
Principal's Newsletter

6 January 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

The Lent term begins in darkness and moves toward the light. Our pupils are eager to begin again. I was especially struck by the capacity of Reception pupils to bring new year verve and spirit to their classroom, immediately.

This weekend we will already be back to some of the rhythms of school life. Our netballers will travel to Cheadle Hulme school. Our Chapter 7 rugby team will have a session on the fields, and sadly, there will be a Saturday morning detention, a sign that school, including the need to teach better behaviour, has indeed resumed.

Work on our campus has continued apace. The builders are still ploughing through the 1929 Prep School, creating the classrooms and facilities that we need for chapters of 84 pupils. It is really encouraging to look at some of the assessment data of the chapters who have been affected by moves or temporary displacement out of the building while it is being reshaped and renovated, and observe how well these pupils are doing. This is a tribute to them and to their teachers. Hopefully, this half term will begin to see the resolution of these construction efforts and a gradual move back into now newly refurbished classrooms.

Our need for more space and more classrooms will lead to the construction of a seven-classroom building on the corner of the drive to the sports hall. I have written to you about this before. One obstacle apparently is the constant traffic infringements and congestion of the parent body as cars park illegally on both sides of Queens Drive and North Mossley Hill Road. It is demoralising to begin the new year with this theme once again, but I hope you will park legally when dropping your child off and picking your child up.

The importance of downloading the MCAS (My Child at School) app was revealed once again. If you are reading this newsletter, you probably received it through this app which also keeps you updated on all manner of things happening in the school and happening in your child's classroom. It includes attendance, reports, PPC points etc. In the primary phase, it also announced the arrival of a new vehicle for choice of primary school lunch. Many

pupils have commented on the improvement in food choice and quality since the construction over the holidays of a new kitchen in the primary phase. Catering tends to excite the emotions of parents and pupils alike. Napoleon said armies marched on their stomachs, our experience is something similar happens in schools. Parents insist on the use of Himalayan salts, or organic grains, and various dietary requirements which have proliferated into a veritable challenge. There are of course some teething problems when something as new and complex as this is introduced, but already, day by day, we see improvements and when we are all "into" this system, the catering of primary school will be vastly improved.

Another innovation this term is the astro pass in the secondary phase, a small laminated passport which allows a pupil to enter the astro, thus allowing the school to insist on certain standards of behaviour, decorum and controls. For example, there is now a rota for who goes on the astro at breaktime ensuring the place is more efficiently supervised. Pupils who do not use the privilege of the astro correctly will lose their pass for a period of time as decided by their Deans.

Speaking of Deans. In the secondary phase, we wrote to you earlier this week about how we intend to deal with your email communication with us. Our goal is to make sure our teachers, learning support assistants and leaders can concentrate on these children in front of them rather than on insistent demands for immediate email replies. The exception to this of course is a safeguarding matter which should be immediately sent to safeguarding@liverpoolcollege.org.uk and in emergencies you should always call the school number. All other matters should be sent to the chapter administrator who will make sure your query receives a comprehensive response within 3 working days. You can read more details about our new communications strategy [here](#).

This newsletter may be giving you the false impression that we are merely a building site and college of traffic wardens. The fact is that we are busy on all fronts, including curricularly. I was especially impressed with the INSET day of our primary teachers who were pursuing further training in phonics within a scheme called Read Write Inc. We are also developing a comprehensive reading strategy. How can we increase the reading pupils do, and increase their comprehension and enjoyment of what they are reading? This is when one observes the extraordinary powers of innovation, cooperation and creativity contained within the staff of this College. Plans pour forth, all sorts of people in all sorts of parts of the school make clever, ingenious and creative suggestions which Ms Haynes bundles into a plan, to discuss further with the parliament of houses and with staff. This is how schools improve. A relentless, restless pursuit of improvement and leadership in every quarter.

Mr Bishop tell me our very own Leo B in Chapter 10 will be performing with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain at the Philharmonic Hall this Sunday. Free to U25s. What a great opportunity to get into this beautiful space with its excellent acoustic and enjoy the concert Odyssey.

Here is the link: <https://www.liverpoolphil.com/whats-on/classical-music/national-youth-orchestra-of-great-britain-odyssey/4316>, you can read all about it.

Since our conversion to academy status, Dr McNamara and her team have built a truly exciting classics programme, helped all the way along by the charity Classics for All and Ms Alice Case. We are now the hub of the North, educating (don't like the word training) classics teachers, offering an enthusiastic pupil body not only Latin and Classical Civilisation into the sixth form, but through the Greek Academy pupils are pursuing the study of ancient Greek. Our school is a hub bringing together independent and state schools to advance this interdisciplinary subject which brings joy and excitement to so many of our pupils. Indeed, few schools can boast of sending so many "classicists" to universities, including Oxbridge to do classics. Part of this revitalization is the Liverpool Classical Association and its talks which are free, open to the public, and very interesting. The schedule of lectures can be found [here](#) and booking for the next event on 19 January is available [here](#).

We have been asked to draw your attention to the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter which can be accessed [here](#). In the newsletter you will find information from Liverpool City Council about new and existing services, events, activities and courses from providers and organisations across the city who support those who care for children and their families.

Our maths challenges are back for the new term:

Q1. Fully factorise $x^{80} + x^{79} + x^{78} + \dots + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$.

Q2. Find the smallest positive integer with 4 distinct prime factors.

Answers to the Christmas maths challenges:

Q1. 1310720

Q2. 364

May I wish you and yours a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal