Happy Holidays to Pupils, Staff and their families.

Warm regards,
Mr Davis
European Languages Day 2017

On the 26th September Ercall Wood turned French for the day. Each year we concentrate on a particular language / country to celebrate Languages Day and this year it was France. This year we held a non-uniform day, like schools on the continent, and raised £600 for charity. The theme was red, white and blue to represent the colours in the French flag.

We celebrated the French culture in lessons with each subject faculty offering something different such as French artist Claude Monet in art, a hot air balloon debate and a French quiz in science, the Euro currency in maths, Les Misérable in music, a French glossary in D and T, Mardi Gras in RE, French league teams in PE and a French based poem in English.

During tutor time booklets and European travel maps were also given to each pupil to take home and there was a quiz on France! Prizes were given out, by various departments, for good work achieved during the day – these prizes included pens, rulers, door hangers and books!

The school canteen served French food for the day offering a sample taster menu which included coq au vin, banana tartes tatin and pain au chocolat. The canteen was decorated with European flag bunting and a French flag to set the theme for the day with French themed programmes on the TV screen.

Various departments offered lunchtime clubs, which are a key part of the European school system and life on the continent. Clubs included a maths club, an English club, a French film club, a music club, IT club, an art club and an indoor football club in PE!

There were also rolling videos around school celebrating the French language and culture.

Next year we hope to focus on Japan.

Mrs Marston-Jones (MFL Teacher)
What a performance by this group of young men. The Yr 7’s win in the county cup 7-6 on penalties after being 2-2 in normal time. @idealSport

Superb win by the year 8 lads tonight who beat @charltonpe 4-1 in the @SSCFA2 county cup 2nd round. 1/4 finals here we come!

Our Yr 8 boys got stuck in for their County Cup game today against @MarchesSchool. Sadly a 5-1 defeat, but spirits remained high!

So our Year 9/10 Netball players had a lovely friendly tournament at @BBSPE! A few wins and draws and a great evening of netball games! Well done girls!

A valiant performance from the U14 and U16 badminton teams tonight against strong opposition. Thank you for the game @Adams_Grammar @NGHS_PE

Congratulations to Year 8 Freddie Corbett and Year 9 Ethan Popplewell who competed in the national karate championships on Sunday.

Wall done to @ErcalWoodPE Badminton team versus @NTAPricerssee tonight. Only boys played... my mistake! U14 boys lost 7-1 and U16 boys drew 4-4 but won on count back!! Wall done to all... Thank you to the girls for your understanding!! We play @BBSPE tomorrow.
Just want to inform you on the U15’s Girls Football game against Bishops Castle yesterday afternoon; considering the girls had never practiced or played with one another before their team spirit was amazing!

Within the first 15 minutes Mollie Edwards made a blinder of a goal just from inside the box and that set the pace for the rest of the match.

Bishops Castle gave our girls a good run, had a few attempts and they scored a cheeky goal around Niamh Cooper’s legs; making it 1-1; although on a very bumpy football pitch our girls continued to get stuck in and played against strong winds and by the first half they were buzzing.

Second half we had solid formation and the girls made some great touches into our attacking half; with 10 minutes to go Maddie Richardson from outside the box chipped the ball up and it flew (in slow motion it seemed) over the keepers head and straight in! Uproar of cheers from me and celebrations made by the team!

Full time 2-1; through to the quarters in the New Year!

Just want to start the day with a positive, with a win from our Year 7 girls football team yesterday.

Our Year 7 girls had their first U12 County Cup game yesterday at Bishops Castle and what a blinder it was! We took a squad of 14 for a 9 a-side game and all the girls played with 100% effort. Our goal scorers were Shakilah Khan and Grace Price and although modest celebrators the team just continued to work hard and did not stop until the final whistle! The girls were ecstatic with the result and asked ‘Mrs Morris do we continue through?’ meaning yes the girls go through to the next round of the County Cup. The did Ercall proud.

We travelled to the Corbett school in Baschurch and we were up against a big, tough, rural team who gave us a warm welcome when we entered the field in our bright pink kit.

