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Dear Parent,

It has all too quickly come to the last newsletter of this first half term. Pupils are finishing off topics in readiness for the half term break and will be issued a small amount of prep to do over the holiday. Details of this will be found in the School prep diary.

The lunchtime independent work room has been well used over the last few weeks. Pupils are beginning to manage their personal work schedules in order that they keep up with their busy week of activities. This is a skill that tutors have been encouraging during tutorial sessions and the prep diary is a vital tool to develop success in this area. Please feel free to add comments in the relevant weekly section to keep informal dialogue going with your child's tutor.

There are a number of lunchtime academic clinics that run to support pupils who have questions about their work. It is also possible for a pupil to book slots directly with their teachers to go over any work. The English Department encourage pupils to use the Accelerated Reader programme and My Maths is useful and can be used from home too. Obviously, it is extremely beneficial for all pupils to read for pleasure at some point every day.

Thank you so much to parents for bringing pupils in to school to help with Open Day. It was a very busy day and all of the support was appreciated by the Headmaster and indeed the teachers in Lower School. There were some lovely comments regarding our pupils. We received a number of emails from people who were so impressed, they took the time to contact us after the event.

Mr Atherton has been thrilled with the response of entries to the Languages Competition. Pupils were challenged to produce an information sheet to celebrate the range of languages used on the planet and to include interesting facts. The results of the competition were announced in Assembly on Monday morning.

This is another note of information for the Music Tea which will take place in the Lower School Hall at 4.30pm-5.10pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Please feel welcome to come and listen to pupils play and enjoy refreshments. It will be the first experience playing to an audience for many pupils.

Expeditions are next week. Over the last few weeks a grid of details has been attached to the newsletter to help with the organisation. It is important to carefully check the clothing requirements for each day for your child. Packed food will be provided throughout and there are guidelines for casual spending money, to help parents prepare.

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The Year 7 pupils are getting very excited about their residential stay. Electronic devices are not allowed on this trip so please can ipads/iwatches etc stay at home. Please ensure that all medication is clearly named and a conversation has been had with a member of staff to ensure all medical instructions are clear prior to departure on Wednesday. There is a telephone in the PGL centre for emergencies and the teachers are contactable from School by mobile via Mrs Leonard. Any pupil mobile that is really deemed essential, is collected in by the members of staff on the trip. This is to help pupils focus on developing independence and to foster the notion of the merits outdoor education. Please seek clarification from Mrs Leonard should you require it.

Pupils will be ready for a rest at half term, the new pupils especially, as they have coped very well with a much longer School day in some cases. After half term, it will be getting dark at coach departure/home collection time. We usually keep all pupils under the archway and ask that parents come to collect them and escort them to their family car. The College duty staff chaperone the children safely to their coach. We try to avoid pupils crossing the car park alone.

Please would families also note the importance of letting Mrs Leonard know if the regular arrangement for homeward travel changes in any way. In addition, if a child is collected early, please sign out with Mrs Leonard.

It has been a very busy but very good, first part of the term for Lower School.

Have a lovely half term week when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,