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Dear Parent,

It's good to be back after the Easter break and there is a lovely atmosphere in Lower School. The pupils have quickly settled in class and appear happy at break times too. Long may this last!

Year 7 started the rotation of Chapel Service this week. In the past few months this event has been virtual. Other year group services start next week too, all at a sensible social distance and with adaptations included, for the moment.

Mrs Waddams, Head of Geography, contacted me today. She has been thrilled with the work that Year 7 pupils have put into creating their volcano models. She has been working through 'eruption demonstrations' and in her words- "they have been wonderful this year". She will be awarding prizes soon. Thank you to our patient parents too, who may have lived through and survived the model making process at home. I am sure that many kitchen areas have had disruption whilst the models have been created.

It has been positive to welcome a large number of new pupils this term. I am confident that our current pupils will help them through the early weeks of routine and offer a friendly, helping hand should they need it.

Cricket nets have been taking place each lunchtime. It is amazing to see the size of cricket bags! Some are akin to small mobile homes! Please, would families ensure that all items of kit and equipment are clearly named so that lost items can quickly return to their respective owners.

Still on a cricket theme, we say congratulations to Harry Harrison Year 5. Harry has recently secured a place in the Under 11 County Cricket squad. Well done Harry!

It has been good to see pupils looking smart in their uniform. Dr Chatterjee has maintained his relaxation of the school rule regarding hair at the moment. He understands that families are trying to secure appointments at hairdressers and barbers etc. Please could styles then return to a sensible, above the collar length. Long hair must be tied back. Fringe lengths should allow a pupil to function without obscuring their face and no extreme styles with steps and shaves will be allowed. Hopefully, very soon we will return to a 'normal' interpretation of the simple College rule.

With rules in mind, it is worth mentioning that mobile telephones must be locked away in a pupil's personal locker at the start of the School day. It is recommended that families regularly check the use of apps that their child is accessing too. Many social media apps are for use by children aged 16 years and over. We find that problems arise when pupils are given permission to use them too early and they are not mature enough to handle the possible miscommunications/inappropriate conversations that may arise on such platforms.

Next week, Mr Crawford is holding the Year 8 House General Knowledge quiz. It is usually a fiercely fought affair. This year it will take place in the Arts Centre, at a suitable social distance, with remote group viewing. It is building a great deal of excitement already! As you may recall, Mr Crawford represented Oxford University on a recent University Challenge programme. His questions are usually quite testing!

It was with sadness we think about the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The College has a long and valued history of pupils being challenged by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. A large proportion of our pupils achieve Gold Award and have indeed met the Duke over the years. With this in mind the Lower School pupils are asked to be creative. They are challenged to produce an A4 design to respect the Duke of Edinburgh and his work. The piece of art can be in any form that they choose. Pencil, colour, abstract, portraiture etc. There will be a display of all of the work. One piece will be chosen and framed to be placed alongside the portrait of HRH Princess Royal in the Lower School Hall. The Princess Royal opened Lower School in 1999. In addition, the art work will feature in the Ellesmerian magazine at the end of this term.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,



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