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16th October 2020

Dear Parent,

We have come very quickly to the last newsletter of this first Half Term - what a different Half Term it has been for all. I do respect that it has been a difficult time for families at home, in so many ways.

The pupils have been happy to get back into school and follow routine and it has been good for everyone to re-establish lesson structures and focus on academic work and fun with 'bubble friends'. Where possible, and as frequently as possible, we have had the children outside in the fresh air. We have placed a particular focus on mental well-being for the children. Thank you for your understanding regarding the uniform changes to help with P.E. and Games. Playtimes and lunchtimes have been staggered to keep bubble groups separate and the Lower School building has solely been used for Lower School pupil teaching.

We have really impressed upon the children the need for vigilant hand washing and social distance and that has held off a lot of illness, I am sure. I am hopeful that we can maintain this within the current anxiety that the country is facing. Thank you to all parents for supporting this message at home too and for respecting the new systems at drop off and pick up times. It has also been wise to keep children home at the first sign of an illness and I know that such measures have been very helpful.

It is a good time to say that all official notifications regarding any changes in the College situation will come directly from the Headmaster or the Deputy Heads of the whole School. Dr Chatterjee and Mrs Pritt-Roberts have worked tirelessly to keep to speed with all guidance and national/local instruction. The Lower School newsletter will abate for a while again, should official notification and direction become necessary on a regular basis. I would not like to send out mixed messages as information has to be clear and from a central point. However, I am hopeful this will not happen for us.

After half term we are hoping to run more activities at lunchtime. With this in mind, it is prudent to think about extra pieces of school games kit and footwear. Pupils have a decent sized, personal locker space and bag room and it is always best to keep spare kit in the locker. A waterproof jacket will be essential. Please could all items be named.

Mrs Phillips and Mrs Morgan ran the first online Parent Meetings this week. There were teething problems with connectivity on occasions, as one would imagine there may be. However, it was good to be able to touch base regarding pupil progress. All other year groups will have a school report, covering all subject areas, later in the term. Please remember that the personal tutor is the first



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contact point for you and an email will start dialogue should a concern arise. Mrs Leonard, the Lower School secretary, will also be available for general enquiries. Please do not hesitate to call her or send an email.

Mr Rylands has opened the range for a restricted number of 'shooting details' and it has been good to see pupils enjoying shooting again. He is looking at expanding the number as soon as he can safely do so. Tennis has also started again in a limited capacity and Lower School pupils are enjoying coaching sessions again. With this in mind, it is important to remind parents to ensure that we are fully aware of the name of any child who will stay in College after 5.30pm.

The House competition has had a big focus through this first half of term. The pupils have selected Year 8 House Captains and the inter- House competitions in rugby, football and hockey have been closely contested. The House point competition has also been very competitive. Brownlow House had a slight hold in the first few weeks and as the term has progressed the weekly point tally has become closer. This week Mrs Phillips and her team must have sprinkled motivation over their troops in House Meetings, as they were top House this week by a small margin!

Half Term begins at 5.30pm on Friday 23rd October 2020. I do hope that pupils and their families have time to rest and regather, ready for the final half of the term.

Yours sincerely,

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