

Dear Parents

"Always, when you enter a room, you have a little bit of responsibility for the mood in the room." Jurgen Klopp

In assemblies with Years 10, 11 and 12 this week, we focussed on leadership: not leadership by virtue of position or rank, but leadership through character and example. For year 12s, it was particularly relevant as they consider applications for prefect roles over the next two weeks.

As a Liverpool fan, albeit an armchair one, Jurgen Klopp was a breath of fresh air in his example of leadership. In one interview that I shared in the assemblies, Klopp focused on two aspects of leadership that he regards as non-negotiable. Firstly, the responsibility we have for the mood in the room and secondly, the support leaders show for the people around them; "that is what leadership is about".

I believe we are all leaders in different ways, and pupils were challenged about their leadership and the impact they have on the mood in the room, their team, their friendship group. Similarly, pupils were asked to consider how they support those around them. For a 15-year-old, this might not always come naturally, but as adults I hope we can all model a little of the Klopp wisdom.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw
Head

Highlights of the week

Sport: Even by Ellesmere standards the last few days have been exceptionally busy in terms of sporting fixtures, with Target Rifle, Badminton, Netball, Football, Hockey and Rugby fixtures taking place in the last three days. Some highlights are below.

Tennis: Helena Geissler won her first world ranking points on the ITF tour joining Gwen Klu as our second world ranked player this year. Gwen improves her world ranking by winning her first ITF points on British soil. Harry Wyke won a Grade 4 U18 event defeating another Ellesmerian, Austin Edwards, in the final. The senior girls team have qualified for the LTA regional finals to be played at Nottingham Tennis Centre later in March.

Netball: Both 1st and 2nd teams played against NULS (Newcastle-Under-Lyme School), and both teams emerged victorious. The 1st team won 48-37 in a tightly contested match. The 2nd team won a little more comfortably, 31-16. It was great to see younger pupils from Y10 also playing in these senior teams.

Rugby: In preparation for their national cup semi-final at the beginning of March, the rugby team played Oswestry School 1st XV and recorded a very comfortable 83-0 win. Whilst a little one-sided, Mr Murphy assures me it was a useful exercise for the team in playing in match conditions ahead of the semi-final against Oakham School.

Badminton: A close-fought great badminton fixture resulted in a 9-12 loss against Oswestry but involved a number of Year 10s who played some excellent matches. Particularly well done to Amani who won all her matches.

Green Team: Another Thursday afternoon volunteering at the Wood Lane conservation area near Ellesmere. This week the students chopped down diseased trees and moved logs to create insect havens. A great afternoon's work despite the rain.