

Principal's Newsletter

2 December 2022

Dear Parents,

At secondary phase assembly today, the charity action group encouraged peers to donate to a charitable call to bring in items for the Whitechapel Christmas Appeal. The Whitechapel Centre supports the city's homeless, rough sleepers, families that are at risk of homelessness, and any person who needs warmth, support, and safety. Items suggested were chocolates, hats and scarves, pyjamas, etc. Donations can be left at Student Services or the Sixth Form office.



Congratulations to all the volunteers of the PTA who made last Saturday's Christmas Market such a success. This traditional event now has a format and is back on our post-covid

calendar as was the excellent performance of the Prep School choir in St George's Hall the next day.



I am especially gratified that the money raised will soon enable the PTA to open a nearly new uniform shop which will enable the efficient exchange of outgrown or discarded uniform, substantially lightening the financial burden on families. You can catch up on all the PTA news and dates for your diary in the PTA newsletter [here](#).

This is the season of exams and celebrations, a strange juxtaposition. Our Chapter 13 students have finished a week of mocks, while others face a variety of so called PP1 assessments which will lead to their report for the end of term. All the while, we are preparing for Christingles, concerts and performances, services and parties. There is a momentum to all of that most visible in the Pre Prep preparations which in many cases require entire classes to come to the Sutton Timmis to rehearse the merriments. A visit there now sees large groups of children desperately trying to remember a line for a nativity play, standing up confidently in preparation for addressing an audience of visiting parents. Then there is the dance off, an amazing sight where pupils are expertly guided through a dance by their dance teacher. It must be wonderful to attend a school where all of this is happening in dark December.

The secondary phase will be holding its annual service of lessons and carols at Mossley Hill Parish Church on Thursday 15 December at 7.00pm. This service is open to all members of the College community but due to the size of the venue, it will not be a requirement for secondary phase pupils to attend this year. Pupils will instead have their own service at the church during the last day of term. There will of course though still be a large number of pupils involved in the service on the 15 December and our musicians are busy preparing.

Some serious sporting successes this week. Let's begin with the Chapter 9-10-11 and sixth form senior netball teams who travelled to St Edwards and had to play their matches on the AstroTurf. All the LC teams won, in almost each case coming from behind to do so. Congratulations to them and to their coaches. Chapter 7 football is showing the sort of character and resilience which will likely transform them into a very successful team in the future. They bounced back from two recent cup defeats to beat Gateacre 5-0 at home with goals from Frankie C, 2 x Darren M, Chet L and Leo T. The Chapter 9 football machine have now advanced to the fifth round of the National Cup by defeating St Mary's Leyland 4-2 with goals from Tom C, 2 x Ben M and Erdis R. In rugby, the U16s played a great game against Audenshaw, a strong Manchester team. Our guys were relentless and composed, never getting drawn into what is referred to strangely as "handbags" in rugby parlance, namely players grabbing each other and pushing and shoving and talking all sorts of nonsense. Instead, they focused on the challenge of playing this strong team, remained disciplined and walked away with a well-deserved win. Tomorrow, we are travelling to Birkenhead for rugby fixtures and Cowley for hockey.

Our artist of the week is Maryna N (Ch9)



"Inspired by artists Vexx, Rachael Taylor and David Setter we devised our own compositions exploring continuous line, doodle art and surface pattern techniques"

Congratulations to Olivia H (Ch11) who has been selected to be a soloist for a performance of 'The Snowman' at Liverpool Cathedral. She will sing the famous festive song 'Walking in the Air' alongside a live orchestra. Tickets are still on sale for the 22 December performance at the Cathedral but sell out quickly! More information can be found [here](#).

A reminder that everyone must download the My Child at School (MCAS) app. Paradoxically, if you are reading this you are likely among those who have downloaded but we are now in the process of personally contacting the parents and carers of the 300+ pupils and students who have not downloaded it. The failure to download is greatest among sixth form parents, understandably perhaps as they may believe in the so called "independent approach" where a sixth form student takes personal responsibility. I would however counsel in favour of the download as even reports and announcements, team plans, and eventually all calendar events will be communicated in this way. I am afraid MCAS is essential for every Liverpool College parent.

Mrs Pease reports that it has been a busy day in Primary with staff training around Steps to read. Steps to read is a new, exciting text lead reading programme and all staff have had the opportunity to observe a model lesson by a lead trainer. Our primary staff are looking forward to sharing new texts and techniques with the children.

Prep pupils meanwhile have been enjoying some interhouse sport with pupils in Chapters 5 and 6 competing in netball, football and cross country. Next week is the turn of Chapters 3 and 4!

Our sixth form lecture this week took place in a packed dining room. Our guest for the panel discussion was Zia Chaudhry, MBE, DL, an LC parent, founder of the Spirit of Cordoba, a charity that promotes religious dialogue. Students were engaged and asked some excellent questions. This event and others are made public through the LC Press part of our website [here](#). We are always looking for people who want to write a blog post for the site, or want to be interviewed by our team. If you have suggestions please let us know. You can listen to the event [here](#).

There is a clear desire among students and pupils to discuss these matters and to share and explore ideas, viewpoints, and religious convictions in a spirit of respect.

Our parent information evening was attended by about 40 parents from different parts of the school. There were some themes which emerged and there was some good challenge for us as leaders of the school. We shared our plans for the further development of a

behaviour curriculum, based on the reality that behaviour is learned, not only or even primarily at school, but certainly manifested at school and must therefore also be taught consistently and appropriately for each pupil at school. We also shared plans for the LC Reads programme, the further development of our facilities and the MCAS and Bromcom platforms. Parents were interested in exploring ways to have more time with their child's teachers, whether in person or online, and asked great questions about the role of restorative questions, the maintenance of toilets, the communication plans of the school, to mention a few of the issues raised. Thank you to all who participated. One goal is to undertake some surveys of pupils, initially about their well-being, which will allow us to plan our provision better based on their individual voices and experience. These surveys will be done in school after Christmas.

Answers to last week's maths challenges:

Q1. 14641	Q2. 8
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This week's challenges:

1. There is a cone with slant height 8 and base radius 1. Choose a point P on the base edge of the cone, and join it to the apex A. Define the point C such that ACP is colinear, with $AC = 1$. Consider three distinct geodesics L, M, and N from P to C such that, viewing from directly above the apex, L winds around the apex exactly once, M exactly twice, and N exactly three times. What's the value of $(\text{length}(L) \cdot \text{length}(M) \cdot \text{length}(N))^2$?
2. Two players, A and B, are playing in the world cup. A has a 10% chance of scoring a goal, and B has a 90% chance of scoring a goal. Can you find the probability that when combined, they only score one goal?

May I wish you a pleasant and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal