
Principal's Newsletter

16 June 2023

Dear Parents,

There is mixture of thoughts when I see our pupils enjoy a dress down day. It is wonderful that they get relief from the heat, although many seem to be wearing more clothes than the uniform they complain of when the temperature gets above 20°C. But there is also the gratitude for uniform, its simplicity, its fundamental role in marking out the seriousness of school and our collective purposes.

At our parent information evening next week, we will be discussing and consulting about policies, next steps in our campaign to create and sustain an anti-racism culture, the way we communicate with you, our social media presence, the structure, frequency and pattern of parent-school interaction and visits, and capital projects taking place across the campus this summer. We will do this in person on Wednesday 21 June at 5.30pm in the MV Hall.



Principals should not have favourites. But today my favourites are the Pre Prep. Pupils, arrayed in multi-coloured clothing, exerted themselves in the heat to run in the Fun Run for Clatterbridge hospital, raising substantial monies, proudly sharing the number of laps they managed. Upstairs Mr Chalmers had the guitar out singing the Where the Wild Things are song with his class, before they blew me away with a display of phonics which made me ashamed of my own ignorance. The silent friend in Gnasher was a highlight.

The Prep School is getting ready to celebrate its speech day and prize giving next Thursday afternoon. The current weather conditions allow a casual stroller to see the full extent of Prep School activity and life from rounders matches vs Birkenhead (we lost sir, but we played well) to Forest School, to the glory and glamour of sports day with its blaring beach party vibe and enthusiastic running from everyone in seemingly all directions.

This is the season of exams. It is lovely and cool in the cavernous sports hall and hordes, scores, and swarms of pupils sit down to the British rite of passage called GCSEs where you take about 25 exams over a four-week period. They are doing well. Who says this generation is not resilient? I do not recall being under such pressure ever in my life. I think they are coping marvellously.

Chapter 12 finish their exams and next week will undertake work experience. We had a visit from Mr Chris Lovelock OL who now works in digital media. He gave a talk to Chapter 8 and regaled me with some wonderful stories about his friends in the boarding house of that time. An invitation to parents to sign up for The Lerpoolians website where a network of parents, past parents, friends, supporters and OLs share stories, experiences, and friendship. <https://www.thelerpoolians.org.uk/>

Even Chapter 1 are being assessed. Our phonics screening has concluded and whilst we can not brag publicly about the results, it is truly gratifying to see the effects of the work of LSAs, teachers and leaders in raising the phonics proficiency of our pupils so comprehensively and so systematically. It really does show what good teaching does for children and what a truly inclusive school looks like.



Our artist of the week this week is Lily N (Ch11) with Album Cover.

This album cover was influenced by Fleetwood Mac Rumours and The Beatles Revolver album. Lily used ink and biro to create two 12" record sleeves.



A thank you from the PTA to everyone who brought in items today for the tombola.

A reminder that the PTA Food Festival is taking place on Saturday 24 June. If anyone is able to volunteer to help at the event please contact:
PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk
All volunteers get free access to the festival.

The boarders are getting ready for their combined party with the music department, as well as their tree planting in the back of Beechlands. Listening to their weekend activities is always a highlight. This past weekend they went pottery painting. When I enquired apprehensively about how this activity went down with some of the boarders, I was told they all loved it. It perfectly captures the idea that we should not only do activities which we think we will like, but have the courage to try some new things, set aside teenage stereotypes and peer pressure and have a go. This is exactly what our LC+ curriculum is all about. Ms Latham is worried about the boarders' weekend visit to the zip line. The boarders themselves are delighted at the prospect of swinging high above the ground and gliding through the air in a harness.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to share details of the virtual training course and workshops that the Liverpool ASD training team are running in July for parents – please [click here](#) to access more information on the training course and [here](#) and [here](#) for information on the social communication and behaviour workshops.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal**