



S Owen
Head of Lower School
01691 626511
Email: sharon.owen@ellesmere.com

4th March 2022

Dear Parent,

The children came back refreshed and ready for another half term. I do hope it was a nice time for families.

There has been evidence of fine prep work completed over the holiday. It is always a treat to hear the stories of what the pupils have been doing over their break.

It is worth a note to remind the families of Year 8 pupils that Mrs Pritt-Roberts has sent curriculum option choices home. Please could these choices be returned as soon as possible. She explained that although it is important to think carefully about one's choices at this stage, it is important not to worry if there are minor changes as time progresses to the new September term.

There has been a great deal of excitement this week from an arts and music perspective. The High School Musical rehearsals are forging ahead and it promises to be a super event. The Oswestry Music Festival is now back on track and we have had many Lower School pupils entered in a wide number of sections. We look forward to hearing results over the weekend. As you will imagine, music has been spilling out of classrooms and the hall as children have last minute checks. It feels like every spare corner of Lower School has a group or individual in it, singing, dancing and generally perfecting their pieces for the main event.

It has been good to see so many sporting fixtures going ahead, even though the weather has been very mixed of late. It is wonderful that we have so many children having the chance to represent school in all of these events. The U12 girls won the U12 North Shropshire Netball Tournament on Tuesday, well done to them! Due to a large number of girls in Year 7 we were able to enter two teams into this tournament in order that everyone could play. Mrs Cox reported that it was a really enjoyable afternoon. It is also good to have tournaments hosted in school once again.

Shooting continues to grow in popularity and we have a large number of children taking the opportunity to develop a new skill. Should your child wish to try shooting, please contact Mr Rylands directly by email. He will be able to guide families regarding the best training times for your child tom.rylands@ellesmere.com.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

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The swimmers and tennis players have also continued with their training and performances go from strength to strength. They have a busy period ahead as the season progresses onwards. Next Wednesday, 9th March there will be Sports Teams photographs, children involved need to remember to bring their correct, clean kits.

There is a non-uniform day next Friday March 11th. All donations of £2 go towards the support of the MacMillan Nurses charity. Pupils may dispense with uniform and wear clothes of their choosing. We simply ask that all clothing is suitable for a regular school day, footwear is sensible and the usual school rules apply regarding hair, makeup and jewellery.

Once again, Dr Chatterjee has asked Heads of Section and House Masters/Mistresses to remind parents that it is sensible to regularly check your child's electronic communication/activity at home. It is good for children to know that images and messages stored in such places need to be suitable for their age and maturation. Pupils cannot use their mobile telephones in Lower School without permission and they are indeed stored away safely during the working School day. It is good that young people are gently educated in the sensible use of such devices and frequent checking helps to keep them safe.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely