

# NEWSLETTER

Ermysted's Grammar School



*Year 7 & 8 pupils with their UKMT Junior Maths Challenge certificates, May 2024*

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Another bumper edition showcasing the achievements of our talented pupils from the last few weeks.

Our entrepreneurs have been competing in the Young Enterprise competition, and our musicians have been hard at work raising money for a bereavement charity. Pupils have been on trips here and abroad, and the DofE season is truly upon us. Our mathematicians, chemists and chess team have done us proud in the recent competitions and Year 10 have enjoyed music workshops and a trip to the University of Leeds. Our award-winning student newspaper has just released the latest edition, copies are available to buy, and previous editions are posted on our [website](#).

Thank you so much to those who have supported our '[sponsor a book](#)' scheme and to those who attended the recent [Friends' Association](#) event. Your support is so appreciated.

I have said this before but the newsletter really highlights the *range* of activities taking place at the school. I am particularly grateful to my colleague, Ms Tamsons, for her tireless efforts creating this document and for regularly posting the pupils' achievements on our social media streams. If you have not seen our [Facebook page](#), please do so; follow us if you will, we're so close to the 1000 followers milestone!

**Michael Evans**  
Headteacher

## IN THIS ISSUE

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AND MUCH MORE!

## A Trip to Paris



On the last day of the Spring Term, 34 KS5 students from SGHS and EGS departed from Skipton train station to travel to Paris for a long weekend on the Art / French trip, along with 2 Art and 2 French teachers.

The whole party enjoyed a really pleasant and smooth journey on the train and the Eurostar. We soon arrived in the heart of the Marais district which is one of the



most beautiful and the former royal district of Paris with a village atmosphere. We stayed in one of the MIJE youth hostels, just 10 minutes away from Notre-Dame. After our arrival at the youth hostel, we quickly immersed ourselves in Parisian life, walking in the sun to an Art gallery in Le Marais where our French students acted as translators for the rest of the group during our tour.

On the following day, we enjoyed more visits at the



Sainte-Chappelle with its dazzling 1113 stained glass windows, the Centre Pompidou, a river cruise on the Seine which gave students the chance to see the main landmarks in Paris like the Musée du Louvre or the Musée d'Orsay. The Institut du Monde Arabe was our last stop for the day where we enjoyed some typical Arabian pastries and mint tea. We also enjoyed the geometric façade with diaphragms, enamelled glass, and light effects and gained access to the rooftop with great panoramic views of Paris.



The third day gave us more opportunity to immerse ourselves in the art Paris has to offer, as we visited the Picasso museum. The next stop at the famous Père Lachaise cemetery triggered much interest among our students due to its artistic nature and the fact they could embark on a quest to find the graves of the most famous people buried there.

The Carnavalet museum, which used to be a typical private mansion of the Marais district, was another interesting place, as it presents the history of Paris from prehistory to the present. We then finished the day by collecting our typical French pâtisseries from the famous Berthillon cake shop.



The last day gave us one last opportunity to learn even more about the history of Le Marais district and one of the French teachers even learnt why Place des Vosges was named after her native region.

The evenings were as enjoyable, as we had our meals at



Le Bossu restaurant. The food was fantastic and we were offered a really warm welcome by staff. Our last evening



in Paris was even enhanced by our night-time walk to see the Eiffel Tower illuminated with sparkling lights.

The pupils were a pleasure to have on the trip and were very grateful for the different visits. They surely made the trip a success and the whole experience worthwhile. We are now looking forward to the next trip!

#### **Mrs Lagrange**

Our trip to France, which involved Art and French students from Ermysted's and Skipton Girls' High School, took place during the Easter holidays. This was a fantastic trip which involved a lot of learning whilst



having fun! We visited numerous famous landmarks in the city, particularly on our river cruise, which allowed us to see sights such as the Eiffel Tower and the infamous Louvre. We also visited many art museums to help the Art students feel inspired by the rich history of art in the

city, such as the work of Picasso. Throughout all this learning, we found some time to do some culturally enriching activities as well, such as our visit to the Institut du Monde Arabe, where we enjoyed traditional sweet treats from Arabian countries and explored the

beautiful building, being able to make the most of the breathtaking view of Paris from its famous rooftop look-



out. We also experienced the true Parisian lifestyle by taking the metro almost every day, which was challenging at times. However, we all stuck together and learnt to laugh about it! In short, this trip was an invaluable experience learning about French culture and practising our language skills in France.

**Ebenezer, Edward H. and Edward M.**

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

All 250 students in Year 7 and 8 (pictured on the front page) were entered for the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, an individual competition of 25 mathematical multiple choice questions, designed to test reasoning and problem solving. Amazingly, 144 students obtained an award which comprised of 26 Gold, 49 Silver and 69 Bronze Awards. Harry in Y8 qualified for the Maths Olympiad and 12 others for the Junior Kangaroo follow on round. Well done to all who took part!

**Dr Needham**

## Young Enterprise



On Tuesday, 23 April our two year 12 Young Enterprise teams – a collaboration with Skipton Girls High School - took part in the North Yorkshire area final competition at Ripley Town Hall.

Each team had to set up their stall, pitch their products to the judges, be interviewed about the company report they had submitted and then present to the room of competitors from other schools, representatives from Young Enterprise as well as the judges from various

industries.



Both Elevate and Meltdown came across extremely well but it was [Meltdown](#) who came away with the Best Company 2024 award for Teamwork.



We are extremely proud of both teams who will continue to sell their products...once they have more stock!

**Mrs Barnes**

## Soundscapes

GCSE music students had a great morning visiting Skipton Town Hall on Friday, 19 April to see 'Soundscapes', an immersive audio-video installation projected inside a hemispherical dome. A big thank you



to composer Ben Crick for an interactive lesson on composing music using the local landscape as inspiration! The exhibition is live until 1 June for anyone who'd like to experience it for themselves!

<https://skiptontownhall.co.uk/whats-on/soundscapes/>



Mrs Tamsons

## Swing Band Concert

Thank you to everyone who came to see the Swing Band Concert at Skipton Town Hall on Wednesday, 24 April (a



collaboration between Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton Girls' High School and Ilkley Grammar School), and to everyone who took part. All proceeds were donated to Cruse Bereavement Support.



## West Yorkshire Schools Chess Tournament

On Friday, 26 April we took part in the West Yorkshire Schools Chess Tournament at St. Bedes & St Josephs School in Bradford. The tournament happened in two halves with the first 3 rounds of the competition being held in November.

The tournament was a team event with teams of four playing each other in a 'Swiss' style competition. This means that teams on similar points at the end of each round play each other in the next round. Eventually it means the leaders all end up playing each other.

Ermysted's did particularly well with our A team picking up trophies for finishing 3rd team of the 32 teams that entered the competition. Their record of five team wins out of six was only bettered by GSAL and Heckmondwike

Grammar came second thanks to winning more individual games. Our four members of the winning team (Ed T, Pranav R, Zain H & Alex F (Oscar O and Samesh C competed for the A team in November but were unavailable in April)) all had a very positive record from their six individual games.



Our C team (Jairaj J, Aashaz Z, Sevan C and Ricky C (Tom S played in November)) were remarkable and actually came through strongly in the second half of the tournament to finish 4th of the 24 teams that came to both halves of the tournament. This means they beat many A teams from Bradford, Ilkley etc. thanks to their team record of four wins and a draw from their six matches.

We took four teams in total and our B team were 13th and D team 18th. They all gained great experience

of a big chess tournament and had an enjoyable and hugely successful day.

