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## Principal's Newsletter

20 January 2023

Dear Parents,

In a world where weather, industrial relations, and general mid-winter blues combine to make us all feel that little is working properly, the sixth form art trip to London on Tuesday must count as an achievement in itself. Somehow a train conveyed our artists down to the metropolis, where they were inspired by visits to the Alexander McQueen Old Bond Street store's exhibition and the New Black Vanguard exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, and somehow a train, travelling over tracks occasionally shut down by falling leaves or floods, now covered in snow conveyed them back to us. A small miracle in the week.

About 135 families have still not signed up to Bromcom and MCAS, the rather stark acronym for the more gentle reality of My Child At School. My writing about it is itself a bit futile as it is unlikely that parents without MCAS will ever read a newsletter. But perhaps they can be encouraged. Not being on MCAS means not getting information.

Some of this information relates to catering. Pupils can run up phenomenal bills in the dining room. These bills unfortunately must be paid. Parents are not always aware or have not understood that you can put a cap on your child's spending. The popular press is always full of stories of heartless schools refusing to feed children. That does not happen here, but neither can it be right that an account in arrears is allowed to balloon into a debt problem by the consumption of bottled water, frozen yoghurts and double meals. We will be in touch with you to make sure we stay on top of this situation.

A national teaching union has announced strike action in pursuit of an above-inflation pay increase. The first such day is February 1. We will be able to communicate with you by close of play Wednesday of next week about how this strike will affect our school.

The timing of any possible strike would likely affect several events and school activities. My advice is to keep calm and carry on as whatever happens we will continue to support pupils and all our teachers, striking or not, are keen to see our pupils and students do well.

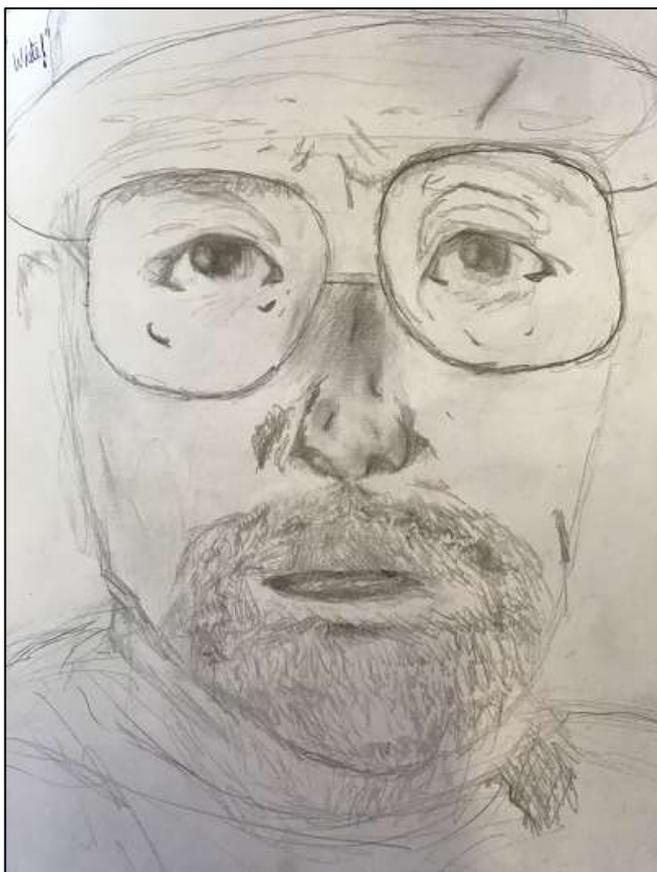
Next week we will also celebrate Chinese New Year. I am charmed by the plans in the boarding house to light the lanterns, a beautiful tradition. Pupils will send heavenward a lit

lantern containing those things they want to let go of in the past year as well as their hopes for the new one.

A substantial amount of pupil voice work is being done in the school. There are extensive national and school-based wellbeing surveys. These surveys allow us to get an insight into our pupils' needs, experiences, and the way they perceive or experience the school's response to them. Some of these instruments began before the pandemic giving us and national researchers a great longitudinal insight into how young people are doing.

One of the goals of the PD programme across the College is to promote this wellbeing. This week leaders visited PD activities across the secondary phase and returned mouths agape and hearts aflame. They saw form teachers putting classes through a quick 20 minute movement-wellbeing workout, a group building a spaghetti tower, a team building exercise, Mr Heeley delivering some inspirational teaching about how exercise and sport can inspire us, and our heads of faculty giving Chapter 9 a presentation about their option choices coming up. Mr Ridley is in dialogue with our Chapter 11, using pupil voice to feedback into the development of this unique aspect of the Liverpool College curriculum.

Our artist of the week this week is Hugo M (Ch9) with "Portrait of Walter":



*"This is a portrait from my imagination it was inspired by some images I found and then I developed my own portrait ideas. I enjoy drawing portraits, it's my favourite thing, to draw with pencils, as you can create marks and shading and re-draft areas you are not happy with"*

Mr Cook has confirmed that all rugby fixtures this weekend, both home and away, are on but unfortunately the hockey fixtures against St Bede's have been postponed.

This week's maths challenges:

- Q1. Without a calculator, evaluate the monstrous expression:  $\sqrt{\sqrt[5]{2889 + 1292\sqrt{5}} - \sqrt[5]{2889 - 1292\sqrt{5}}}$ .  
You are given that  $2889^2 = 8346321$  and  $1292^2 = 1669264$ .
- Q2. How many ways are there to arrange 5 differently coloured circles in a row?

Answers to last week's challenges:

Q1. (-2, 2, -5, 6) and (-3, 3, -5, 6)	Q2. 16
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A short shout out to Mr Ken Siviter and the Foundation who have over the last 4 years begun and nearly completed a proper archive or museum of the school. Contained therein is the story of Liverpool College from its beginnings in 1840 to its current incarnation. Schools are never about the past, but the archive reveals that our story has a theme which is uninterrupted and which has been embroidered by staff and pupils in every generation. Holistic education, the full flourishing of the human person. The pushing back against all the reductions of the human person imposed by government and cultural forces. A restless attempt to be that school of character. The story continues.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**