We started the brighter of the two teams and went close through efforts from Harley Mathars and Harvey Espley. It was Corbett that took the lead though as their center midfielder shot from 30 yards which looped over Year 8 Ben Darrall in goal. 1-0 down. 5 minutes later we were 2-0 down after our boys were too busy arguing a decision to realise the ball was in the back of the net. The boys could have quite easily dropped their heads and capitulated but it wasn’t to be. Our skipper James Jones got us back in the game before half time with a 30 yard strike which flew into the top corner. 2-1 down at half time. We didn’t feel that we deserved to be losing but we were and needed to bounce back. 5 minutes into the second half I changed from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2 and put Sam Adeloun up front with Harley. If you don’t know Sam he’s Usain’s young brother! After numerous chances we finally got an equaliser and it was that man Sam who smashed it in from the edge of the box. 2-2 with 10 minutes to go. Some great defending from the back 3 of Tommy ‘chopper’ Harris, Bruce ‘the destroyer’ Hooper and Harvey ‘the skunk’ Espley kept it at 2-2 and 2 minutes left on the clock captain supreme JJ found himself one on one with the keeper and finished with such composure to set up another team celebration. The boys went nuts, it was brilliant. A superb 3-2 win and into the second round we go.

Picking a man of the match was extremely difficult but Tommy Harris on his debut at right back got my vote. He was simply class.
Last night I took the year 7/8 Girls footballers to a 6 a-side tournament at the sports village. We were put in the same group as Mary Webb, Charlton and Idsall. In our first game we played a strong Mary Webb side who narrowly beat us 1-0. Mollie Edwards in goal made a number of superb saves to keep us in it but we couldn’t find the equaliser. In our second game we played Idsall. We played much better in this game and drew 0-0 creating more chances and nearly nicking it late on. Then going into our last game we needed to beat Charlton by more than 2 goals to go through to the semi-final. We took an early lead through Amber Lewis who finished well when one on one with the keeper. We had 3 more good chances to go 2 up but just couldn’t capitalise. We won 1-0 and ended up joint second in our group on the same points as Idsall. A fantastic start to the season by the girls who were amazing. Big thanks to Jake Davies (PE student teacher) who made his debut as my assistant manager.

Roll on the next game.

FRIENDS OF ERCALL WOOD SCHOOL

A massive thank you to Friends of Ercall Wood who kindly funded our wonderful Zychem machine. This fantastic piece of equipment allows us to produce raised diagrams for students with visual impairments, allowing them to feel images. It has made a massive difference to one of our students so far and we have used it for various subjects already! This has improved accessibility to lessons and has helped to further understanding. We would not have been able to purchase this expensive machine without the help of FEW - Thank you!

From Ms Stock and Mrs Wright, Learning Support

Free School Meals

You may be entitled!
To find out if you are eligible for free school meals please contact Mrs T. Hoof on 01952 387303

Moving House? Changing Phone Number?

Please keep the school up to date by contacting Mrs T. Hoof on 01952 387303
Competitions and Activities

Young Thinkers Competition

Do you have one idea that could change the world? That was the question the Morris Group were asking pupils aged between 11 and 17 year old to answer in their Young Thinkers competition.

This competition was released to all year groups in late October with a deadline of the 30th of November. Pupils had to complete an essay of no more than 700 words explaining their one great idea. We submitted a few entries and are keeping our fingers crossed for some positive news.

Birmingham University:

Christmas science workshops.

On Tuesday 12th of December we will be taking 45 year 7 pupils to Birmingham University to take part in the universities Christmas workshops.

We have been lucky enough to secure 45 places and look forward to having a festive fun science related trip out.

Future competition entries

After our astounding success at the Maths Quiz in March at Birmingham University we have again entered teams not only to their Maths quiz but to the Physics and Biology quizzes taking place in January, February and March 2018. We will be looking at pupil teams shortly and hope to defend and continue with our success in these forthcoming events.

Do you know of any competitions we could enter?

We are always keen to try our hand at anything......Do you know of any competitions that you think might be suitable for us to enter? If so let us know.
Year 11

Revision & Intervention

Here at Ercall Wood we run a comprehensive intervention and support program for all of our year 11 pupils. Nothing beats hard work, determination, dedication and organisation and we continue to encourage our Year 11 pupils to put these vital tools into place in preparation for their exams.

Our Current Year 11’s have been working hard in preparation for their exams. Their attendance to our intervention and revision sessions has been the best we’ve ever seen. Sessions continue to run daily, please see the timetable.

Our program of intervention has been up and running since Monday 11th of September and during that time we have seen a record number of sessions being attended. During the week of the 25th to the 29th of September pupils accessed an additional 305 sessions, during the week of the 6th—10th of November 261 sessions were attended. One week 95 of the 124 year 11’s attended an intervention or revision session, that’s the amazing 76.61% of the year group. Since the start of the program an amazing 1881 sessions have been accessed by our year 11 pupils. Keep up the great work Year 11.

Our Top Attenders to date:

Shazna Mohamed Zain 66 sessions
Eden Ketteringham 55 sessions
Serena Owen 50 sessions
Evie Sturmey 49 sessions
Chloe Byrne 45 sessions
Grace Numfor 44 sessions
Oliver Meiklejohn 42 sessions
Lauren Horton 38 sessions
Niamh Hill 38 sessions
Izaak Owen 37 sessions
Sam Harlow 35 sessions
Alizah Alizah 35 sessions
Tom Kempson 34 sessions
Nathan Brace 32 sessions
Leah Harper 31 sessions
Lucy Kinsey 30 sessions

Top Attending Boy: **Oliver Meiklejohn**
Top Attending Girl: **Shazna Mohamed Zain**
Yr7/8 Indoor Sportshall

Congratulations to a group of our year 8 students and one from year 7 for competing against other schools in the Secondary Schools Indoor Sportshall competition on 7th November 2017. Students competed in a variety of track and field events, either as individuals or within their own teams, with a lot of close running and placings between students from Ercall Wood, Thomas Telford, Abraham Darby, Burton Borough, William Brookes and HLC. Ercall students did very well taking a lot of 2nd and 3rd places, with Amber Lewis winning the overall girls Shot Putt. The girl team comprised of Amber Lewis, Anaia Young, Olivia Hardeman, Orlagh Cooper, Beatice Osei, Austeja Hempelyte and Chelsea Cooper for the girls, as a whole team coming a very commendable 3rd overall. Whilst the boys came still a commendable 4th overall will a team made up from; Tom Wylde, Jake Peachey, Morgan Lother, Josh Spragg, Mohammad Mirza, Jason Churm and our token year 7, Harry Flack. Well done all and very good effort.

Shropshire Schools Games County Final

On Thursday 9th November 2017, four of our students braved the cold to take part in the Cross Country in the Shropshire Schools County Final Games. These students had been selected to compete as part of the Telford schools following their valuable efforts during the recent Schools Cross Country events. Phoebe Dowd and Ella Grainger formed part of the team representing the Telford Schools and as a team came 6th overall for the Year 7 girls. Harry Flack was part of the year 7 boys’ team for Telford schools which came 1st overall. Finally, Calvin Stacie-Wallace was part of the year8/9 team representing Telford schools, which as a team came 2nd overall. Well done to all runners, for competing in the 4 schools events leading up to this competition and then being selected to be part of the Telford Schools teams.
On Saturday 21st of October we went on our second New York adventure taking 27 pupils and 5 staff to the Big Apple.

It was an early start but everyone was excited. Flying from Birmingham via Amsterdam we made it to JFK airport for early afternoon.

Once settled into the hotel we headed out to fill our hungry stomachs with an amazing all you can eat buffet. Then we hit the streets walking to Times Square, the New York Library, Grand Central Station, then back to the hotel.

Day two saw us shopping on 5th Avenue and in Macey’s then meeting a tour guide for a walking tour of the theatre district and Central Park. From there we headed to the Empire state building and saw the glory of New York at dusk / night with all the cities lights twinkling brightly.

Our evening meal was in the Hard Rock Café and then there was just time for a bit more retail therapy and a walk through Times Square before we headed back to the hotel for bed.

On day three we headed straight to Battery Park and caught a ferry out to the Statue of Liberty. We all had pedestal access so headed inside. It was such a bright sunny day and the views were amazing. From there we headed back to the battery park and walked up to the 9-11 memorial where we were able to spend some quiet time. Then it was off to do a bit more shopping, Bubba Gumps for dinner then we attended a Broad Way show, “The school of Rock” which was absolutely amazing. Once back at the hotel we treated everyone to late night hand made all American Pizza’s.

On day four we headed to the Rockefeller Building and visited the Top of the Rock. It was lovely to see New York from up high during the day and was a great contrast and experience for all to have done the Empire State at night and the Rockefeller during the day. We all enjoyed the sights then went for one last walk through New York before heading back to the hotel for lunch and to catch our coach to the airport.

Unfortunately as we were taxing out to take off for home the plane’s engine broke which caused us a number of hours delay and impacted on our connecting flight in Amsterdam. The pupils and staff were amazing though and kept sprits high with Mr Creeds and Mr Smithsons games, some pupils and staff using a piano in the airport to have a good old sing along and the airline providing us with plenty of food, snacks and drinks the time soon flew by. Unfortunately when we did finally get back to the UK we found ourselves in Heathrow and not Birmingham, but a coach trip later and we were all safely back at school some 11 hours later than planned but we made it.

Everyone had a great time and the trip was again highly successful. We will be getting prices for another USA adventure within the coming months.
New York 2017
The winners of NASUWT’s 14th annual Arts and Minds Competition, featuring artwork and creative writing promoting issues of race equality and diversity, have been announced.

Chosen by celebrity judge, TV star Gok Wan, the winners were selected from hundreds of entries submitted by primary, secondary and special schools from across the UK.
Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT, said: “Congratulations to all the years’ winners, and shortlisted finalists, the quality of work they all produced was outstanding, and they should all be proud at not just the artistic talent they have displayed, but also how their pieces really inspire and make the audience think about this issue.”

“The quality of entries is a credit to the skills and abilities of the pupils and their teachers and support staff.”

Well done to Haleemah Arooj, Mariam Hussain, Miguel Fonseca Ferreira Pearson, Reece Curley, Eman Sajid, Katie Roberts, Julia Lukaszewicz, Lola Moore, Abigail Ringer, Eve Ward-Bevan, Charlotte Black and Beatrice Osei Yeboah for their year 7 art piece entitled People of the World which was chosen as the finalist for the Secondary category.

Haleemah, Miguel and Beatrice represented the group to receive their prizes in London during October.
Well done to year 8s who created some beautiful ‘Winter’ themed landscapes.

A selection of these were displayed during our Carol Concert at Christ Church, Wellington.

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**FESTIVE SHOE BOX SCENES**

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**Rotary Young Chef of the Year 2017-2018**

On Wednesday 6th December 2017 Ercall Wood held the first round of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition 2017-2018 and the result was truly amazing. Ten students participated: Lauren Cooper Year 7, Sophie Corfield Year 7, Katie Wear Year 7, Emilie Hatch Year 8, Abigail Marshall Year 8, Lily Meiklejohn Year 8, Anthony Lenton Year 8, Niamh Cooper Year 10, Aaron Damoa Year 10 and Luke Hajdasz Year 10.

The design brief was to produce a healthy two course meal for two people in one hour 30 minutes for less than £10s, as well as preparing the table on which to serve the meal to five judges, (Mark Lewis, Hadley Park House Hotel, Head Chef Kev Fellows; Robert Bird, Hospitality Industry Training; Michelle Parker, School Adviser and Curtis Thomas, last year’s runner up.)
The winner was Luke Hajdasz who produced an Italian inspired meal of, Rigatori all Arabbita and Crema di Limoni and Limoncello, the Crema di Limoni and Limoncello was described by Robert Bird as one of the best he had tasted for a long time considering Luke's age. Luke will now go through to the District Semi Final in Stafford in February and Aaron is awaiting to see if he has also secured a place.

Second was Aaron Damoa who produced Salmon Carbonara and Chocolate Fondant and Chef Kev Fellows was amazed that Aaron had managed to make his own pasta in the time frame and Robert Bird raved about the gooey middle to the Chocolate Fondant.

Third was Lily Meiklejohn who created a Fish Pie and Greek Pudding. The judges described her Fish Pie was well prepared and cooked, with good flavour and aroma.
I am pleased to announce our winner of ‘Ercall Wood Quiz’ that took place during our ‘Open Evening’ in October 2017. **Katie Markworth** from **St Peters Bratton** is now the proud owner of a 16GB Fire HD.

**KS4 Artist of the Autumn Term:**
Aine
Year 7 Halloween Party 2017
A great ‘Spooktacular Evening’

Miss Moore and Miss Warrington just want to say a massive well done to our year 7’s. You have achieved your first full term here at Ercall Wood... We are very proud of you all.

Thank you FEW for your support
Performing Arts Department REVIEW

WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING

Just before the October half term students, once again, competed for the Ercall Wood’s Got Talent (EWGT) trophy. This is an annual competition where the cream of the school performance crop compete against one another for first prize. This year’s competition saw the largest sign up of students from all year groups. Not only were there more students than ever but there was the most eclectic group of performers from singers to instrumentalists to theatre groups. This year also had the greatest amount of dance sign ups ever seen. Well done to all of those that auditioned. After over a full week of auditions, the finalists were whittled down to just ten acts, seven vocal performers and three dancers to perform on the evening of the 18th October for the four guest judges.
The evening was bristling with fantastic talent, enthusiastic audiences and very hard decisions. Having to choose between so many talented students was not an easy task at all.

The EWGT runner up for 2017 was the Year 9 singing quartet of Katie Marshall, Paige McKay, Mia Penwright and Honey Leonard.

The judges decided that the winner of the Ercall Wood’s Got Talent trophy 2017 would be Matilda Gaughan, a Year 8 student, for her narrative dance depicting an Irish mother and her child during the potato famine.

Overall, the level of talent displayed by Ercall Wood students was above and beyond. All students who took part in this event should be extremely proud of themselves for the acts that they have put forward.

Looking forward to next year already.
The monthly lunchtime concerts have continued this year with a fine display of the talents here at Ercall Wood. The November Concert had a little of everything. Wiktoria and Eden-Mae both sang solos, Katie and Paige

The Concert took place in the music room, which was packed with enthusiastic students eager to both perform and support their peers.

The acts that performed did so with style, conviction and showmanship showing a high level of performance talent.

The students, once again, lapped up the opportunity to perform in front of a crowd and gave their all. ‘Hard working’ and ‘high performance standard’ are now becoming synonyms for Ercall Wood performers.

Students also performed in both of the annual presentation evenings. Isabelle Nesbitt sang ‘Pulled’ from the Adams Family Musical, Lauren Horton sang ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’ and Will Bradley played ‘Habanera’ from Carmen on the Clarinet.

Yr. 8: Anya Bayliss-Powell, Lily Davey, Ellie Davies, Mollie Edwards, Austeja Hempelyte, Victoria Mazurovska, Emmelia Morgan, Rebecca Morris, Kian Nickless, Beatrice Osei Teboah, Sarah-Jane Price, Ellena Smith, Erin Sturrock

Yr. 9: Jessica Barnes, Will Bradley, Libby Eaves, Ella Ferneyhough, George Foulkes, Jessica Godbold, Luke Hughes, Millie Lockley-Seed, Katie Marshall, Paige McKay, Mia Penwright, Alasdair Turnbull, Jasmine Watts, Julita Zmudzinska

Yr. 10: Isabelle Nesbitt, Eden-Mae Petty

Yr. 11: Lauren Horton, Eden Ketteringham, Lucy Kinsey, Emmie Lowe, Eloise Skelton

This year’s concert saw us return to Christ Church, Wellington where we were given a very warm welcome. There was a lovely mix of traditional and modern Christmas songs, and readings and poems written by the students. Well done to all the students for making this a lovely beginning to the Christmas period. In addition to fabulously festive performances, we also raised £160 in the retiring collection for the Severn Hospice.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to our Year 11 performers: Lauren Horton, Lucy Kinsey and Eden Ketteringham, who performed in their last Christmas Concert. They have made a fantastic contribution to Christmas Concerts over the last five years and they will be truly missed next year.
Finally, thanks as always go to parents, families and friends for coming to support us.

In November a group of Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Drama students visited Theatre Severn Shrewsbury to see a performance of ‘Finding Joy’ by the acclaimed masked theatre company Vamos.

This was a thought-provoking piece of theatre, not only because it is fully masked and wordless, but because it deals with the challenging subject of dementia.

The story focused around the main character Joy, who is 83. She is ‘feisty, loves to dance, and is losing her memory. Her grandson Danny is rebellious, bright and always getting into trouble. When Danny decides to look after Joy, they discover a shared playfulness and growing love. But is that enough to face the challenges ahead?’
The students’ response to the piece was amazing. They became very involved in the story and were able to discuss the issues with maturity. As a piece of theatre it gave them amazing ideas for set and prop design, and inspired

Forthcoming

Spring Production
March 2017

The Brothers Grimm
GRIMM’S Fairy Tales