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Dear Parent,

The week has flown past. The children have been excited to see each other and share their news. They have quickly got back into curriculum routines and there is a conscientious air about Lower School.

Next week, the end of year examinations commence for all students. The focus is mainly on Year 7 and above, particularly, but KS2 children will have some assessments too. Year 8 pupils will start to experience sitting examinations in the more formal environment of the Big School Hall. Year 7 pupils take their exams in smaller groups but similarly the aim will be a certain degree of formality to help them place importance on preparation. As with all of our assessment phases, there should not be any undue extra pressure. The focus will certainly be for sensible preparation and reflection and keeping systems in perspective.

It was akin to walking through a South Pacific Island on Tuesday, there were so many wonderful volcanos to see! Year 7 pupils have been challenged to make a volcano model and there are prizes for the most impressive eruptions in Geography lessons. A number of lava-making chemical reactions have been in evidence. I do hope that family kitchens have survived this particular enrichment activity.

The House Poetry competition came to its deadline date on Wednesday. Mrs Rogers, Enrichment Co-ordinator, has to now judge the entries. I do not envy her task. We will hopefully have the winners soon!

It is worth noting that Year 8 ESB examinations have had a change of date. They will now take place on Wednesday 7th June. The Board could not make the planned, originally publicised date.

There are three expedition days at the end of the Summer Term. Mrs Morgan is working on the programme for Lower School pupils. She will send details home as soon as possible to ensure that everyone is fully informed of venues and clothing requirements. The children usually find them both educational and enjoyable.

Pupils may now wear their uniform in summer mode. Hopefully, this will encourage the warmer weather to make a more regular appearance. Pupils may choose not to wear their jumper. Long sleeved shirts may be folded neatly to above the elbow. Hair, make-up and jewellery rules still apply. Pupils will still require their jumper in School each day as these are worn for Chapel and assembly events. Please ensure all items are named.

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With uniform and kit in mind, it is important to ensure that pupils have a water bottle in School. As the weather gets sunny, a child should provide a cap and have a small bottle of sun screen in their games bag. The pupils at Ellesmere are outdoors for a significant proportion of the week and we will need to keep them protected.

Please let the Lower School secretaries know of any changes to the routines of homeward travel. In addition, it is important that we are aware of any arrangement necessitating pupils to stay on the premises after 5.30pm.

The British Youth Fencing Championships takes place in Sheffield at the end of this month, Year 7 pupil Pippa Blackwood has qualified into the Sabre category, we look forward to hearing how she gets on!

We hope that the fixtures go well at the weekend and that the weather is fine. We look forward to having a productive second week.

Yours sincerely,