Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter. Time has flown by, plans are being made for the new academic year and Year 11 are in the final preparations for their exams.

We are reaching the final stages of becoming a member of the Learning Community Trust and being designated as an Academy. Not much will change for the pupils other than dropping the ‘Technology College’ part of our name. Once conversion is confirmed, hopefully June this year, we will be formally known as Ercall Wood Academy. I think it has a nice ring to it!

I am very pleased to announce that applications to the school continue to rise and that next year we are oversubscribed in Year 7 for September 2018. This will be the 3rd year running. It is very rewarding to see that that our commitment to the overall welfare of people, pupils and staff alike, has earned the respect of others and achieved wider appreciation. This has been achieved by remaining steadfast in our core values of safety, readiness and respect.

Year 11 are rapidly approaching their final exams at Ercall Wood. Thanks to all those staff who have gone above and beyond offering support to the pupils out of hours and during the holidays. Please join me in wishing the Pupils the best of luck. Their revision should be well underway. The last few weeks are very important, and I urge the pupils to use this time wisely.

The most important thing I want them to remember is that the best preparation for exams is not how long they revise for but making sure they are physically and mentally on top form. That comes from a combination of revision, rest, exercise and diet. It is worth the work now to have the choices later. Remind them it is horrible to reflect on times like these and feel like a ‘coulda, shoulda, woulda’!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our pupils on the outstanding effort they made during charities week. Mrs. Athawes set the school a challenge to beat the total for last year of £2000, which was fantastic. Much to our delight, the 2018 figure is estimated to come in at over £4000! The school community should be very proud.

Here’s hoping that the summer term lives up to its name. I think we have all had enough of the cold weather and would greatly appreciate some sunshine. I wish you all a very happy Easter break (and a sensible amount of revision for Year 11).

Warmest regards

Chay Davis - Headteacher
The Rotary Club of the Wrekin has judged the District level Peace Poster competition.

Congratulations to:

**Intermediate school winners:**
1st Zoya Nadeem
2nd Victoria Mazurovska
3rd Christian Tochila

**Senior school winners:**
1st Ainé Sweeney
2nd Charnè Matthews
3rd Isabel Lewis

In the District heat
**District Intermediate Runner Up:**
Zoya Nadeem
**District Senior Runner Up:**
A huge congratulations to Harry Guy (year 8) who was judged as the Secondary School First Prize Winner.

Judge, James Forster – the Paintings expert at Halls Fine Art, was set a difficult task in selecting first, second and third prizes for both the Primary and Secondary Schools categories.

Judge’s Comment for Harry’s winning Art piece:

This is a fascinating piece which has clearly involved a great deal of imagination. It is very modern and yet has an interesting print base. I very much like the way in which it has been worked on. The artist has done it very well and I particularly like the palette and the use of the paint.
Rotary Young Chef Competition District Final 2018 at Stafford College

On Tuesday 6th February Aaron Damoa and Luke Hajdasz took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition District Final 2018 at Stafford College competing against 18 other students from Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The aim was to plan, prepare, cook and serve a healthy three course meal for two people comprising of a starter, main course and a dessert costing no more than £15 for the ingredients in total, all in two hours.

Aaron’s menu had a Caribbean theme and consisted of Bajan fishcakes with a mango sauce, Jerk Lamb with sweet potato mash and chocolate fondant and ice cream. Luke’s menu had an Italian theme and consisted of Tagliata di pesce con salsa di peperoni dolci, Pasta alla Bolognese and crème di lemonie. Both boys produced excellent plates of food and did themselves and the school proud with Aaron coming out the overall winner. He will now go on to the Regional Finals to be help on Saturday 17th March at the Abraham Darby School, Madeley.
Friends of Ercall Wood have had a quiet term in relation to helping out however we were welcomed by Mrs Bowater at the spring Production. Providing refreshments raised £108 over two days which is magnificent.

We are currently finalising our FEW Leaflet for the new intake, introducing FEW in detail to our year 6’s. We also have meetings planned for the Year 11 Prom and Leavers Breakfast.

Our vice chair is organising the stalls for the return of last year’s Pamper Evening which we are looking at co-hosting again in November but this time incorporating the evening as a Pre-Christmas Shopping Night. This year we hope for it to be bigger and better!

Keep a look out on our social media accounts for forthcoming events as next term, we do get quite busy and rely on our amazing parents for donations of time and baking treats.
P.E NEWS

OUR P.E. TEAMS
Ercall Wood PE DEPT • 14h
Lovely breezy netball league for Year 9/10; thank you @HLCPE and @madeley_sport for attending! A cheeky photo for the Year 10 team, well done girls!

Ercall Wood PE DEPT • 5h
So proud of these girls! All 6 did amazingly well to finish 2nd overall at the finals. We won 3 matches and lost in the final against a very strong @BBSPE side.

Ercall Wood PE DEPT • 3m
One last group photo from hosting the netball league this term; well done Year 7/8 girls! Great efforts! Thank you @IdsallSport @madeley_sport @HLCPE @charltonpe @HTAPriorslee for attending over the last few weeks!

Ercall Wood PE DEPT • 18s
An unbelievable result for the year 7/8 boys basketball team who in their first ever game beat @tts_sport 30-10. Year 7 Cameron Havard scored an amazing 16 points! Well done lads and congratulations to Mr Dale-Jensen and Mr Norman on their first win with the lads.

Ercall Wood PE DEPT • 6h
A good try had by our Year 11 Girls Football team at @IdsallSport in the district cup, but unfortunately a 4-0 defeat!

Ercall Wood PE DEPT
Great effort by the year 10 b team footballers who lost to Charlton b team. Thanks for the game @charltonpe
Our Year7 basketball team beat William Brookes School 16-13 last night. Special mention to Tomoya Kitchen who controlled the game with his dribbling skills and scoring 6 points. Cameron Havard chipped in with his usual confidence around the basket scoring 6 points as well. I would also like to mention Chase Clifton whose first game for us showed what an asset he was to the team, picking up the majority of defensive and offensive rebounds.

The girls had an absolute blinder of a game; Shakilah within 10 minutes scored the first goal, shortly followed by goal number 2!!!

Half time talk by our PGCE student Charlotte Gatt (a huge credit of help); the girls got straight back into the second half working their socks off; Charlton in the last few minutes scored a cheeky one passed Husseina. Much to her delight!

Full time result 2-1 and the girls go through to the next stages of the Shropshire Schools league!

Jensen Carter came first in the NDP level 5 for his age group at the West Midland Trampolining and DMT Competition.

Our U14 girls came 2nd!!! We beat Oldbury Wells 3-2, Meole Brace 4-1 and Thomas Adams Wem 5-0! Unfortunately we lost 5-0 against an extremely strong Burton Borough who had 2 county players. The girls were amazing!
The year 8 rugby team (plus 3 year 7’s) beat Burton Borough this afternoon 40-5 (8 tries to 1). It was an unbelievable performance by the lads who played against a very strong BBS side who had been in the county cup. Our captain Caien Stevens scored 4 tries, Mohammed Mirza scored 2, Tom Wyld scored 1 and Miguel Mirza scored 1. All of the lads were amazing. Big thanks to Kara Smith for letting Ben Chappell out of lesson to ref and also a big thanks to Lucy Jones for being so understanding in regards to Caien. That boy is absolute class on a rugby pitch and has just been scouted by Worcester Warriors.

Rotary Young Chef of the Year 2017-2018

Regional Finals at Abraham Darby Saturday 17th March

Biography
My name is Aaron Damoa and I go to Ercall Wood Technology College. I am currently in Y10. I was born in London 2003 then 3 years later I moved to Telford where I have lived ever since. The main type of foods that I like to make are curries or baking cakes. The reason why I like making curries is because I can be adventurous with different types of herbs and spices; I love creating cakes to explore different ingredients and how I can incorporate it into my cake mix which can improve my techniques.

The reason I chose this menu is because it’s different to any standard dish. I like it because the spices come from different cultures, it also shows a lot of skills for example making sure a chocolate fondant has a gooey middle and to cook the lamb to a nice medium rare.

