

Principal's Newsletter

16 September 2022

Dear Parents,

A reminder that **school will be closed on Monday 19 September** as it is a national bank holiday for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral.

This morning I had an opportunity to participate in the "opening of the gate" for Reception, Pre Prep and Prep School pupils. I am sure that I was not deceived when I noticed a sort of wave, or jolt of excitement, as Mr Marsh approached the padlocked gate to open it. Soon after, hordes were streaming in, full of enthusiasm for the new day and all that it would bring. I need to find out what these children are eating for breakfast so that I can approach every Friday morning with this level of energy.

Particularly exciting for me is the presence of Bo, a fellow Dutch speaker in the Reception year group. To the amazement and slight confusion of our peers, we are able to exchange some greetings in the mother tongue before she disappears behind a painting easel or begins an exploration of the outdoor play space.

On from there to the Prep School assembly, which is like a visit to Harvard University where all the children seem smarter, and more engaged than children elsewhere in the world. As I shared my wonder at the very reality of the beauties contained in some of my favourite artworks, one young man explained the relationship of Islamic art to theological understanding of the divine, before correctly deconstructing the iconography of a 17th century Japanese print. It is just amazing.

Outside, of course, the traffic horror continues. The photograph included here is a sort of metaphor for the way parking works at the moment.



Ambulances cannot pass by, children are rushed across a busy road, people literally park on the no parking signs. Matters will become even more challenging when the university students return and take up more parking along North Mossley Hill Road. I urge all to think about taking a little more time to get to school, parking safely and legally away from school, walking safely to school. We must do better than this.

Ms Tyrer and her class are ensconced in a small space in the Pre Prep as the building works in the Prep School continue. Her class was learning about the Peloponnesian war, finally a subject area in which I am not immediately conscious of an inferiority. She and Ms Roberts prevent, through their teaching, these unusual quarters from inhibiting learning enthusiasm. Great stuff.

Sport is under way. I am especially proud of the Chapter 10 rugby team who played with great spirit and effort in a losing effort against St Mary's. This team is made up of boys who have persisted and persevered, and their coaches tell me that they respond magnificently to encouragement and challenge. Our Chapter 7 football team won their first ever competitive match. Chapter 9 continued their domination of last year by also scoring a victory. The Duke of Wellington opined that Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. I am not sure about the martial impact of our sports programme, but what I do know is that involvement in it has positive academic and behavioural impacts. It is a collective experience of pride in representing your school. We can only do this with full parental support.

Congratulations to Annabel A (Chapter 12) who has been selected to represent Merseyside at netball at U17 level.

Tomorrow morning, we will be holding the first Chapter 7 House competition in hockey. Boys and girls who want to represent their house are invited to participate.

In the midst of this glory is the disappointing news that only one of our pupils has signed up for the Greek Academy, a chance to learn ancient Greek here on our campus on Saturday morning. I am still hopeful that some more pupils will take up this excellent opportunity. To find out more about the Academy, please [click here](#).

We are firing up our theatre productions. Queues of nervous aspirants stood outside the Leslie Alexander Theatre in the MV to audition for *Grease*. Now news comes from Ms Clark about the Key Stage 2/3 musical *Beauty and the Beast*. Audition and sign up packs are available in Godwyn House (Chapters 7 and 8) and from class teachers for Prep School. Auditions for main parts will be Thursday 22 September. Even here technology is advanced. You can scan the QR code to sign up. You will not want to miss it.

Each week in this newsletter I will be including some of the amazing art our pupils and students produce. Today's **artist of the week**, nominated by Ms Hardisty is Connor M (Chapter 11) with his Quick Oil pastel study - celebrating the turn of the seasons and our landscape.



Connor has produced a collection of quick working location studies gathering sketchbook information from his visits to Cornwall. He plans to develop more large-scale pastel studies as part of his coursework.

We continue with our new staff introductions:

- **Miss Thompson** has joined the Maths faculty in the secondary phase, providing maternity cover. Prior to working at the College, she worked at a school in Cumbria.
- **Miss Duffy** joins our Inclusion Team as a Learning Support Assistant in the secondary phase. Miss Duffy knows the school well as she is an Old Lerpoolian (OL).
- **Miss Frees** is a new member of the Prep School teaching staff. Miss Frees knows the school well as she worked with us last year as a learning support assistant.

This academic year we have begun to use a new student management system at school. It makes taking attendance easier and quicker and eventually, you, as parents and carers, will be able to download an app which will become your one stop source of information and communication. Governors have also submitted the planning permission for the new build on our campus. This will provide a much needed additional 7 classrooms and will relieve some of the pressure points on our campus.

These are inspirational days on campus because the example of the Queen is before us. We know of families who will make the trip to London to be part of this historic occasion.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant, restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal