



S Owen
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18th January 2019

Dear Parent,

It is a good time to concentrate on getting back to basics at the beginning of the New Year. The first term is always a time for settling and experiencing all of the new opportunities. This term I will be speaking to the pupils about getting back to doing things simply, but well. Focus will be placed on punctuality and personal organisation to ensure that the absolute best is achieved in each lesson. I would appreciate it if parents could support this by checking and signing prep diaries at home too.

Assessment week is fast approaching in the week commencing 28th January. It would greatly assist the setting and completion of these assessments if it were possible that dental/medical appointments could be arranged for other times.

Just for information and interest, the College Entrance Examination morning is on Saturday 2nd February. Further details regarding information for families seeking a place at the College, can be obtained from the Registrar in the Admissions Office registrar@ellesmere.com.

Year 8 Parents' Meeting is on Friday 8th February. This takes place in Big School. Prior to the Parents' Meeting there is a presentation by Middle School personnel regarding the transition from Year 8 to Year 9 to which pupils and parents are invited. There will be the opportunity to meet the Middle School staff and hear information from Mrs Pritt-Roberts (Deputy Head Academic) and Dr Chatterjee (Deputy Head Pastoral) regarding curriculum and Middle School life. Please would parents sign and return the slip at the end of this mail to indicate attendance at this event.

Thank you to all those parents who attended the E-safety presentation by PC Crump this week. I do hope parents found it informative. It may be wise to check the internet activity of your child at home. There are regular reminders for pupils in School about the safe and sensible use of electronic communication. We acknowledge the increased communication benefit that internet and social websites can offer. However, in some cases they can cause more problems than they actually solve, especially for younger children. It is also a useful fact to know that social websites such as Facebook have an age restriction of 13 years and WhatsApp is 16 years. People younger than that have to falsify their date of birth to have access to their own page. For those pupils older than 13 years it is worth mentioning that it is against the School rules to take camera shots or footage whilst in School without permission, for many obvious reasons.

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Well done to Francine Gilmore who competed in the National Pistol Shooting Finals this week. She shot extremely well but didn't secure a top 3 place this year. However, she is determined to improve her score next year. That's the spirit! She has fared extremely well in this national competition.

Also our best wishes are extended to Katie Hale who has recently set off to France to swim in the Swim England Gala as part of the national talent development programme. Hopefully, the dry weather will stay with us for the weekend. The Year 7 and 8 boys' teams have football fixtures against Oldham Hulme School and the girls face Oswestry School in Netball; good luck to them and play well!
We also hope that the swimmers perform well at the forthcoming galas over the next few weekends.

Mr Williams, Director of Sport, reminds all pupils to have warm clothing for PE/Games lessons and training at this time of year. Full tracksuits are essential and hats and gloves certainly help on occasions too. It is also important that each child has a warm outdoor coat in School.

The Parents' Society Burns Night Supper and Ceildh is on Saturday 26th January. Many of the Lower School teachers are looking forward to the evening; donning the tartan and sampling a 'wee dram' from the highlands perhaps!

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Please return to Lower School office

Name of pupil.....

We shall be attending the Year 8 to Year 9 presentation followed by the Parents' Meeting on Friday 8th February

We will unfortunately not be able to attend

Signed.....