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20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parent,

Pupils have quickly got into the swing of the routine in College and the atmosphere has been lovely. There are impressive scenes around the College at the moment as Autumn pushes its colours forward. It certainly makes one appreciate the wonderful surroundings the children have here at College.

The Lower School Eucharist Harvest Festival Service is on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, starting at 8.50am**. The Reverend Gratton warmly invites parents to share this short service, and light refreshments in the dining hall are available afterwards when the pupils go back to lessons. We would welcome gifts for the altar produce display. It is preferable that perishable foods are brought to School on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

I had the pleasure to say well done to a number of Lower School pupils who have recently achieved Royal School of Music Grades in recent examinations.

Lunchtime and squad sport practices have been busy. This weekend the under 13 and 12 teams will play rugby against King Henry VIII School, Coventry and the girls play hockey against Bedstone College. We hope that everyone plays well. There were good results last weekend and the sport coaches were pleased with the spirit in which all games were played. This was good to hear!

It is interesting to note that for home matches, refreshments are served in the dining hall for players and their supporting families. It really is a good way to get to know the Ellesmere community.

There is a non-uniform day on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**. Pupils may wear their home clothes (for a donation to charity of £2) but the normal rules apply regarding make-up, hair tied back and jewellery. I also advise that footwear is still sensible in order for the safe negotiation of all of the stairs at College. Similarly, cropped tops, tiny shorts and off the shoulder numbers are not appropriate either.

This non-uniform day supports the work of the Macmillan Nurses. Ellesmere College Parents' Society will also host a Coffee Morning from 8.30am in the tuck shop. They will then run a cake sale at break time in the Lower School Hall. They would readily accept donations of cakes/biscuits to sell and pupils may purchase cakes for a small amount. (Please identify the ingredients on the box so that we can advise anyone with an allergy).

The Parents' Society meet regularly and always welcome new faces to join. Should you wish to be part of the Parents' Society, please make contact on the email : [contactecps@gmail.com](mailto:contactecps@gmail.com)

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Alternatively, chat to Mrs Leonard who will link you to a current Lower School parent member.

It is good to say well done to James Raw. He is one of the Lower School Titan swimmers. Recently he won the British Open Water race for 12 year old boys. He also won four gold medals and one silver medal at the Welsh Open Championships. Very well done James. The open water section appears exceptionally challenging (and very chilly in my thoughts!) Good luck in the future races James.

It is worthy of note that we have a number of very committed swimmers in Lower School. They train hard and manage their academic schedules to great effect.

Mrs Paul, Lower School Coordinator of Music asked me to mention that on 4<sup>th</sup> October there will be a concert in Big School starting at 7pm. Lower School Choir and instrumentalists will all be involved, along with older students from Ellesmere College, the Choral Society and visiting performers from Prestfelde School in Shrewsbury. There will be rehearsals on the day during the afternoon and pupils involved will stay and have supper together before the concert starts. The proceeds of the concert are for charity so please come and support the pupils at this fantastic event. Tickets can be booked via <https://www.ellesmere.com/whats-on-form>

Please remember that Breakfast Club is available in the mornings for earlier school drop off. This club is designed to help families with tight morning schedules. Please book in by email [breakfast@ellesmere.com](mailto:breakfast@ellesmere.com) the cost is £5.

We also have a new Twitter page for Lower School - @ECLowerSchool, where we will be posting weekly news and updates. We always welcome updates on your child's achievements outside of School and love to share the successes of our pupils. Please email Mrs Leonard [lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:lowerschoolsecretary@ellesmere.com) with any news and photos that you may have.

Please could families check that all kit and uniform is named. We have had items in lost property already.

Have a lovely weekend. We hope that the weather stays fair!

Yours sincerely