



S Owen
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7th May 2021

Dear Parent,

The weeks are racing by, this demonstrates how busy the College is at the moment. Sadly, the weather has been a bit hit and miss this week and the rain has forced some outdoor sessions, inside. A few children were very wet walking between lessons on Wednesday morning. It is prudent to still pack a waterproof coat for School until the weather becomes more reliably dry.

It is assessment week next week. Pupils should sensibly prepare for the assessment tests which will form the basis for the first Period Grade of the term. These snapshot tests are used for internal benchmarking purposes by the teachers. A grade 3 for effort is perfectly satisfactory, with a child having completed all the work that has been set. Anything higher is obviously showing that pupils are extending and putting effort into their work above and beyond what was set. Pupils are encouraged to be aspirational. We celebrate hard work and determination and encourage individuals to be proud when they work hard and achieve the next step.

With focus still on an academic note, we encourage individual reading. There are many occasions within the week where pupils are asked to read a book of their personal choice. With this in mind it is important that each child has a personal reading book to hand. It is also beneficial for a pupil to read at home as much as possible and we value parental support with this. Mr Dilks, the Assistant Head Academic for KS3 will be setting STAR reader tests with pupils over the course of the term in order to track reading ability and to encourage progression.

The work room has been busy during the wet lunchtime and breaktimes this week, pupils may sign in to the work room during these times. This is to encourage ownership of hitting personal work deadlines and it also helps children to keep on top of work should they choose to take part in an activity at a prep time. It aims to help time management, a valuable life skill.

A number of Counties have been holding County trials across a number of sports over the past few weeks and I have reported success when it has been shared with me. Well done to Ewan Nicholson, Hugh Cornwell and Ewan Skillicorn, further pupils with County Cricket selection. Adam and Thomas Jacques have also received County Cricket call up along with U14 Rugby selection at Sale Sharks Academy and they also play County Tennis at under 14 level. I am pleased to also report that these boys keep on top of academic commitments too. Exceptionally well done!

I have also been notified that Alex Popplewell, Finn Leonard and Henry Dawson have been selected for the North of England U13 Hockey squad too. I enjoy sharing good news when I hear of it!

There have been a good number of prospective pupils visiting the school. I would like to also say well done to those pupils who have looked after them. We truly do have thoughtful and supportive children in the Lower School Community.

Mrs Paul is looking forward to Lower School choir being able to sing again together. I will report the developments of arrangements for the choir etc over the forthcoming weeks. I believe there are to be a few 'warm up' activities too!

The Duke of Edinburgh Art Competition is still running. There have been some lovely entries so far, pupils have until half term to submit them.

Have a good weekend when it arrives. I hope we have a spell of good weather to allow the cricket matches to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Owen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'O'.

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