



S Owen
Head of Lower School
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Dear Parent,

The early autumn colours are really beginning to show in the grounds and Ellesmere certainly looks stunning when the sun shines through. The weather this week has offered such contrast, from hot sunshine to torrential rain. The rugby players have enjoyed the mud and soft surfaces so there is always a positive to see!

With mud in mind, it is worth remembering that pupils should have a change of footwear if they like to play on the grassed areas. This will help them and the School to keep clean. We like the children to play out as much as possible and do encourage them to let off steam during breaks. This has been so beneficial for their concentration in the classroom.

Congratulations are in order for a number of pupils who have recently achieved Royal Associated Board music grades. One new one this week is Piers Goss, who attained level two Rock and Pop Drums with distinction

Tutors are regularly checking prep diaries and it is important that diaries are used by the pupils; to ensure that they are well organised for each day. Should a pupil have extra evening commitments and struggle to complete prep on a designated evening, a prep club takes place at lunch times to help. Tutors will be making contact with parents over the forthcoming few weeks, to have a touch base chat regarding how the first few weeks of term have gone. Please feel comfortable contacting your child's tutor should you have any concerns.

Mrs Leonard, the Lower School secretary is also available by email or telephone between 8.15am and 5.15pm for general queries. It is perhaps worth mentioning that early morning contact with tutors is not always possible or ideal. Morning schedules are very tight for tutors. Please make arrangements through Mrs Leonard and tutors will respond to you as quickly as possible.

Similarly, due to Child Protection regulation it is important that Parents and visitors check in with Mrs Leonard when they arrive in the School building and not go directly to classroom areas. Your support with this is appreciated.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

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I have spoken generally to pupils regarding the correct way to wear uniform. Pupils are looking extremely smart. We expect that ties have a neat, small knot and the tie length should ideally touch the waist band. Shirts are tucked in. Boys hair should be neat and short. Girls should not wear make-up or nail varnish. Hair should be tied neatly back and shoe height must be low and sensible to allow safe movement around the many stairs! I appreciate your support to maintain the standard of pupil appearance. As the weather turns wetter it may be sensible to have a change of footwear for break time play. The College allows pupils to wear a sober outdoor jacket or a College rain jacket. Hoodies are considered to be part of games kit and not allowed to be worn around the College during the day or to travel home on College transport. There is a serviceable coat available through the School Shop.

There is a non-uniform day on Friday 22nd September. Pupils can choose to come to College in their own clothes. Pupils make £2 donations which are then passed to support the charity MacMillan Nurses. On such days we encourage pupils to be sensible in their choice of clothing as it is a normal teaching day. Make-up etc. is not allowed as per usual on that day.

Open Day is fast approaching. As usual the greatest assets that we possess are the children. I hope that many pupils will be available to help between 1pm-4pm on Saturday 7th October. Some pupils will be playing sport fixtures first and then come along afterwards. Please could you fill in and return the attached reply slip to help us plan the event. Pupils act as guides and also help with classroom activities. There is a lovely tea in Big School afterwards too. It would be super if pupils could help out, even if it is for part of the afternoon.

There has been a little concern in these early weeks regarding a pupils availability for weekend fixtures. As you will appreciate, Mr Williams and coaching staff work well in advance to secure fixtures for this term. In order that as many pupils can play as possible, and responding to comments from parents, A and B fixtures may have been arranged on weekends. It is especially difficult to move some B team players up to A teams in these early weeks when some pupils are just starting to experience play. This is especially pertinent in rugby. It then looks poor on our part if we have to fold a team, if some pupils say they cannot play and there are not enough players available to field a side. Parental understanding and support is crucial to helping the College field sides of a good strength and also to allow all pupils to experience being included in a team. Mr Williams asks that parents work with us closely and use the White Calendar to plan ahead where at all possible. We understand that certain commitments for families crop up and close communication between coaches and home prior to the weeks' preparation for a game, will help enormously with this

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Dr Chatterjee, Deputy Headmaster of the College Pastoral, has asked me to remind pupils in Lower School that all forms of portable electronic communication must be switched off during the School day. In Lower School, mobile telephones are placed inside a personal locker upon arrival in registration time. During casual conversations, it has been unofficially noted that some pupils may be using mobile telephone apps and social media designed for pupils over 13 years. Obviously, this is a decision made at home, but I thought a quick heads up may alert parents to check. A parent alerted me also to a map option on Snapchat. I was appreciative of this. This map option allows tracking of a phone/person to precise locations. This may have all sorts of implications for safety that parents may wish to consider.

Mrs Paul is organizing a bowling trip for the Lower School choir on Wednesday 4th October. Mrs Paul will circulate permission slips and details directly with the pupils.

Mrs Fisher has asked me to mention that casual boarding arrangements are more limited this year owing to the large number of Lower School boarders. With this in mind, it is important that contact is made directly with Mrs Fisher in good time to secure a possible evening stay should a family require this.

The Parents' Society (ECPS) are hosting a Welcome Event on Friday 29th September in the tuck shop, starting at morning drop off time until 10am. Parents may reply to ECPS at contactecps@gmail.com or simply turn up for coffee on the day.

I hope that you will gather from the tone and content of this newsletter that Ellesmere is a hugely friendly place, with lots to join in with from both a pupil and parent point of view.

Have a good weekend. The weather is forecast to be mixed and so we hope that fortune shines on our sport performances too!

Yours sincerely,

Please return to Lower School office

Name of pupil.....
will be able to attend Ellesmere College Open Day on Saturday 7th October 2017

Please choose a convenient time:

- 12.45pm-4.00pm
- 1.00pm-3.00pm
- 2.00pm-4.00pm

Signed _____