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4th February 2022

Dear Parent,

The weeks are racing by. The Lower School House Cross Country took place yesterday, there was a lovely atmosphere. The Senior School event took place this week too. All in all, it was a celebration of superb effort and good spirit!

The first session of the Year 8 Engineering Challenge took place on Wednesday. The IET representative set a tough brief to satisfy. Pupils were challenged to design and make a prototype device to enhance the wellbeing of either a child or the family of the child whilst they are in hospital. The competing teams produced some innovative ideas, which had to include working electronic circuitry. The top score was achieved by a team who designed a child friendly wellbeing room complete with sensory lighting, music and pressure-controlled temperature regulators. The aim of the day is to open up enthusiasm for exploring careers and opportunities for forward thinking individuals in the wide field of engineering. We certainly have many pupils who exhibit this.

The Lower School swimmers are performing exceptionally well at the moment. Their training appears to be paying off with improved personal best times across all disciplines. Well done!

The Year 7 Parents' meeting is Monday 7th February. Parents have been booking in with personal tutors who will give feedback from all subject teachers in an on-line Teams situation. The Year 6 Parents' meeting is on Monday 14th February following a similar format.

Pupils have been encouraged to increase their personal reading and each pupil should carry a reading book in their School bag. Ms Rogers is looking at extending the enrichment programme even further and I will circulate information when it comes through.

The Lower School secretaries keep a signing out sheet in the Lower School office. Please would parents remember to sign out their child when taking them out of School early for dental appointments etc. In addition, please would parents ring the Lower School office if they visit the College during the School day and they will come out to meet you. This is important for safeguarding legislation. The number to call is 01691 626511.

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We like to focus on healthy eating in Lower School and really do discourage children from bringing sweets into school. It is not only healthier, but also discourages unwanted squabbling. Tuck shop is once a week as a treat and a maximum of £1 is advised. Fruit is always available to top up if a child feels hungry.

I would like to add a polite reminder for families to check on/monitor the online mobile telephone communications that their child is involved with from home. As you will know, we do not have mobile phone use in Lower School, as they are devices that often cause more problems than they solve, with immature children working their way socially through a complex world. Therefore, essentially the home has responsibility for use. Many social media apps are guided to over 13-year-old use and the College advise, that even Year 8 pupils should not be using those versions of apps until Middle School. We do explain carefully that inappropriate use and situations that could cause upset for others, could possibly become a matter for the police. Therefore, communications should remain kind in all respects.

Have a nice weekend and hopefully the weather will stay fine for fixtures to go ahead!

Yours sincerely