



S Owen Head of Lower School 01691 626511

Email: <a href="mailto:sharon.owen@ellesmere.com">sharon.owen@ellesmere.com</a>

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It was good to welcome pupils back after the half term break. One hopes that they are well rested and over the nasty coughs and colds that were circulating earlier in the term. The weather this week has allowed a great deal of outside play, so we are looking forward to this second half of the term.

Many pupils were busy with various activities over the break. The Lower School swimmers are performing exceptionally well at the moment. The Shropshire County Championships were held recently and Katie Hale, Lola Oke, Jake Lee and Alex Rosser-Barnett were all County Champions for their respective age groups. Hettie D'Ammassa and Harrison Aspinal were runners up in their races too. It was lovely to chat to them about their trophies and medals.

Also, well done to Zara Brookshaw in Year 6. She recently took part in a Ladies Open Golf Tournament in Turkey. Out of thirty-two competitors, she was placed fourth and has a lovely trophy to go home. Well done Zara!

The Physics Competition final took place before half term. Mr Crawford and Miss Darrant were very impressed with the standard achieved by all pupils this year. The winners, James Kelly and Chris Davies, designed an optical link. Harriet Otter and Aditi Chezhian made a solar oven, Imogen Wright-Mountford and Amber Reeve made a magnetic motor, and were placed joint Runners-Up. Well done to all Year 8 pupils!

The musicians have carefully prepared for the Oswestry Music Festival and the competition began this week. A large number of Lower School children have performed in a wide variety of classes. We will be looking forward to hearing about the individual results over the next few days.

Similarly, a number of Lower School children have been selected to represent School in the National Mathematics Challenge, we will follow their success too.

The Lower School Open Day is on this Saturday from 10am until 12noon. Many thanks to parents' support and for transporting children to and from School. There are fixtures too, the girls are playing netball at home, and they have agreed to come and assist after the match and which is very much appreciated.

We have a production in the Arts Centre on Saturday afternoon at 2pm, 'Hairy Fairy Tales'. It is a performance in association with Arts Alive and would be suitable for young audiences. It will be possible to turn up on the day, but information can be obtained from <a href="www.artsalive.co.uk">www.artsalive.co.uk</a> and from the box office on boxoffice@ellesmere.com.

The Under 11 netball girls are looking forward to their tournament on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, more details will follow regarding this event.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286





We have our PSHE morning in Lower School on Tuesday, pupils will explore a variety of subjects from Bullying to Dental Health. It is a thought provoking experience for all.

The new Tennis Indoor Centre now has a roof, sides, lighting and the floor surface is being laid. We are watching the progress of the build with keen interest.

Have a good weekend,

Shoran Owen

Yours sincerely,

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