



S Owen
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21st May 2021

Dear parent,

All too soon, it is the last newsletter of the first half term. Time has certainly flown past. It's been a week of squally weather and things have been difficult to predict. The lightning knocked off power for a while on Wednesday, causing much excitement for the children. Teachers had to quickly adapt sessions, to use the available window light and to defer to tried and trusted pre-electricity methods to complete their sessions. All of such, developing flexibility and demonstrating resilience from all concerned!

Sadly, a couple of fixtures were postponed due to the wet weather. Pupils had been really looking forward to those. Nevertheless, the U13 boys managed to play a cricket match against Prestfelde School. Ellesmere won the match and there were a number of fine individual performances. It was also good that we were able to retire batters to ensure that many pupils had a chance to contribute to the winning total. Well done boys!

The U11 cricket team also had an outing to play Oswestry School. Ellesmere won that match too and once again performed extremely well. All of this bodes well for the forthcoming fixtures.

On Friday, Lower School swimmers have their first swim meet of the year, we wish them well. Similarly, there are County tennis matches too. I have asked the pupils to share results with me as soon as possible. Still on a competitive theme, Mr Atherton is staging the Chess Ellesmere Grand Master's tournament over the next few weeks. Chess is very popular in Lower School and we are keen to see who will be crowned chess king or queen of the tournament. Mr Dilks and Mr Atherton still reign supreme on the staffing performance front however.

Assessment week was good last week and pupils were serious and focused on the snapshot tests throughout that period. It was good to see some very solid performances. These assessments provide benchmarking for teachers to use and also are used as indicators for Period Gradings, which will be published soon.

Linking with the academic note, the College Learning Agreement was discussed in assembly this week. Pupils should feel comfortable that classroom environments allow pupils to learn without disruption. We are very strong regarding this point. It is good to see this evident when walking around the School during the teaching day. It is also good to see that pupils have taken many positive IT skills developed in the lockdown period, into their current studies. This is all good preparation for a future world of employment in a fast-developing technological society.

Year 6 and 8 pupils are currently preparing for English Speaking Board examinations. I have heard snippets of some of the topics. Such skills are used to help nurture confident communicators. Once again, a desirable life skill.

Thank you to parents for taking a moment to fill in the recent inspection visit questionnaire. The Inspectors spoke to many of the Lower School children. Lower School children are a credit to their parents and to us in the mature and confident way they approached these conversations. We should get a review from the Headmaster over the forthcoming weeks.

May I politely ask parents not to arrive too early at the end of the School day, thus parking for long periods of time on the Lower School car park. It is difficult for the College coaches to manoeuvre into spaces and it also adds difficulties for children making their way back to the Lower School building at the end of sessions in preparation for home.

Half term College transport will depart at 5.30pm on Friday 28th May.

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'.

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