



Mrs Z J Fisher
St John's Housemistress
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5th June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Many of you will remember dropping your children off twenty-two months ago to begin their time at Ellesmere. It seems to have rushed by and they are all ready to fly our nest and move into their new Middle School Houses. The excitement is building about the move and whilst we are very sad about the changes, we are proud of all our young boarders and will enjoy watching them settle into new routines next year.

We are taking our full boarders out for the day on Saturday to Caerau Uchaf Gardens, near Bala in North Wales. This is a beautiful part of the world and Felix Hickish (Year 7) is lucky enough to be the Grandson of the owners. We are all looking forward to our day out and hope the sun shines.

With the end of term a few weeks away, I would like to share a few more dates for the diary with you:

- **Alton Towers trip.** This is on Sunday 16th June. Weekly boarders can go and they will need to get permission from home before signing up with me next week. Pupils from across the Houses can attend and usually a couple of coaches are filled with a cost of around £25 for travel and ticket. The cost will be added to the school termly bill.
- The **Lower School Music Concert** is in the Arts Centre on Thursday 20th July with a 6.30pm start time. The choir will be performing alongside many young musicians from Years 3-8.
- You may have noticed the **St John's picnic** on Tuesday 25th June. As with last year, we would like to invite families to attend. Our picnic takes place by The Mere in Ellesmere and the children have asked again for Sports Day style games as well as a football kickabout. We will pick up pre-ordered fish and chips, take bottles of pop or water, and generally have a relaxed, fun evening. If you would like to join in the fun (no obligation to join in the sports!) please email zoe.fisher@ellesmere.com with numbers and food choices. (Fish, sausage, pie – the usual “chippie” menu and drink choice please). We will meet by The Mere at 6.00pm and be back in House by 8.30pm.
- **The Lower School Play “The Boy who Fell into a Book”** is on the following two nights (26th & 27th June), so anyone travelling up for the play may like to book accommodation. Almost all of our Year 8s are involved in the play, either on stage or backstage, and as Director, I can promise a memorable night's entertainment (hopefully for the right reasons!).



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- **Sports Day** this year takes place on Thursday 4th July with a 2.00pm start on Parry's Field.
- **Term finishes** on Saturday 6th July at 1.15pm. To those new to Ellesmere, this is a chance for us to celebrate your child's achievements. You will see that there are a number of events on Saturday and this is classed as a "school day" with pupils expected to attend. The House will be open throughout the day for you to pack belongings away. International students can leave one box to be transferred to the new Boarding House. **If you are unable to attend, or if your child is leaving early, please let me know as soon as possible.** I will need travel arrangements, as usual, for all international boarders. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

There are almost daily sports competitions at the moment, many involving your children; please check the Sports Portal for further information. The Lower School Choir will be treated to a BBQ next Tuesday and there is a STEM challenge for all Year 8s this coming Friday. Add to this ESB exams (for Year 8), the Monduli Charity Walk and the final expeditions and you can imagine how busy this final run up to the holidays is!

Thank you all for your support over the past two years. We hope you will be able to join us at an event before the end of term and especially at the Champagne and Strawberries gathering on the last day, where we would like to raise a toast in farewell to St John's.

With Warm Regards,

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A Woodard School

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