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Dear Parent,

Even though we have had a mixed week of weather, the grounds and Ellesmere certainly look lovely when the sun shines through.

Pupils have settled well to business this week and lesson patterns are rapidly becoming established; it usually takes a couple of weeks. It is good to welcome everyone back to the new term; we have had over forty new pupils to Lower School this academic year and they are settling well too.

Various lunch time and afternoon activities are starting over the next few weeks and pupils are encouraged by their tutors to take advantage of all opportunities to stay busy and challenged. Over the next few weeks we will aim to put together an information sheet to help parents keep in the picture with what is going on in College. It will take a little while to get replies back from all of the members of staff to outline what they are running and what they also plan to run through the later part of this term.

The catering manager is Mrs G Jones. The pupils certainly appear to enjoy what is on offer at lunch time and there is a wide range of food option. We do encourage children to consider carefully their choices and try to encourage healthy eating patterns. An afternoon tea snack is available each day and pupils are encouraged to keep hydrated and use the water fountains regularly. The fruit trolley is available throughout all break times and pupils are encouraged to snack on fruit too, when they feel the need. We discourage sweets and tuck shop is a treat once per week. Please limit spending to £1. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding food and dietary provision for your child, please contact your child's personal tutor, who will help.

Expeditions are later in this half term as noted in the School White Calendar. (Wednesday 25th until Friday 27st October).

Year 7 pupils will be visiting PGL Baschurch, for a 3- day residential trip. A 'Parent Mail' letter was sent earlier in the week by Mrs Leonard. Please could we ask that the reply slip is returned by Friday 22nd September as we have to book the final places and start arrangements for the visit. I would whole heartedly encourage all pupils in Year 7 to go on this expedition trip. It is a super, safe and fun way that the children get to know others in the year group. The centre is relatively local-so even the most anxious child (or parent!) should be happy that home is not too far away.

The Harvest Festival for Lower school is arranged by Revd. Gration. It is planned for the morning of Tuesday 17th. October. We will post more details over the forthcoming weeks.

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A Woodard School

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There is a Non- Uniform day on Friday 22nd September. Pupils may choose to wear non- uniform clothes and the donation of £2 will go to the MacMillan Nurses. It is worth a pre thought as School rules still apply regarding hair, make-up and jewelry and sensible footwear is required too. Shorts are only allowed if they are mid- thigh in length and tops should cover shoulders.

Following on from the charity theme, the Ellesmere College Parents' Society (ECPS) are hosting a coffee morning on Friday 29th September. This will take place in the College Tuck Shop, starting at College drop off time until 10 am. There is ample parking in that part of the College. All proceeds raised will also go towards Cancer Research. We will back up this venture in Lower School by hosting a cake sale for the children at break time and would welcome any edible donation on that day.

The ECPS has a really sociable group of parents who meet to organize fund raising events throughout the college year. It is also a nice way for new parents to meet other parents in College. Please contact Mrs Astbury or Mrs Hale on contactecps@gmail.com

Sister Moore asked me to mention that new pupil medicals will take place next week. If you do not wish for your child to have the medical or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Sister on the email sisters@ellesmere.com

The specialist firm providing gum shield fitting will be in College next Wednesday 10.30 am to complete all fitting requests. Please send Mrs Leonard an e-mail to book in your child if this has not already been done through the company. She will then ensure that pupils attend.

Mr Williams, the Director of Sport also asked me to mention that all fixture information and details for events can be found on the College Sports website.

The site can be accessed from the following links via FROG page too
<http://www.ellesmeresport.com/?id=309>
<https://www.ellesmere.com/the-schools/all/clubs-and-societies/sport/>

There are Rugby fixtures this weekend so we wish our boys well.

Well done to Katie Hale (Year 7) who continued with her impressive swimming performances being the youngest Titan to get a National Qualifying time and Silver Medal in a recent 1.5 open Water event. Well done Katie!

I would like to thank all parents for their continued support from home regarding uniform and School rules etc. Please feel comfortable contacting your child's tutor or Mrs Leonard, the Lower School Secretary should you have a concern or question in these early weeks.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

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