
Principal's Newsletter

23 September 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy Rosh Hashanah to our Jewish pupils and families. It seems appropriate to celebrate a new year at the same time as a new term. We hope and pray that your families will experience this holiday as a holy time.

Jeans for Genes makes for a special Pre Prep entrance. The motley colours were all ensconced in classrooms when I heard about the heroics of Esme in Chapter 2. Last weekend during a BBQ, Esme returned to the living room of the house to find a fire had started. She followed the advice of every fireman to every Pre Prep pupil. She calmly exited the house and told an adult. Soon the fire brigade had matters under control. Esme's story led to various other accounts in Chapter 2 of fires observed and controlled. One boy told me he had seen a forest fire in Portugal where the firemen had saved two kangaroos. Mr Atkinson was able to clarify by stating the class had recently been studying Australian fauna.

The Dutch speakers keep emerging. I am able to speak my mother tongue almost constantly now that I have discovered that Valentin from Ghent is in Chapter 7. After assembly Mr Griffith introduced me to the excellent Rutendo T in Chapter 12 who has joined us from Rotterdam International School. All examples of the great diversity that is the strength of our school.

I have already introduced you to our Head Boy and Girl and this week I want to congratulate our newly appointed Prep School Head Boy and Girl: Carter C and Elodie J in Chapter 6.

A short exhortation to attendance. As we dig through attendance data on a daily and weekly basis, one pattern emerges. There was no pupil in the school last year who attended more than 99% of lessons who did not make substantially better than expected progress. Let that sink in. Pupils with SEND, high achieving pupils, it matters not. The single best correlation of making exceptional progress is attendance. In Liverpool schools, the battle to improve attendance is on. There are still occasional cases of covid and there are pupils who have not yet returned to excellent attendance patterns since the years of occasional lockdowns and hybrid learning. We know that parents are the key to attendance. Get your child to school so they will do well. Fail to get your child to school, and you are taking an enormous punt on their future. Let's get that attendance up!

It is always heartening to see pupils walking to school with large backpacks for their DofE expeditions. A group has fine weather as they depart for the Peak District and an attempt at Silver.



I do not normally photograph parked cars but I found a different red car had parked and smashed the very same sign this morning. This time the hapless sign is sticking out from the front of the car. You would not want to be one of these signs. Our staff are often confronted or even verbally abused when they ask people to move on from illegal parking places. I do hope everyone agrees that school staff should not be treated this way. I also want to thank the many, many families who take exceptional care to park safely and have created innovative travel plans.

A final opportunity for parents to complete our **travel survey**. Please complete the relevant survey below depending on what part of the school your child is in. If you have children in different parts of the College, please complete the survey for each of the schools that you have a child attending.

- Sixth Form Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZqNnr6cp2f>
- Senior School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/vZkDgK0hXP> (for Chapters (Years) 10-11)
- Middle School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/hyQDr647kQ> (for Chapters (Years) 7-9)
- Primary School Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/YyZtygTq5Q> (for Reception - Chapter 6)

There are a number of events I would like to make you aware of. First there is the Wine and Wisdom evening on the 30th of this month. These quiz nights in support of the Music department are great family fun. Participants enjoy what I would describe as an enormous plate of cheese and crackers and a few drinks while the teams play the quiz set by Ms Clark and Mr Bishop. [Click here](#) to download the flyer with all the details. Tickets can be purchased from main Reception and the Prep School office.

A heads up about our Founders' Day Service at Liverpool Cathedral which is attended by all pupils in Chapters 3-13. As I have previously mentioned, this event means there are no lessons and no school on Friday 14 October in any part of the school. One of the most interesting and positive facts about the intention of our founders was the commitment that

no pupil should be compelled for any reason to attend a religious service. Throughout the history of the school, from its very inception, pupils of all faiths and none have attended the College. Our Chapel services are interdenominational moments of reflection and communal gratitude and therefore attended by many pupils of different faiths and none. For those who explicitly do not wish to attend, we therefore have a non-chapel group. Our chaplaincy team also supports a prayer room for Muslim pupils who wish to say midday prayers at school. Over the next few weeks we will be seeking written confirmation and parental permission from parents for non-chapel attendance. Only non-chapel pupils can be excused by their parents from Founders' Day. I have expressed my hope to my own two non-chapel groups that they will feel able to attend Founders' Day which is a celebration of our school and its history and to which all pupils and parents, no matter what their faith are cordially invited. Pupils who normally attend chapel are of course all expected to attend the Founders' Day service at the Cathedral. We will email you directly with more information about this day.

Open Evening for entry into Chapter (Year) 7 in September 2023 is on Wednesday 28 September from 4pm to 6pm (with last presentation and tour at 5.00pm). Experience teaches that there will be upwards of 1000 visitors. We need tour guides because it is pupils visitors want to hear from about their experience. Please consider allowing your child in Chapters 8-13 to put their name forward in Student Services if they are willing to help.

We are also holding an Open Evening for Reception entry in September 2023 on Wednesday 5 October from 6pm to 7.30pm (with last presentation and tour at 7.00pm).

I am delighted to hear about the overwhelming numbers of pupils who have auditioned for parts in *Grease* and *Beauty and the Beast*, the Prep-Middle School co production. More than 170 pupils in total have put themselves forward. I find it very inspiring to see pupils auditioning in front of their classmates. It looks as if we will have some large choruses in these shows which will propel the musicals forward.

A great innovative offer from Dr Tait whose passion for healthy eating, medical knowledge and service to others, is now inspiring the charity group and the boarders. They will be doing a five-week course with her at kitchen premises provided by another college family. They will be learning to cook perfect plant-based menus. They will then cook meals for distribution to the homeless of the city.

In Chapel this week pupils have been hearing about an opportunity to take part in the Alpha Youth course, an after school philosophical exploration of meaning and purpose in life which begins on Monday October 3 and all pupils in secondary are welcome to attend. More details below from our Chaplaincy Team:

Liverpool College is pleased to offer Youth Alpha sessions to all pupils in Chapters 7-13. St Barnabas Church, Penny Lane, will be coming in to lead the sessions where young people can ask questions about life and meaning. With Alpha, young people can wrestle with their thoughts and share their opinions in a safe and friendly environment, sparking conversations

about faith, life and God. If this is something your child might be interested in, they are very welcome to join in! Meeting after school on Mondays (from 3 October) 3:10-4:30pm, including a snack.

You can find out more information here <https://alpha.org/try-alpha-youth/> or by emailing Ms Green, Chaplaincy Lead: lgreen@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

This week's artist of the week is Chloe N in Chapter 11. She has been exploring her love of animals through painting and drawing throughout this week. Chloe explained: *"I've always felt connected to all animals especially night animals. I wanted to channel my emotion and love for such creatures within my art work"*



The PTA are organising a **Fireworks Party** on Tuesday 1 November in the school grounds. Come and join them in the MV Hall from 5.30pm, with fireworks scheduled for 8.30pm on the Prep fields. Entrance will be by ticket only and they will not be available to purchase on the gate. Tickets cost £6 for adults, £4 for children (under 3s go free) or £15 for a family of 2 adults and up to 3 children. [Click here](#) to find out more about the event. The PTA will be selling tickets from Monday 26 September from 2.30-3.15pm from the area outside Mrs Herron's office in the Prep School. Tickets will also be available from the main school Reception. The PTA also need a huge number of volunteers to help with the event – if you can help, please email pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

Also advance notice of the PTA AGM which is taking place at 7.30pm on 13 October. The meeting will be held online and further details will be sent next week.

We have had a busy week of sport and this Saturday will see us even more engaged. The Chapter 9 football team defeated Cardinal Heenan in a tense game which went to penalties. This is a replay of the city final of last year. We move on in the Elite National Cup. I was heartened to receive a report from Mr Heeley about our 1st XV. It's not often that a coach is

glowing in praise after a defeat, but our guys are giving a tremendous account of themselves in the field of character, cohesion and determination. They are now ready to play one of the oldest school fixtures in the country, and the oldest at Liverpool College, LC vs King William's, Isle of Man. The Manxmen will travel to us for a 2.15pm kick off at the College. This is worth coming along to support.

An update from the school uniform shop – unfortunately, due to staffing issues the shop will be closed this Saturday (24 September).

May I wish you and yours a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal