



S Owen
Head of Lower School
01691 626511
email: sharon.owen@ellesmere.com

9th September 2016

Dear Parent,

It has been a wonderful first week. There has been a real buzz around the whole School. The weather has certainly helped too and it has been good to see pupils enjoying the facilities, experiencing new sports and activities and generally just getting settled into hard work in lessons.

It may take a couple of weeks for extra session schedules to be sorted, for example music or support lessons etc. As you will appreciate at times the matrix can be quite complicated.

It is appropriate at this stage to say well done to Elliot Rees Year 6 and Declan Locke Year 8. Both boys have been awarded commendable grades in their recent English Speaking Board examinations.

Pupils have looked extremely smart in their uniforms. It has been appreciated that parents are supporting School with boys having short cut hair and polished shoes. Girls have hair tied back, no jewellery or make up and shoe height is low and sensible. Please make sure that all kit and clothing is named. I am proud to say that it is extremely rare that there is theft at School and lost items usually make their way back to respective owners over a period of time if appropriately named.

Sister asked me to mention and remind pupils to bring a water bottle to School, owing to the "typical back to school weather" being warm. Medicals will take place next week and as the term progresses and seasons change, advice will be given as usual for young children on coughs colds and sniffles. It is worth noting too that Noravirus (winter vomiting bug) can spread quickly in schools therefore, pupils need to be symptom free for at least 48hrs from last episode, before they return to class.

It is a pleasure to share with you that the swimmers had a very successful summer. Training continued and a number of swimmers qualified for the National finals held back in July. The club achieved top club place at the National event. This is an exceptional achievement considering clubs such as Loughborough University were placed third!

We have a number of excellent activities taking place at lunch times and after school this term. Tutors will encourage children to try out new experiences. We aim to keep the children as busy and motivated as possible.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

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There are opportunities for pupils to have extra cricket, golf, Spoken English and music lessons. Information letters and consent forms were included in the School mailing however, further information and late bookings can be made by contacting the Director of Sport, Mr Williams by email - ian.williams@ellesmere.com and rebecca.paul@ellesmere.com for music lessons. Shooting is continuing this year with the usual passion. The specific times are available from Mrs Leonard, the Lower School secretary. lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com I will include the times in next week's newsletter too.

There are sport fixtures this weekend. Parents are very welcome to support. When fixtures are at home, refreshments are available throughout the morning for spectators. Pupils have been encouraged to check the White Calendar for the fixture programme. Please appreciate that all pupils are expected to play for School if they are selected. However, should there be a problem with playing on a particular week end it is appreciated that a letter is sent to the coach of the team and a copy is also passed to the Headmaster. Please contact the Director of Sport, Mr Williams with any queries regarding Sport in School. There is a link on the school website to give all team sheets and details for travel for each fixture.

A prior notice has been sent to the parents of Year 7 pupils reminding of a forthcoming residential visit. Thank you for the swift return of reply slips and payments. Mrs Leonard has to finalise the numbers at the end of next week.

Mrs Morgan, the Year 8 tutors and I are planning to take the Year 8 pupils for a social night to The Venue Ten Pin Bowling centre on Wednesday 21st September as detailed in the White College Calendar. We will send out more details next week.

Please remember that pupils can be quite anxious over the first few weeks of a new term. This is completely normal. Parents can assist by reassuring their child that many pupils are feeling exactly the same. In addition, a swift parental exit, when dropping off children really helps the teachers get particularly the younger pupils, into routines and happiness as quickly as possible. It is also worth mentioning that parents should not be going to classroom areas with their child or to collect their child. Please report to Mrs Leonard in the office when visiting school. As you will be aware, this is in line with our Child Protection and Welfare Guidelines. However, always please feel comfortable contacting your child's tutor should you have any general concerns. An email to book a chat is welcomed as morning times are particularly busy getting the School day off to a good start for all.

We are looking forward to a sunny weekend and hopefully the weather will remain fine so that all of the Lower School pupils can enjoy the facilities again at break time throughout next week.

Yours sincerely

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