



S Owen
Head of Lower School
01691 626511
Email: sharon.owen@ellesmere.com

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Dear Parent,

It is good to be back after the Easter break and there is a lovely atmosphere in Lower School. The pupils have quickly settled in class and appear happy at play/break too. Long may this last! The Headmaster has deemed the weather good enough for 'Summer Uniform' rules to be in place at the College. In simple terms for Lower School, this means that pupils may choose not to wear their jumper during the day. They will require them for Chapel Services and Assembly, therefore it is essential that they are still worn to School in the mornings.

Chapel services have started again for the term. We enjoyed a whole of Lower School service on Wednesday. Communion Club is well attended and new members are welcome. Pupils should talk to their form tutor who will advise on the time of the sessions.

Mrs Waddams, Head of Geography shared that she has been thrilled with the work that Year 7 pupils have put into creating their volcano models. She has been working through 'eruption demonstrations' and in her words, they have been wonderful this year. She will be awarding prizes soon. Thank you to our patient parents too, who may have lived through and survived the model making creations at home. I am sure that many kitchen areas have had disruption whilst the models have been created. There is great excitement when they erupt with expanding foam/lava in lessons!

It has been positive to welcome a large number of new pupils this term. I am confident that our current pupils will help them through the early weeks of routine and offer a friendly, helping hand should they need it.

Cricket nets have been taking place each lunchtime. It is amazing to see the size of cricket bags! Please, would families ensure that all items of kit and equipment are clearly named so that lost items can be quickly returned to their respective owners.

As a family, it is worth going through the white College Calendar regarding forthcoming fixtures. As you will imagine, it is important for the coaching staff to be fully prepared on each occasion. It is an expectation that if selected, a pupil should be available to attend and represent the College. The Headmaster also understands that family time can cause clashes from time to time. Please could families liaise with coaching staff early, should something cross over a fixed event in the Calendar.

Still on an absence note, contact with the Headmaster should be made if College absence is sought for three days or more. I can sanction any essential absence for fewer periods of time.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

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It has been good to see pupils looking smart in their uniform. Dr Chatterjee has insisted that haircuts and styles follow the College rules. Please could styles return to a sensible, above the collar length. Long hair must be tied back. Fringe lengths should allow a pupil to function without obscuring their face and no extreme styles with steps and shaves will be allowed. The current fashion of a 'shaved in' parting for boys should not really be evident.

With rules in mind, it is worth mentioning that mobile telephones must be locked away in a pupil's personal locker at the start of the School day. It is recommended that families regularly check the use of apps that their child is accessing too. Many social media apps are for use by children aged 16 years and over. We find that problems arise when pupils are given permission to use them too early and they are not mature enough to handle the possible miscommunications/inappropriate conversations that may arise on such platforms.

We try to encourage healthy eating at the College and we certainly have healthy and fit children. With this in mind we limit tuck shop to one visit per week and cap the spending amount at £1.

In week three, Mr Crawford is holding the Year 8 House General Knowledge quiz. It is usually a fiercely fought affair. This year it will take place in the Arts Centre, at a suitable social distance. It is building a great deal of excitement already! As you may recall, Mr Crawford represented Oxford University on a recent University Challenge programme. His questions are usually quite testing!

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely