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Dear Parent,

It's a pleasure to write the first newsletter for the academic year of 2018/19. I am looking forward to it being a happy and productive one for all of our pupils.

On Sunday, it will be good to welcome all of the new pupils to the New Pupils' Tea. This is the opportunity for pupils new to Ellesmere to make contact with tutors and familiarise themselves before the busy start on Monday.

It is worth a note for pupils, that hair should be worn simply for school. There should be no extreme styles, colour or patterns cut towards the scalp. Boys' hair should be short and not touch the shirt collar with no short fringe hanging across the face. Girls need a neatly taken back style using hair fasteners in the College colours. There should be no make-up or nail varnish, false nails, eyelashes etc. Jewellery must be simple and minimal. One signet ring, one bracelet and one set of stud type earrings for girls. Boys may wear one bracelet if it supports a charity. Any necklace must be tucked away.

Shoes should be polishable and of a sensible height to manage a busy working day. Pupils should carry their equipment in a sensible bag. Please ensure that all possessions are named to help their return when misplaced. We are in the winter phase of the uniform and therefore School jumpers must be worn. Please consult your child's personal tutor if there are any further questions.

It is important that tutors have details for each child regarding homeward travel arrangements. Please also contact Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary or the personal tutor should an arrangement change. Tutors will be contacting all parents within the first few weeks to inform of early progress and to touch base on any important details.

Mobile telephones are allowed for travel to and from College. However, they must be placed in the pupil's personal locker as soon as they arrive in School and they must not collect them until the end of the School day. Mrs Leonard is contactable in the case of emergency and similarly pupils may telephone home if a situation arises, by using the central office telephone. In our experience, mobile telephones during the School day cause more problems than they solve. On an extended note to help parents, it is advised that no pupil should have a social media site until 13 years of age.

Please could parents provide a padlock and key to secure their child's personal locker. The clasp on the padlock should be of a decent length to go through the locker hub. Micro padlocks, like the ones on a suitcase, are too small.

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Sister Martin-Jones has asked me to remind parents that no pupil should be in possession of medication during the School day. Any medicine must go to the Medical Centre to be administered. Please could you name these items too.

Mrs Morgan, Assistant Head Pastoral, organises expeditions and activities for the Lower School children. Details are published in advance of the visits. It is worth noting that Year 7 pupils traditionally go on a residential stay to help with forming new friendship groups etc. This year, Year 7 will go to PGL Baschurch and a separate Parent Mail will be sent to Year 7 families with a reply slip to complete and return.

Sport fixtures start next week and squad sessions begin on Monday therefore it is worth going through the College white calendar carefully and ensuring that all games kit is named too.

Please feel comfortable contacting Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary should you have any questions in these early weeks of term.

Yours sincerely