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13th May 2022

Dear Parent,

The weeks seem to be passing at speed and already we are moving forward to the third week of the Summer Term. The pace of Lower School is fast and the children are very busy.

The theme for this week has a particular focus on reviewing performance in the end of year examinations. The main message was to acknowledge the parts that went well, but to reflect and correct any parts that did not go as planned. The focus on the higher performance skills of resilience and tenacity certainly come into play.

Mrs Rogers is the member of staff with a particular focus on the enrichment programme in KS3; Years 7 and 8 and Mrs Phillips has the same focus in KS2; Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. There are challenges set for the pupils to enthuse and inspire in topics outside of the usual curriculum areas. The ultimate focus is for enjoyment and to motivate pupils towards independence of learning. Tutors will encourage children to have a go at the various activities. A recent challenge for the Year 7 pupils was the development of a working volcano model. The prizes were awarded in assembly on Monday.

The Headmaster recently wrote to all College campus drivers to remind everyone of the 10mph speed limit. This is particularly important in car parks, where we have younger children perhaps not focused on extra dangers as they look out for their parents' car or their coach. It is also important to remember that the top car park near to the Lower School building is a drive in, drive off arrangement, there should not be parked cars. Please arrange for any Upper School siblings to meet family cars on the tennis centre car park or elsewhere in College.

Thank you for your understanding that visitors to Lower School need to ring the Lower School secretary on 01691 626511 so that they can be met and escorted into the building. From various child protection regulation standpoints, we sadly cannot have visitors/parents coming into the building unaccompanied. Please also remember that your child's personal tutor is there for you for any concerns. A quick email or phone call to the Lower School secretary can also very quickly settle any concern. Tutors will then arrange a suitable time to meet if this is deemed necessary. Please feel supported and comfortable asking any question about processes/concerns.

It's amazing to see the amount of equipment and kit that we have in this main tennis/golf and cricket season. Some of the equipment is very expensive. Please ensure that all items are named and if valuable, insured. As you will imagine, in a busy workplace with socially developing children, items can become misplaced or damaged. This also extends to laptops and musical instruments.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

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www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

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There was wonderful singing in Chapel this week. A large number of pupils helped run the service and many are developing as fine public readers and performers. We encourage all Year 7 and 8 pupils to offer their service to read in Chapel, it is a great skill to develop. One of the wonderful things I recognise, when I wave Year 13 pupils off into the wide world, is their quiet and determined confidence. They are not gauche, they articulate well and are such well-rounded and nice young people. All of such skills are developed through the College, with the seeds planted and encouraged in Lower School.

The Year 6 pupils recently visited the local library for a literacy talk. They were good ambassadors for the College and I received some very nice comments from the local people. This was lovely!

The Usborne Book company came on Wednesday to also offer support to the literacy focus this week. The children had a chance to look through the new editions. A separate email has been sent to families to make orders if they so wish. Mrs Phillips or the Lower School secretary can help with any query.

Well done to the Under 12 cricket team this week. They enjoyed a fixture against Sandbach School and secured a win.

Sadly, a few planned fixtures have been postponed due to rain, please keep a close eye on the web site and portal. If you want to see the full Sports Programme, with details of **all** the school's fixtures, results, and more, then you can visit <http://www.ellesmeresport.com/Default.asp?Id=309>. We can get frustrating last-minute changes to events. We do try to contact parents directly if at all possible however, when there are a large number of children involved, it can be a slow process. Mr Williams, Director of Sport posts the information on the portal as soon as he receives it.

We have had a break from normal traditions due to Covid infection, however, hopefully, we are back on track this year. Many pupils and families will not have experienced a normal, traditional Ellesmere end of year. I thought it worth noting to families that the last day of the academic year at Ellesmere is **Saturday 2nd July**. The Headmaster holds Speech Day, with prize giving assembly at 10.30am for all main prizes awarded from this academic year for the whole school. From a Lower School perspective, this is purely the top academic prize winners from each academic subject in Years 7 and 8. Mrs Pritt-Roberts, Deputy Head of whole school writes to inform those families to attend.

We hold our **Lower School Last Assemblies** at 12 noon. Year 7 and 8 on the top floor of Lower School and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, in the Arts Centre. Pupils are expected to attend and parents are invited. These events are a short celebration of the academic year for those children. Families then progress on to Strawberries and Fizz on the terraces. This is a lovely way to enjoy the College grounds, traditions and friends. College transport will still operate on that day, should parents not be able to attend but the coaches are 1 hr later than normal or children may be dropped off at 11.30am. The coaches depart for home at 1.15pm for their subsequent destinations.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

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A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

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