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## Principal's Newsletter

2 September 2022

Dear Parents,

And...they are off.

Ms Brown of the Prep School, a consummate professional and the apogee of organization, even timed the birth of her first child Josephine May to the first day of INSET. Congratulations to her and her partner. Mum and baby are thriving.

From the Reception classrooms filled with visiting parents and pupils, the MV Hall where the largest Sixth Form cohort in the history of the school is being inducted, all over a sun dappled campus, the school year is off to a flying start. The first few days of term are always exhilarating, and slightly overwhelming, as pupils find their catering locations, classrooms, learn the new timetable and routines.

There have been some changes on campus and our ground and maintenance staff have worked hard this summer to prepare the campus for the year. Pupils will be particularly impressed this year with the developments in catering facilities with new kitchens and new menu options being rolled out in several places over the next 12 months. The Prep School is undergoing still further works to increase the size of classrooms. This means some disruption for some classes, and I was able to salute Miss Crossley and her charges who have set up a pleasant home in the ground floor of the old Mossley Vale, some distance from the other Chapter 4 classes.

As is my wont at the beginning of every year, I need to ask you for your help in relation to the traffic around school and the implementation of our uniform policy.

As our school grows and now that start times are no longer staggered, it's even more important to follow the highway code when driving and parking near school. Please do not block the driveways and access of local residents. So many families have "clever" parking and transportation plans. Many pupils bicycle. Others walk with or without their parents from some distance and park, for example, along Sefton Park. There are countless ways to avoid the rush. The only way we can keep all our students and pupils safe and prevent the entire area being snarled by traffic is by engaging in these innovative strategies.

I must also ask for your help in filling out this very important **travel survey**. Please click on the links below and you can anonymously do the survey. It will give the city and the school a better insight into the road and traffic situation around schools. It will enable us to develop strategies and programmes that make this situation better. Your help is really needed.

Please complete the relevant survey below depending on what part of the school your child is in. If you have children in different parts of the College please complete the survey for each of the schools that you have a child attending. The survey will close on Friday 9 September.

- Sixth Form Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZqNnr6cp2f>
- Senior School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/vZkDqK0hXP> (for Chapters (Years) 10-11)
- Middle School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/hyQDr647kQ> (for Chapters (Years) 7-9)
- Primary School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/YyZtygTq5Q> (for Reception - Chapter 6)

If you completed the survey at the end of last term, you do not need to complete another one.

Mrs Cassidy (Vice Principal) has asked me to pass on an important message regarding vehicle access to the site. From Tuesday next week, there will be a barrier system in operation at the main staff car park next to the playing fields on North Mossley Hill Road. The barrier will be in operation from 7.30am until 4.20pm Monday-Friday. Access to the car park is for staff only during these times. Some parents have previously used the staff car park as a drop off or collection point at the start and end of the school day. Please do not attempt to use the car park during these times as you will not be able to open the barrier and this will cause considerable delays and traffic issues at the car park entrance. Please also do not enter behind a staff car while the barrier is open as you will be unable to exit the car park.

The uniform policy has been followed closely in all phases of the school except Chapters 8-11 where the habits of covid and the weather have combined to produce a more motley effect.

Pupils must wear either the field uniform (school tracksuit) or the formal uniform depending on their timetable for any one day. Options such as shorts, skorts, games jerseys, hoodies etc are all out. In a spirit of generous transition, we will not begin the sanctions until next week. In the event that your child does not have a school tracksuit, they must wear the formal uniform. The exception is sixth form and reception which have their own uniform policy.

Last night, my colleagues and I attended the Sixth Form Leavers Dinner at the Royal Liver Building. The weather was perfect, the young people full of energy and the joy of friendship

and good memories, and we were able to look over the Mersey as the sun set on our beloved city. It is salutary to begin a year by being reminded about the great journeys of development our pupils undertake. This particular cohort had a substantial number of students going to Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities. There are also inspirational stories of pupils determined to resit, believing they can and will do better. Students who managed to get on their dream Midwifery or Nursing course. It made my colleagues and I remember what we are doing it all for.

I hope to introduce you over time in these newsletters to new members of staff who have joined us. Here is a small sample for this week:

- **Mrs Arkwright** is our new Data Manager. Mrs Arkwright has extensive experience of working in schools in a variety of senior administrative and data roles.
- **Mrs McGillivray** is a new member of the primary staff, working as a Learning Support Assistant. She joined us after working as a teaching assistant for a number of years in a primary school supporting pupils with a variety of educational needs.
- **Mrs Landon-Jones** is a new member of the English Faculty in the Secondary Phase. Mrs Landon-Jones knows the College well having completed her teacher training last year through our School Direct programme.

At our whole school assembly in the secondary phase today I was able to introduce our head boy and head girl, Ethan F and Isabella H respectively. Congratulations to them as they represent the preferences of both their peers and their teachers for the leadership of the pupils of the school. Their first task which takes some getting used to is to stand in front of their peers and shout: ALL STAND! But they will soon do this with brio and confidence.

We had already celebrated our pleasing SATs results. Our GCSE results were very strong as well this year. A highlight was that 43% of GCSE grades were at grade 7 8 or 9, compared to around 30% nationally. This excellent success means many of our pupils were able to do the courses and apprenticeships they had been pursuing and that our Sixth Form Chapter 12 group is larger than in previous years.

We have as a staff committed ourselves to continue to develop and improve the personal development programme of the school. Mr Stamper is driving this process in the Prep School and in the secondary phase there are now Deans in every Chapter (Year) group and a Sixth Form Dean. Your child will tell you all about it no doubt, but in the secondary phase it may mean that your child has a new "pastoral leader".

Next week the full school week will be in play with its sports practices, orchestra and choir rehearsals, homework assignments. Let us hope this glorious weather continues with a well-timed rain to soften the pitches for our first Saturday fixtures next weekend.

This is the time of year when pupils and students have a chance to sign up and try something new. The Greek Academy is an amazing experience which I can recommend fully.

Classes take place at Liverpool College and two of our pupils who have attended regularly scored sky high GCSE grades in Ancient Greek at the end of Year 10 while also meeting lots of new friends from other schools. An amazing opportunity. Please [click here](#) to download further information. To register please complete the online form here: <https://forms.gle/Wk4EYWwgzxdHQA6m8>.

May I wish you and yours a sunny and relaxing weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**