

Friday 12th September 2025

Student Success in Charity Fundraiser

Over the summer, one of our Year 11 students, Ed, completed a 600-mile cycle ride along the east coast of Ireland from the Giants Causeway in Northern Belfast to the Blarney Castle in County Cork for the Birmingham Irish Cycle Appeal (BICA). The BICA Team also got to visit The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and have afternoon tea at his residence Áras An Uachtaráin located in Phoenix Park, Dublin. Ed has raised a whopping £3000 so far, and this money will go towards an already staggering figure of £59,000 which will be shared between eleven different charities this year:

Matilda Baptise Fundraiser
The Brain Tumour Charity
Heartlands Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Ward
Sea Cadets
UHCW Parkinson's Research Clinical Trial
Marie Curie Hospice, Solihull
Edward's Trust
St Vincent de Paul
St Giles Trust
Cancer Fund for Children
Solas Cancer Support

What an incredible achievement by Ed and all involved. If you would like to contribute to this deserving fundraising event, please click this link: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/ed-alcorn>.



Attendance

At our school, we are proud to foster a culture where students recognise the value of excellent attendance and are encouraged to strive for it. Regular attendance plays a vital role in ensuring children feel that they belong and can achieve their full potential, with benefits including improved academic outcomes, stronger social development and greater readiness for future education and employment. Our excellent attendance last year led to us being commended within the top 10% of Family Fisher Trust (FFT) schools nationally, an achievement we are extremely proud of. We strongly believe that good attendance should be recognised and rewarded. While other schools have had to make cutbacks that may have impacted this area, we continue to invest heavily in an extensive rewards programme. Last year, rewards included:

- A chauffeur-driven limousine experience for eight students in a luxury Chrysler 'Baby Bentley' style limousine.
- Spot prize draws for £10 and £20 Amazon vouchers.
- Seasonal rewards that included Easter eggs and other chocolate treats.
- Muffins and doughnuts shared during form time.
- Key Stage 3 and 4 reward discos featuring a renowned DJ, that included a photobooth with an opportunity for unlimited free pictures.
- Two 'Cannondale Trail' mountain bikes (one for each Key Stage).
- Three sets of EarPods.
- Football tickets and other Head of Year rewards.
- Exclusive 'Elite' student events, including the whole school talent show.
- End-of-year rewards trips, such as to Drayton Manor.
- An 'Elite' trip to the Lakeside Outdoor Education Centre at Worcester University, where students enjoyed paddleboarding, kayaking, the Leap of Faith climbing tower and archery.

These opportunities reflect our commitment to rewarding students for their dedication and attendance, and we look forward to building on this success again this year.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information about attendance from Birmingham City Council:

[Good Attendance Matters](#)

September Safeguarding Newsletter

Every month we share with you our safeguarding newsletter, and this month our September issue has some great information on the importance of routines and how to establish these and about deepfakes. [Click here](#) to access this:

[Secondary September Spotlight on Safeguarding](#)

Early Close for Open Evening 9th October Reminder

This is advance notice that school will close early on Thursday 10th October to allow for preparation time for our Open Evening. There will be more information in the coming weeks about the time that your son will be released from school.

INSET Day Amendment Reminder

We had previously shared that school would be closed to students on Friday 26th September for INSET. However, due to the revised availability of an external provider, we have had to amend this date to **Friday 10th October**. On this date, following Open Evening, staff will be in school, but school will be closed to all students. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but regrettably this is beyond our control.

Recycled Uniform

We currently have a surplus of recycled school uniform available free of charge. This includes blazers, jumpers, shirts and trousers in a range of sizes. All items have been checked to ensure they are in good condition and ready for use, so we encourage families to take advantage of this opportunity, whether to help with the cost of uniform or to have spare items on hand. If you would like to access the uniform, please contact the school office for more details.

Year 7 Digital Safety Event

We will be holding a 'Parenting in the Digital World' event for parents of boys in Year 7 on 15th October. Please [click here](#) to find out more:

[Parenting in the Digital World](#)

Year 7 – Studybugs

We are pleased to announce that we have a secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us if your child is ill and unable to attend school. Please remember that as a school we do not operate a 48 hour return to school policy following an illness as many of you may have been used to at primary school. **Get the app or register now** (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Year 9 History Trip to Belgium

The History Department is pleased to announce we can once again hold our Belgium visit in June 2026. All Year 9 parents should have received an email with important information and links. Please check your emails for this.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 parents on Thursday 18th September at 5pm for the Year 11 information evening. This is a parent only event and all Year 11 parents are welcome. It is an opportunity to talk you through Year 11 and what you and your son can expect, including support and key dates throughout the year.

Elevate Education

Our Year 11 students will have their first support session with Elevate Education on Monday 22nd September. This is a great opportunity for students to be supported with their revision in preparation for their upcoming PPEs.

Elevate also offer parent webinars which are a great opportunity for parents to find out how they can best support their child through their GCSE journey. It is free for all of our parents to sign up to and engage in. The flyer and sign-up details can be found here

[Elevate Education Webinars Autumn Term 2025](#)

Year 11 PPEs

The Year 11 PPEs will take place in week commencing 20th October and the two weeks that follow half term. We are currently working on students' timetables and hope to share a draft version of this by the end of next week. To ensure that your son does his best in these important exams, he will need to begin his preparation in good time. Teachers will be advising students on what to revise in the next few days.



AGES 11-17

**SUNDAY
26TH
OCTOBER
11AM-3PM**

ROUTES FOR SUCCESS

CAREERS & BUSINESS FAIR

Discover careers and business ideas in a fun, hands-on way! Meet real professionals, explore new paths, and be inspired for your future.

EGBASTON HOTEL

53 Edgbaston Park Rd
Birmingham
B15 2RS



www.xcite-inspire.org

FREE

JOB

FAIR



Dates for your diary

Thursday 18th – Sunday 21st September – Barcelona Residential Visit

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd September – Paris Residential Visit

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th – KS3 Residential Visit

Monday 29th September – School Photographs

Tuesday 30th September – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Wednesday 01st October – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Friday 03rd October – GCSE Geography Fieldwork Visit

Thursday 09th October – Open Evening (students to finish early – Further details to follow)

Monday 13th October – Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Monday 27th – Friday 31st October – Half Term Holiday