



Mr I L Williams
Director of Sport
Email: ian.williams@ellesmere.com

29th April 2021

Dear Parent,

I write with an update about our games provision and what the remainder of this term may look like. This term we have returned to something resembling a normal summer programme. We have retained greater choice through Middle School but our main summer sports are providing the focus and clubs and activities are starting to bloom again.

We have taken a cautious approach to fixtures so far and a decision was made to put them on hold for three weeks. Many schools have cancelled their entire summer programme but we wanted the school to return, restart lessons and settle into a summer routine. We have also been working through the various protocols that we have in place to allow sport to take place. We are still working in year groups bubbles for the vast majority of what we are doing. Unlike grassroots sport, school sport has had to deal with some tighter restrictions particularly over year group bubbles.

We have now been allowed to continue with a fuller fixture list having dipped our toe in the water with a few smaller events from which we have developed and adjusted our risk assessments. This has paved the way in helping us roll out fixtures for the rest of the school. I am very pleased to announce that from Saturday 8th May 2021 we will resume full interschool fixtures. We will await the government's announcement on the 17th May 2021 where we hope further restrictions will be lifted allowing us greater flexibility as a school.

Our fixture list can be found on the School's sport website and a letter explaining access is attached. You can follow your son's or daughter's team and get updates directly to your phone. We have already rearranged several of the fixtures we had in place for the beginning of term and are looking to expand our offering. Some fixtures may still be postponed or cancelled; there will various reasons why this may continue to happen from time to time related to our or the opposing school's logistics and around the sport we are trying to play.

Fixtures will not look quite the same as they did for a while as social distancing measures will still be in place alongside various hygiene protocols, but it is encouraging that we can now take this first step. We will 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 PE and sporting organisations.

As we continue to move forward this term we will review and adapt. We will continue to stage various intra-school competitions to help provide variety and a competitive opportunity for all. We are continually learning from this experience and some of what we have put in place I am sure we will continue to develop and retain as we take positive steps back towards a more conventional programme.

We will strive to provide the very best opportunities we can for each individual and we are very excited about playing fixtures again and welcoming spectators back.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. White', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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