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Dear Parent,

The end of term is fast approaching and we have come to the last newsletter for 2021.

It's been a good week weather-wise and pupils have really enjoyed playing out in the sunshine. A number of away fixtures had to be postponed, but this has not detracted from the internal competitions in sport that have taken place.

It has been a very strange academic year and everyone has faced challenges along the way. It is good to see that the atmosphere and routines in Lower School have more or less got into a positive new normal and pupils have quickly adapted and got back on track. It has been a pleasure to see the children happy in their learning.

There are a few extra activities taking place next week. Unfortunately, we are still not in the position to open up to parents/visitors/spectators yet. On Monday, the KS2 children will have the 'Otter Swim Race Challenges'. With this in mind, please could all KS2 pupils have their full swim kit plus towels in School on Monday, (Key Stage 2 are Years 3, 4, 5, 6 children).

The final of the Lower School Chess championship will also be held on Monday. Chess is a fiercely contested activity in Lower School and the term-long rounds will finally reach their pinnacle on Monday as we crown the Grand Champion for 2021. May I thank Mr Dilks and Mr Atherton for their motivation and skilled guidance this year.

The 6th Form have been raising money for charity. The 'Ice Bath Dunk' of an Upper School Prefect is part of the fund-raising activity and pupils in Lower School will see our former Lower School Head Boy, Daniel Cooper, take his Ice Bath Challenge next Wednesday. It's all in fun to raise a little money for a good cause!

On Wednesday the 30th June, the Year 8 pupils will be involved in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) engineering day. They will be working in small engineering teams to design, build and pitch a prototype idea generated upon a theme. The theme will be disclosed on the day. It's usually an insightful experience. We often see a very different skill set emerging from the pupils. It is amazing how innovative pupils can be when given a brief, resources and a time frame to work in. These challenges are very close simulations to the actual world of work and business.

Following closely on the heels of this STEM day, at 4pm is the Year 8 BBQ. By popular request, Mr Dilks has organised a fun football tournament. He has a few surprise 'tricks up his sleeve' too! We are trying to build a few memories for the pupils to take with them as they move into Middle School.

We have Sports Day on Thursday 1st July. The pupils from both Key Stage 2 and 3 will take part in House competitions in a range of sporting activities. Mr Williams will collate the results for the Last Assembly for the pupils on Friday afternoon. There will be athletic events and as usual we will be looking for the Victor and Victrix Ludorum athletes for 2021.

We are hopeful that the New Pupil Sunday Tea will take place before the start of the new term and details will emerge through the Summer break, once we are aware of national directives. Pupils in Year 8 moving to Year 9 will then have a chance to go to their new House in Middle School, before the rest of School commences. All general curriculum information regarding the new term is shared at the end of the Summer break and at the start of the new term. As you will appreciate, we will be using the Summer break to organise things and it is a constantly changing picture at the moment.

Please note that the College finishes and transport will depart at 4.30pm on the last Friday of term. This means that all coach stop pick-up times are 1 hour earlier.

On a final note, I would like to wish all of the Lower School families a good summer. One hopes that September will bring greater 'normality' and fewer worries regarding infection. Communications will now cease to come directly from Lower School and families will be updated on any developments and arrangements by the Headmaster and Deputies, this keeps communication pathways clear for parents.

Have a lovely summer.

Kind wishes,



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