**Mr Speak**



Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Games For	Match Points
1	Grammar School at Leeds A	6	6	0	0	18.5	18
2	Heckmondwike	6	5	0	1	20	16
3	Ermysted's A	6	5	0	1	17.5	16
4	Ermysted's C	6	4	1	1	16.5	15
5	Ilkley Grammar School A	6	4	0	2	16.5	14
6	Bradford Grammar School C	6	4	0	2	15	14
7	Guiseley High School	6	3	1	2	16	13
8	Bradford Grammar School D	6	3	1	2	15	13
9	Holmfirth	6	3	1	2	15	13
10	Carlton Bolling A	6	3	1	2	13	13
11	Ilkley Grammar School B	6	3	1	2	12	13
12	Woodhouse Grove A	6	3	0	3	13	12
13	Ermysted's B	6	2	2	2	13	12
14	Woodhouse Grove B	6	3	0	3	11.5	12
15	St Bede's & St Joseph's E	6	3	0	3	11	12
16	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College B	6	3	0	3	11	12
17	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College A	6	2	1	3	10.5	11
18	Ermysted's D	6	2	1	3	9.5	11
19	Bradford Grammar School A	6	2	1	3	9	11
20	Bradford Grammar School B	6	2	0	4	9	10
21	St Bede's & St Joseph's B	6	2	0	3	8.5	10
22	St Bede's & St Joseph's A	6	2	0	4	8.5	10
23	Bradford Forster Academy	6	1	2	3	8	10
24	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College C	6	0	0	6	5.5	6



## UKMT Team Maths Challenge



A team of four comprising Rishi, Benjamin (Year 9), Baasit and Joseph (Year 8) represented the school at the UKMT Team Maths Challenge Regional Final in Preston at the start of May. It was great to be part of this resurrected competition (last run in 2019 pre-covid) and spend a day with like-minded young mathematicians. After the first two rounds the team was in the lead on full marks. They finished a highly commendable fourth place after the final two rounds. Well done!

**Dr Needham**

## Chemistry Olympiad

Congratulations to the following boys in this year's Chemistry Olympiad!

Gold: Theo Sturman, Alexander Greenhorn

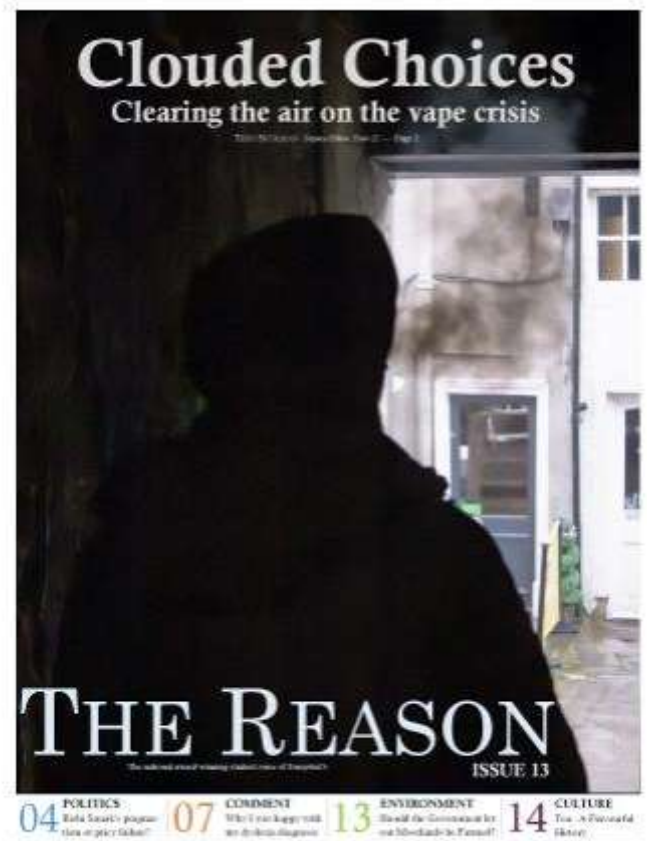
Silver: Harry Garnett, Luke Upton, Rayan Fahad

**Mr Fearnley**

## The Reason

The next issue of our national award-winning student newspaper, The Reason, is on sale for £2. If you wish to reserve a copy, email [gbarrett@ermysteds.uk](mailto:gbarrett@ermysteds.uk) - we still have copies to sell. This edition showcases some of the best student talent at Ermysted's. The edition features articles and stories on North Korea, AI in schools, Hollywood actor strikes, the history of tea, and EGS sport reports. We have entered this edition into the Shine School Media Awards, with a third consecutive 'Best

Newspaper' prize (and fourth in six years) the ultimate goal.



**Mr Barrett**

## Into Psychology Taster Day

As part of an ongoing programme aimed at introducing the science of psychology to boys in Year 10 a group of 10 pupils travelled into Leeds in May. The overall aim of the day was to allow the boys to experience the cutting-edge facilities and research possibilities of higher education at a local high-end university.

In school we currently offer Psychology as an A-Level but in line with many schools there is not the timetable space to offer it at GCSE. The University of Leeds has recognised this potential hole in the system and understands that pupils who would thrive within higher education Psychology have already decided on alternative career pathways before the UCAS process begins in Year 12. Students may select Psychology as an A-Level (it is a thriving subject at Ermysted's) but this is seen as a subject rather than a potential future pathway.

To this end, the University of Leeds has designed an

excellent programme to engage boys from across Yorkshire in Year 10 and demonstrate that the scientific study of Psychology is one that boys should consider.

During the day the group rotated around areas of the cutting-edge Helix building within the core structure of the University of Leeds.

Our group initially undertook a Neuroscience workshop where consenting boys became both the researchers and subjects in a live Psychological study using state of the art encephalogram (EEG) technology. Following a detailed introduction to this very expensive kit



the group in turn became both researcher and subject and tested brain pattern at rest and during stressful tests situation (games). It was amazing to see the clarity of the brain traces (yes I can confirm they all had a brain) and the detail this equipment can offer.



Following a packed lunch supplied by the University the group then moved onto a Virtual Reality workshop where even the avid gamers amongst the group were blown away by the equipment on offer. From a moving Virtual Reality (VR) deck where boys could wander at will around a space station (without Moving anywhere) to the future of VR headsets with 360 degree views and simulated hands and fingers the investment was clear.

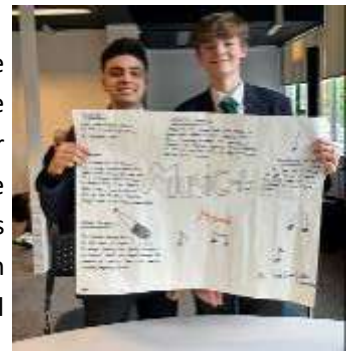
Psychologically the faculty of Psychology is researching the ongoing uses of VR in the design and development of buildings and machines. It is hoped that this technology will help psychologists to understand how people would move through a structure and how they would react to things such as safety signs before the architects / designers plans are approved and construction begins.

Finally the four schools involved on the day had to mix and work together to create a short presentation on



where they thought Psychological study at the University of Leeds could go? All the boys involved came up with a number of fantastic concepts which certainly gave me food for thought.

It was a great experience for the boys and in these days of spiraling higher education costs the University of Leeds I feel is being pro-active in showcasing what a local university has to offer.



We would like to thank the team of the Health Sciences outreach team at Leeds for this opportunity.

**Mr White**

## For King or For Country

Dr Cloke (who retired last year but returned in a part-time capacity in September) has put his time to good use and written a book! 'For King or For Country' is a historical fiction tale that explores the action of individuals in a country torn by the English Civil war. For anyone interested in reading this book, it can be purchased from [Troubadour Publishing](#).



## Gap Year Report



Former EGS pupil and Ermysted House Captain, Bobby Dixon, is certainly making the most of his gap year before taking up his place at Manchester University to read Politics and German!

September 2023 saw him heading out to Zambia with another former pupil, armed

with Embsay Juniors kits, to coach football to children from a compound (a township or shanty town) in Lusaka, managing to fit in a safari and a trip down Victoria Falls, as well as playing golf at the weekends.



Next stop: Australia. Since January Bobby has been working for Jeep in Melbourne, whilst trying to fit in some travel at the weekend and take in an array of sporting events from the Australian Open to Formula 1 and trying his hand at surfing on Bondi Beach.

He didn't stop there, though; in March he and his friend spent 2 weeks in New Zealand, hiring a car and driving round the South Island, to soak in the magical terrain, whilst embarking on plenty of big hikes. Cruising down Milford Sound the boys encountered a pod of dolphins that decided to start playing right in front of their boat!

Upon returning to the UK in June, Bobby won't be home for long. Wanting to spend a bit of time in Germany before starting university, in December he applied for a job at the Euros in Berlin. He received an email in March inviting him for a half-hour phone interview in German, which he did from his car outside a hostel in Australia! A few hours' later he was offered the job! Says Bobby, "Just shows how useful German is and the opportunities

that come from it - working at the Olympiastadion, speaking German all day, whilst watching the best international football in the world - all because of learning German through school".

**Mrs Warburton**

## EGS Award



On Speech Day we will recognise the achievements of many of our pupils who have gained an 'Ermysted Award'. They will each receive a smart enamel pin badge and a shiny certificate.

The Ermysted Award is organised so that pupils in Year 7 and 8 aim for Bronze, Year 9 and 10 are eligible for Silver and Year 11 and 12 go for Gold. Evidence of achievements is spread over both years and the award itself is claimed via submission of a portfolio of evidence, usually at Easter. We will be presenting these awards on Speech Day.

Pupils had to show evidence of substantial and sustained contributions under six headings; Academic, Service in School, Cultural, Skill, Physical and Community. Although called the 'Ermysted Award' for a reason, we also look favourably on any evidence which might have demonstrated commitments outside as well as those for school.

The following boys have submitted successful portfolios this year and will therefore be receiving their respective awards:

### **Bronze**

Finn Beggan 8E, Seth Box 8E, Harry De-Braekeleer 8E, Oliver Johnston 8E, Daniel Krichan 8E, Lucian Manville 8E, Joe Williams 8E, Muadh Aslam 8H, Alex Francis 8H, Edward Greaves 8H, Dougie Hartley 8H, Jairaj Jhaj 8H, Edward Lawton 8H, Pranav Rajan 8H, Baasit Saboor 8H, James Walton-Brown 8H, Rocco Wilde 8H, Zi An Chen 8P, Noah Hodgson 8P, Hisham Naeem 8P, Oscar Overend 8P, Sam Routledge 8P, Frankie Binns 8T, William Clossick 8T, Louis Pearson 8T, Ryan Puthenkal 8T, Alfie Sellers 8T, Natty Truss 8T

**Silver**

Austin Joseph 10CS, Callum Draper 10GB, George Hodgson 10GB, Will McDonnell 10GB, Edmund Sellers 10GB, Areeb Taj 10GB, Zac Vaseem 10GB, Will Walker 10GB, Daniel Edmondson 10HP, Daniel Mitchell 10HP, Sam Shoard 10HP, Louis Sturman 10HP, Oliver Brady 10SS, Ellis Frankland 10SS

**Gold**

Samesh Chotai 12AS, Josh Tywang 12CB, Harrison Firth 12PC, Theo Sturman 12SL, Ben Swain 12SL, Edward Thornton 12SL, Nathan Joseph 12CB

Congratulations and very well done!

**Mr Speak & Mrs Carr**

# Sponsor a Book

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our 'Sponsor a Book' scheme - here are some pupils displaying some of the 102 books we've received so far!

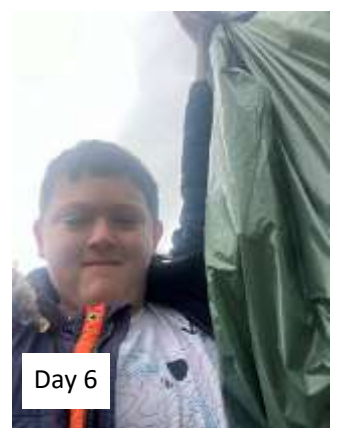
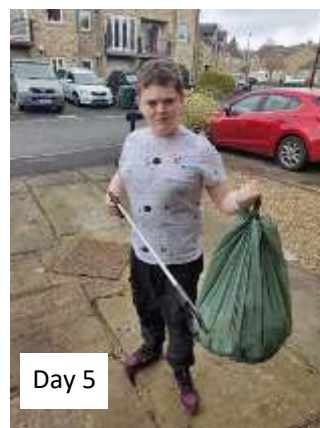
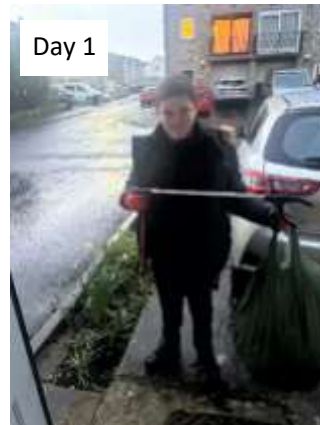
**Mrs McCabe**



# Litter Pick

Louis in Year 8 has been working very hard recently to raise money for WWF. He completed a sponsored litter pick around Skipton over seven days, collecting eight

bags of litter and raising £156! Well done!



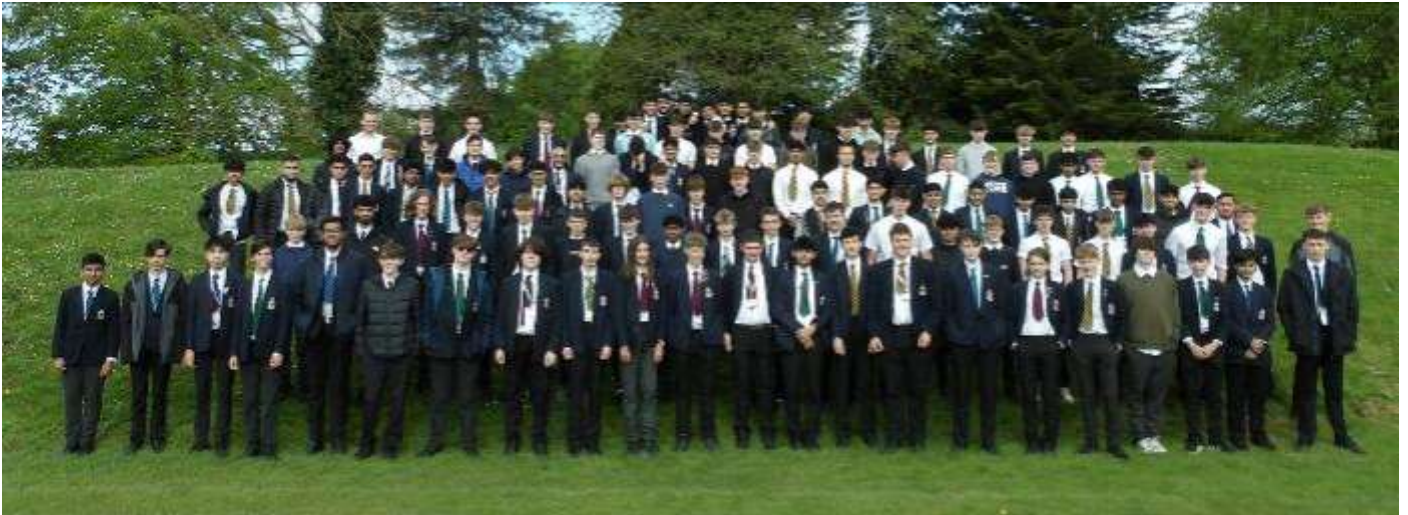
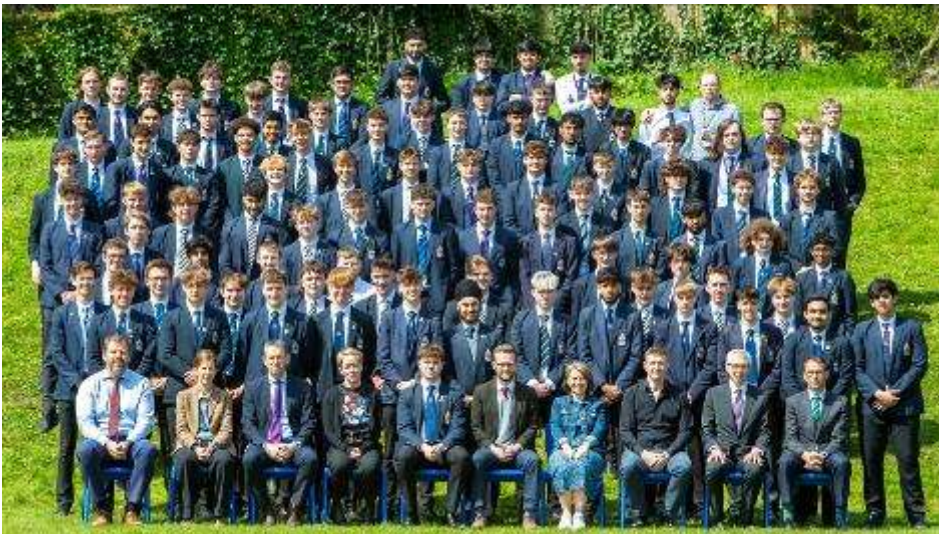


## Year 11 and 13 Leavers

This term we said goodbye to Year 11 and 13 as they left to go on study leave and begin their exams - photos, shirt signing, football and the traditional tug of war, followed by a final assembly. We wish all our leavers the very best of luck for the future.

## Skipton Mechanics' Institute

Thank you to the Skipton Mechanics' Institute for their generous donation of £500 towards our annual Speech Day prize-giving ceremony on Tuesday, 2 July. The donation will go towards the purchase of book tokens awarded to pupils at the event.





## Year 8 Cricket



The Year 8 cricket season is upon us and the boys have won two games from two (South Craven and Giggleswick). Notable performances include Henry W making 48 against South Craven, and Douggie H's all round performances, however the strong squad has, as a whole, performed excellently. The next fixture is against Ilkley in the second round of the Yorkshire Cup.

**Mr Allen**

## A Golden Achievement



On Monday, 13 May, eight of our recent Old Boys went to Buckingham Palace to celebrate gaining their Gold D of E Awards. They were Joe Hayes, Oliver Gokhale,



Andrew Robinson, Alex Oliver, Euan Hayes, Matthew Speak, Seb Vereker and Zayan Mahmood.



Each awardee as well as gaining their badge and certificate was allowed to take one guest. The Hayes family were able to make it a real family affair as both brothers Joe and Euan coordinated

to get theirs on the same day so both mum and dad could join in the fun.

Mr Speak was also in attendance as a proud dad of Matthew, his wife already



having been when elder brother Ben received his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award a couple of years ago.

A gloriously sunny day to reflect all the lads golden achievement.

**Mr Speak**

## Work Experience

Pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 will complete their work experience during Enrichment Week (8-12 July). Pupils have applied and been accepted into a wide range of local and national companies. Some secured placements locally, a few lucky students will travel to Leeds, Manchester and London. Whatever placement it is, it will be valuable time spent outside the classroom to learn



about the wider world!

For those who are still struggling to find a placement, keep asking your families, friends of families and local companies. We have arranged a virtual work experience programme in school for those who cannot find a suitable placement in time for July.

**Mrs Rose**

## Congratulations



Congratulations to Ned C in Year 9, who has been working tirelessly over the last few months towards his 2nd Degree (Dan) Black Belt in Taekwondo. This involved a theory exam in Korean a 1000 word essay and a full practical exam. Ned successfully passed all elements. Well done!

## Duke of Edinburgh



The 2023-24 Duke of Edinburgh season is well underway. Many boys are now completing Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections.

All Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expeditions have been undertaken. The weather has been mostly excellent and

the boys have had fantastic experiences, preparing them for their main expeditions in the last half term.

On 11-12 May our 56 Bronze award participants had an educational morning learning campcraft on the school field followed by a 'mini expedition' walk around Skipton Moor.



A comment from one of the supervisor/assessors reads as follows: 'Both my teams were wonderful boys, an absolute credit to the school and a genuine pleasure to work with.'

On 17-19 May our 28 Silver award participants undertook their 2 ½ day practice expedition in the baking hot Yorkshire Dales.



On 26-28 April our 28 Gold award participants undertook their three day practice expedition in the Three Peaks and Upper Wharfedale area. They performed admirably and worked well in teams to successfully complete the expedition.

**Mr Allen**



## Selected Upcoming Events at Ermysted's

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
EFA Meeting	Tuesday, 11 June	School
Sixth Form Taster Day	Wednesday, 26 June	School
Year 6 Transition Evening	Wednesday, 26 June	School
Year 6 Transition Day	Thursday, 27 June	School
Speech Day & Open Evening	Tuesday, 2 July	School
Enrichment Week	Monday, 8—Friday, 12 July	Various
Summer Concert	Tuesday, 16 July	School

## Thanks for reading...

This newsletter was compiled by Ermysted's Grammar School. If you have comments or anything for inclusion in future newsletters, please email [ktamsons@ermysteds.uk](mailto:ktamsons@ermysteds.uk)