



## Ellowes Hall Sports College Newsletter



Hello Everyone,

As you will know from my letter before half term myself and our Invictus School Improvement Team are based at Ellowes Hall this half term. We have all been impressed by a variety of things happening at the school. The amount of students who have received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this week has been amazing, the most we have had in any of our schools - read Ms Hatton report below for more information.

We have all heard the rehearsals for Phantom of the Opera taking place and know how excited Mr Bailey, the Performing Arts Staff and the students are at being able to perform again. People who have attended the first couple of nights have said how impressive it is - there's still time to book tickets if you've not got yours yet! Again, please see Mr Bailey's article below.

As students arrive in the morning, it is obvious that vast majority of them are proud of their uniform by how smart they look. The systems are in place to support students who may have lost their tie or lanyard, ensuring that they are all ready for learning.

All schools strive to improve, and Ellowes is no exception. We continue to work together in to order to streamline our systems and offer the best learning climate for our young people. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this Newsletter to find out about some of the things happening that your child can get involved in.

Best wishes

Mr T Bowles

### **School tops 100 Duke of Edinburgh awards in one year**

More than 100 Ellowes Hall Sports College students celebrated the completion of their Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) today, marking a huge expansion of the scheme over the last year.

The Dudley school has managed to triple numbers completing the prestigious award which is highly regarded by employers and colleges for the way it develops independence, resilience and teamwork.

The 85 receiving the Bronze certificate and badge walked more than 20 miles over two days, carrying everything they needed to survive, including for an overnight camp. The 16 receiving the Silver award faced a similar challenge but they had to do it twice over three days, walking more than 50 miles in total.

DofE also involves broadening horizons and having potentially life changing experiences through volunteering in the community, developing a skill and improving physical fitness.

Assistant head teacher Miss Hatton said most schools now offer DofE to their students, but Ellowes Hall wanted to encourage those students who don't normally consider doing it to have a go. "Overcoming the challenges involved is something that cannot be taught in the classroom which is why we felt it was so important to expand it. Today was all about celebrating the achievement of all these students."

As well as receiving the certificates and badges, there were special prizes for those students who demonstrated the best navigation with map and compass, the best teamwork and also cooking the best meal - a Thai curry where all the spices were fresh.

This was a world away from the universally popular DofE expedition meal of a Pot Noodle in a plastic carton which is 'cooked' by just adding boiling water!



### Students return to the stage.

Following a successful production of Miss Saigon in 2019 we were all saddened by the impact of the pandemic and how it affected so many people's lives, including preventing the students from continuing with the great performances that everyone had taken part in over the years. We were about to launch 'Phantom of the Opera' as the next production in early 2020 (a production we did in 2012) but this had to be placed on hold for a short while. Once we did finally announce it as the next production for 2022, we were overwhelmed by the support of both students and staff, and right from the start it looked like this would be an incredible success. Students have worked on this production since the auditions in early April by learning many of the songs through the summer term and then spending every night after school, most mornings before school, some weekends and half-term to rehearse all the acting and choreography. The hard work of all has been immense and the show is up there with the best of the previous successful productions done in the past. There is a full orchestra providing the music, with lighting and audio technicians that are from the private sector as well as students and parents. Every detail has been adhered to from the make-up artists providing a range of art work including the Phantom prosthetics, a full range of wardrobe costumes hired in to complement those acquired by the students and even a bunch of pyrotechnics to add those special effects to our sets and props that have been designed by staff from Ellowes and beyond. So far this week we have received lots of kind messages from those who attended the first two opening shows and all involved are thoroughly enjoying the experience and opportunity to take part. The show will continue to run until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and although the matinee at 2pm this Saturday is nearly sold out, there are still some tickets available from the school website for the remaining performances.

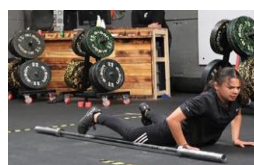


### Ellowes take both places in The Rotary Young Chef Competition.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November Ellowes was fortunate to host the local school heats of the Rotary Chef supported and organised by Dudley Rotary Club. To earn a place in the school heats students had already had to compete against each other and demonstrate their culinary skills to produce a 2-course meal. This next stage of the completion required from them to prepare, cook and present a 3-course meal to serve 2 people for under £22 with a healthy theme. All students did exceptionally well and we thank Crestwood students and staff for joining us with this great opportunity. A massive congratulations to Jai who took the Key Stage 4 winning place and Breyana who won Key Stage 3. They will go on to compete in Stafford in the new year.



### PB in Cross Fit.



Kara Bruce had her first CrossFit comp. It was a really tough field and Kara came away with a clean PB of 47.5kg.

### Year 7 residential.

All of our year 7 students have participated in the Astley Burf residential to develop positive relationships within their tutor groups and to complete some team building activities. Our students completed a nat walk, climbing wall, high ropes, orienteering and archery. During their free time, they played board games, table tennis as well as other activities such as enjoying a movie evening with hot chocolate and a campfire with hotdogs. We are proud of our students for all they achieved on these trips.



#### School production dates:

- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2pm
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 7pm
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 7pm
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 7pm

### Attendance Matters



Well done 7NKH you have the highest attendance in school: **97.53%**



FACT: The more time your child spends in school, the better your child's attainment.