



ERNULF NEWS

June 2013

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter. We are now hoping to produce a newsletter each month, to try and keep the flow of information to parents and carers regular and hopefully more useful to you.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have completed our recruitment of teaching staff for September, and I can report that we have a full body of staff in place. We have made some very exciting appointments, which I am sure will enable us to continue to provide an excellent standard of education.

As I write, Year 11 and Year 13 students are in the middle of their examinations. These are going really well, so far, with many excellent comments from the invigilators about how confident the students are, both as they enter the exam hall and as they leave. We are hopeful that the exam results this year will be really good, and this would be a fair reflection of all the hard work that the students and their teachers have put in.

Parents and carers will be looking to buy new pieces of uniform in the next few months. Please look at our uniform guide over the page, to ensure that what you buy will be suitable. Thank you.

ASPIRE

Our Year 7 students have recently put their creative minds to work, as they were given the task to produce a sculpture based on different values that they respected and regarded as important. For part of the day they worked in groups and allocated roles to one another. They produced excellent pieces of art and also presented their grand designs to the rest of the year group.

Our students worked very hard, and the ideas generated were very well thought out. Every group produced a great sculpture based around a whole range of values, and it was nice to see just how well they worked as groups.

The winners of the Sculpture Challenge were decided by one of our highly respected members of staff Mr Watts (MBE) who said that the team work and effort was highly visible in each of the sculptures produced and that the thought process for some of the work produced was very impressive.

On the whole, a very enjoyable day and we can look forward to the 'celebration day' which will be on 21st June when there will be a very special guest.

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How to contact us...

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enquiries@ernulf.cambs.sch.uk

Uniform

We would like to remind Parents and Carers of the uniform code:

Top	Boys & Girls	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navy blue polo shirt with Academy logo • navy blue sweatshirt with Academy logo 	
Trousers	Girls	Boys
	black – full length, tailored with finished hems (not tight fitting leggings or jeans)	black/dark grey
Skirts	or black – of knee length	-
Tights/Socks	white/black/navy socks (plain) <u>or</u> black/navy/flesh tights (plain)	Not PE socks
Footwear	<p>Black shoes - they should be low-heeled (maximum 4 cm) and of a style that is safe for the wearer and for others, eg no sling-backs, open toes or high platform soles.</p> <p>Plain black trainers (<i>no logos, coloured or white</i>) are acceptable. Boots and other unsuitable footwear must not be worn.</p>	
Makeup	The wearing of makeup is discouraged as inappropriate within the Academy.	
Jewellery	Students may wear a wrist watch, one earring (a small stud or sleeper) per ear in the traditional lobe position only and one small ring. No other jewellery or body piercing is acceptable.	

Parent Teacher Association

Ernulf has a very active Parent Teacher Association, which raises several thousand pounds each year to improve the facilities and resources in the Academy. In the current financial situation, this has been invaluable, and the students really do benefit. The PTA are currently saving to buy us a new minibus.

A huge thank you for all their support.

Tutor Reading

In tutor time 7HT have read 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. A moving novel that tells the tale of young Connor O'Malley as he struggles to deal with, and come to terms with, his mum's illness. There are so many important themes throughout about growing up and dealing with grief with the overriding advice ... 'speak the truth'.

The class enjoyed the book and wrote short reviews to the author...

Further to this we sent the students' reviews to Patrick Ness who responded by thanking them for their comments and offering the following advice for budding authors:

"Write a book you'd want to read yourself. You'd be amazed at how many people don't!"



Mentoring and ECM Lessons

In September 2011, Ernulf Academy introduced mentoring into the school week, on Thursdays. To facilitate this, the ECM lesson, which occurs on Period 1, is shorter, and the times of the subsequent lessons are different to the rest of the week. Following the successful implementation of mentoring for all at Ernulf, Longsands also introduced a mentoring slot on Tuesday afternoons.

We feel that there are great benefits to mentoring continuing but we are conscious of a number of staff and students commenting how difficult it is to manage the changed lesson and other times on Thursdays. We also feel that there is an opportunity to create greater synergy, if the mentor period for both Longsands and Ernulf were on the same day.

We have therefore decided to move the mentoring and ECM lessons onto a Tuesday, and also move ECM to Period 5. From September, the times for the school days will be:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday		Tuesday	
8.45am – 9.00am	Registration / Assembly	8.45am – 9.00am	Registration / Assembly
9.00am – 10.00am	Lesson 1	9.00am – 10.00am	Period 1
10.00am – 11.00am	Lesson 2	10.00am – 11.00am	Period 2
11.00am – 11.20am	Break	11.00am – 11.20am	Break
11.20am – 12.20pm	Lesson 3	11.20am – 12.20pm	Period 3
12.20pm – 1.20pm	Lesson 4	12.20pm – 1.20pm	Period 4
1.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch	1.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 2.05pm	Registration	2.00pm – 2.05pm	Afternoon Registration
2.05pm – 2.10pm	Walking time	2.05pm – 2.50pm	Period 5 – ECM
2.10pm – 3.10pm	Lesson 5	2.50pm – 3.15pm	Mentoring

Attendance

Please support the Academy by ensuring that students have full attendance. Student attendance has improved over the past 2 years, but we know we can do better! The Academy target is for students to achieve better than 93.5% attendance this year. Many have achieved this, which is excellent news. However, there are students who have fallen short of this figure, and we will continue to work with those students whose attendance is below 90%. It was very clear from last year's exam results that students who had attendance over 92% were five times more likely to achieve 5 or more A*-C grades.

We recognise that holidays are significantly cheaper in term time, however students are required to be in school for all term dates. Any requests for holiday will be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances, which may be authorised depending on the current attendance of the individual.

Important dates

Friday 21 June	Aspire Celebration Day
Friday 28 June	Year 9 Graduation
Tuesday 2 July	Key Stage 2/3 Transition Day 1
Wednesday 3 July	Key Stage 2/3 Transition Day 2
Thursday 4 July	Y6 New Parents Evening (6.00pm)
Friday 5 July	Year 11 Leavers Ceremony
Monday 8 July	Year 12 Induction
Tuesday 9 July	Year 12 Induction
Wednesday 10 July	Year 12 Induction
Thursday 11 July	Awards Evening (6.30pm)
Monday 15 July	Assessment Reports Home
Tuesday 23 July	Last Day of Term

Autumn Term 2013

Students start back on Thursday 5 September:

8.45am	Years 7, 10 and 12
10.00am	All other years

Site Improvements

We have recently placed a large number of lovely photographs of students around the site, along with 10 new noticeboards. Mrs Chapman has been doing a great job putting up new and exciting displays all around the Academy. We have also had some painting done to freshen up the corridors and Performing Arts Area.

The very exciting news relates to the work we will be doing over the summer holidays. We will have new heating and lighting in our upper school classrooms and library, and re-decoration and new carpets in some of these areas too. We will also be moving Student Support into the area where Mr Preston's office is currently. Mr Preston and all of our Administration Team will be based in the areas behind reception. Learner Support will be moving to the Music Department and Music will move to the current Year 11 Area.

The Canteen and Gallery will also be having a bit of a makeover during the holiday – look out for the funky new walls! We will be working really hard over the summer to ensure that the Academy looks great when everyone returns in September and we are really looking forward to seeing all the improvements.

Open University Research Project

A number of year 7, 8 and 11 students have been working very hard this year in collaboration with Professor Mary Kellett, Director of the Open University Children's Research Centre (and Dean of the Faculty) to produce independent and original research projects.

We have been very lucky to have been selected by the Open University as a participating school. Professor Kellett and her colleague Maggie Turner OBE (formerly the Chief Executive of the prestigious Diana Award with patrons including the Prime Minister and Esther Rantzen) have been coming in to school, training our students on how to conduct and write up independent research papers. The first two projects are being uploaded onto the Open University website under the Children's Research Centre and more will be posted shortly.

www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/childrens-research-centre/

This is a fabulous personal achievement for the students. It develops independent study skills at a level far beyond the work expected at KS3 and 4, developing confidence and academic competence. Once their reports have been completed, students will be preparing presentations ready for a 'Dissemination Day' at the Open University where they will present their independent project and results to students from another school and to a select audience of VIPs on 22 July.

I am really looking forward to attending the Dissemination Day and to listening to fabulous work presented by our students. Topics include young people's attitudes to assisted suicide, competence and attitudes to cooking, young people and religion, disability from the perspective of a young child, the effects of the Olympic Games and the impact of computer gaming on young people.

Anna Idziaszczyk

Students' Personal Belongings

Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Expensive items, including MP3 players, should not be brought into school. Mobile phones should be switched off during lessons, and are brought in at the student's / family's own risk. Personal items are not covered by our insurance. Responsibility for them remains solely with the owner.