
Principal's Newsletter

7 October 2022

Dear Parents,

Even on a dreary, rainy, and listless Friday, there is much happening on our campus. I have visited the Parliament of Houses, the gathering of all the secondary school representatives from each form class. Here the original meaning of parliament, i.e. to speak together, is actually preserved. Pupils are being encouraged and invited to provide not only feedback on various developments in the school, but also to bring up matters which they feel should be addressed, changed, strengthened, reviewed. Their work is shared not only with school leaders but also with the staff and pupil committee of the governors which is charged with the governance oversight of all matters relating to the safety, well being of pupils and staff and their experience of the school.

Then it is off to Grandparents Day. The tireless Mr Cook who organises tens of fixtures a week, also organises this event. We know the importance of grandparents in the lives of our pupils. They are frequently sources of inspiration, support, care, advice, wisdom and self-sacrificing love for our pupils. So, it is very appropriate that they have a chance to look around the school a bit, listen to some of the lively and enthusiastic performances of our pupils, and generally understand what the school is about and what it is trying to do

Speaking of performances. There is much to celebrate.

On Monday morning we had news of the success of Beau R in Chapter 6 who had competed in the London Mini Marathon on Sunday and won the Year 6 and 7 girls race!

Ms Evans has provided me with a great synopsis of girls sporting success in football, hockey and netball. Our Chapters 7-10 teams swept Rydal in their first match of the netball season. Last weekend the Chapter 10 team were in a so-called nail-biter of the kind netball throws up from time to time with the score oscillating and the event in doubt. Taking their cue from the school motto, our girls prevailed 16-14 in the end. Now it is time for the netballers to play our perennial block fixture against QEGS Blackburn. In hockey, we are preparing for our first fixture against St Edwards which can best be described as a jump into the deep end of the pool. But in preparation, Ms Evans has been working on the right skills for the right year groups. Some girls in Chapters 7 and 8 are playing hockey for the first time. Here the fundamentals are emphasized. We can rely hopefully on the excellent Olivia C in Chapter 7

who is to be congratulated on her inclusion in the Lancashire U12 squad. But in Chapter 9-11, work has gone into some tactical progress, working on team defence. Then there are the encouraging reports about girls' football. Mr Cook writes of a closely fought contest with St Julie's and a narrow loss for the combined Chapter 7 and 8 team. He sees the potential, and if history is a guide, the team will continue to develop.

One common theme across all sports - boys and girls - is the lukewarm and sporadic commitment from sixth formers. One reads about the disastrous effect on wellbeing of young people when they stop playing sport, usually because of cultural and peer pressure, not because of a lack of skill or inability to compete. The entire world of adult sport has been hit by this lethargy in terms of participation, seemingly accelerated after covid, but it remains a sad and sobering reality when experienced on a day to day basis in school. We now struggle from time to time to field teams in the sixth form, a time when the compulsion of the secondary timetable is replaced, or supposed to be replaced, by a strong sense of responsibility and solidarity with teammates and a willingness to stick to one's commitments. We will keep working at this, but I would appreciate your support in encouraging participation in sport in all secondary year groups.

Good performances too at the English-Speaking Board where our students all achieved Grade 8. Ms Doran writes:

The importance of confidence when public speaking is vital to success in any leadership role and a vast array of careers. In order to develop this essential life skill, Chapter 13 Wilton Scholars were given the opportunity to sit the ESB examinations this week in Oracy. Graded like piano exams, all students involved challenged themselves to Grade 8 - and all passed with flying colours, with individual grades ranging from Merit to Merit Plus. At such a high level, such grades are outstanding and are worth 28+ additional UCAS points. Well done to all involved.

Our Chapter 6 mathematicians were in action this week when we hosted the Aim Higher Mathematics event, organised by Ms Doran. You can read more about this on our website [here](#).

This week we have also seen the Prep School celebrating their Harvest Festival. An impressive mountain of donations is even now being moved to the South Liverpool Foodbank. I loved the answers to the question: What are you grateful for? Ms Shackell and Mr Stamper were mentioned, sincere tributes to educators which solicited the "aah" from the parents assembled there. Of course, there was also gratitude expressed for "my three fat cats", a guinea pig and a playstation, as well as much mention of friendships, general and particular, and family. A reminder to us all. Out of the mouths of babes etc etc.

