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19th November 2021

Dear Parent,

Parents may be aware that House Points and Commendations are used by academic staff to reward good work standards and effort throughout the term. Each week there is a House Point tally, with the House Cup awarded to the top House. The competition this term has been exceptionally close, with each of the three Houses taking it in turn to hold 'the cup'. Brownlow House won last week, by a narrow margin, Phillips and Hayward are working hard. Brownlow and Hayward are determined that Phillips House does not hold onto the cup at the end of term!

In connection to this, the Houses are competing to be 'Top House' in the Lower School House Singing Competition. Pupils have worked tirelessly to produce their best performances. There is a House performed song and a part song. The three lead House staff would all love the accolade of 'Top House', the competitive edge is not just seen in the pupils! This competition gives Lower School pupils a taste of the Senior House Singing Event, which is a showcase event in the Ellesmere College calendar.

It is an Exeat weekend, so no sports fixtures will take place. However, for information, all details are on the College website regarding each sporting fixture. We ask that parents/pupils let Sport Coaches know if a child is unavailable for any match, preferably the week before if possible, so that other children may be selected to play and also that we can field our most competitive teams.

Next week is assessment week. Pupils will have a series of short assessments in subject areas to check on progress. The outcome will help teaching staff with target setting. The grade also helps, along with other performance indicators, towards formulating the second period grade of the term which follows in Week 13. We also have Team photographs on Wednesday 24th November, could pupils ensure they have their clean sports kit with them. On Thursday 25th November we have the Lower School photograph, clean school jumpers are a must and it would be a practical idea to have 'play shoes' for the children as previously mentioned to keep their school shoes clean.

Thursday 2nd December at 4.30pm, is the lighting of the Lower School Christmas tree. We ask the youngest boy and girl in Lower School to press the light switch and the Choir sing carols. This is a KS2 event and sadly, due to Covid restrictions it is only the children that may be present this year.

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The Lower School Pantomime trip is on Wednesday 1st December, more details will follow soon. It is during a School afternoon and pupils will be wearing uniform, so arrangements should be fairly straightforward. Pupils should be back to Lower School in time for College transport. There will be an option for Shrewsbury area pupils to be collected from the venue after the performance. Please keep this in mind to speak to Tutors nearer the time so that this can be arranged.

There are some very nice haircuts at the moment and pupils are looking smart in uniform. Please note the rule that hair should not be extreme in style. Gradings should not be too short/shaved in areas and there shouldn't be steps/cuts, etc. into styles. As you can imagine, with any issue regarding individuality there are always grey areas of interpretation. I am not draconian at all, I simply like to keep things simple and sensible in line with the College rules.

On a daily organization note, please could parents let Mrs Lowe/Mrs Arrowsmith (Lower School Secretaries) know of any changes to home travel arrangements for pupil, an email is fine with the CC to the Tutor. Tutor time is quite tight in the mornings and therefore Mrs Lowe/Mrs Arrowsmith can more easily co-ordinate any action from a central source.

It is also worth noting that the Lower School closes for cleaning shortly after School transport departs at 5.30pm. Pupils should not be remaining for long periods waiting to be collected from the car park as there is no supervision. Please inform College if you are going to be late, so that arrangements can be made for the safety of your child.

It is coming towards a very busy period. Please contact Mrs Lowe/Mrs Arrowsmith if clarity about any event is required.

Finally, a gentle reminder please could all families ensure that each child has a water bottle and especially important, a face mask (Years 7 and 8).

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely