
Principal's Newsletter

21 October 2022

Dear Parents,

The last week of a half term is always a rapid and joyous occasion. We are about to enjoy a well-deserved break, and many things are celebrated in the last week of a half term to mark all the achievements of the past week.

The PTA Halloween Disco is a sugar fuelled bash with energetic dancing and much hyperactivity. This morning in Prep there will be an inevitable feeling of the day after the night before. Thank you to the PTA volunteers and school staff who make these events possible for our pupils and for all our parents who donated raffle prizes. A particular thank you and well done also to the secondary pupils who volunteered at the Pre Prep and Prep events.

This week I stumbled on Mrs Doran's invited lecture for Prep Schoolers, the Art of Being Brilliant, an outside speaker was inviting pupils to consider their potential and their achievement. I wanted to gather the staff of Pre Prep and Prep and offer my own version. I think they are absolutely brilliant and my perambulations on that part of our campus always inspire and excite. I enjoyed my Chapel with Dr Cartwright-Terry and Chapter 2 exploring the experience of Diwali, and similarly strolling in amazement through classrooms full of learning and passion.

This week our musicians and tech team were rewarded with a trip to the theatre company of Abby Middleton (an OL and someone whose stage presence during performances in the Sutton Timmis in the age before the MV Theatre still dazzles even in the memory). Alongside learning about how a theatre company works, they thoroughly enjoyed the production, 'The Misadventures of Pinocchio', a modern and thought-provoking production about climate change. Abby is appearing at the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott over the Christmas season in a production of A Christmas Carol. More information: <https://shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk/event/a-christmas-carol/>

Ms McWatt reports that five of our 6th Form art students were recently invited by Patrick McDowell to an exclusive fashion show event in Hanover Square London. There were only about 80 guests in attendance - many of them Britain's top fashion designers. The show was called Marie Antoinette comes to Liverpool and all clothes were sustainably produced. The

event has featured in Vogue and this week Layton Williams was photographed for the front cover of Attitude magazine wearing the designs. Annabelle A writes: *The London trip was absolutely amazing, and I am so grateful I got to go. From meeting famous designers like Zandra Rhodes and Jimmy Choo to watching a runway show full of fascinating pieces. At the end of the show, we even got to chat to a few designers about their work. All in all, it was a great experience and would gladly do it 100 times over.*

The secondary phase Science club enjoyed a fantastic trip to 'Our Place in Space', a scale model of our solar system set up across Liverpool city centre. They started their journey at Otterspool and then walked along the prom towards town. Miss Pye reports that the club is already looking forward to their next trip to Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre, a recycling plant located in Fazakerley.



A group of boarders and members of the Chaplaincy Charity Action Group made a trip to Vinny's Kitchen to learn about vegan cooking and plant-based nutrition. After making their own delicious vegan bolognese sauce, the group ate together and also sent 70 meals to homeless people in Liverpool.

Many congratulations to Amy P (Ch11), Zac H (Ch7) and Sam P (Ch6) who have been selected to represent Lancashire at hockey.

Our Chapter 7 and 8 netball teams have had a successful week, beating St Hilda's on Wednesday afternoon, both by 4-3. Their coaches are impressed with how well both teams are progressing.

Our rugby teams had mixed fortunes against St Edwards with the Chapter 9 team literally winning in the last play of the game. That same Chapter's football team suffered a cruel 7-6 penalty shoot-out loss in the National Elite Cup competition against SFX.

Congratulations to the pupils who ran in Wednesday's Merseyside cross country competition at Camp Hill. Staff report that they showed tremendous effort, spirit and

determination. In particular, Joseph C (Ch7) sacrificed a chance at a higher finish in the race to help another runner who had tripped at the start. Many of the spectators commented on how touched they were by his sportsmanship.

Our artist of the week this week is Isabella A (Ch10) with her Soft Brusho Portrait. She writes, *"I'm completely new to the media brusho and I have done very little portraiture. I really enjoyed painting this. It was interesting to explore softer paler colour palettes and create layered effects."*



Pupils across the school enjoyed a non-uniform day today in exchange for donations for the upcoming PTA fireworks party. Secondary phase chapter administrators have been busy collating the donations together ready for the event which is taking place on Tuesday 1 November.



The PTA also have some important updates regarding arrangements for the event:

Door open at 5.30pm and there will be face painting, bouncy castle, hot and cold food, refreshments, bar and hot and cold drinks, and of course the main event which will begin at 7.30pm Sharp. It is a cash and card payment event, however card will only be taken at the bar.

The new entrance is from the PREP car park, and will be signposted. Volunteers will guide you throughout. If you can volunteer for the event, please contact the PTA on pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. Please ensure you all have your wristbands on (under 3s do not need them). If you have any questions or queries regarding the event, please contact us on pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

While we are away, our maintenance team is pressing on. Finally, the builders will arrive to transform the Prep School. New tarmac will be placed on some of the muddy and slippery path connecting the school to Godwyn House. The Maths corridor will be painted.

I shall be reflecting on all the kindnesses expressed to me and my staff by pupils. It means a lot. It remains a charming habit of many pupils and students to thank me and my colleagues for a lesson, or a word of encouragement, or an accompaniment of a trip. Ms Latham recounted to me how much it meant to her to have one of her boarders thank her for the wonderful Founders' Day lunch and Founders' Day generally. My own study is filled with the cards, notes, small gifts and memories of parents and pupils thanking the school, expressing gratitude.

It is in this context that I feel I must also share how dispiriting and demoralising it can also be for staff when they give up time with their own families to provide opportunities to pupils outside of school through trips, visits or fixtures but this commitment is met without recognition by parents or indeed solely with complaints. I share this not in a spirit of carping criticism. Every parent needs to share their concerns and we always strive to do better but staff go above and beyond to make these opportunities available for our pupils as they know these experiences make a difference. Taking the time to pass on a simple thank you to the staff involved, as many parents do, can be very powerful indeed and is truly appreciated. It absolutely keeps us all going.

The proliferation of whatsapp complaint chambers, the energies absorbed in the fascination with the trivial and the negative can affect us all. I hope we return on Wednesday 2 November refreshed and focused on all the great things we have done and will do together.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal