

Dear Parents

In our final assembly on Wednesday, I referenced the ski racer Lindsey Vonn and her response to her spectacular crash at the recent Winter Olympics. Lindsey Vonn is one of the greatest alpine skiers in history, with Olympic gold and four World Cup titles to her name. Despite retiring in 2019, Vonn made a remarkable comeback to racing in 2024 and was considered a favourite for the Olympic downhill gold last month. Even after tearing her ACL two weeks before the games, she still managed to return to training and set some of the fastest practice times on the Olympic downhill course. However, in the race itself, only 13 seconds into her run, she clipped a gate and suffered an horrific crash, breaking her leg in multiple places. It was not the comeback of which she had dreamed.



Her response to this setback is the reason her story is powerful. She reminded the world that ski racing — and life — is full of risks, and that although “*it does not always work out, it doesn’t mean it was wrong to try. Have the courage to dare greatly. Life is too short not to take chances on yourself. The only real failure is not trying.*”

Thank you for your support throughout this term and I wish everyone both a restful and, particularly for those revising, a productive Easter break.

With best wishes



Jon Shaw

Head

A reminder that the Summer Term starts at 8.30am on Tuesday 14 April, boarding houses are open from 19:00 on Monday 13 April (unless by arrangement with HsM).

Date for the Diary: Colour Run on Thursday 30 April in aid of the Papyrus Trust

Highlights of the week

Young Citizen of the Year – Shropshire: Congratulations to **Anna (Y12)**, winner of the **Young Citizen of the Year Award** for Shropshire. She was recognised for her work on an exhibition about the conflict in Ukraine, her volunteering with the Riding for the Disabled Association, and her leadership of a recent school charity initiative. Thank you to everyone who supported the **BeBook Charity**, helping to raise over **£600** and donate **hundreds of books**.



Oliver: Well done to everyone involved in the fantastic Lower School production of *Oliver*.

Shropshire Secondary Schools U18 Chess Championship: In total 18 pupils represented Ellesmere. All teams performed well, with the C Team finishing 6th, the B Team 4th and the A Team 3rd, winning the bronze medal. Top performers were VV, Angus and Alex (the current Shropshire U18 Champion).

Cricket: The girls U15 indoor cricket team emulated the success of the U13s to become county champions. They will also go on to represent Shropshire in the Regional Finals at Edgbaston.

South Africa Tour: The senior girls netball and hockey teams have departed for their sports tour to South Africa.

The Inspiring People exhibition at Lower School – many impressive projects and presentations on inspiring people including Muhammed Ali, Sophie Scholl, Amanda Gormann, Greta Thunberg, Amal Clooney, Nelson Mandela and Jason Robinson.

St John Passion (Bob Chilcott): The Chamber and Chapel Choirs involvement in the outstanding performance on Saturday evening in the College Chapel, alongside a visiting orchestra, an adult choir and professional soloists.