



S Owen
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13th September 2019

Dear Parent,

It has been a good week. It has been incredibly busy and pupils appear to be taking it in their stride. No doubt some will be quite tired so a few early nights to bed will help things along.

We continually encourage personal reading. Please could you ensure that pupils have a reading book in their school bag for quiet moments, travel and down time. We also encourage children to read aloud at every possible opportunity too. Thank you with your support with this from home.

There is a new Lower School Breakfast Club, to help parents this year. There is the opportunity for parents to drop off their child from 7am; children will be looked after by a dedicated member of staff. Pupils will go to breakfast in the College Dining Hall. They will then be looked after until registration time. The cost is £5 per morning session but places need to be booked through the booking system by emailing breakfast@ellesmere.com.

Similarly, there is a change in routine for pupils staying after 5.30pm for official College activities eg. shooting club. After 5.30pm pupils will remain with a supervising member of staff in Lower School until supper time. Pupils will then go to their activity. Please inform your child's tutor or Mrs Leonard if your child attends an evening session and requires supervising.

It is important that tutors have details for each child regarding homeward travel arrangements. Please also contact Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary or the personal tutor should an arrangement change. Tutors will be contacting all parents within the first few weeks to inform of early progress and to touch base on any important details.

Please could parents provide a padlock and key to secure their child's personal locker. The clasp on the padlock should be of a decent length and fairly fine to go through the locker hub. Micro padlocks, like the ones on a suitcase, are too small.

Mrs Morgan, Assistant Head Pastoral, organises expeditions and activities for the Lower School children. Details are published in advance of the visits. It is worth noting that Year 7 pupils traditionally go on a residential stay to help with forming new friendship groups etc. This year, Year 7 will go to PGL Baschurch and a separate Parent Mail will be sent to Year 7 families with a reply slip to complete and return.

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Mrs Paul, Teacher of Music asked me to let parents know that Lower School offers a wide range of instrumental lessons (drum kit, woodwind instruments such as flute and saxophone, brass instruments, including trumpet and French horn, string instruments, such as violin, cello and guitar, piano and voice.) She put forward the notion there have been many studies showing that musical training can enhance verbal memory, spatial reasoning and literacy skills. Learning an instrument can also provide a huge sense of achievement and enjoyment. If your child would like to try learning to play a musical instrument or take singing lessons, please email rebecca.paul@ellesmere.com and she will arrange a taster lesson with the appropriate visiting music teacher.

Sport fixtures are starting and squad sessions began on Monday therefore, it is worth going through the College white calendar carefully regarding commitments. Please contact Mr Williams, Director of Sport with any questions. Please ensure that all games kit is named too as you can imagine the mix-ups that can take place with excited children in steamy and busy changing areas. Please also feel warmly welcome to come and support the College. There are refreshments after the home matches and this is a nice way to meet other parents and staff.

Mr Williams, the Director of Sport also asked me to mention that all fixture information and details for events can be found on the College Sports website.

The site can be accessed from the following links via FROG page too

<http://www.ellesmeresport.com/?id=309>

<https://www.ellesmere.com/the-schools/all/clubs-and-societies/sport/>

There is also an app that can be found by going online to socscms.com/login. Search for your school, log in as parent/pupil. Once you have downloaded the app and chosen the sports/team you can link it to your calendar.

Please feel comfortable contacting Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary should you have any questions in these early weeks of term.

Yours sincerely,

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