



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

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Dear Parent,

Once again, we could feel the disappointment of the children and Games staff when the early cricket fixtures were cancelled due to rain last week. We reflected that two years ago, we were in the middle of a scorching heat wave. This week has been difficult to predict weather-wise. Shorts and sunshine one minute followed by rain, thunder and an umbrella the next. The Under 12 team enjoyed success in the cup match on Tuesday against Packwood School and Terra Nova. The Under 13s followed with success in their North Shropshire tournament against Oswestry School, Sir John Talbot and Thomas Adams School too. We will look forward to watching how they fare in the next round.

It is very important for pupils to bring a personal drink bottle for water each day. We noticed a few pupils were not drinking water through the day during this week. This will be even more essential when the weather turns warmer. We have a collection of jumpers in lost property, it's important to name everything so that all items can be returned quickly to the respective owner.

One of the focus points for Assembly this week was to reinforce the value of honesty and truthfulness. It is good to see that on the whole our Lower School pupils do see that it is seen as a positive personal attribute to maintain such approaches, even when things may go wrong from time to time. This has a link to the focus that we place upon 'kindness' too. The 'Kindness Wall' continues to grow with pupil nominations for children who have made someone's day a little more pleasant.

We have had a productive exam period. Mr Dilks, Assistant Head Academic and Mrs Phillips, KS2 Academic Lead, reinforced the importance of the assessments. At the same time, they point out the need for the assessments to be kept in perspective and for individuals to simply work hard and try one's best. We hold the view that mistakes may be made, however it's what an individual does about rectifying and learning from the mistake, that truly counts. With this in mind pupils will be encouraged to go through results and talk through areas with subject teachers. The work room is available each lunchtime and support can be given during prep time too. Pupils are also encouraged to talk to their personal tutor as Period Grades will be produced this week too.

Mr Phillips, teacher of Maths was thrilled with the KS3 results in the recent National Junior Mathematics Challenge. A large number of children scored high marks. Our leading mathematicians at the moment are Oliver Dyson in Year 7 and Jamie Stevens in Year 8. Well done to them!

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB  
Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286  
[www.ellesmere.com](http://www.ellesmere.com)

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There is a Musical Tea on Monday in the Lower Hall, this informal event is focused on KS2 children this time. This hopefully will allow the very youngest of our community to perform in front of a small audience. Some of the performers are at the formative stages of learning to sing or play instruments. Your child will tell you if they are taking part and parents are welcome to come and have a cup of tea and enjoy this short but lovely event.

It's worth checking your child's mobile phone use. We do not have mobile telephone use during a school day and as such issues to do with misuse are in the main a parental/family responsibility. There are certain apps and social media sites that have age appropriate guidance. It is worth checking from time to time, and I do prompt regularly, as it is so important when trying to keep children safe and happy with respect to electronic communication.

The children discussed the celebrations ahead of us during half term for HRH the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The College have paid their respects to Her Majesty by planting 70 trees in the College grounds, one for each year of her reign. It's a challenge to try to spot them. It would also be impressive if one could identify them, as they are a wide range of species. In addition, we plan to have a special celebratory tea on the last Friday of this half term. Children will be encouraged to bring in a picnic blanket to share. We are lucky to have such beautiful grounds for the children to enjoy. This addition is an investment for future generations of children to enjoy.

Unfortunately, we are still restricted regarding visitors in school. Please feel comfortable contacting your child's personal tutor with a concern. Similarly, Lower School Secretaries can help too. They are contactable by email on [lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com) or by telephone on 01691 626511

This is the final newsletter before the half term break which begins next Friday at 5.30pm.

Have a good weekend and half term to follow, when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

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