

Principal's Newsletter

19 May 2023

Dear Parents,

There has been substantial sporting success in the Prep School. Three LC girls played football for the Liverpool team that defeated St Helens 7-0:



Huge congratulations to Elise K, Elodie J and Jaida L in Chapter 6. The girls have played for the Under 11 Liverpool Schoolgirls football team since September and have had many successful matches with their team around the country this year. They ended the season on a high when they reached the Everton Plate Final at Goodison Park on Tuesday. The Schoolgirls team played against St Helens and won 7 – 0! They were presented with medals and the Everton Plate which celebrated their fantastic achievement, not only at Goodison Park but also as a team throughout the year. A brilliant experience for the girls and well deserved.

Ms Tyrer brought a hockey trophy to the front of assembly. Our Chapter 5 and 6 hockey players had travelled to North Liverpool Academy on Tuesday to take part in a quicksticks hockey tournament against other local primary schools. Ms Tyrer reports that it was a fantastic team effort - they scored a total of 25 goals over the course of the heats and did not concede any goals. Sam P (Ch6) scored the trophy winning goal in a period best described as golden goal sudden death-overtime.

The Prep School enjoyed a very special assembly on Thursday led by Bill Bygroves, LFC chaplain and Margaret Aspinall, chairman of the Hillsborough Family Support Group. The Champions League trophy even made an appearance!



Exams are everywhere. They are finishing in Chapter 2, the last time that pupils in Chapter 2 will be put through the paces of external examinations. There is also the explosion of examinations in Chapter 11 and 13. Biology, drama, maths, Economics A level. There is of course the anxiety of the examinations and the pressure on our pupils and teachers. So far, most have reported feeling prepared and even, touch wood, ready for even more difficult things. All will eventually be revealed at the end of the summer. We are all focused now on staying in the right frame of mind, preparing diligently, and avoiding stinking thinking, the tendency of most teenagers to lose perspective when something bad happens or they feel something bad has happened. There are many exams, many opportunities to have a "good day" or a "bad day". Let's keep the kids going by accentuating some core truths. Millions of children have done this. You can too.



Congratulations to our amazing Chapter 7 musician James K. He seems to love to perform, and has had recent opportunity to do so, playing for the King and Queen outside Central Library and then on the Eurovision stage at the Pier Head as part of the Eurobrass ensemble.

Mr Cook has highlighted the sporting success some of our Ch7 pupils:

Congratulations to Alex J and Ruaridh M who are regular performers on the Tennis circuit within Merseyside and are performing well above their age.

The boarders are in award night mode. They have held votes to determine who is most likely to succeed, most friendly etc. Apparently, the results were revealing as the boarding staff were included in the electorate and managed to win some of these awards. I will not

embarrass them by sharing these distinctions. Now Beechlands is being prepared for the summer BBQ on 1 July, when the music department and the boarders will descend on the back lawn and celebrate the arrival of summer and the many happy memories of the last year.

Meeting with the Parliament of Houses, our school council, is always invigorating and enlightening. Our pupils are good at giving us feedback and steering the right course. I was especially pleased when Noah in Chapter 7 used the word "we" whenever he described any school policy. Surely this is the right approach: "we have to do this, we should change that, we..." This is indeed a powerful word in a school because it captures exactly what a school actually is, a community of mutual responsibility. At this meeting we discussed various changes the pupils had requested and our plans to make changes to address these suggestions. We also discussed how we can make the school's mission to educate for character as well as intellect clearer and more explicitly implemented. We focused especially on pupil leadership. There is much wisdom in listening to sixth formers, and all the other chapters share their insights in to their experience.

Our Chapter 8 chapel wardens actually built an Ark with various animals to help them run the Chapel for Pre Prep pupils, as the Chaplaincy Team describe:

Lexi W, Annabelle L, Lois S and Poppy M (Ch8) visited the Chapter 1 & 2 chapel this week to deliver Noah's ark through song and intricate props they made themselves. The Chapter 1 & 2 pupils loved having the girls lead their chapel and teach them a new song!

Our Chapter 9 pupils actually delivered Chapel for their peers on mental health awareness week. This is precisely the sort of pupil engagement and leadership we are seeking to promote.

After half term we will begin to share these ideas with you through several social media channels. Much as we advise our pupils to refrain from social media, it is obvious that these newsletters alone, read by a small percentage of parents, are entirely insufficient in giving you a picture of what is happening in your child's chapter and in the school more widely. This leaves the social media space to the disgruntled parent or in some cases the anguished and confused individual expressing frustration and wondering where to go and what to do to find information or answers. We will be setting out for you exactly how we intend to increase the opportunities for you to come on campus, increase your interactions with us regarding your child's progress and our mission and method, and make you aware of our responses to concerns you have raised in surveys and in parent information evenings.

We are engaged in a pilot in Chapter 9 under the hashtag helpmyanxiety. This site is supporting young people to understand and manage the anxiety they may be feeling. We also undertake regular surveys of the wellbeing of our pupils which inform pastoral strategies. A major project in this area is our pursuit of the Rainbow Flag Award, a programme which helps schools become and remain truly inclusive for LGBTQ+ pupils and

parents. We will be writing to you about our progress in this award and what will be happening as we move further toward achieving it, building on the good work we have already undertaken in this area.

An update from the PTA:

- *Thank you to all the Pre Prep and Prep parents who have purchased their keepsake tea towels - these have a 3 weeks turn around so we will be in touch when they've arrived.*
- *We've also arranged a bowling party for our smashing Ch11 students who are continually working hard for their exams. Please see PTA newsletter for details.*
- *Our food festival, with amazing cuisines lined up, is all systems go! We will be working alongside our vendors and the school estate and operations team to bring you a tasty food festival on Saturday 24 June from 12noon. More details in our newsletter.*

Our artist of the week this week is Shaikha Y (Ch10):



This piece is based on the theme extraordinary. It is about our brain as a computer, I like the colourful elements and the idea that our brain is always working and transmitting information. The human body is an extraordinary machine.

Mrs Lines (Assistant Principal: Head of Senior School) has asked me to remind parents that electric bikes are not allowed on site and all other bikes must be locked up on the bike stands throughout the school day.

Our Chapter 13 have their leavers service today, emotional for them and for us. Some of these students have been with us for 14 years. This has been their world, their family, the place of friendships and endless learning, challenge, and experiences. This particular group

had their Year 10 and 11 decimated by the covid plague and have yet emerged as a young people ready for the future, certain that good things lie ahead.

May I wish you and yours a happy, and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal