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Dear Parent,

It is a great feeling to have the sun shining through the window as I prepare the newsletter for this week. The return to school has been an event that we have looked forward to for many weeks. It has been nice to have dry breaktimes and lunchtimes since Monday, enabling the children to let off steam after being cooped up for so long.

It's been positive getting back to class and the pupils have worked hard. One can never replace the benefit of interaction that one gets in a face to face lesson, albeit at a social distance at the moment. Lunch time clubs have started well. Pupils are enjoying a whole programme of well-planned and managed activities. Once again, chess is very popular, tennis courts are well used and the rest of our traditional clubs will shortly follow suit. All activities have to follow the guidelines at the moment, with the appropriate steps taken, but it's good to be moving forward.

It was lovely to see some of the work that children have done whilst in the lockdown period. There have been wonderful examples of creativity from pond building projects to pupils realising that they are pretty fine photographers.

It was a pleasure to announce that two of the Year 7 pupils had achieved success in a county-wide photographic competition supported by the charity Age UK. Sofie Glinos and Florence Sweeney were presented with prizes for their entries. Well done girls!

The focus in Assembly this week was to consider the huge army of people who may be are not traditionally thanked for their contributions to keep the country safe and hygienic for us. Some people go under the radar and it was good to think about them for a moment. We have cleaners who arrive in the evenings, we have College kitchen staff whom we trust to keep a very high standard of hygiene and a whole host of other people in the community like road sweepers, refuse collectors, highway litter patrols etc. This list goes on. Consideration was given to the service that they provide.

It is acknowledged that getting a haircut is rather difficult currently and, as long as hair is clean, tied back and tidy, it is not an issue at the moment if hair is rather on the long side of the School rule. We hope that over Easter this situation may become less of a problem for families. Thank you to parents for supporting with a tidy return of School uniform too.

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There have been a lot of lost property items this week, which perhaps is to be expected as pupils get back into the routines of keeping their kit together. Please can you ensure that all items are named to help us with the swift return of an item. Please also pop a name on all water bottles too. We are developing quite a collection.

Sister Davies has also asked me to let you know that there will be a catch-up clinic for the Year 8 HPV vaccines on Tuesday 27th April. A consent form will be sent to you on the 25<sup>th</sup>, please return after Easter.

There will be a whole School Easter egg raffle to raise awareness and funds for MHES (Mental Health at Ellesmere Support System). Tickets are 50p each or £1 per strip, these will be sold outside the dining hall Monday to Thursday next week, Mr Wignall will draw the raffle at 12.30pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Pupils are reminded that mobile telephones must be switched off and placed in lockers during the working school day and the usual rule regarding social media sites for Lower School aged children still applies. It is worth noting that wristwatches that allow messaging/calls are also included in this rule.

It is worth noting that College ends for Easter at 4.30pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. College transport departs at this time, so please make a note that collection is one hour earlier at all relevant stops.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely