Dear Parents and Guardians.

Welcome to the summer edition of the Ercall Wood Newsletter.

It was with both pride and sadness that I attended our Class of 2017 Leavers Prom. Miss Moore did a fantastic job. The venue and the pupils looked fabulous and I was particularly impressed with the attitude of the pupils. The respect they showed the staff, and each other, meant we could all relax and enjoy the atmosphere. There was not one single issue and the pupils were a credit to the school. I will miss having them around.

I shall look forward to seeing them all again in August when they will collect their results. I wish them all the best. However, regardless of the outcome, we are very pleased with the young men and women they have become. They have tried hard and should enjoy the exciting opportunities they now have.

We welcomed the New Year 7 students this term. We are full in September and even have a waiting list, reflecting the great reputation we have established. The pupils had 5 days of school based activity and our new cohort of Peer Mentors supported them very effectively. I can safely say the new pupils have overcome any fears they may have had about secondary school. Many didn’t want to leave to return to their primary school.

We have recently appointed our new prefect team. Mrs. Kelly put together a very rigorous application and vetting process. Pupils had to apply for the job, outlining their academic abilities and experience. All were required to have references and support from staff. The strongest applicants were then interviewed using the same process we use to appoint colleagues.

Places on the team are difficult to secure, so congratulations to all the successful prefects. In particular our senior prefect team; Connor Howes (Head Boy), Lucy Kinsey (Head Girl), William Marsh (Deputy Head Boy), Alizah Asif (Deputy Head Girl), Ben Jessup & Harriet Simmonds (Head of School Council), Evie Sturmey and Will Jones (Student Safeguarding Leads) and Lauren Horton (Logistics Coordinator).

This time of year coincides with many changes in the life of a school. One that is inevitable but never fails to take me by surprise is staff leaving. We will have to say goodbye to 5 colleagues this year. Mr Pledger (HoD English), Miss Dixon (English), Ms Deans (Humanities), Mr Ward (Maths) and Miss Edwards (TA). Please join me in wishing all of our colleagues the best of luck in the future. I also wish to mention Miss Noon (TA) and Miss Clemson (Technology/Art) who are both going on maternity leave, I’ll look forward to meeting their new “bosses”!

This has been a very busy term and there are many exciting events outlined in the Newsletter. Thank you all for your ongoing support, working together to drive the school from strength to strength.

I hope you all get opportunity to enjoy the summer together and get some rest. I shall look forward to seeing all of our pupils in September.

Warmest regards

Chay Davis

Headteacher
ARTIST OF THE SUMMER TERM IS LOLA MOORE
Year 8 students were joined by an outside artist during Arts Week: Off Our Trolley Arts. Students made costumes to parade in the Carnival of Giants on Saturday 15th July.
Our students showcased their ‘Under the Sea’ themed costumes during Arts Evening before joining the Carnival of Giants Parade throughout the Town Park. Well done to all involved!
Well done to year 9’s who put on a Fashion Show using recycled materials to open Arts Evening!
Thank you to visiting Artist John Denaro for two fabulous days with year 10 Artists, who have created some wonderful self-portraits that were showcased during Arts Evening.
A huge congratulations to Emily Coffey (Year 11) who achieved 100% in her Art GCSE and had her Artwork selected for exhibition at the National Students’ Art Exhibition, under the Royal Society of British Artists, London, July 2017!
Young Photographer of the year.

2017

Harry Tudor
‘Fly Away’

Young Photographer
DISTRICT
RUNNER-UP + AREA
WINNER
2017
Ercall Wood

Colour, Runner up...

Gus Smith ~ Catch a rainbow

Shazna
Zain
‘Shine like a diamond’
Young Photographer
AREA WINNER 2017
The Rotary Club of The Wrekin and the Art department would like to pass on their congratulations to all pupils who entered; well done 🙂
Please congratulate our pupils in Year 10 from their Young Enterprise company - Cute as a button, as they won three awards at last nights celebration dinner.

Best Product

Best Financial Management

Best Company Report

The competition is open to teams from year 10 and year 12, and all schools with Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

(Pupils are - Faizah Ishfaq, Serena Owen, Jessica Herbert, Lucy Kinsey, William Marsh, Ellis Jones, Connor Howes and Junaid Khan.)

Very proud of them, and how they have worked so hard over the last year.

Louise Woodhall
DANCE

This summer term, the dance after school clubs have been working hard towards performing in both the Sports Awards Evening and Arts Evening. Both our Wednesday Dance Club and Thursday Dance Club have been learning contemporary dance, and have been putting in a lot of their own time after school to polish their dances! Our Thursday dance club involving Katie Roberts (pictured right), Lily Meiklejohn, Lola Moore, Emily Hatch, Phoebe Braddock and Hannah Braddock performed their brand new dance ‘Rise Up’ in front of a large audience at Sports Awards Evening as well as Arts evening. This group have shown a big improvement in both dance ability and confidence this term! As well as this, our Wednesday dance club including Emmelia Morgan, Matilda Gaughan, Carys Corbett, Ellie Laming, Leah Ruscoe and Lucy Rushton (pictured left) learnt and performed a very challenging piece which they danced beautifully called ‘Younger’.

The students have also been working on a tap piece which they performed in Arts Evening.

Lastly, Matilda Gaughan (pictured above) performed a lyrical dance solo, which she danced beautifully.
During the winter term next year, we will be working toward putting on a school Christmas Dance Show which will take place on Thursday 14th December at 19:00 which will include lots of different styles of dance. We will be aiming to gather as many dancers as possible to join our dance clubs, to join us in putting on a show with a range of styles and performances!

Miss Edwards.

**DRAMA**

**Stage Combat Workshop**

As part of this year’s Arts Week, those students who have chosen to study GCSE Drama next year were offered the chance to take part in a workshop on unarmed stage combat techniques from Mark Ruddick (professional stage fighter and stuntman). Students often want to work in a physical way in drama, and the importance of understanding how to create effective work safely is vital. For over six years Squire Stage Combat has been working within schools and theatres providing the very best training for actors of all ages. After a warm-up activity, Mark went through the basics of punches, slaps and various other realistic combat moves with step-by-step precision. In a very short time our students were having a great time 'knocking each other about'. Remember... don’t try this at home!
Drama Club in Arts Evening

This term the after school drama group worked on creating 3 devised pieces to show in Arts Evening. The theme was 'Evolution', and the group decided to show how schools and education have changed over time. In the first piece they took the audience back... back to a time when Miss Bowater went to school - Yes... that far back! Back to a time when teachers knew everything, and children only spoke when spoken to!... back to the 1970s.

The second piece brought us to today... complete with identity badges, learning lines and a few choice quotes from a certain drama teacher’s repertoire!

The final piece showed the students ‘plugged in’ for learning; called only by number, with their humanity removed. Perhaps this might be a rather bleak vision, especially for teachers looking on, but the students managed to bring out the humour of the moment... and perhaps all is not lost!

As always it has been fab to work with this lovely lot: Erin Cahill, Faizah Ishfaq, Isabelle Nesbitt, Charlotte Jones, Wiktoria Kujawa, Djalece van der Merwe, Xyra van der Merwe, Ben Jones, Anna Steventon, Amber Clay, Louise McElroy, Jessica Godbold, Freddy Corbett and Emmelia Morgan.

Miss Bowater
On the 8th July 2017 the students from Year 7 took part in a wonderful workshop provided by the brilliant instrumentalists of Glamba Samba. The students were introduced to new instruments typical of a traditional samba band, how to play them and the funky rhythms that they play.

Over the course of the day, the students created a very complex samba piece using syncopated rhythms and different instruments. They all became fluent at playing one another's instruments and the associated rhythm. As the day progressed the students became alive with excitement for the South American style of music and performance and worked as a team to create a truly thrilling piece of music. All in all the year 7 musicians had an enlightening and exciting day playing music from the other side of the world that will stay with them for a long while to come.

At the Carnival

A group of 12 students went on to perform in the Carnival of Giants which took place in Telford Town Park on Saturday 15th July as a reward for their hard work and skill at the style of music. Well done to Katie Roberts, Lucy Rushton, Jessica Stocker, Erin Sturrock, Leah Ruscoe, Sarah-Jane Price, Freddy Corbett, James Ticknell, Harry Everson, Olivia Hardeman, Charlotte Black and Orlagh Cooper.

MUSIC - Lunchtime Concerts

We have had another two lunchtime concerts this term, both taking place in the music room with some super performances and a supportive audience of students and staff. My thanks to everyone who has performed. It's always a pleasure to share your music with you.

If you would like to take part please write down your name and song on the sign-up sheet on the music room door. There is a concert every last Friday of each month. We hope to see some new faces next year.
MUSIC – Arts Evening

The 2017 arts evening on the 6th July was a big musical hit with more acts than ever before and an impressive and vast showcase of talent from all years.

The students performed incredibly well, with immense style and confidence in all forms of performing art. Musically there were students new to performing publicly that completely outdid themselves with their professionalism and talent; but there were also seasoned performers who did nothing shy of an immense performance.

New to the evening this year was the Musical Theatre Ensemble singing songs from the new musical Hamilton; they performed with maturity and panache with solos from Will Bradley (Hamilton), Izzy Nesbitt (Angelica), Louise McElroy

This year also saw the return of the great Year 8 choir in which over 30 students came together with very little rehearsal time to produce two energetic and encapsulating musical numbers that completely blew the audience and staff away.
This year’s arts evening was certainly a resounding success with more students taking part than ever before and showcasing a higher level of performance than ever before. A fantastic pinnacle to the arts week celebrations of 2017. Roll on 2018.
Just a few of the Events that The Friends of Ercall Wood have supported this year.

Friends of Ercall Wood (FEW) are a unique secondary school committee who are actively representing an important link between parents and the school. All parents can actively get involved as much and as little as they wish.

The FEW team is backed by a team of dedicated parents, extended family, colleagues and friends of students at Ercall Wood, working extensively to raise funds specifically for Ercall Wood students.

FEW are always looking for volunteers for events and contribution of cakes/biscuits. All information is displayed via the Facebook and Twitter pages on social media

Twitter - @ErcallWoodFEW
Facebook - FriendsofErcallWood

"FEW aims to provide support to students, parents and carers with a wide variety of experiences to put health & safety first by being efficient & effective & equal in opportunities"

Recent events which FEW have supported are Arts Evening, the PE presentation evening, leavers breakfast and prom.

The next meeting for FEW is September 20th 7pm @ The Pheasant Admaston. We hope to see you there.
YEAR 11 PROM
The Wimbledon trip ran smoothly, students enjoyed the experience with a few taking home some dodgy suntans! Incredible matches watched, too much food consumed and a cheeky visit to centre court to top it all off! See attached photos! I want to thank Will, Matt, Mary, Kim and Deb for being a professional and great team to work with; all home safe and sound.

Mrs Morris

Trampolining Competition.
Fantastic result by the Year 8 lads who beat @charltonpe 4-1 in the @TWSSA1 plate semi-final.

A fantastic performance and result by the U16 girls Football team who beat @HLCPE 2-1 tonight. Cat Barber with both of our goals.


Great effort by the year 11 lads tonight but @HLCPE took there chances and ran out 4-1 winners in the Telford plate semi-final.
The year 7/8 boys cricket team won their first hardball game tonight’s against Charlton by 9 runs. We batted first and scored 85-3 off 12 overs. Jason Churm top scored with a brilliant 31 not out and Ben Millington supported him with 22 not out. Charlton in reply scored 76-4. Our wicket takers were Mohammed Awais Zubair with 2 wickets, Josh Spragg with 1 wicket and George Harris with the other wicket. The boys were fantastic.

Mr Smithson

The year 11 and 8 boys football teams played in the Telford schools plate semi-finals. Yesterday the year 11’s put a fantastic performance in against a strong HLC but unfortunately ended up losing 4-1. Our goal coming from Harry Church.

Tonight it was the year 8’s turn and this result was very positive. We were drawn against Charlton A and history says that we never beat Charlton. Our boys were just amazing. Played a new formation and it worked a treat. We went 1-0 up through Man of the match Matty Rogers were tap in at the back post off a corner. It was 2-0 soon after Luke Darrall smashed in from close range. Just before half time Charlton reduced the deficit to bring it back to 2-1. Ben Darrall (year 7) also made a fantastic double save just before the half time whistle. Second half we were put under immense pressure but the back 5 of James Jones (captain), Sam Adeleoun, Bruce Hooper, Danar Sabar (yr 7) and Josh Spragg (yr 7), stood firm and then hit Charlton on the counter attack. Sub Harvey Espley popped up after their keeper fumbled to smash it home and make it 3-1. Then 5 minutes later it was 4-1 as Harley Mathars finished a superb move. Full time and we were through to the final which will take place on Thursday 25th at Thomas Telford 2.30pm kick off.
The transition from primary to secondary school is widely recognised as been one of the most daunting experiences during a young person’s life. Going from being the oldest children in the school, to being the youngest, and very often the smallest can be a very scary experience for children emotionally, and can also lead to detrimental effects on their behaviour, attendance and attainment levels. To combat such issues in the transition of our new students, Ercall Wood Technology College continues to offer its effective and now nationally recognised peer mentoring scheme. This year was no exception with forty young people applying in writing for the role of peer mentor. Year nine students were then given the opportunity to demonstrate their effective communication skills by taking part in a formal interview; this was beneficial for them as they gained valuable interview experience, along with enabling me to select the most suitable candidates. The successful seventeen peer mentors then completed two half day training sessions, where we discussed and learnt how to remain non-judgemental in situations along with listening skills and some role play. Confidentiality and communication skills were also discussed during the sessions.

Armed with their new skills the peer mentors along with myself and Miss Warrington have been visiting our feeder primary schools over the past few weeks. The peer mentors have been describing what a typical day at Ercall Wood consists of, along with answering the many varied questions that our new students wanted answers to. This year has seen the peer mentors also attend further in-house training from teachers who support children with a visual impairment, which has enabled them to be supportive and ready to work with our new year sevens. The peer mentors have shown their commitment to the scheme by working and befriending our new students on the intake week and evening, empowering and supporting them during this time. The peer mentors will be on hand at the beginning of the academic year when they will be with the New Year seven intake for the first day, ensuring that they feel safe in their new surroundings and spending time over lunch and break time with them, should the year seven students feel they need such support. They will remain in contact with the New Year sevens by visiting the children on a weekly basis in their form rooms, building friendships and helping to resolve any conflict should it arise. All the peer mentors this year will be working closely alongside myself offering a structured one to one mentor / mentee relationship within the school.

Ercall Wood continues to run a successful peer mentoring programme, which enables the peer mentors to further their social development and problem solving skills, along with boosting their confidence. Peer mentoring has proved to help the new students settle into school life much faster and become part of the Ercall Wood Community.

Their contribution to school life as a peer mentor at Ercall Wood is invaluable; this year’s peer mentors are Isabel Lewis, Scott Broome, Ryan Breeze, Zay Beezer, Sam White, Isaac Sturrock, Luke Hajdasz, Georgia Clarke, Charlotte Clarke, Ella Melville, Isabelle Nesbitt, Niamh Cooper, Georgina Byczkowska, Charlotte Jones, Georgia Coupland, Jessica Johnson and Katie Jarvis.

I am proud to have been able to continue the peer mentoring programme at Ercall Wood. The level of commitment shown from the peer mentors has once again been outstanding. I am looking forward to working with them throughout the next academic year.

Well done to you all.

Stuart Will
Education Welfare Officer