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Dear Parent,

There are hints of gold on the trees, as I put together the newsletter this week. Autumn is on its way. The grounds here at College are particularly stunning. With this in mind, it is a good time to remind families that pupils will need a change of footwear for play/break time. Also, a rainproof outdoor coat in a dark colour is required for travel between buildings etc. during the day.

As the nights draw in, I am also mindful to mention the coach park at the end of the College day. As we lose the light and visibility becomes difficult, we keep children under the archway of Lower School and ask that KS2 parents walk over to collect their child. With additional thoughts of safety, we also ask that vehicles do not come early and park up please and that traffic moves at a crawling pace too.

The pupils appear to have taken assessment week in their stride. For pupils new to the school it can appear a daunting week at first. We simply use the outcome of each short curriculum test as a benchmark to set targets. It also is a gentle way of preparing pupils for the world of formal assessment. Mr Dilks, KS3 Assistant Head Academic and Mrs Phillips, Curriculum Lead KS2 can then get an overview to extend individuals further, linking with individual Heads of Department and teachers.

There was much excitement around today on non-uniform day. The £2 donations will go towards the child mental health charity linked with the College. Thank you to families for guiding the children with their sensible clothing choices.

You will have possibly picked up that the Headmaster has been guided to cancel Open Day. Over the last couple of weeks, there has been a rise in Covid infections in Shropshire and cases in the local area of Ellesmere have risen sharply. The College has been contacted by Public Health England who have advised us that as a precautionary move to the rising case numbers, to postpone any large-scale events which will involve crowds in any enclosed spaces. A large number of families offered to help this Saturday and pupils were going to act as guides. Thank you so much for your continued support through these difficult times, it is always very much appreciated.

It has been good to have fixtures this term and the pupils have enjoyed getting back to playing competitive sport. The under 11 boys travelled to Terra Nova on Wednesday and won the plate competition. Well played boys! Weekend sport has been good too. This week there are fixtures for both hockey and rugby and details will be put on the College sport portal.

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The swimmers continue to train hard, the shooters, tennis players and horse riders are taking part in a number of competitions too. Well done to Nathaniel Clewlow Year 8 on his recent achievement of black belt in karate!

We are now up to speed with our full complement of Lower School secretarial cover. Mrs Arrowsmith started this Wednesday and takes over the baton mid-week from Mrs Lowe who covers the start of the week. Please feel comfortable contacting Lower School to help with any query that you may have and the direct number is 01691 626511 or alternatively pop an e mail to lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com. Similarly, remember that the tutor can be your first point of contact too!

We also welcome a new teacher to the College. Mrs Pearce is a tutor and teacher in KS2. We have enjoyed having Mrs Pearce start this week.

Have a good weekend and we hope the weather stays fair!

Yours sincerely