



From the Headmaster
B J Wignall, MA, FRSA, MCMI

Ellesmere

A 7-18 Co-educational School

May 2017

Dear Parent,

I am writing to all members of the extended College community (staff, parents, facility users and regular visitors in other categories) on the subject of dogs at the College.

I am sure you are aware of the significant health risks that dog mess poses, the worst being **toxocariasis**. I know that the majority of you do clean up after your dog, but unfortunately, there are a small number that do not.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we cannot identify individually who is letting the side down, so to speak, so I need to write to everyone, as this is such an important subject.

The College view on dogs is that – wherever possible they should not be brought onto the school site. I recognise that some parents will bring their dogs to sports matches and I have no wish to disrupt this aspect of family life, but there is **an expectation that dogs brought onto the College site should be kept on a lead at all times and not allowed onto any of the playing areas or the sports pitches**. Edges of fields and rough ground are not immune to pupils playing in, so the same applies, any dog mess that may occur needs to be removed and there are bins available for this purpose.

There are a small number of people – not College parents, I think – who occasionally try to exercise their dogs on College grounds and travel here specifically for that purpose. Obviously, College grounds are private property and as a school we need to ensure that we are taking care of our students, so if, by any chance, anyone reading this letter falls into that category I would ask them not to bring their dogs to the College for the purpose of letting them off the lead for exercise.

We will be putting up clearer signs about this in the next few weeks, and I hope that I can have the support of the extended community for what is an obviously sensible measure.

Yours faithfully,

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A Woodard School

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