



S Owen
Head of Lower School
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10th February 2017

Dear Parent,

It has been slightly lighter at the end of the School day, and it has been good to see some new plant growth in the gardens and borders around School, this has certainly lifted spirits. It has also been interesting to watch the roof developing on the new Tennis Centre over the last week, and it looks like progress is still on track for the facility to be in use during the Summer Term.

Teachers have completed the first Lent period grades this week, and they should arrive home in the following week. Tutors have been encouraging pupils once again to evaluate their performance and set short term targets in specific areas. It has been pleasing to see the progress and pride that many of the pupils are putting into their work.

Please would parents of Year 8 pupils contact the Lower School Secretary by telephone, email or the reply slip below to indicate attendance at the Year 8 Information Meeting and Parents Meeting. We will particularly need to know whether pupils will require supper, as meals will have to be ordered.

It is encouraging to see that the Prep room is being well used by a number of pupils in Year 7 and 8 at lunch and break times. Personal time management is a vital life skill to develop, and we encourage pupils to use this opportunity when they have busy periods in the week.

KS2, Years 3, 4, 5, 6, pupils have also had a busy week completing their KS2 tests. To evaluate progress to date and for future individual target setting Teachers use these tests.

Mr Dilks has been linking a number of older pupils to younger readers in the 'reading buddy' system that we have in Lower School. The younger pupils are benefitting from this enormously and the older pupils enjoy the responsibility. It has been good to see the overall reading age of pupils developing as a result.

The Under 13 girls were successful in progressing to the next round of the National Indoor Cricket competition. Mr Jones, Head Cricket Coach reported to me that all girls played with strong determination, and were a credit to Lower School in their sporting attitude and behaviour. Well done girls!

Next Thursday, 16th February is the date of the Lower School Inter House Cross Country event. Mr Williams, Head of Games has confirmed the following information with regard to the timing of race events.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

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PROGRAMME:

2.45pm Year 3, 4, 5, boys and girls

3.00pm Year 6, boys and girls

3.20pm Year 7, boys and girls

3.40pm Year 8, boys and girls

Parents are most welcome to attend; tea and coffee will be available throughout the event. You are welcome to take your child home after the races but please let a member of Lower School staff know before you depart. Prep and School transport will run as normal following the event. Results and medals will be presented in a Lower School House Assembly the following day and Mr Williams will inform pupils of the results of race times next week.

From a health point of view, Tutors have been discussing with pupils how to transport their bags around during the School day. With a little thought and organisation, it is possible to avoid carrying heavy bags packed full of kit and books. Each pupil has a personal lockable space, items can be stored safely there until required, musical instruments are also stored safely until required. It can be so damaging to young spines if heavy loads are repeatedly put onto developing frames, this may be worth talking through at home with your children too.

The Lower School 'Wear it Woolly' event raised just over £100 for Age UK, thank you very much for supporting this fun but charitable event.

The Ellesmere College Parents' Society are organising a Flower Demonstration and Afternoon Tea on Friday 17th March 2017. It will take place in the Sports Hall classrooms at 2pm and will cost £6 per head. 'Creative Floral Design by Budding Delights' should be a fun and enjoyable event. The Parents' Society warmly welcome new members to their group and it is an excellent way to meet the parents of other children in Lower School. Tickets may be purchased by contacting, contactecps@gmail.com

Please may I remind parents that permission for School absence during Term time usually has to be referred to the Headmaster. It is wise to send requests early if possible to allow the Headmaster time to consider the situation and process the replies.

This will be the last newsletter before half term therefore, we wish the swimmers success in the forthcoming Shropshire County Championships.

Have a good weekend,

Yours sincerely,

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Please return to the Lower School office

I _____ shall be attending Year 8 Parents' Evening on Friday 17th February
(Name of Parent)

And would like _____ to stay for tea and prep
(Name of pupil)

Signed _____

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