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27th September 2019

Dear Parent,

It is good to see that many pupils are already accruing house points and commendations for good work in many subjects. There is a positive work ethic establishing with the pupils generally and obviously, we are keen to encourage this. Tutors are continuing to encourage the older pupils to keep detailed notes of prep in their prep diary. There is a section for parents to sign too. This enables both home and School to keep a check on organisation.

Two extension competitions were announced in Assembly on Monday. They are open to all Lower School pupils. These competitions aim to stretch and challenge pupils and enrich their learning. The first challenge is a European language challenge. The work was explained to pupils in detail by Mr Atherton and entries are expected by Monday of next week. The second challenge was set by Mrs Morgan, Assistant Head Pastoral. Pupils are challenged to write a prose, take photographs, draw pictures, compile poems or create art structures based on the theme 'animals'. Pupils have until after half term to complete the work and we hopefully, will display the entries in the Lower Hall for all to see.

The Harvest Service is next week and the produce will be distributed to local centres over the weekend. May I express thanks to parents for their kind donations of produce.

Mrs Paul has asked me to draw attention to the concert on 4th October in Big School hall starting at 7pm. Lower School Choir and instrumentalists will all be involved along with older students from Ellesmere College, the Choral Society and visiting performers from Prestfelde School in Shrewsbury. Rehearsals will take place during the afternoon and pupils involved will stay and have supper together before the concert starts. The proceeds of the concert are for charity so please come and support the pupils at this fantastic event. Tickets can be booked via https://www.ellesmere.com/whats-on-form

Please may I remind parents that pupils should not bring expensive personal belongings into School. Mobile telephones are not essential, Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary, is available to take messages or to contact home should the need arise. However, the School does take a sensible view to the possession of mobile telephones and if deemed necessary, they should be switched off during the School day and locked in the locker areas. Obviously, they may then be switched on at home time to assist with travel arrangements.

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It was a pleasure to congratulate a four rider strong team at the recent NSEA show jumping event held at Beaverhall Equestrian Centre. All team members jumped well to take 4th place in the 80cm class. This qualifies for the Plate Championships at Keysoe Equestrian Centre in November. Imogen and Bella Spencer-Blow joined two Upper School riders to form the Ellesmere College team. Imogen was individually placed 3rd in the 1m class. This qualifies her for the main championships at Addington Manor in October. There are two full days of competing at Southview Equestrian Centre next weekend. The events include dressage, jumping with style and show jumping. There are 11 students competing including, Imogen, Bella, Jake Stockton and Meg Griffiths from Lower School. We wish them well!

On a School fixtures note, Mr Williams, Director of Sport, has asked me to mention that it is expected that pupils are available to represent the School if selected in any of the teams. Obviously, there may be individual situations or circumstances that arise to prevent a pupil representing the School on a particular weekend. It would be appreciated if parental contact could be made with the coach in good time (week prior) to ensure that teams/coaches can prepare well for each fixture. Well done to the U12 and U13 rugby teams who played last weekend. Both teams won by comfortable margins.

The Book Fair will run from Monday 30th September to Thursday 3rd October in School. Pupils are encouraged to read extensively. Pupils use the library weekly, but the Book Fair may give the opportunity for pupils to view new literature and purchase an item should they wish to. We have included a reply slip to help with 'spend guidance' for individual pupils, should permission be given to purchase a book.

Expeditions are fast approaching. Year 7 pupils are travelling to PGL Baschurch, for a three-day stay. The dates are Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th October. A separate letter will follow this newsletter to outline kit lists and explain recent details to satisfy any concerns that were raised. All other Lower School pupils have their expeditions on Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th October. Mrs Morgan will post a grid shortly to explain kit requirements etc. for those expeditions.

We hope that you have been enjoying our formative stages of tweeting and twittering Lower School news! This has been planned to go out once per week following a weekend.

Have a good exeat when it arrives.

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