Menu
Caribbean Island
Starter: Bajan fishcake with mango chutney
Main course: Jerk lamb with sweet potato mash and a jerk sauce
Dessert: Chocolate fondant with homemade vanilla ice-cream
Sadly Aaron did not win the regional finals but he did not let himself or the school down. He was up against seven other students from Cardiff, Bristol, The Cotswolds and Stourbridge all of whom cooked an excellent range of dishes showing a wide range of different skills and processes.

He received very positive comments from the judges who were impressed with his flavour combinations and presentation. Aaron was disappointed as his fondant although gooey collapsed when he removed it from the oven, he said "I knew it was a risk but one worth taking. I have enjoyed my journey in the competition and will be back next year".
Alasdair Turnbull and Clarke Uzzell both took their grade 1 drum kit exams with Trinity College London on 26th January 2018.

Both successfully passed the exam and received their certificate from their drum teacher Dave Odart today.

If you are interested in music lessons with Telford & Wrekin music please contact Mr Sayce.
Biscuit Decorating

Design Brief

Using Geometric Shapes

You have been asked by a local cake shop to design and make a batch of decorated biscuits which have the theme geometric shapes. They must be neat, well presented and produced in a safe and hygienic manner.
Key Stage 3 Food Club on a Tuesday Night
**Higher Achievers**

**Year 9 Physics quiz**
In early January we entered into the Birmingham University physics quiz taking twelve year 9 pupils. Our pupils formed three teams of four and competed alongside 96 teams from all over the midlands.
We had not entered this competition before but were delighted to have achieved three very respectable finishing places, Team A finished in 35th place, Team C in 69th place and team B in 72nd place.
A great achievement for our first time at the competition and competing against 96 teams.

**Year 10 Maths quiz**
In February we attended the Birmingham University maths challenge again. We took three teams of four pupils and competed alongside 94 teams from school all over the midlands.
The pupils answered questions on three different rounds covering a wide range of mathematic topics there was also a specialist round on Maryam Mirzakhani.
Our pupils worked hard and finished;
Team B and C joint 42 place and team A in 46 place. Again not a bad result.

**Year 10 Biology Quiz**
In the last week before Easter we will be back at Birmingham University again competing in one of their quizzes. They have 98 teams in total taking part in their latest challenge and again there will be a variety of school from all over the midlands.
We will be taking two teams of four pupils and are looking forward to taking part in this next quiz event.

**Business in the community**
After Easter we are looking forward to attending the business in the community event. This event is run annually and allows pupils to meet with professional business people and hear how they are working to help and support their local communities as well as reducing waste products.
Pupils will have the opportunity to ask questions, hear a key note speaker and to mix with the professionals in a meet and greet session.

**Year 10 Wrekin College challenge day.**
On the 16th of March we were invited to attend Wrekin College with some of our higher achievers. We took 14 year 10 pupils whom were welcomed at the college with goodie bags. All pupils were able to take part within four challenging sessions around language, Chemistry, Critical thinking and Philosophy. The pupils reported to have found the sessions both challenging and stimulating and all had a great time.
After lots of hard work pupils were treated to a two course meal alongside the staff and Head Teacher of Wrekin College as well as some of the Wrekin College pupils.
The Head Teacher was impressed with our pupil’s contributions to sessions and is keen to look at future projects between our two schools.

**Year 11 Intervention**
Over the Easter holidays we are running a programme of intervention for our year 11 pupils. Exams are fast approaching and staff continue to be on hand before, during and after school offering exam preparation and intervention sessions.
Please see the current timetable on offer to pupils.
**Before School**

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**After School**

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**Washington DC USA**

**October 2019**

Next October we will be taking a group of pupils to Washington DC. We are excited to be visiting America again and are looking forward to exploring a new City.

There are still a handful of places left on this trip so if you are interested please send in your deposit to Mrs K Meiklejohn, Trip leader.

We will be traveling on the 14-26 non guided basis at a total cost of £1393.
Ercall Wood are delighted to offer pupils in current years 7, 8 and 9 the opportunity to explore the exciting city of Washington DC, USA.

The expansive itinerary will include transfers and flights from London, a personal guide for the duration of the trip in the USA, a tour of the Capitol building, a visit to see the Senate and House office buildings, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress and Congressional Cemetery. We will visit the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian Museums, Washington Monument with possible access, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Lincoln Memorial. We will visit the Arlington National Cemetery and the grave of JFK. There will be a photo stop visit to the Whitehouse. We will try and fit in the Washington Zoo and either a sports event or a theatre show. Once in the USA breakfast will be included at the hotel, a packed lunch or meal voucher at Lunch time and then an evening meal within a local restaurant. All pupils will also receive a Hoodie.

**Is this trip for you?**

This trip can have a very late or early morning departure and arrival time.

From the moment we land the trip is non stop. There is a large amount of walking involved as well as early starts each morning and late nights.

Pupils share rooms in small groups so its important that you get on with the people you are sharing with.

Pupils with any dietary or medical needs will need to inform the trip leader on handing in the required deposit so we can ensure your needs can be discussed fully as well as any additional and relevant risk assessments being put into place.

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**When are we off**

We are hoping to run this trip over October half term 2019.

The exact dates are yet to be confirmed but we would hope to travel to the USA on the day we break up if not the day after.

Travelling in October is lower in cost and the weather can still be pleasantly warm.

This trip is open to current years 7,8 and 9 who will be in years 9, 10 and 11 when we travel. This trip is a five day, three night tour, arriving back in the UK on the fifth day.

**The cost**

By planning this trip so far in advance we hope to enable as many families as possible to afford the cost, breaking up the payment into more manageable amounts over the coming month.

**Depending on how many pupils we take the cost reduces. The total cost would be:**

- 26 pupils £1407
- 30 pupils £1357
- 35 pupils £1316

Please remember if your child does not have a valid passport we will require one no later than January 2019. Current UK passports cost £46 for a child and £72.50 for people aged 16 years and over.
### Extra Costs you need to be aware of

- All pupils will require a valid passport which date of expiry must be after our return to the UK. Any new passports required will incur a cost which is not included within this trip and is the responsibility of the parents / carers to cover. Current child passports cost £46.00 and people over 16 years of age £72.50
- To enter America British Citizens have to apply for a Visa Waiver. Today the cost of this is £10.04. Parents will be required to apply for this and cover the cost. We will inform you when you need to apply and how to do so.
- If you do not have a British passport you will be required to check that you are eligible for a visa waiver if not a full visa may be required at an additional cost. If you don't have a British passport please tell the trip leader on handing in your deposit.

All pupils will require spending money and possibly money for a meal within both the UK and USA airport depending on flight times.

### Payment and Parental agreement to cover the required costs.

All deposits should be sent into school via a cheque made out to Ercall Wood Technology College.

Once we have sent the deposits to the travel company we are bound by their terms and conditions and cancellation fees apply as detailed below:

- You will lose your deposit of £150 if you cancel up to 5 weeks after the booking is made with the travel company, Halsbury.
- If you decide to cancel any time during the period after the 5 weeks of the official booking date and 10 weeks before you are due to travel you will lose 60% of the total cost of the trip.
- If you cancel after the above period but prior to 2 weeks before you travel you will have to pay 80% of the total cost of the trip.
- If you cancel during the 2 weeks prior to the date of travel you will lose 100% of the total cost of the trip.
- An administration fee will be charge by Halsbury Travel of £30 to amend or change any of the booking details. This administration fee is in addition to the above.

You will be required to pay the fees described above, any late payment to the school could result in your place being lost and no refunds given. If you cancel your child’s place and have not covered the required amount owed to the travel company the school does not have the capacity to cover any short fall and will seek to recover the funds from you using Telford and Wrekin services.
What's included in this trip...

