

Principal's Newsletter

23 June 2023

Dear Parents,

We wish all our families who will be celebrating on Wednesday a very happy Eid and Eid Mubarak.



An important message from the PTA:

The PTA Food festival is upon us!! This is the very first time in the history of the College that the PTA is holding a festival full of delicious food and all types of delicacies. From your traditional foods like hot dogs and wraps, to fried chicken, nachos, slush, mango lassi (a mango-based yogurt drink - a very popular cooling drink for the summer!), to mouth-watering Indian cuisines like rice, curries and street food, there is something for everyone!

For entertainment we have music, a bouncy obstacle course, games like name the teddy (winner takes home a cuddly teddy!), the incredible Preplings choir and much more! For the adults, we have a fully licensed bar with cold drinks of all kinds for a brilliant family day out!

Come and join us this Saturday 24 June from 12-4pm in the MV Hall, for a lovely family day out - no need to cook tea on Saturday, we have you covered!

Please ensure you read the PTA newsletter, sent via MCAS, as it has very important details about the festival and its logistics.

Congratulations to Aaro M (Ch8) who appears to be on course to set a UK shot put record.

Prep School Chapel this week included a presentation of a Wilton Scholars project. A team of pupils walked slowly with their catapult, a paper throwing wooden siege machine, to the front of chapel and promptly shot a substantial wad of paper across the front of the building. Our pupils shone in this competition to design and engineer.

Speaking of shining, Prep School Speech Afternoon and Prizegiving had the radiance of joy as well as the verve of character. The speaker helped. Terry Caffrey makes people of all ages laugh, smile, and engage in instantaneous poetic competition. The poet is a natural teacher. It is also the only time many of us have seen Mr Stamper and Mr Devine simultaneously wearing suits and tapping their feet to the rhythms.

But what amazes is the sheer energy of the pupils and staff and their frenetic and joyous days of full school activity. As Ms Pease inspired us with her speech the background screen was filled with photographic evidence of the most extraordinary variety. The statistics about our total domination of school sport in the city, for example the fact that Chapter 4, 5 and 6 all reached the football finals, were buttressed by the numbers involved in the play and the endless choir ascending the stage carefully. It made us all want to go back there, to the glorious Prep School and be a pupil.

Luckily, Mrs Gannon who is still recovering from a bad break in her foot, was able to join us. We will be celebrating her 18 years of leadership and care at some future assemblies, but we were all able to begin the process of making our farewells to her at the speech afternoon.

One of the most admirable things about the Prep School is its commitment to give every pupil a residential trip opportunity. This week the halls were once again dotted with backpacks for the trip to Runcorn by Chapter 3, something which we can perhaps call an annual tradition or rite of passage. Our gratitude to the Prep Staff who seem always willing to go on these trips and make them fun, safe and successful. The next trip on the horizon is the annual music department tour. Not only are Mr Bishop and Ms Clark warming up the BBQ for the annual BBQ behind Beechlands next weekend, they are also in full planning mode for their tour of the Netherlands later in July.

Our Chapter 12 are on work experience this week. Dylan D offered to start a school portrait and I asked the maintenance team to "sit" for their portraits. These are rather large canvases, not unlike the work being done by his classmates in painting a mural on the Prep School library wall, but Dylan will create something memorable. I look forward to hearing what some of the other Chapter 12 students experienced in the workplace.

Thank you to the parents who attended our termly parent information evening this week. We set out some of our plans and priorities for the next academic year particularly in terms of our communication strategy and parental engagement. In next week's newsletter, I will

write in more detail about some of these key areas of development in an *LC Even Better* post.

Some of our Navy CCF cadets have recently enjoyed a very special visit as Lyana M (Ch10) reports:



On the 25 May, HMS Biter arrived in the Albert dock for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic celebrations. Mr Lowes and a select number of cadets from our Navy CCF section were given the opportunity to visit the ship and learn about the roles and responsibilities on board. HMS Biter is one of the 14 Archer-class patrol vessels that form the Coastal Forces Squadron providing inshore patrol across UK waters. We were allowed to go offshore around the dock, which enabled us to understand the responsibilities of each person whilst manoeuvring the vessel. We also got to view the living quarters of those onboard which gave us a greater understanding into the daily lives of the sailors. We were incredibly grateful to have all our questions answered and to have an insight into how a career in the Royal Navy would look.



You will probably be aware that Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July are now scheduled to be days of national strike action for teaching members of the NEU.

Unfortunately, I am not able to provide you today with specific information about how our school will be affected on these days but I must make you aware that it is highly likely that learning will be disrupted for the majority of pupils, and that arrangements may differ from those that were in place for previous strike days. We would therefore recommend that you start to make alternative childcare arrangements for these dates.

We will be communicating with you next week to give specifics about what can and what cannot go ahead but at this stage, we are able to confirm that the Chapter 6 residential trip to Lakeside will be going ahead as planned.

Congratulations to Ms McCartney who has returned to us after wowing delegates at a UNESCO educational conference in Paris. Delegates from all over the world, academics, policy makers gathered in the city of lights to discuss a global approach to the global problem of climate change and education about climate change. Typically for large organisations, most policymakers were people who have at best a 30000ft view of what is going on. Ms McCartney was selected to give a talk precisely because her doctorate research is focused on how pupils actually experience climate change education, in other words, what actually is happening and what actually works.



Congratulations to Matthew L (Ch13) who will be competing at the English Schools Track and Field Championships in the Long Jump. The meet will take place in Birmingham. Matthew is Northern Indoor Champion, County Champion and Schools Champion.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to highlight that Liverpool's ASD Training Team have now released the September dates for their individual and group advisory sessions for parents. To book your place, please see the information [here for the group sessions](#) and [here for the individual meetings](#).

Mrs Scott (Inclusion Mentor) has also asked me to mention that the EMHT (Educational Mental Health Team) are hosting a virtual parent/carer coffee event next week on Tuesday 27 June at 10am, the theme for this event is Primary Transition. More information can be found here - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/657782263457>.

Our staff have hidden talents. There is Mr McGuiness' almost surreal knowledge of certain pop stars and their music. Mr Barnicoat can do anything with computer programming, to name but two examples. Now Mrs Duffy turns out to have been a Cambridge Choral Exhibitioner and current member of the Liverpool Philharmonic Choir. Their performance of Messiah in January is still inspiring me, and now she will perform this weekend in the Phil in the moving Oratorio by Michael Tippett, a Child of Our Time. Just amazing what people get up to.

May I wish you a dry, pleasant and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal