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Dear Parent,

Assessment week appears to have gone well. There has been a studious atmosphere from all age groups. We have explained carefully to the pupils that the results of these tests are for benchmarking purposes and it is good to be pleased regarding the things that have gone well. However, more importantly pupils need perseverance to address any weaker areas that may have been highlighted. This is an important lesson to learn, that with practise, things will improve!

Perseverance was also the theme of the assembly on Monday. Florence Sweeney (Year 7) has performed a lovely piece of music on the piano for her music examination. To get to that level has certainly taken practice and perseverance. A number of pupils are achieving County playing status too, which also requires dedication to improve. The main point being made is that academia is no different and requires the same determined approach to reflect, seek help from others and work hard.

Year 5 and Year 6 have completed the PMC Mathematics Challenge this week. For the first time, this has been completed online and results will be in next week with Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates awarded in assembly.

There has been a focus on independent reading too. Pupils are encouraged to read each day. The Accelerated Reader Programme, in class, supports this quest and pupils are asked to read each evening at home. We would like to thank our parents for supporting with this valuable and enjoyable skill that pays enormous dividend and feeds into every academic lesson in school.

The second Period Grades for the term will be published on Friday 27th November via the Parent Portal. There will be end of term reports for pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8. These are usually processed and arrive during the first part of the Christmas holiday via the Parent Portal too.

It is important for parents to feel comfortable contacting the personal tutor regarding any academic question. Should a child have to remain home for any reason, education can continue online if the child is well enough. Simply contact and report the absence to Mrs Leonard and tutor as normal, but also the personal tutor will be able to give guidance regarding connecting to tutor time and curricular lessons online.

The Year 7 pupils have enjoyed a series of badminton events recently. The mixed pairs competition was very close but Brownlow were placed 1st, 2nd were Phillips and Heywood were placed 3rd. The individual events will follow leading up to the Christmas break.

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Dare I mention the Christmas festivities at this point? KS2 will have the annual 'Lighting of the Christmas Tree' event on Thursday 26th November. Sadly, this year it has to be an in-house event, just for the pupils. We really do look forward to, hopefully, such events being run as normal next year and our parents joining in too. It should be a fun event for the children.

Also looking ahead, even though much of the festive revelry has been thwarted this year, our Lower School Christmas lunch will more than likely go ahead, with a few tweaks to seating, etc on Friday 4th December, the last Friday of the Michaelmas term. We are proposing to challenge the children to make a party hat and prizes can be won for the most creative offerings. It's all done in fun! Also, on that day pupils in College can wear a Christmas jumper in place of their uniform jumper, for a small monetary donation. We will send all donations to the Shelter charity.

It is worth noting the **earlier** College finish time for Friday 4th December. College transport will depart one hour earlier than normal with College finishing at **4.30pm**.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely