea, el, py
C Wood	ch, ma, ph

Leavers' Destinations

S Ali	UCLAN	Pharmacy
W Almond	Edinburgh	English Literature and History
G Armour	UCLAN	Art and Design
T Baker	Durham	Anthropology
A Beaumont	Cambridge	Modern & Mediaeval Languages
S Beaumont	Warwick	Mathematics
S Bell	Birmingham	Chemistry
N Benson	Essex	Biochemistry (Sandwich course)
A Berry	Cardiff	Medicine
M Biggin	Northumbria	Politics
M Blades		Pilot training
J Boobier	Durham	General Engineering
S Boobier	St Andrews	Chemistry
M Boxx	Keele	Psychology
M Bravery	Queen's Belfast	Mechanical Engineering
D Brayton	Durham	History
J Brook	Huddersfield	Graphic Design
C Brown	Lancaster	Physical Geography
B Chown	Northumbria	Advertising and Media
O Cicognini		Professional Rugby
O Conti	Bath	Mathematics Sandwich
T Convery	Cardiff	Mechanical Engineering
T Crossland	Birmingham	Natural Sciences
J Crozier	Birmingham	Chemical Engineering
K Dadhley	Birmingham	Mathematics with Engineering
G Day	Durham	Natural Sciences
J Dowley	Manchester	Law with Politics
W Driver	Liverpool	Medicine
W Etherington		Employment
A Farooq	Manchester	Medicine
S French	Birmingham	French 2013
R Giles	Lancaster	Economics and Geography
S Govindaraju	Birmingham	Law with German
J Green	Birmingham City	Computer Science
J Griffiths	Northumbria	Quantity Surveying
M Hall	Cambridge	Natural Sciences
N Hartley	Leeds	Philosophy
S Heaton	Birmingham	Biological Sciences (Microbiology)
S Hey	Manchester	Medicine
P Howarth	Cambridge	History

Leavers' Destinations

M Hudson	Cambridge	Economics
D Ideson	Seeking employment/apprenticeship	
M Jeeps	Birmingham	Medicine
N Jenkinson	Durham	Accounting (KPMG sponsored)
S Johnson	Sheffield Hallam	Network Management and Design
Z Khalil	Bradford	Chemistry
D Kisiel	Imperial	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
N Kisiel	Imperial	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
J Lockwood	Liverpool	Physiotherapy
M Loy	Cambridge	Classics Greek and Latin
S Lund	Newcastle	Medicine
G Martin	Newcastle	Mechanical Engineering
P Martin	Leeds College of Music	Music
G Mavor	Sheffield Hallam	Business and ICT
L McCabe	Loughborough	Human Biology
S McCreery-Phillips		Gap Year
E McParland		Gap Year
J Mell	King's London	Medicine
D Messenger	Lancaster	Law
A Moffat	Birmingham	Medicine
D Moon	Newcastle	Zoology
M Musa	Queen's Belfast	Economics
J Naylor	Birmingham Conservatoire	Music Scholarship
I Newell	Birmingham	Medicine
J Norton	Northumbria	Built Environment
M O'Rourke	York	Economics
G Padgett	Bath	Chemical Engineering
J Palmer	Keele	Medicine
N Peters	Sheffield Hallam	Creative Writing
W Phillips	Sheffield Hallam	Furniture and Product Design
T Plummer	Nottingham Trent	Product Design
M Pollard	Sheffield Hallam	Computer Science
J Pugh	Newcastle	History
J Quantrill	Southampton	Maths with Physics
H Rahman	Bradford	Clinical Sciences (Medicine Foundation)

Leavers' Destinations

M Reay	King's London	Politics of the International Economy
A Riley	Teesside	Computer Games Programming
O Rookwood	Durham	General Engineering
C Rudden	York	Economics
R Salorian	Dundee	Business Economics with Marketing
G Shepheard	Hull	Engineering
G Skocki	Apprenticeship	Rolls Royce
J Smith	Cambridge	Geography
W Smith	York St John	Primary Education
R Snell	Oxford	Law
J Snowden		RAF
C Spensley	Apprenticeship	Klaas
W Stanley	Leeds	Cinema and Photography
C Stapleton	Sheffield Hallam	Graphic Design
R Stead	Queen's Belfast	Zoology
D Steel	Brunel	Finance and Accounting
B Stockton	Imperial	Biochemistry
J Summersgill	Birmingham	English Language
A Tariq		Gap Year
J Thompson	Queen's Belfast	Biochemistry
M Thompson	Chester	Sports journalism
J Thornton	Edinburgh Napier	Civil Engineering
L Townend	Liverpool	Veterinary Science
J Triffitt	St Andrews	German and Modern History
E Tumi		Gap Year
M Verity	St Petersburg Conservatoire	Music
M Walker	Leeds Met	Physical Education
J Waring	Newcastle	Civil and Structural Engineering
J Weaver	Birmingham	Law
E Westwood	Leeds College of Music	Music Production
T White		Gap Year
B Whiteside	Sheffield Hallam	Geography
C Whitwham	Northumbria	Geography and Environmental Management
M Wilson	Oxford	Physics
C Winstanley	Sheffield Hallam	Marketing
C Wood	Newcastle	Chemical Engineering

Leavers: 2011-12

Pete Howarth, now studying History at Cambridge University

I pitched up to school on a depressingly normal, cold, wet morning in August; not nervous exactly but not entirely calm either. Whilst walking past many familiar faces clutching brown envelopes and smiling intensely was comforting in a way, it was also disconcerting. There's a song by a band called The Head and the Heart called 'Rivers' and that says:

A year from now, we'll all be gone
All our friends will have moved away
They're going to better places
But our friends will be gone away

These lyrics really strike a chord with me. Whilst university is amazing, and though I am meeting amazing new people every day, EGS will always hold a place in my heart. It's a special school with special teachers and special students: special people. Make the most of it.

Thomas Plummer, now studying Product Design at Nottingham Trent University

Though I was initially apprehensive about what was going to happen after Sixth form, I can now say I am thoroughly enjoying student life. Even though I miss the greenery surrounding Skipton, I do love the fact that it only takes five minutes' walk to get to Nottingham City Centre. I am also enjoying the freedom that comes with university; not just in my private life but also in the work that you are allowed to produce.



Matthew Blades, studying to become a commercial pilot

After leaving Ermysted's this summer, I started training with CTC Aviation in Southampton. I am currently in the middle of the course, which starts with five months of intensive study for 14 theory exams followed by eight months of flying in New Zealand. Once this is completed, I'll return to the UK to finish my training, and take the tests before getting my pilot's license!

If all goes to plan, I should be a fully qualified commercial pilot in just 18 months' time. I haven't found out with whom I will be working, but the job prospects

are looking up in the industry as a whole. (So don't start avoiding certain airlines just yet!)

This isn't the typical university route, but it is allowing me to go directly into the job that I want to do.

I would recommend it to anyone who wants to work in the commercial aviation sector.



Jacky Naylor, now studying Jazz at Birmingham Conservatoire

Conservatoires help to provide young musicians with intensive training in the art of performing. All 15 students in my year share the same passion to learn and become professional jazz musicians. The average week includes workshops with world renowned musicians including Dave Holland, the most sought after bass player in jazz.

This is the key difference between school and conservatoire life: rather than having a teacher, you are taught by the country's leading performers, which has given me the drive to work towards their achievements. I have recently begun playing jazz piano in bars and restaurants, something that I hope will allow me to establish myself in Birmingham's music scene before attempting to branch out into London's thriving jazz-scene.

In year three, I plan to study abroad in America, possibly at Berklee, though I am also considering spending time in Paris before returning for my fourth year.

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