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1st October 2021

Dear Parent,

It has been good to hear that Lower School pupils are working hard in lessons at the moment and everyone appears to be enjoying school life and routines. Teachers have recently prepared snapshot grades to identify effort put in during these early weeks and it is hoped that pupils can then build upon these grades.

Assessment Week takes place next week and all subject areas will run short tests to check learning. These tests, although important, should not be a cause for anxiety for the pupils and we expect that pupils will simply check over the work covered so far this term. The results will form the basis of future improvement and act as a benchmarking process for the teachers. Mr Dilks, Assistant Head Academic and Mrs Phillips, KS2 Academic Co-ordinator will then review progress and consider future targets.

Please note that there is a whole school non-uniform day planned for Friday 8th October. Pupils may wear their own home clothes on that day and a £2 donation is given to support a charity event. This time the charity identified is Young Mental Health Charity. We guide the pupils to be sensible in their choices of clothing, as we still have to function as a normal academic day and rules regarding hair and jewellery still apply. It is also worth keeping sensible footwear, as we have large grounds to negotiate plus we have many stairs.

It is worth mentioning the situation regarding healthy eating at the College. We encourage the pupils to make healthy choices at lunchtime and add variety to their diets. Similarly, we encourage the pupils to drink lots of water through the day. Each year group has tuck shop once per week and we suggest a spending limit of £1 to try to avoid 'sugar rush' during lessons. At break and lunch there is a fully stocked fruit trolley available for the pupils to select fruit to eat. At tea break, there is a piece of tea to eat which will keep each pupil going until supper time. No one should need to bring in their own snack in the day. Should we be able to support your child in any particular way from a dietary perspective, please feel comfortable contacting your child's tutor or Sister.

Following on from above, it has been noted that a few pupils are not bringing a personal water bottle into school. We obviously will provide a cup when necessary, but it can be time consuming and the best option is for everyone to have their own named bottle.

We have had a fair amount of lost property growing in the lost property area and much of it is not named. Please can you ensure that your child's name is somewhere on each item of equipment /clothing/shoes and we can reunite the lost item more quickly to its owner. It is amazing some of the items that we find in there!

Thank you for returning the reply slips, to indicate that your child can help on Open Day, which is on Saturday 9th October from 1.00pm–4.00pm. We would particularly like help from the older children in Years 7 and 8 if possible. Open Day is going to be very busy this year and our pupils are the greatest asset that we have. It is a long period of time for our young pupils, therefore it will still be appreciated if a pupil can help for a short part of that time. The reply slip was on the bottom of the newsletter from last week, or simply email the Lower School Secretary with your arrangement please.

Last Friday, we wished Mrs Leonard every success and happiness in her quest to train to be a teacher. We have appointed two Secretaries to cover the week. Mrs Sharon Lowe will cover Lower School office from Monday until Wednesday lunch time and Mrs Alison Arrowsmith will take over the reins from Wednesday afternoon to Friday evening. We are really looking forward to working with our two new team members!

Have a good exeat weekend.

Yours sincerely,



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