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7th February 2020

Dear Parent,

All too quickly, we have arrived at the last newsletter for this half of the Lent term. Assessment week appeared to go smoothly. We have spoken at length to ensure that pupils know that it is 'all about trying ones very best and preparing well'. We also like to keep things in perspective too. If certain areas do not go as well as wished, it is what a person 'does about it' that really counts. Tutors will be continuing to guide children toward the various academic clinics and homework group opportunities available through the week. Period grades will be published soon for this term.

The weather has been poor over the past couple of weeks. We remind pupils to bring a warm coat, hat and gloves in to School for playtime and moving between lessons. It is also wise to have a spare pair of old trainers in a locker to try to keep the wet and mud to a minimum as we work through the busy week. On a similar note, it is important that all pupils have warm kit for PE and Games lessons. The school tracksuit is essential and skin base layers may be worn too! All of these items help pupils to get the most out of their learning. The swimmers and team players particularly need to be warm as they travel to their training/events etc.

We have a busy week ahead. On Monday 10th February, Mrs Paul is organising another Music Tea in the Lower School Hall. Refreshments are provided and parents and families are warmly welcome to come and listen to musical performances from Lower School pupils. The event starts at 4.30pm and will finish by 5.10pm.

The Lower School House Cross Country was a fabulous event last week. It was good to celebrate the outstanding talent of the winners during presentations in Assembly on Monday. However equally so, we commended the pupils on working for their House team as every runner scored points that amassed to allow presentation of the House Trophy. Brownlow House were victorious this year!

Well done to Cici Noss (Year 7) who competed in the Shropshire Schools' Cross Country on Saturday. Cici was placed third in the County and should be proud of her performance. Well done Cici!

It was also good to congratulate Kaylee Mellor (Year 6) in Assembly this week. Kaylee is part of the GB Ice Dancing team for her age group and proudly showed us photographs of her recent performances and she brought along her GB tracksuit too. Well done to Kaylee and we will watch her performances with interest as the year progresses.

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The Ellesmere College riders have been busy recently and Imogen Spencer-Blow and Jake Stockton competed in the Eland Lodge event on Saturday. The team competed well but did not qualify for a place. However, individually Jake completed two superb rounds to win rosettes in both the 70cm and 80cm classes. Jake now qualifies for the Eventers Challenge championships at Hickstead in May. Well done and we look forward to hearing news of that event too!

Year 8 Information Evening is tonight starting in the Arts Centre, at 5.15pm. Following on from this, the Parents' Meeting is in Big School hall. Pupils may accompany parents to the Parents' Meeting to discuss progress and explore a few option subject choices for Year 9.

Sister Davies asked me to include this information regarding the HPV vaccination. Consent forms will be distributed to pupils to take home and Sister asks if these could be returned by 28th February. The vaccination clinic is scheduled for Monday 9th March. Please contact Sick Bay and the Sister Team with any queries.

Please contact Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary with any concerns regarding arrangements as we move towards half term. School transport departs as normal.

Have a good half term when it arrives.

Yours sincerely