Daily, if we pay attention, we who work here have the privilege of catching glimpses of human potential being developed and encouraged. So, I was particularly touched by Ms Clark writing to me to tell me about something which had struck and inspired her:

I have just finished the first Beauty and the Beast rehearsal with the main cast tonight and I witnessed a wonderful LC moment which I thought I would share.

Cherry in Chapter 5 turned up to play her new role in our musical, literally covered in mud, having just finished throwing herself quite literally into Mr Marsh's rugby activity and I thought it just captured our motto beautifully!

A lovely moment to see how our children can shift gear so quickly and embrace all their opportunities head on!

And Cherry is not the only one. Our excellent data manager Ms Arkwright has completed the mammoth task of filing the school census. Now comes some more demographical school information from Mr Bishop – there are over 270 pupils from Chapters 2-13 who will be involved in the choir and orchestra this year at our Founders' Day service.

Mr Bishop is also trying to source some more instruments for our pupils to use:

We are currently looking to source a tuba and a bass clarinet. If anyone has any leads or knows of instruments not being used, please get in touch - dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

This week's artist of the week is Ava C (Chapter 10). She writes in her sketchbook: *"This is my bird drawing inspired by biro artist Mark Powell, the artist draws on unusual grounds such as book pages, postcards and manuscript papers. Many people admire his unedited style of drawing on such surfaces, seeing it's irregular appearance as refreshing in this photoshopped world we live in".*



Congratulations to Ms McWatt and her expressive arts faculty for achieving the Artsmark

Gold award. This is an externally validated recognition of the College's commitment to place the arts at the centre of pupil experience.



My own moment of the week was a visit to Ms Tyrer's class in their lair in the Pre Prep. I stumbled into an assignment about one of my all-time superheroes: Dr Martin Luther King Jr, martyr, prophet, leader, activist, scholar, example. The questions about his life, the realities of segregation and racism, the history of the Jim Crow laws and the world which produced them were of very high quality. The imaginations of pupils were fully engaged. They asked the sort of questions which showed their humanity, their empathy, but also their ability to seek the depths rather than merely the facts. Why was the most common word to begin a question. Poor Ms Tyrer must have wished she could return to the work at hand, but I overstayed my welcome and was thrilled to answer as best I could the questions which kept coming. Good stuff.

A very busy few weeks for the PTA! Firstly, there was the successful family event for our new Reception classes and their families last Friday at Jungle Fun – lots of fun, making new friends and raising funds to support the school. Next up is the Halloween discos for Chapters 1-6 on 18 and 20 October. The PTA are looking for donations for raffle prizes at the event, preferably Halloween themed, and donations of Halloween decorations for our venue for this spooktacular party. If you are able to help, donations can be left in the Pre Prep and Prep school offices until Thursday 13 October. Thank you for your support.

An update also from the PTA on arrangements for the Fireworks Party on Tuesday 1 November. Tickets are capped to 800 attendees for health and safety reasons, and the fireworks display itself will commence at 7.30pm NOT 8.30pm. Doors will open from 5.30pm, entrance from Beechlands car park.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to include information on a series of virtual group drop-in advisory sessions being run by the Liverpool ASD Training Team in November. They are for parents/carers who have any questions or concerns about their child, in regard to pre and post Autism diagnosis. It is also an opportunity to speak with an ASD trainer and other parents. To find out more information and to book a place, please [click here](#).

The **term dates for the 2023-24 academic year** have now been published – you can access them on the school website [here](#).

You have already received detailed information about arrangements for Founders' Day on Friday 14 October. Parking is limited in Liverpool Cathedral car park but if you were planning on using this car park, the Cathedral have advised that there has been a recent change to their car parking system with an ANPR system (automatic number plate registration) now installed. This means that there will be no barriers at entry or exit of the car park. As we are holding a service at the Cathedral, the system will be disabled for a period of time during the day on Friday 14 October to allow those attending our service to park for free. The Cathedral have advised that the system will be disabled between 11am until 1.45pm allowing guests sufficient time to leave the car park at the end of the service. If you wish to remain onsite after this time, you would need to pay for the associated parking.

May I wish you a dry and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal