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It was pleasing to receive an email from Mr Coupe, Director of Music, giving details of the recent Oswestry Music Festival. It appears that all of the pupils had a wonderful experience, and they thoroughly enjoyed show casing the musical pieces that they have been working so hard on over the term. Huw Lloyd won the Vocal Solo Award for Under 12 age pupils along with the Musical Theatre Award. Robyn Welti won the Piano Duet in her age category too. Robyn and Christopher Davis gained 2nd place in Piano and Brass Solo respectively. The Lower School Choir did not manage to secure first place but Mrs Paul was extremely proud of their performance in an Under 16 age category. The Senior School Musicians certainly led the way too and secured many awards. Well done to all Lower School musicians who went to the event, it is good to accolade the consistent hard work that goes into music in School.

Following on from this theme it is important also to recognise the hard work that the Lower School Swimmers put into their training too. They are happy and organised pupils who push on each day with their training. We wish them well in the forthcoming competitions towards the end of term. Mr Rylands and Mr Quinlan are pleased with the large number of Lower School pupils that are taking advantage of the wonderful opportunities that they have to shoot in College. There are a variety of sessions throughout the week catering from the beginner to the more advanced. Pupils can simply speak to Tutors to ask them to contact one of the Shooting teachers to arrange a place in one of the sessions.

Presently at the College, we are in a phase focused on academic work. The older pupils in College are taking mock GCSE examinations and Assessment week is next week for all pupils. Once again, the outcome of the bi-termly assessment results will inform teachers' grades for period grades, and for benchmarking progress purposes.

To support pupils you may have heard your child speak of Academic Clinics taking place during the College week. These are simply sessions held by individual subject areas to give extra academic help in specifically targeted subject areas. Pupils may use these as a drop in session to help clarify work or to complete extension work. In addition, pupils may be directed to attend these sessions either to go over certain skills or to catch up on work. Mrs Phillips is the KS2 Academic Co-ordinator and Mr Dilks is the Assistant Head Lower School Academic, both of whom keep a watchful eye on targets for each pupil and also direct pupils to use these extra academic sessions.

As you will know mobile telephones are locked away during the School day in Lower School. This has allowed pupils to concentrate fully on the tasks in hand during the curriculum. Obviously, we respect that the use of mobile telephones outside of School is under the responsibility of the family. It is worth knowing that a craze is circulating in society generally called 'Letter X'. Individuals identify a person and add them into their forum chats with a view of heaping abuse on them. Our advice would be that socially naive children should be encouraged not to be involved in these group chats. Indeed, they should be 13 years old as a guide and even then with some supervision. We reinforce to our pupils that indeed any form of abuse on-line or through social media can involve Police investigation and action.

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We are looking forward to the Lower School House Quiz competition this Wednesday, the excitement is mounting!

Good luck to the Under 11 girls who host and play in the Under 11 Netball Tournament this Sunday. We hope that they all play well!

Have a good weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Owen

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