
Principal's Newsletter

17 March 2023

Dear Parents,

A quick reminder to all parents and carers of pupils and students in the secondary phase. Speech Night is on Thursday March 23 at 7.30pm. We have sent you separately arrangements for the evening. Our speaker is Mr Curtis Robb, OL and Olympic finalist (twice) as well as an orthopaedic surgeon. We will be celebrating the many accomplishments of our pupils on this occasion. A reminder also that the secondary phase of the school will finish at 3pm that day (rather than the usual 4pm) to allow pupils and staff time to get to the Cathedral in the evening. All pupils are expected to attend. Speech Night does not have any religious dimension.

You will also have received information today about our next Parent Information Evening which is taking place on Tuesday 21 March at 5.30pm in the MV Hall. This is open to all parents and carers.

I have had a request from Ms Pease to ask if any family can help with the hosting of a newly arrived Ukrainian family. Please let Ms Pease know if you may be interested or you want to find out more information.

The Chapter 12 trip to Colomendy was a great success. It began in great hardship. Snow, a biting cold, and in that British must not grumble way, the students just got stuck in to all the outdoor activities as Mr Griffith reports:

One hundred and thirty Chapter 12 students have spent all of this week at Colomendy in North Wales on a teamwork and adventurous activities programme funded by the National Citizen Service.

In the shadows of beautiful Moel Famau, the students have taken part in a very wide range of challenges - climbing, bouldering, archery, caving, zip-lining, buggy-building, rocket launching, low ropes courses, blindfold challenges, leap of faith, Jacob's ladder, fire building, bushcraft, campfires and others I have forgotten!

Their attitude towards the activities has been first class with some great examples of leadership, communication, persistence and teamwork.



If you are reading this and have a son or daughter in Chapter 11, then this week of activities will be available to the pupils following their GCSE examinations this summer directly through the NCS organisation. More details can be found at the website linked below:

www.wearencs.com

A very big thank you to all of the staff who have spent time away from their families to look after the students and also to all of the teachers who have covered lessons for the staff on the trip.

This trip reminds us all of what some pupils and students have missed because of covid and the way we are all trying to make up for lost time. Thank you to Mr Griffith and all the staff who accompanied the students to North Wales for making this trip possible.

The Prep School is a hotbed of football talent. Chapters 6, 5 and 4 have all made it to the city finals. Mr Stamper and Mr Devine are revelling in Klopp like status as managers of repeat winners. Let us hope they can continue the streak.

Mr Chalmers in Pre Prep has a remarkable Stars of the Carpet plan in his classroom. His pupils seem always to be busy, including making music, listening to songs, and obtaining the much-coveted star of the carpet which I believe may even exceed the vaunted designation Outstanding which is a daily sticker I observe on some pupil's uniform on my perambulations.

Aspire, the charity which supports Oxbridge applicants, will undertake its annual pilgrimage from Liverpool to Oxford with the largest single cohort of school applicants ever hosted in one residential at Oxford - 84 young people from across the city, including Liverpool College, will have a chance to learn more about the admissions process and see that Oxford is for Scousers.

Mr Bishop and Mr Harvey are organising an Organ Extravaganza concert on Tuesday 25 April at 7pm in the College Chapel. [Click here](#) to find out more information.

Our artist of the week this week is Briony B (Ch9) with her research work on creative photographer Tim Walker. She writes: *"Tim has become well known for his otherworldly, surrealist and occasionally grotesque images, both in fashion and portraiture. Walker produces some of fashion's most magical imagery"*



It is encouraging to receive news of an intensification of talks between the government and unions over this weekend. Research shows that between bad attendance habits, strikes, and lingering covid effects, most pupils in Britain have missed another month of school. Hopefully, agreement can be reached and pupils can benefit.

One project which we are pursuing across the college is the achievement of the national Rainbow Flag award, a designation and framework which will allow us to reflect on and improve our practice as an inclusive LGBTQ+ aware school. Governors and school leaders will keep you posted on our progress as we aim to achieve this award.

Reading and better and more reading is central to pupil progress. LCReads is the way in which we try to bundle these efforts together into a coherent whole, tracking reading levels for all pupils, inspiring more and better reading, using reading and teaching reading across the curriculum. To read well is to be equipped to learn effectively. Research reveals that parents reading with children, or even children seeing their parents read, all contribute enormously to this. So why not read a little this weekend.

Maths challenges for the week:

Q1. Consider a polynomial $P(x)$ where $P(x) = x^{41} + 16x^{31} - 8x^{21} + 7x^{11} - 12x + 2$. Given its discriminant is non-zero, if x_i are all the roots of P , where i ranges from 1 to 41 inclusive, can you find the sum of all $1/x_i$?

Q2. What are the three regular polygons that can tile a plane indefinitely?

Answers to last week's questions:

Q1. $2 - \pi/2$	Q2. $608\pi/3 \text{ cm}^3 \approx 636.7 \text{ cm}^3$
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May I wish you and yours a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal