
Principal's Newsletter

5 May 2023

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to Mr Stamper and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter Mabel Stamper. Mum and baby are doing well.

This has been a much-shortened week for most pupils, and we are about to have another shortened week next week, this time because of the coronation.

If any person in the Pre Prep remains unaware of the coronation, it would be very surprising. Any visit there this week reveals hats, wall ornaments, Union Jacks, and today even a tea party. Ms Boyle has been baking and I need to get down there to enjoy these traditional royal foods, tea and scones.

Even on the strike day much happened in school. Our Chapter 11 impressed, coming into school in uniform to meet with the many volunteers who attend our Chapter 11 mock career interview days providing our pupils an opportunity to learn about different careers and practise their interview skills.

Mrs Doran and Mrs Drew organize this event. Mrs Doran writes:



Every Chapter Y11 pupil was invited to take part in a mock interview event this week in order to practise this essential employability skill. Utilizing the round robin format, each pupil was lucky enough to have between 6 and 8 mock interviews with professional volunteers. In total, twenty eight volunteers confirmed attendance, including HR experts, financial managers, solicitors, university lecturer, doctor, corporate affairs manager, property manager, architect, headteacher, IT executive and NHS professional.

Mock interviews are essential to boost the confidence of pupils, to learn how to best sell their abilities and skills and to teach pupils how to remain calm and composed under stress. The pupils found the interviews extremely beneficial and the feedback after the event reflected how valuable they had considered the experience to be.

We would like to extend our special thanks to every professional volunteer who took time out of their busy schedule to support this incredibly important initiative.

If anyone would like to support Liverpool College with mock interviews in the future, or any aspect of our careers programme, please contact Mrs Doran sedoran@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Even the Chapter 9 cricket team was in action, pupils coming into school to win a fixture against St Mary's Crosby. The following day the Chapter 7 cricket team played their first fixture versus St Mary's and despite defeat there was plenty of potential and effort on show which the team can take forward into the match next Friday against St Edwards College. Later this afternoon, a mix of boys and girls from Chapter 7 to 9 will be playing in a badminton fixture at St Margaret's Academy. The enthusiasm for sport in these Middle School years continues to impress and bodes so well for the future.

Congratulations to Chapter 7 pupils Darren M and Charlie W who are part of the U12s Liverpool Schoolboys squad that became National Cup Champions on Monday at the Bet365 stadium in Stoke.

Congratulations also to Layton N in Chapter 9 who was part of the Liverpool FC team who became the 2022-23 Premier League U14 International Tournament winners. They were presented with their trophy on Wednesday evening at Anfield.

Congratulations and good luck to Jan M (Ch12) and Alex M (Ch13) who will be trialists for places on the U18 Lancashire Rugby team this weekend.

Next week is SATs week in the Prep School. We encourage all our Chapter 6 pupils to relax, rest and enjoy life ahead of their days of SATs assessments.

A request for support from the Charity Action Group:

Please donate towards our Charity Action Group collection for the local charity [Asylum Link Merseyside](#) - which helps refugees and those seeking asylum in the UK. The collection is next week and we will deliver the items on Friday to Asylum Link.

Asylum Link requests:

- gently used men's clothing and shoes*
- toiletries like shampoos, soaps, and shaving cream...*
- food pantry items like tinned foods, pasta, rice, sauces, tea, coffee, sugar and long-life milks and juices...*

Collection points are in student services and the sixth form office. Please be generous and help our refugee and asylum-seeking neighbours in Liverpool! All donations are appreciated.

Our artist of the week this week is Marina V-M (Ch7) - Fauvist Landscape:



Exploring the landscapes around us and developing our ideas into paintings. Incorporating the vivid colour combinations found from our research on Fauvism, colour theory and watercolour techniques to create our own compositions.

The PTA have asked me to announce that the primary phase tea towels are now on sale:

These are perfect keepsakes and brilliant presents for family and friends. Every child and member of teaching staff has done a self-portrait and each tea towel features a whole year group. Please see the PTA newsletter (sent out to parents by MCAS) for information on how to order.

I was struck by a letter from Geoff Barton the general secretary of the ASCL, a union of school leaders. Mr Barton writes about the national pandemic of poor behaviour in schools, from pupils, from parents – you can [click here](#) to read the post.

It is an interesting and sobering read. Sobering because he seems somewhat surprised by the responses he is getting from headteachers across the country. Sobering because he does not know why these trends are rocking schools across the country. His suggestion that we find out why is a good one. But I am going to spare you having to wait for the outcome of research which may never be done and which will likely fail to capture the complexity of factors which are causing some children suffering especially in their mental health. In our experience, there is almost always a connection between social media use, on-line behaviours and serious misbehaviour or struggles in school. There is no longer any doubt. Children especially vulnerable children, do not cope with the mockery, anonymous bullying, and endless marketing and brand promotions which frequently makes up their experience

of time spent online.

Let me give you a very real example.



This ridiculously hyped and marketed drink is the product of two youtubers. These men are so called influencers and they have persuaded the youth of this country to part with 5 to 10 pounds for a bottle of sugar water. We are amazed to discover seemingly calm pupils excited about obtaining this stuff, selling it to friends, etc etc. One could argue that there will always be products which entice and seduce the young into parting with money, indeed the craze for vaping falls into this category also. What interest me is the way some of our pupils can no longer distinguish between the real and the fictive, the marketed and the earnest. Their exposure to these endless manipulations makes them live life at a heightened state of social insecurity and moral confusion.

All of us who work here at the College are working to encourage the skills and desire to live in reality, to embrace real things, real relationships, real life. It is clearly necessary to be more explicit in what we mean by not only the intellect but also the character, and more will be forthcoming. Watch this space. I would also encourage every parent to discover how long their child is spending online and talk to them about what they are seeing and experiencing online.

May I wish you and yours a happy and dry bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal