



S Owen
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3rd February 2017

Dear Parent,

It has been a particularly 'work focused' phase at Lower School with thoughts and preparation for the assessments in lessons next week. Teachers will use these assessment results as a guide for period grade levels and for target setting. It is worth noting that period grades can fluctuate throughout the year when different topics are covered.

You may have noticed a few email alerts popping up in your emails this week; Mrs Pritt-Roberts, Deputy Head Academic for the School has been trialing a new system that notifies parents of House Points awarded for recognition of work. This information is normally only circulated internally by teaching staff, and after recent discussions, we recognise that pupils would value this information going home too. We will be updated of the outcome of the trial in due course. As part of the trial I was copied into all of the House Points awarded to all Lower School pupils, it was a very encouraging sign to see my inbox spilling over, this highlighted how so many children are working very well in all areas of School life.

Last week pupils and teachers gave Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary our very best wishes as she started her maternity leave. We have the pleasure to welcome Mrs Amanda Hand to Lower School to cover Mrs Leonard's absence. Mrs Hand is well versed with Ellesmere life and has worked with us on many occasions in various departments in School. Please feel comfortable contacting Mrs Hand with any concerns or queries you may have by phone or using the email lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com

In Assembly, pupils were reminded about the wide variety of enrichment opportunities available to them throughout the week in addition to their educational studies. The Year 8 Physics Competition is nearing its deadline and pupils should be concentrating on making their models and display items ready for their 'first round' presentations. They are challenged to make their presentations as slick as possible in a 5 minute time frame, they should not use powerpoint and should aim to demonstrate the physics theory within their presentation. Mr Crawford is looking forward to judging the entries with his team of specialist teachers.

One of the challenges set earlier last term was of a design nature. Pupils were encouraged to submit design entries that encapsulate the spirit and vibrancy of the Oswestry Youth Music Festival. The winning design from all schools in the area would form the basis of the advertising campaign for the festival, posters and stickers will feature the design. I am pleased to share that Zara Brookshaw won the competition this year, well done to Zara, we look forward to seeing the design reproduced over the coming months.

Pupils are constantly urged to stretch themselves in many areas across Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. The Survive and Thrive activity programme is well underway for Years 7 and 8 and Years 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 enjoy a varied activity programme on Friday afternoon. The lunchtime activity programme is well attended by pupils, Squash Club also started this week for Year 8 and there are plans to add new clubs in the spring when the weather improves.

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www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

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Year 8 have an Information Presentation in the Arts Centre at 5.15pm, Friday 17th February. The aim of the presentation evening is to help make the transition from Year 8 Lower School to Year 9 Middle School as smooth as possible. This will also be an opportunity to meet the Head of Middle School and Middle School House Masters and Mistresses. This is then followed by the Year 8 Parents' Evening in Big School Hall. Pupils will be able to either return home or stay for School supper and join parents at the Year 8 parents' meeting. Pupils may accompany parents to discuss their progress with subject teacher, or alternately if parents prefer, pupils may work in one of the Mathematics rooms adjoining Big School hall. Pupils will be reminded that if they choose this option, work is to be performed silently and good behaviour is an expectation whilst using this facility. I would be grateful if parents could please return the reply slip at the end of this newsletter to help with the organisation of the event.

The swimmers religiously continue to train hard and have enjoyed success at a recent national event. This was a Level 1 meeting with high standards of swimming necessary for inclusion. The Titans performed exceptionally well collectively and secured fifth place, Lola Oke came third in the 11/12 year old butterfly event and there were a large number of personal best times. Kate Hale scooped the top 11 year old girl trophy too. We will be following progress as the year unfolds, great work swimmers, well done!

We will be holding the Lower School House Cross Country event at 2.45pm on Thursday 16th February, and pupils have been preparing for the run during PE lessons. The aim is simply to try ones best and it will be lovely to welcome parents at this event. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon, and pupils will be allowed to travel home early with parents afterwards if they so wish. Please could you sign out your child at the recording table before you depart.

Thank you for supporting the charity Age UK today, pupils have enjoyed swapping their School jumper for a fun one of their choice. The £1 donations help the charity to fund help for elderly people within the local community, particularly in the winter months.

Have a good weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Please return to the Lower School office

I _____ shall be attending Year 8 Parents' Evening on Friday 17th February
(Name of Parent)

And would like _____ to stay for tea and prep
(Name of pupil)

Signed _____

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