



S Owen  
Head of Lower School  
01691 626511  
Email: [sharon.owen@ellesmere.com](mailto:sharon.owen@ellesmere.com)

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent,

It is amazing what a difference a fine spell of weather can add to our week. Pupils have really enjoyed all of the lovely facilities outside and it has been good to see the children playing and generally letting off steam. We know that we are very lucky to have such nice playing spaces at the College, however it is testimony to the children that we can use equipment to add to the enjoyment of recreation time. Pupils are allowed to play with footballs, badminton and table tennis equipment, volleyballs etc in Lower School and the equipment is respected. We also have a quiet understanding that it will stay this way whilst the children look after the kit and use it in a fair, fun and respectful way.

Still with this in mind, it is good to also note that we like children to be active and happily occupied. We value social interactions and recognise the life skills that early lessons in positive interactions can bring. We appreciate that children do not get it right the whole time and we will deal with any issue as things arise. This is why we do not allow mobile telephone use through the School day. In Lower School, we do not have children sitting at break time with a pure focus on social media and electronic entertainment. Mobile telephones are locked in the personal locker until the end of the College day. Please remember that Mrs Leonard is available to make or take calls and an important message will be passed on appropriately in either direction.

There have been a good number of sporting fixtures emerging as COVID situations have changed. Pupils are a little rusty, which is understandable, but the pupils have really enjoyed these events. There has been a lovely atmosphere following a fixture, win or lose!

Pupils in Years 6 and 8 have been busily preparing for the English-Speaking Board (ESB) examinations recently. It is a pleasure to hear them and there have been some really interesting topics chosen this year. These examinations truly prepare for those life-long skills required, as individuals move towards their chosen vocational route. The examinations are also a gentle introduction back to formal assessment situations which have lost some focus over the past year for schoolchildren across the country.

With a focus still on presentations, I was honoured to be asked to be a 'Dragon' on a team of teacher dragons when the Year 7 English pupils were making pitches for their products, in a recent Dragons' Den competition. The aim was to develop persuasive language. I invested a great deal of my fake cash in a large number of well thought out innovations. It was a wonderful event! I see a bright future for many of our Ellesmere pupils in the world of business!

We plan to run a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) challenge for the Year 8 pupils in the last week of term. As you may know, we have had many instances of Regional and National success with Lower School Engineer/Product Design specialist teams in recent years. It has to be an in-house event due to cross school restrictions this year, however we are keen to keep developing the thirst from our pupils for this area and it's also very enjoyable too.

We extend our congratulations to Kaylee Mellor, Year 7, who has successfully passed her British ice-skating, field moves level 2 exam.

Sister Eiry asked me to mention that the College is supporting the Shrewsbury based charity 'Little Bags of Kindness' at the moment. Therefore, Sister is collecting unwanted footwear items in good repair to include school shoes, trainers, plimsoles etc. They will be sanitized, polished and the charity will distribute the items to people with need. The items may be dropped off at the College main Reception, kindly marked for the attention of the Sister Team.

As previously mentioned, the Headmaster is keeping a close eye on Government directives regarding the Covid restrictions in College with respect to opening events. There has been an InTouch letter to parents from the Headmaster regarding the Saturday, 'Strawberry and Fizz on the Terraces' event. It will be nice to see families there, if it fits in with family arrangements. It will be good to sign off this difficult year for all and look forward to hopefully a better September start of term. Lower School Sports day and KS2 Swimming Gala is arranged to go ahead just for the children this year.

Please feel comfortable to contact Mrs Leonard with any query.

Have a good weekend when it arrives and I hope that the sun shines where ever you are!

Yours sincerely,



Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

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