- UK and USA airport transfers
- Return flights
- Hotel accommodation staying in a central location at the Harrington Hotel (3* good reviews, multiple occupancy rooms)
- Breakfast at the hotel, packed lunch and evening meal plus drinks starting with an evening meal on our first days arrival.
- Evening meals within well known American restaurants such as "Bucca Di Beppo" and "Hard Rock Cafe"
- Airport taxes and passenger duty fees
- Walking tour of Washington
- Shopping opportunities
- A tour of the Capitol building,
- Visits to see the Senate and House office buildings, The supreme court, Library of Congress and Congressional Cemetery.
- National Museum of American History
- Smithsonian Museums
- Washington Monument with possible access
- Holocaust Memorial Museum,
- Lincoln Memorial
- A visit to the Arlington National Cemetery and the grave of JFK
- Photo stop visit to the Whitehouse,
- Theatre show / Sports event or evening activity to be confirmed.

- Hoodie to be worn travelling to the USA and on our return to UK.
After the success of last year’s whole school musical ‘Bugsy Malone’; this year I was looking for a project for the Spring Production that would focus more on drama and theatre. I wanted to allow the students to use dramatic devices they were learning about in drama lessons such as tableaux, narration, and mime. I was also interested in developing the design and technical aspects of a performance alongside acting skills. The idea came when I read Grimm Tales again recently, and realised it was a perfect fit. When I suggested it to the Year 8 and Year 9 drama clubs, they were very enthusiastic, and so the plan to rehearse two of the plays separately and then combine them in to one performance was born.

The Year 8 club took on the challenge of Snow White, and the Year 9 club took on Hansel and Gretel. Through narration, character acting, masks and a giant puppet, the story came to life over the rehearsal process. Other departments jumped in to make the fairy tale world come to life as the
hall turned into a forest complete with trees! My thanks go to Mrs Jones for the huge flats which Mrs Hayman and a host of students managed to turn into 2 separate houses, the genius of Mr Manville to create our witch puppet and the glass coffin, Mr DJ for the trees and a magical mirror, Mrs Bates for props and Ms Warrington and Mrs Darrall for costume and hair.

The first performance was an afternoon showing on Monday the 12th March to the whole of Year 5 from Shortwood Primary School. As well as a chance to see the show, they were also treated to a demonstration of the way the puppet worked and what it was like to perform in the masks. Next came two evening performances on Tuesday and Wednesday the 13th and 14th March. Both performances were well supported by family, friends, students and teachers. In total over 250 people watched the production.

Overall – a fantastic cast that all deserve a mention so here goes...

To:
Emilia, Callum, Ben, Jasmine, Igor, Amber, Katie, James, Courtney, Djalece, Xyra, Louise & Juliet. Katie, Freddy, Kieran, Olivia, Lucy, Megan, Eve, Tabi, Harry, Nana, Orlagh, Lola, Tom, Tilly, Emmelia, Kera, Jessica, Erin & Carys.

And our back-stage wonders: Adam, Will, Jacob, Jack, Aidan, Gus, Alasdair, Morgan, Libby, Mckenzie, Lauren, Emily, Rhian, Emily D, Katie

THANK YOU and WELL DONE.

Amanda Bowater
Dance Showcase

The after school dance clubs have been working really hard the last few months and successfully put on a school dance show at the start of this year in January 2018. The dance show included pieces from our Wednesday and Thursday dance clubs which consists of pupils from year 7, 8 and 9, as well as a range of solos performed in various styles. The dance show included the following dance styles: contemporary, lyrical, modern, jazz, street dance and aerial silks. The evening was a great showcase of the student’s abilities and talents! All of the students showed confidence, dedication, professionalism, and excellent performance skills!

Aerial Silks

The dance club have also been working on aerial silks for the last few terms. Aerial silks is a combination of dance and gymnastics, performed on a piece of fabric suspended from the ceiling. Both the Wednesday and Thursday dance club have been working on their strength and flexibility with aerial silks this term!

Achievements from our dancers...

Congratulations and a huge well done to our two year eight students Matilda Gaughan and Honey Leonard, who were successful in being chosen to dance in ‘Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs’ pantomime at Shrewsbury’s Theatre Severn at the end of 2017.
Performing Arts - Forthcoming Events in the Summer Term

- Taster sessions for Year 5 pupils
- Whole day workshops for year 6 during Induction
- Monthly Music Concerts
- Arts Week workshops
- GCSE Drama Performances
- Arts Evening Concert