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Dear Parent,

All too soon it is the last newsletter of the first half term. Time has certainly flown past.

Year 6 and Year 8 pupils are currently preparing for their 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.

Year 8 pupils are going bowling after school next Wednesday 24th May. Please could all reply slips be returned as soon as possible as details need confirming with the venue. It is also important that we know if families intend to pick up their child from the venue afterwards.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have also been rehearsing seriously for the performance of the Lower School play, Annie. As you will imagine, it involves many of our pupils in some capacity either performing, directing, props as well as backstage. It is wonderful that pupils can get the 'feel' of how a larger production is put together. The realisation of all the hard work that goes on is certainly an eye opener. We have uncovered many new talents in the children that were previously hidden somewhat. Confident young people are beginning to emerge and that is lovely to see.

It's been a week of better weather, but things have been difficult to predict and we certainly are not trusting that the odd shower won't curtail things at the last moment. Thank you for your understanding with this when considering the planned fixtures.

Many pupils have managed to get a game of cricket this week. There have been exciting cup runs and a number of friendly events.

The Lower School swimmers went to the East Midlands Regional Championships recently. Our Lower School swimmers Esme Noss, Payton Marski, Eliza Mason and Annie Hutcheon all performed exceptionally well. They had a large haul of 17 medals between them; 5 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze. We will watch their progress with interest in the next round of meets.

George Sandiford Year 8 has also had hockey success recently. George has been selected for the Regional Mercian Marauders Hockey squad. He had a tough trial comprising of over 100 boys. This is a step towards National representation in the future. Well done George!

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Still on a competitive theme, Mr Atherton is staging the Ellesmere Chess Grand Master's tournament again this year. Chess is very popular in Lower School and we are keen to see who will be crowned chess master of the tournament. Mr Atherton still reigns supreme on the staffing performance front however.

Sister asks that any medicines that may come in to school should go to Sick Bay for administration and an explanation of the health situation too. This includes Calpol and things like Paracetamol. As you will appreciate, it is dangerous to have any items such as this, casually existing in school bags and Teaching Staff/Secretaries are not allowed to supervise administration.

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.

Have a good weekend when it arrives.

Half term College transport will depart at 5.30pm on Friday 26th May.

Yours sincerely,