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**Ellesmere**

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent,

I write with an update about our games provision and what the remainder of this term, and next, may hold. This term we will continue to take a more flexible approach to the delivery of games. We will allow greater choice of sport and will keep coaching the year groups with slightly less emphasis on team preparation. It is our intention to carry on with this programme for the remainder of this term. We will review after the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The emphasis on return to school will be on safety, fun, physical conditioning, leadership, wellbeing, engagement, learning life lessons and collaboration. These principles have always been at the very heart of our programme and I feel is the best way to provide a positive experience in these challenging times. We continue to monitor the picture nationally and are mindful of advice from national governing bodies, the Department for Education, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and various P.E. and sporting organisations.

As we move towards the Summer term we will continue to adapt. Grass roots fixtures will probably return in some sports at club level before inter school fixtures. We have a pencilled-in list of fixtures for next term, but I would be surprised if we play other schools until the Department of Education allows year groups to mix again within school, unless the national picture changes and allows greater freedom to play sport, at which stage we will adapt quickly. We have the intention to host fixtures against other schools when practical and safe to do so. We will continue to stage various in-school competitions to help provide variety and a competitive opportunity.

We are continually learning from this experience and some of what we have put in place I am sure will continue to be developed and retained as we take positive steps back towards a more conventional programme. We will continue to try and provide the very best opportunities we can for each individual. We are very excited about welcoming back students next week and are eager to get back to physical activity as a whole school.

Yours sincerely,

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