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## Principal's Newsletter

9 September 2022

Dear Parents,

We are all shocked and saddened by the news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

In different parts of the College, we will honour her at assemblies today and prayers will be said for the repose of her soul. Her long reign, and exceptional example of faithful public service are an inspiration.

In due course, over the next weeks she will be remembered locally and nationally and we will participate in these events.

In line with HMC schools, the decision has been made to cancel all school fixtures this weekend home and away at Birkenhead School and Bolton School.

A new government and we see the inexorable rise of the Old Lerpoolians as two of our former pupils are now in the Cabinet. I think this matches the number of Etonians, but must do some more digging to be sure. It is of particular interest that the new education secretary is Kit Malthouse OL, formerly a resident of Aigburth. Let us hope that he is inspired by his own school experience to expand and promote the concept of holistic education rather than the building of learning factories which some of his predecessors seemed to prefer.

The first full week of the term is drawing to a close. Across the campus, there has been an energetic and committed start by pupils, students and staff. It is always particularly encouraging to see our new students and pupils throw themselves into the life of the school, whether it is reception pupils playing intently together and furiously painting and building, or new sixth formers throwing themselves into sport, music and other activities.

Our school is committed to learning with character inside and outside the classroom. A large part of this commitment takes the form of sport and sports fixtures. We expend substantial resources to make it possible for boys and girls to represent the school, to work together as a team, to improve their physical fitness and mental wellbeing, and to enjoy the thrill and challenge of proper sports competitions. The tradition of the school is long and clear in this regard. When selected to represent the school, we expect pupils to turn up as directed, ready to give their all and their best, whether that is Wednesday or Saturday,

whether that is an overnight trip to the Isle of Man or a trip to St Edwards. I suppose it is a sign of the degradation of respect for institutions generally as well as a sanctification of all individualism, a kind of smorgasbord approach to what the school offers-yes to this, no to that- that parents, not pupils, are increasingly challenging and attacking such commitments, usually because they have a different vision for their child than the one of the school they deliberately chose. I hope that all parents will work with us to keep the sporting tradition of the school strong and alive. We play more sport than any other state school in Liverpool. Our staff commit hours of time beyond the normal working week. We must all do our bit to keep this wonderful learning culture blooming, even if we are at times inconvenienced by it.

Thanks to all parents who drive and park so considerately around the campus when it is very busy. Our new gate means our staff can pop into the car park. We do not allow parents to drive on site until 16.20 for the simple reason that until that time our paths and roads are chock full of pupils walking about. Their safety comes before your convenience I am afraid.

This week some national assessment data began to dribble into our school. I want to single out the way the Prep School performed in the SATs. Our pupils achieved well above the national averages. For example, greater depth, a phrase which sound like it comes from a Jacques Cousteau documentary, is an indication of true mastery. In some areas, our pupils are three times more likely to achieve this than the national average. At GCSE, a similarly positive picture emerges. Pupils at Liverpool College did about half a grade better than they would be expected to do from their starting points in relation to the national picture as a whole, leaving the College in the top echelons of schools not only for achievement but also for progress. This progress and excellence are really inspiring. They mean many of our pupils could continue in sixth form. I have noticed their excellent writing skills in Chapter 7 RS classes.

Orchestra and choir are up and running and now the posters for the auditions for *Grease*, an evergreen show with some of the greatest musical hits. Please encourage your child, whether in Prep or secondary, to take up these opportunities and join in.

An important message from our Chaplaincy Team:

*The LC Charity Action Group is looking to make a difference in our community again this year. Last year we successfully organised appeals for two Liverpool charities and a mental health awareness day with activities open to all in Chapters 7-13. Thank you to all young people and families who generously donated Christmas gifts to the Whitechapel Centre for homeless men, women and families, and to the food bank at the Merseyside Youth Association!*

*We encourage young people in Chapters 7-13 to join us in our mission of awareness and action and we need their good ideas for this new school year! Meeting Tuesdays during break 10:30-10:55 in the Chaplaincy Room.*

Thank you for the way you have responded to the new school field uniform, the track suit. We are very close to seeing everyone looking sharp and properly uniformed. Most of the ordering problems are resolved and we will be doing all we can, together with the PTA to begin to operate our nearly new uniform shop which was built during the summer.

Some more new staff introductions:

- **Miss Snyder** will be familiar to some pupils and parents having previously worked at the school between 2017 and 2019. Miss Snyder has now re-joined the Maths Faculty in the secondary phase after relocating from London.
- **Miss Venus-Bradley** is our residential boarding houseparent and has joined us from the North East where she completed her teacher training qualification.
- **Mr Beardsmore** has joined the Prep teaching staff, providing maternity cover. He knows the College already as one of his placements during his teacher training was in the Prep School.

I was asked by Year 2 what my favourite animal was. I think they hoped I would say monkey, but I chose the noble elephant. They immediately explained that this animal word had been given to them by Ms Haigh as mnemonic to remember how to spell because. I am now wracking my brain to remember how that worked.

Our boarders went bowling last weekend and they are visiting the Liverpool waterfront and museums this weekend.

A reminder that **Friday 14 October is Founders' Day** and as usual, school will be closed that day with no lessons in any part of the school. A Service takes place at 12pm in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for pupils in the Prep and Secondary Phase. Parents will be sent further information about the specific arrangements.

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

Long live the King.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Hans van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**