

Eirias Chronicle

Llwyddo Gyda'n Gilydd

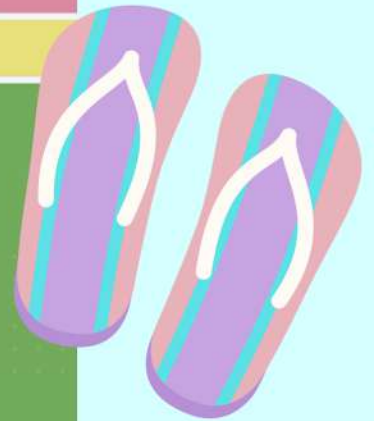
YSGOL EIRIAS

STUDENT VOICE

PUBLICITY TEAM



Succeeding Together



HEAD STUDENTS:
OLIVER ROTHNIE &
ERIN MAI GROVE

HEADS OF STUDENT
VOICE: ANNIE
GIBSON & THOMAS
DICKSON

MUSIC AT EIRIAS
IN REVIEW

BERLIN GERMAN
TRIP

HEAD TEACHER
INTERVIEW: MRS
EVANS

MY FAVOURITE...

DUKE OF
EDINBURGH

EASTER SKI TRIP

EIRIAS STUDENT
VOICE PUBLICITY

END-OF-TERM
REFLECTION



INTERVIEW WITH NEW HEADTEACHER MRS EVANS



By Nana Mintah

With Mrs. Sutton departing Ysgol Eirias this summer after twenty six years in school, including six years as Headteacher, Mrs. Evans, the current Deputy Headteacher, will be taking on the role of Headteacher from September. We, the Eirias Chronicle, managed to steal some time from her busy schedule to ask her some questions.

What made you want to become a headteacher?

She said that she has always been passionate about education for all children. She stated that recently she has started to enter positions of leadership and 'expand [her] horizons from outside the classroom.' This allowed her to understand that she could have a greater influence on education from a role such as that of Headteacher. She also noted that she enjoys working with teachers within this role, inspiring and being inspired by them mutually.

However, she simultaneously expressed that she still loves teaching as she believes that is another important way that she can help children to succeed.

What is your favourite subject?

As expected, she mentioned Mathematics as her favourite subject to teach as she is a Maths teacher. She revealed that she always liked Maths when she was in school as she was good at the subject. However, this was not her primary motivator for becoming a Maths teacher; her goal was to enter a career where she helped others.

If you were to win the lottery and give up teaching, what would you do instead?

She remarked that we had asked a funny question and said that she would use the money to go somewhere skiing or perhaps a relaxing beach. On a more serious note, she also mentioned she would have a desire to use the money for educational programs for teachers and children.

What is something that students would be surprised to find out about you, a niche passion that not many people know about?

Mrs Evans replied that she is a rugby fan and a staunch Welsh supporter. She also said that she likes caravanning and had done it in Devon and even France! She also said that she loves festivals and is a fan of many artists, such as Coldplay and Ed Sheeran.





What makes Ysgol Eirias distinctive from other schools?

She said that she loves Eirias as she feels that it is a family. She believes what makes Eirias distinctive is the culture and climate in this school. She reached this conclusion after teachers from other schools had come to Eirias and reported that it seemed special and that it 'has a nice feel.' Mrs Evans believes that the teachers and students are 'invested' in Eirias and sincerely love it.

Additionally, she remarked that the school values professional development for our teachers and has a large curriculum for the learners in the school. Regarding the curriculum, she noted that Eirias is one of the only schools in Wales to follow the new curriculum provided by the Welsh government despite the leeway afforded to Eirias and other schools during the pandemic.

How did Ysgol Eirias deal with the pandemic?

Mrs Evans seemed quite eager to comment on this subject, as there was lots to talk about regarding it. She noted that the pandemic caused many difficulties: communication was difficult, teachers had to work outside their practiced skillset repeatedly and there was an extensive amount of 'behind the scenes' work that teachers had to engage in that others in the Eirias community may not have noticed or acknowledged.

However, she concluded the response on a positive note, saying she wholeheartedly believes the school adapted well to the sudden change in circumstances. She mentioned many of the provisions that appeared during the pandemic, such as the changes to the lunch schedule to allow students to have more time and the inclusion of wellbeing days. She also reported that she is happy the school kept Teams after the pandemic in case something similar to the pandemic occurs later on. This is not something that every school chose to do.

What is your favourite thing about teaching?

She immediately responded that her favourite thing about teaching is 'seeing people grow' and achieve the things they want to.



NEW HEAD STUDENTS: ERIN GROVE & OLIVER ROTHNIE



"Hi, I'm Erin Grove and I have been elected as Head Prefect. I began at Eirias at the beginning of Sixth Form in September of 2022 and have enjoyed studying here since then. I study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Design & Technology. Outside of school, I attend dance school where I participate in performing arts and many disciplines in dance. However, my main interest is singing, and this is something I very much enjoy doing and I have been displaying this interest in various school concerts, eisteddfods and theatrical shows over the years. What I like about Eirias is how welcoming the school was when I arrived and how supportive every teacher has been in regard to schoolwork and the wellbeing of students throughout the year (especially during exam periods). My vision for the future of my role is to encourage more students to take part in more creative activities and clubs. I'd also like to encourage students to do more volunteering around the school and support teachers and students which in turn will make the school more enjoyable and welcoming to all students and staff."

— Erin Grove



"My name is Oliver Rothnie and I am a Head Prefect. I have been at Ysgol Eirias since Year 7, joining in September 2017. I have just finished my AS-level exams, and I am studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics. My favourite part of Eirias is the fact that we have many amazing teachers who put substantial effort into helping us. Other than my interests in my subjects, outside of school I like playing and watching cricket and football. In my time as Senior Prefect, I would like to build a good relationship between both Year 12 and Year 13 and the Sixth Form and the lower school; both Erin and I agree that as Sixth Form students we have a responsibility to help younger students."

—Oliver Rothnie



NEW CO-HEADS OF STUDENT VOICE: ANNIE GIBSON & THOMAS DICKSON

"Hi, my name is Annie Gibson and I am one of the co-chairs of Student Voice. I have been here since 2017, starting as a year 7, and am now in year 12. For my A-levels, I am studying Drama, Classics, Biology and Maths but my favourites are definitely Drama and Classics! Outside of school, I love reading, playing piano and walking, and I'm a part of one of the local musical theatre companies, Llandudno Youth Music Theatre (LYMT). As co-chair of Student Voice, it is my aim for this year to allow as many people as possible to have the opportunity to input change into our school to make school a place they feel comfortable, safe and happy to be in. I, along with my co-chair, Thomas, and the whole of Student Voice, want to help make changes in the canteen, homework structure, Student Voice structure and more, to make our school the best place it can be for everyone!"

—Annie Gibson



"Hi, my name is Thomas, and I am the new co-chair of Student Voice. I have been at Ysgol Eirias for six years now and I currently study English Literature, Classics, Religious Studies and Mathematics. I enjoy walking, cycling and generally spending time outdoors. What I love most about Eirias is how the school engages with students, and, as the chair of Student Voice, I want to try and encourage this engagement between the school leadership and students. I would also like to try and mould the Student Voice into a body that is flourishing and sustainable, as I feel that over the past few years the Student Voice has become too complex and difficult to engage with. I really look forward to working with everyone and I hope that the other co-chair and I can make great change within the school."

—Thomas Dickson



BERLIN GERMAN TRIP 2022: WINTER WANDERLUST



By Ollie White

In the early hours of the 5th of December 2022, a group of bleary-eyed German students loaded into a coach ready to set off on an unforgettable adventure to Germany's historic capital city - Berlin. Arriving at Manchester airport an air of anticipation was already developing as we excitedly waited to be whisked away on our long-anticipated trip.

Stepping off the plane in Brandenburg airport after a smooth flight we were more eager than ever to experience what Berlin had to offer. After dropping off our luggage at the modern hostel where we were staying, the first item on our itinerary was to visit the Berlin wall. We were led by Frau McNeil through the bustling city until we stood in the very place where history had taken place. Seeing the wall in person was a powerful reminder of the division in Germany and it put our in-class cultural lessons into perspective. As we walked along the wall, we marvelled at the iconic murals on the wall from the kiss between Brezhnev and Honecker to the painting of the 'Trabbi' smashing through the barricade, each artwork offered a powerful message of unity and freedom.



The second day of the trip saw us visiting the iconic Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas Markets). After an audio tour of Berlin's parliament building the Reichstag, a trip up Berlin's 368m TV tower and an eye-opening look at Checkpoint Charlie we made our way to the markets. Walking out of the busy Berlin streets lined with huge skyscrapers, into the quaint and cozy Christmas markets felt like stepping into another world. The Markets were a delight to all the senses, we were instantly met with the smell of cinnamon and Glühwein (mulled wine), the sound of chiming bells and beautiful images of twinkling lights and picturesque stalls. After feasting on Berlin's specialties such as the spicy Currywurst and sweet Lebkuchen we set off to the ice rink at the market near the city hall. Despite many bumps and falls, we finally managed to get the hang of ice skating and could just about manage a lap around the rink (albeit rather ungracefully).



The third and final day of our trip was jam-packed with souvenir buying, fairground rides, sightseeing and best of all chocolate making! When we arrived at the Ritter Sport Chocolate world, we were introduced to one of Ritter Sport's confectioners. We were given a brief history about Ritter Sport and their iconic square chocolate before making our very own chocolate bars. The final activity of the trip was a sightseeing river cruise, led by a charismatic local we drifted through the Spree and reminisced on the many amazing places we had been during our trip. On the evening of the 7th we headed back home with our bellies full of Bratwurst and our hearts full of Christmas cheer.

This trip was a fantastic experience which not only got us in the mood for the Christmas season but also opened our eyes to the doors that learning a language can open for you, as we practiced our German speaking and gained a greater understanding of the country's history and culture.



EASTER SKI TRIP 2023: AN AUSTRIAN ADVENTURE

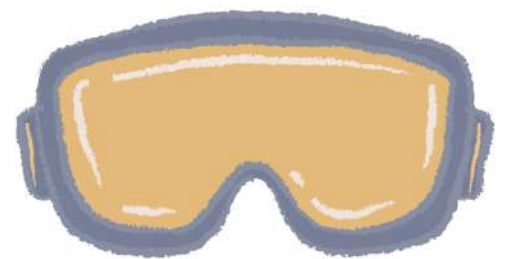


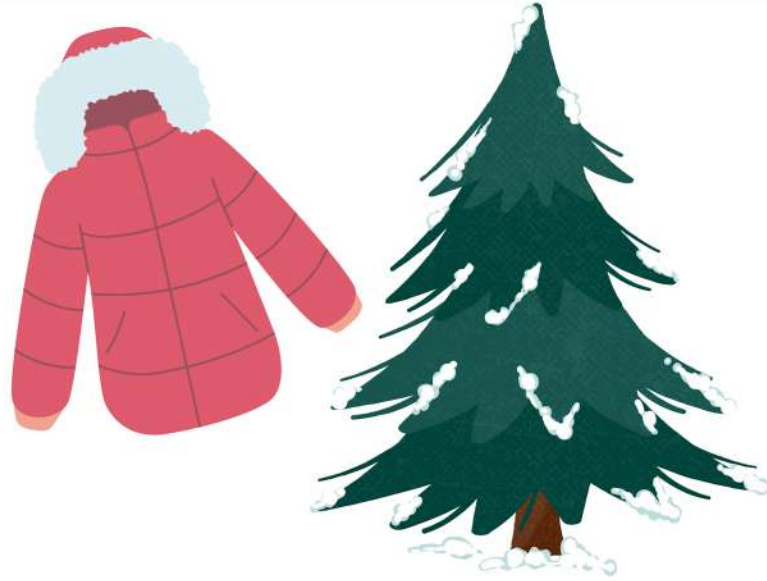
By Lucy Rothnie

This year's ski trip (March–April 2023) was over the course of seven days. We sang, skied and laughed our way through the week, making it certainly a trip to remember! Year groups 10–13 attended the trip (a total of around fifty pupils) with teachers including Mr Metcalfe, Mr Johnson, Mr & Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Hodgkinson and singing sensations Miss McCann and Mr Williams!

The trip lasted from March 30th to April 6th. Starting at 5am on Thursday morning, the group assembled at Ysgol Eirias, bleary-eyed but ready to leave for Austria! Firstly, we made the six-hour journey to Heathrow airport and then we were ready to catch our flight to Austria. Upon arrival that evening, we made our way through the village to get our skis, boots and helmets. With no snow in sight so far, we were excited nonetheless.

The first morning arrived, and, waking up at 6am, we were greeted by an optimistic sight of snow on the mountains. After donning our ski equipment, we headed on the bus to have our first day of ski lessons. The first resort we skied at was Flachau, then moving onto Zauchensee and Wagrain as the days passed by. During the evening, we spent time in the games room or participating in evening activities. We had a quiz night, rewards night, surprise activity night and we also went to the nearby water park which had both steep slides and misty outdoors pools.





During our time in Austria, new skills were definitely discovered! From Mr Williams' angelic singing voice to Mr Johnson's affinity with Austrian pine trees, all students were able to bond with each other, as we were split into groups for our skiing days. All abilities were challenged with their skiing as well as being helped to improve techniques and confidence when skiing. Everyone on the trip was able to bond with their peers, encouraging new friendships and fun to be had!

I really enjoyed this trip as it helped me to become closer to people in my year, as we were all given opportunities to socialise in the games room, as well as fun activities such as table tennis, football tournaments and a slalom race on the final days! I would personally highly recommend this trip to others, as not only is it inclusive for all abilities, (even those who have never skied before), it also is a perfect opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and try something new and exciting.

I loved this trip and my experience is only positive! Everyone felt that they really developed their skiing abilities, mixed with new people and had a truly incredible time in Eben! Birthdays were celebrated, songs were sung, trees were hugged (see Mr Johnson) and an arm was broken. This year's ski trip was certainly unforgettable!

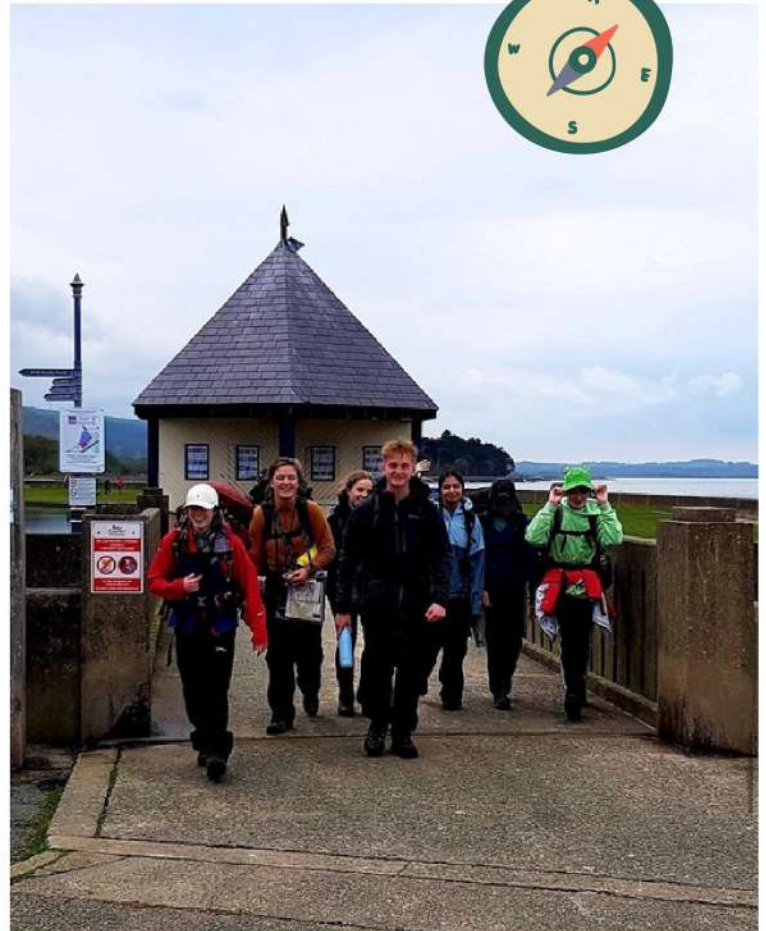


DUKE OF EDINBURGH: TENTS, TEAMWORK AND THE TREK OF A LIFETIME

By **Iola Villamayor**

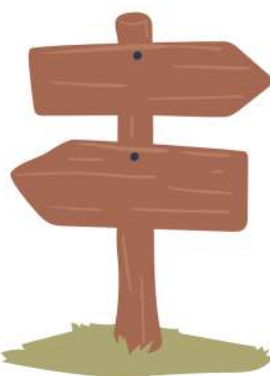
The Duke of Edinburgh is much more than just spending a few nights in the wilderness; it's about learning new skills, broadening life experiences, challenging your physical limit and exploring the nature of a new and unfamiliar place.

Having only completed the DofE Silver practice so far, it has given me a lot more confidence and resilience, enabling me to better prepare for the actual expedition. I enjoyed the challenge of spending three days outdoors with my team, despite the many blisters, setting up a tent in the pouring rain, cooking an inedible dinner huddled around a Trangia stove, and the task of hiking a mountain in the midday sun or even the rain. Most definitely, my favorite memory is falling into a river and having to trek another 5 hours with wet boots. Although I couldn't really sleep both nights, it was so much fun because it was my first time ever camping and I got to share this amazing experience with a group of people I haven't spent much time with. We experienced many obstacles throughout the whole trip, but I was mainly surprised by how far 17 kilometres (about 10.56 miles) is when covered on foot and how easy it is to be lost in the middle of nowhere, but that's the fun of it.



So far, being part of DofE has challenged me with major skills that have helped me fill important gaps in my education, where being in a classroom has not. I not only developed my skills by doing new things, but I became more confident, open to exploring new things and willing to take risks. DofE is an amazing and memorable experience as many universities and employers are looking for a strong combination of leadership, teamwork, composure under pressure and problem-solving skills. This award allows students to achieve this in one go because of the passion and commitment shown towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Finally, all of these memories we have created so far will be sure to last a lifetime.



MUSIC AT EIRIAS: A YEAR IN REVIEW



By Margaret McLean

This past year, Ysgol Eirias has been the stage to a vibrant and spirited musical scene, including a Christmas concert and a Spring concert. Both concerts showcased a diverse collection of musical talent and interests from students of all years. From Lily Davila's winning opening solo of O Holy Night to the cheerful confidence of the Eirias Choir's Walking on Sunshine which ended the second of the two concerts, the Eirias music community has shown that not even a global pandemic or an infestation of rodents can stop the power of music, or indeed, of Miss Hammerton.

Soloists & Duetists

Notable student performers included Felicity Stanyer, Erin Grove, Isabella Roberts, Josie Morgan, Layla Strydom, Jennifer Roberts and Emilia Roberts. Some students took to the stage in only one concert, like Elen Edwards, Margaret McLean, Elsa Herndlhofer, Haikey Wang, Jacob Wong and Callan Owens. The stage also saw some newer, but no less brilliant, talents, such as Margo Davydenko, Sarah Nicholson, Lily Davila and Mimi Holland-Roberts.

Groups

The Woodwind Group's peppy Frosty the Snowman brought a unique flair to the Christmas concert and the Senior Choir's moving performances added a note of maturity. The Eirias Orchestra, conducted by Elen Edwards, contributed a selection of classic favourites while the Eirias Choir, conducted by Annie Gibson, channelled the school spirit with contagious energy.



As always, both audience and performers are indebted to Miss Hammerton for her tireless work and enthusiasm in supporting and leading the Eirias music community. Next year, we hope to see many new faces onstage and in the audience, so don't hesitate to come along to a rehearsal in September or buy a ticket to watch friends perform in the next Christmas concert. Music at Eirias is thriving and we want everyone to be a part of it!



Eirias Orchestra performing at the Christmas concert, conducted by Elen Edwards.



Some of the 6th Form choir and orchestra performers after the Spring concert.

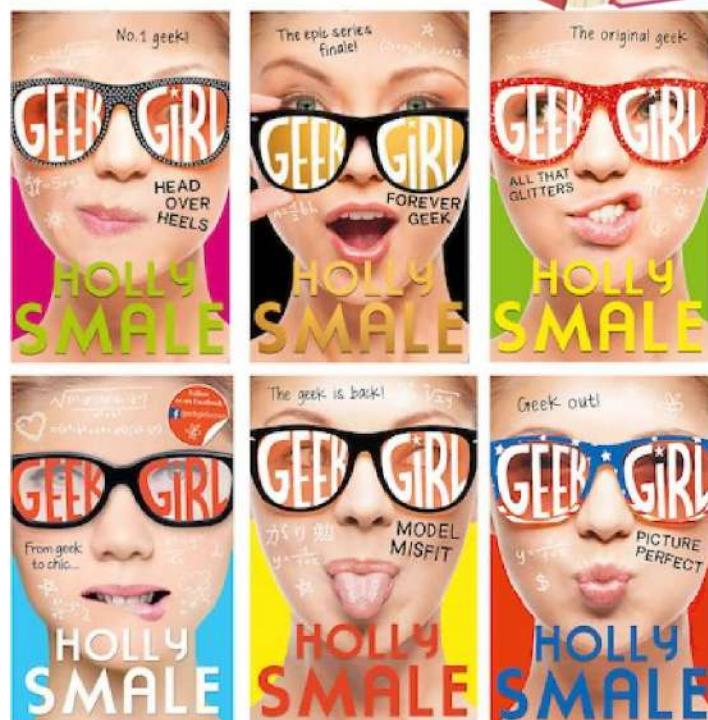


A FEW FAVOURITES: THINGS TO TRY THIS SUMMER



"Holly Smale is a very popular author, publishing eleven book series by age forty-one. I am not an often reader but when I do read, I lose myself in *Geek Girl*. Holly Smale is my favourite due to her detailed imagery throughout her books. I personally am a fan of her books and I recommend her books to new readers. I also love the *Tom Gates* books as they have perfectly illustrated pages. I also would recommend Micheal Morpurgo as his books have a lot of depth and are very unique. There are specific areas in Ysgol Eirias's library and reading room which are dedicated to these books: *Tom Gates*, *Geek Girl*, Michael Morpurgo and others, such as *Dork Diaries* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*."

-Katherine Bukari



"My favourite hobbies are knitting (my favourite), horse riding, crocheting, weaving, spinning, painting and going out on walks. I started knitting when I was ten and made lots of accessories like hats, scarves, blankets, fingerless gloves, toys, and bags. I started horse riding a couple of years ago. It is incredibly fun, and I have fallen off before and have been fallen on by a pony. I go to weekly knitting classes which are now mostly weaving and spinning yarn. I like to go on walks to pick flowers to put into vases for me and my Nan."

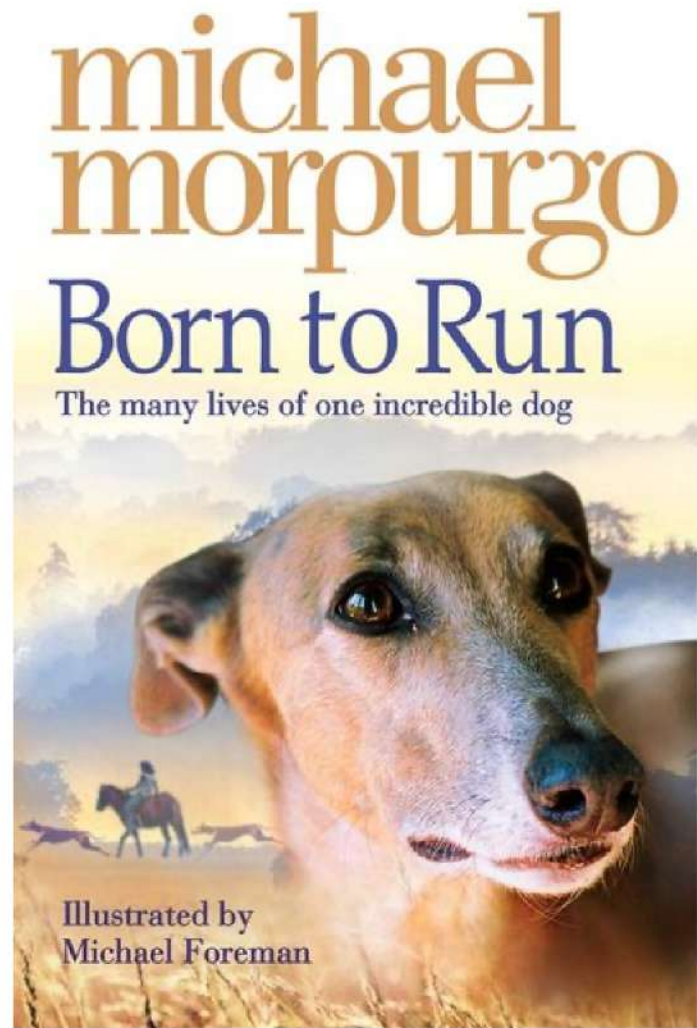
-Evelyn Jackman





"My favourite authors are J.R.R Tolkien and Michael Morpurgo. I loved *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* and have watched all the movies, apart from the new series that has just come out, but I do not really like it, which is odd. I have read a lot of Michael Morpurgo books, including my favourites: *Born to Run*, *Shadow*, *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*, *War Horse* and many more. *Born to Run* was my favourite because every time I went to stay at my mother's work, I would read it until I finished the whole book. It reminds me of my dad's old dog named Bruno, as he had such beautiful eyes."

-Evelyn Jackman



"My favourite lesson is Cooking as I love being able to have the opportunity to make things that I haven't ever had the chance to with my class. Cooking really helps grow a child's creativity. I have made crumble, sunset salad, flapjacks, chicken goujons and bara brith muffins. It was a fun, messy and educational moment for everyone in the class. I enjoyed eating all these snacks and meals during these lessons. I love working in pairs because it improves teamwork and social skills."

-Katherine Bukari



END OF TERM REFLECTION



As we approach the end of another academic year, it's time to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've undertaken together. As your 6-week holidays begin, let's celebrate the moments of growth, learning, and joy that we've experienced throughout this year.

Embracing Challenges: This year has undoubtedly presented its fair share of challenges. From adapting to new learning environments to navigating personal obstacles, you've shown immense resilience and determination. Embracing challenges is a crucial part of life, and you've demonstrated that even in the face of adversity, you can rise above and succeed.

Academic Progress: Take a moment to appreciate your academic progress. Remember the subjects that might have seemed difficult at first but gradually became more manageable? Recognize the effort you've put into your studies, the late-night study sessions, and the moments of understanding that made it all worthwhile. Celebrate the knowledge you've gained and the intellectual curiosity you've nurtured.

Personal Growth: Education isn't just about books and exams; it's about growing as individuals. Reflect on how you've evolved emotionally, socially, and personally. Have you become more confident, empathetic, or understanding? Have you developed new friendships, strengthened old ones, or learned to communicate more effectively? These aspects of personal growth are just as vital as academic achievements.

Lessons Learned: Throughout the year, you've encountered various lessons beyond the textbooks. Some of these might have come from your teachers, parents, or friends, while others were learned through your own experiences. Take a moment to ponder the most significant lessons you've gathered – they will serve as valuable guides in your future endeavours.

Gratitude: As you embark on your summer break, remember to express gratitude to those who have supported you along the way. Thank your teachers for their guidance and dedication, your parents for their love and encouragement, and your friends for being there through thick and thin. Gratitude nurtures a sense of humility and strengthens your connections with others.

Setting Goals for the Future: Use this time of reflection to set goals for the future. Where do you see yourself in the coming year? What academic and personal achievements do you want to pursue? Set realistic and attainable goals, and remember that progress is more important than perfection.

Balancing Rest and Fun: The summer holidays offer a much-needed break from the rigors of school life. Use this time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate your mind and body. Engage in activities that bring you joy and help you unwind, whether it's reading, exploring new hobbies, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying the outdoors. Balancing rest and fun will prepare you for the challenges that lie ahead.

As we bid farewell to this academic year, remember that your journey of growth and learning is an ongoing process. Celebrate your accomplishments, learn from your experiences, and look forward to the exciting opportunities that await you in the future.

Wishing you a rewarding and rejuvenating summer break!

SUMMER



EIRIAS STUDENT VOICE PUBLICITY TEAM



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Katherine Bukari
Evelyn Jackman

Hi! I'm Margaret McLean, the new Head of the Eirias Student Voice Publicity Team. This coming school year (2023-2024), I would like to get as many people involved in producing the Eirias Chronicle as possible, as well as reading it. If you're interested in writing for the Chronicle, please get in touch with Mr Nicholls at nichollsd15@hwbcymru.net or with me at mcleanm1@hwbcymru.net

**We hope to see you next
year and have a great
summer!**

