
Principal's Newsletter

13 January 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been quite a week, and we look forward to further warp speed accelerations in the next one.

On Saturday I began to receive photographs of the mention of Liverpool College in Christopher Hope's Daily Telegraph column. Under the title "Liverpool wins again", the columnist shared with the world what we already knew. Our current prime minister's father, Yashvir Sunak, was a pupil at Liverpool College before studying medicine at the University of Liverpool. There was a flattering comparison between Liverpool College and Eton in terms of producing ministers and a quote from one of the most distinguished and longest serving members of staff Mr Ian Lightbody. Northerners do not need to go South to get a great education. Fun.

It is difficult to know where to begin a description of the various events and themes of the week.

On Monday, my visit to the Pre Prep introduced me to the way the school deals with the teaching of phonics in a new and improved way. Pupils moved through the hallway, forming various groups, to be taught specific skills in a specific curriculum. Everyone, teachers, LSAs, pupils, was focused on the job at hand.

Ms Finnegan and her class were under a certain amount of apprehension when they were chosen as the class where Christine Counsell, education guru, speaker and curriculum pioneer, would observe and teach in front of 20 or so visitors from other schools. Ms Finnegan and her class shone, as Ms Counsell took the "second half" and our colleagues from other schools were inspired by the pace and hunger to learn exhibited by our pupils.

Mr Cook reports a tremendous victory of the Chapter 7 football team before the floods came. This team which began their senior school sports career rather modestly, is now able to compete with the best, defeating SFX 3-0 on Monday. Our netball fixture at Cheadle Hulme last Saturday was very even - winning three and losing three. This week also saw a very successful and enjoyable series of Ch7 and Ch8 House competitions in netball, football

and hockey. Our sports have been hampered by the skies opening this week and we have had to postpone our block fixtures in rugby and netball against St Edwards.

An update from the medical society, a student led initiative which seeks to give aspiring medics, dentists, vets and nurses insight into their future profession. Malak A (Ch12) writes:

On 9 December we were kindly given a medical applications talk and a dental applications talk from Amelia Y and Sara F in Chapter 13. They both gave passionate overviews of what it means to be an applicant to these courses, surfacing the harsh reality of the competition that comes along with it. There were discussions about the expectations for us at this stage and in the future along with summaries of the main criteria required by most universities such as admission tests, required grades and super and extra curriculums.

Bella in Chapter 12 added:

"Raymond Hassanzadeh, a 2nd year Cambridge medical student gave a 'mock' lecture on hearing. It was fascinating to learn about the complexity of the ear and the several different features that allow humans to amplify, isolate and locate sounds. A process that was clearly outlined as fundamental to the understanding of hearing is coincidence detection. Coincidence detection allows you to distinguish where horizontal sound is coming from due to the time difference between each ear receiving the same frequency.

During the lecture we were also able to perform the weber test, which detects for conductive and sensorineural deafness. The lecture was heavy in terminology and gave us only a brief overview of hearing, however, it was brilliant to learn about the intricacy of hearing and experience a Cambridge standard lecture."

The energy of Ms Doran is about to deliver still more amazing opportunities. Pupils in Chapters 11-13 have been invited to meet a Supreme Court Justice on February 1st and in preparation for this opportunity a sitting judge will come and work with these interested pupils and students to prepare them and ensure they get the most out of this opportunity. Mrs Doran also organised a visit from author Colin R Parsons this week who shared his experiences about his journey from reluctant reader to author and provided Prep School pupils with tips about how to write creatively. You can read more about his visit [here](#).

Congratulations to John-Paul O, Chapter 5 who has been promoted to Junior Chorister at Liverpool Cathedral and Olivia L (Chapter 6) who is now a probationer in the Choir.

Reports of Scout Camp fill the heart to overflowing in these dark days. It is by all standards an extraordinary time to go to camp but that is what our intrepid group did for the first time. They shone. Ms Rogers wishes to thank the parental volunteers and the excellence of her young scouts who hiked well, and participated flawlessly in this first camp along with pupils from other scout groups. There were even anecdotes from scout leaders about the previous Liverpool College Scout group which existed several decades ago!

Mr Barnicoat is busy with his debaters. They have already competed in the Ethics Cup organised by the philosophy department of the University of Liverpool. Now they need to win their second round English Speaking Union tie. Mr Barnicoat is impressed with the talents at his disposal. A more modest debate or vigorous discussion took place at the sixth form lecture where Mr Brian Donnelly, formerly of this parish, artist and bohemian, shared his views on modern art and some of the work he has done to shock the world out of its aesthetic apathy.

Our artist of the week this week is Libby M (Ch11) with "Foliage Nature Mask".



"I always wanted to create art with nature. I was inspired by the Green Man, rebirth and nature. My mask is a combination of real and artificial foliage. I created a very large cardboard construction base and embellished this with natural forms. I considered the colours and textures found in nature. This has led to other art pieces, I have used this three-dimensional mask to create further paintings and sketchbook work."

The boarders spent some of last weekend inside the Williamson Tunnels. These strange constructions with their mysterious origin motivated and inspired some pupils while others were not so moved. This is one of the interesting mysteries of human freedom. Not everyone likes everything, not everyone wants to do everything. In a great school, pupils are able to try things and not like them, and still do them. It is surely the mark of an uneducated person to only be interested in things I like or know.

We had a wonderful example of a person discovering a new talent when Mr Bonnie Mattar, a member of our maintenance staff with 47 years of experience in trades stood in front of the assembled school and recited his poetry to rapt attention and rapturous applause. We hope that the Bard of Mossley Hill will inspire and delight us with more poems in the future.

Our maths challenges for this week:

Q1. Find all possible real number quadruplets (w, x, y, z) that satisfy $(w+x)^{16} + (x^2+xy+z)^8 + (12y+10z)^4 + (z-6)^2=0$.

Q2. A square has an area of $x \text{ cm}^2$ and a perimeter of $x \text{ cm}$. Can you find x ?

Answers to last week's challenges:

Q1. $(x^{54}+x^{27}+1)(x^{18}+x^9+1)(x^6+x^3+1)(x^2+x+1)$	Q2. 210
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May I wish you and yours a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal