

Principal's Newsletter

9 December 2022

Dear Parents,

Christmas is now in sight. The Reception classes performed an extensive nativity for excited relatives. They somehow remembered the lyrics to what I counted to be 11 songs. The costumes, carefully prepared by parents and staff, were beautiful. The energy of these performances is the perfect antidote to end of term fatigue.



Then on to the Christingle at Mossley Hill Parish Church where the choirs, the readers, the whole celebration was radiant and literally illuminating. It is objectively extraordinary to see year groups dancing with their teachers in the nave of a church while their classmates play Feliz Navidad on guitars and Crispin the Camel bursts through. The play "Straw and Order" was an ambitious opera of Chapter 3 songs and acting. One parent turned to me and said: "Now it is Christmas" as he swayed along. Other parents littered happily in the church and the volunteers there collected a box full of coffee cups, sweet packets and an empty bottle of prosecco from the floor. It is sometimes good to know where children's habits originate.

Next week the secondary phase makes its way up North Mossley Hill Road for their carol services. Spare a thought for Miss Green, Mr Bishop and Ms Clark and Mr Harvey who put together these extravaganzas night after night, service after service, and the choir and orchestra which makes these events so special. It really is a blessing to us.

Because I need to travel to a funeral in the United States, I will not be able to write an extensive end of term newsletter, but I do need to inform you of some changes for next term.

First of all, we celebrated Mr Fox today in assembly. Mr Fox told us some time ago that he would retire at the end of this term after 35 years of service as a cricket coach, maths teacher, head of year, head of house, head of guidance and assistant principal: senior guidance. Mr Fox embodies Liverpool College, committed as he is to building a community of respect which educates the whole person. All the while, he went on countless school trips, refereed many matches, and is synonymous with Liverpool College in the common rooms of schools throughout the land. He has been at the College since it was a mid-sized boys only independent school educating the sons of the professional classes of South Liverpool all the way to a large, vibrant multicultural multiracial city academy open to all. All this from a man whose original contract with the school recognized him as a professional athlete and England capped school boy and allowed him to continue to play county cricket. His energy, good humour, wisdom and total commitment to the school are unparalleled, in my view and I am personally grateful to him for his sage counsel and loyalty. We will really miss Mr Fox and as a school we, leaders, governors, and staff have thought a lot about how we can best preserve and advance his pastoral legacy.

Beginning next term, Ms Lines will become Assistant Principal: Head of Senior School. She will be the leader for all pastoral and academic matters relating to Chapters 7-11. She will lead a team of Deans in Chapters 7-11 and will also chair the Heads of Faculty. Ms Lines is an exceptional educator and leader who has served with distinction and impact both in academic and pastoral leadership, and we are confident that she will continue to advance this part of the College and build on our strengths.

Next term there will be another change in the secondary phase. We will be sending you our communications strategy and this will have an impact on your email communication with school staff. As Mrs Cassidy explained during our recent parent information evening, we want to make sure that we respond to your queries and concerns, that the appropriate leaders are notified, and that teachers are not being asked to interrupt their work with your children to prioritize non-urgent requests. We therefore will ask you to direct all, except urgent safeguarding matters and direct communication with the SENCO and senior leadership, to your child's chapter email. These addresses are listed below. You will get a response from this same email address as soon as practicable without disturbing the priorities of teaching and supervising your children and at any rate no later than 3 working days after your query or concern is received. In this way, we can give you the right and definitive answer without asking teachers to interrupt their work during the teaching day.

- Chapter 7 – chapter7@liverpoolcollege.org.uk
- Chapter 8 - chapter8@liverpoolcollege.org.uk
- Chapter 9 – chapter9@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

- Chapter 10 – chapter10@liverpoolcollege.org.uk
- Chapter 11 – chapter11@liverpoolcollege.org.uk
- Sixth Form - sixthform@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Also, for Chapter 7-11 pupils, there will be a system of AstroTurf passes for use of the AstroTurf during breaktime and lunchtime. The use of the AstroTurf is a privilege not a right, and we want a system where the vast majority of pupils who behave on the AstroTurf can enjoy its use without the encumbrance of the tiny minority who do not. AstroTurf passes will be issued and each person using a pass will agree to some basic rules. The pass can be confiscated and suspended by staff for breaches of the behaviour curriculum, or the AstroTurf rules. A lost pass will require £2 for a replacement one.

The penultimate week of term is traditionally a house competition week and thanks to the irrepressible Mr Cook the Chapter 7 football competition provided a focus for competitive sport. Brook's, Mr Fox's old house, won.



Congratulations to the Chapter 2 dance team who took part in the LSSP Christmas Dance Festival this week. Mr Marsh reports: *"the boys and girls were amazing and had worked so hard to perfect the dance. They have been practising non-stop for 3 weeks and all the hard work paid off when they performed yesterday."*



Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 enjoyed a powerful theatre performance this week, as Mrs Drew reports:

On Tuesday afternoon, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 were lucky to watch The Terriers play as performed by the Royal Court Theatre. Written by Maurice Bessman, the play tackles gang culture and the pull of joining a gang or having a good future. The play throws up the moral dilemmas and life changing decisions that some young boys and girls have to make. The feedback from staff and pupils was really positive and the pupils commented on the brilliant acting and how real the story felt.



Our artist of the week is Ava G (Ch13) - Cafe Culture - Coloured pencils on paper.



"Focusing on the theme of American post war advertising and cafe culture, I have tried to recreate the glamour and elegance of this era. Exploring advertisement and how this reflects American society. Prosperity seemed like a sure thing, the consumer was ready to buy like never before and validate their homes and leisurely lifestyles. I have tried to capture this thinking within my drawings".

A few brief notes from the PTA:

- Carol Singers - Thursday 15 December between 3.15 and 4.15pm at the primary phase campus.
- Hangers are needed for the nearly new shop (please hand in to any school office by Wednesday 14 December).
- Christingle success - raised just over £900, thank you. Raffle prizes to be claimed from the Prep School office from Monday.

More information is provided in this week's PTA newsletter which you can read [here](#).

I enclose a plea from a bicyclist passing by our school last week:

As a concerned citizen / road user I had no choice but to contact you today. For the last 2-years I have cycled past your prep school to work and clearly the whole school run is a nightmare but manageable. However, this morning at 0820hrs I witnessed a near fatal accident. ... [A car] stopped on the main road outside the gates and 2 children opened the car doors with one getting out kerbside – I as a cyclist could have hit them but much worse the other child opened the other rear car door into oncoming traffic and then proceeded to get out of the car into the middle of the highway.

Quite unbelievable and a fatality waiting to happen. Please don't let me be the one to witness it.

It is so frustrating to see people park and drop off children so dangerously even when there are nearby legal parking spaces. This is a responsibility we must share and take seriously. Please drive and park safely.

We have been asked to share with parents an important letter from Liverpool's Director of Public Health, Professor Matthew Ashton, that includes information about how to protect your child from common winter infections, and when you should seek medical attention. Please [click here](#) to read the letter.

Our Whitechapel Centre appeal is gathering pace. In these arctic conditions, it requires very little imagination to see the needs for rough sleepers, homeless people and others who have lost their residence. As I shared in chapel, for Joseph and Mary there was no room at the inn, but we can, as a community, create a small space at the inn. That is how it all starts. The appeal is continuing until next Wednesday (14 December) and donations can be handed into Student Services or the 6th Form office.



Our maths challenges for the week:

Q1. Santa Claus is making a giant paper snowflake! Specifically, it is a fractal called the Koch snowflake, constructed as follows: Take an equilateral triangle with side length 1m. For each iteration, divide all line segments into thirds, add a smaller equilateral triangle with the middle third as the base which extrudes outwards, and remove said middle third of the line segments. As the number of iterations tends to infinity, what does the area of the shape converge to?

Q2. I bought 3 Christmas presents for my family. One red, one green and one blue. The red and green presents together cost £21, green and blue together cost £22, and finally blue and red together cost £19. Can you find the total cost of all three presents?

Answers to last week's puzzles:

Q1. 266305	Q2. 82%
------------	---------

May you have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal