
Principal's Newsletter

24 February 2023

Dear Parents,

I would like to refer you again to the information sent out about our plans for February 28, a regional day of strike action by the NEU. We will update you as soon as possible if our current plans need to change.

Our Prep School refurbishment marked a giant leap forward. On Monday decorators, cleaners, teachers and leaders were scrubbing, hauling furniture and getting ready. A visit to their new classrooms showed them bathed in light, finally with space, and extremely motivated to push on in every aspect of school life.

I am so worried about some of the rates of attendance of some of our Chapters. In Chapter 11, an exam year, almost 1 in 5 pupils are absent at least one day a fortnight. We work hard on getting all our pupils to school, every day. In a season of strikes, this is inevitably a somewhat paradoxical activity, but it is precisely because of disruptions that it remains even more important to attend.

We stepped straight back into school this week. Particularly impressive were those staff (Miss Clark, Mrs Pease, Mr Bishop, Mr Ridley and Mrs Doran) and pupils who had returned from their ski trip immediately prior to the resumption of term. Everyone appears to have had a great time, and despite a lot of people skiing day in day out, we appear to have emerged injury free, as Miss Clark describes:

Our budding skiers hit the slopes over half term.

We set off as the owls hooted at 3.45am for the Olympic Slopes in Bardonecchia, Italy.

No one broke a bone and all made it onto the mountain enjoying some amazing skiing, snow and views, despite some having never donned a ski before and others conquering the Olympic Slopes from the 2006 winter games.

A few come to mind... Finn S in Chapter 7 who quietly looked out for our younger Chapter 5 and 6 pupils. He made sure they were all organised and always with a friend. In the true spirit of LC to care for each other.



Gérard OD Chapter 7 showed enormous resilience conquering the challenge. After initially finding it tricky, he never gave up and never complained. It was an utter joy for all the staff to see him come down the mountain without support on the final few runs of the week. A huge achievement!

Possibly the best moment was our last day when, after a week of picking up gloves, goggles, helmets and even sometimes... skis... all pupils managed to keep hold of their gear, despite us finding a stray glove or two belonging to Mrs Pease!

What a fantastic week we all had. It was a joy to take you all away and you were a credit to our school.

To quote a teacher from another school 'your pupils are a credit to you'.



Our Chapter 10 Art pupils enjoyed a trip on Thursday afternoon to the Walker Art Gallery to see the *Art of the Terraces* exhibition. Ms McWatt reports that the pupils really enjoyed learning about the influences of football and its fans on fashion, film media and art from the 1980s to present day. Vincent van Gogh and *Girl with a Pearl Earring* painted as part of the casual culture were two of the pupils' favourites.



There are always upcoming trips in the works. Mr Barnicoat is excited about a return to Durham with a new stable of debaters taking on the likes of Eton and other top debating schools and reliving successes of the previous trips.

Ms Gimeno is taking her A level Spanish students abroad next Friday on a visit to Valencia. The itinerary includes a visit to the Museum of Arts and Sciences, an opportunity to experience the preamble of the famous festival 'Las fallas', a parade and a firework display, as well as the chance to savour the famous 'pan con tomate' and 'paella'.

It was Animal Day for Chapter 2 pupils this week! Pupils had a very enjoyable day measuring and comparing the lengths of different animals, writing animal riddles, producing animal art and taking part in a rainforest animal workshop. Chapter 2 teachers reported how impressed they were with the amazing masks the pupils had created over half term - well done everyone!





We felt greatly affirmed when a pair of Ofsted researchers (not inspectors) visited our school as part of their national report research on careers education. They will not be able to name our school in the report but it was great to see the hard work of Ms Drew, Ms Doran and all our teachers delivering personal development aspects of careers so clearly appreciated, and affirmed as very strong practice.

We held an option evening on Wednesday for Chapter 9 to discuss with parents and pupils the structure of curriculum choice for Chapter 10 and 11 towards GCSEs and other qualifications. We are all conscious that some parents in this Chapter have hardly had an opportunity to be on campus, to meet and see us, and to get a sense of the teams of people who are supporting their child's progress. This is a function of covid but also something we want to do something about and seeing each other face to face and having opportunities to engage in conversations is valuable and important.

It is in this spirit that we want to hold this term's parent information evening face to face rather than on Microsoft Teams. This will take place on Tuesday 21 March and we will share further details of the arrangements and agenda nearer the time.

Our artist of the week this week is Olivia Hol (Ch11).



Theatrical costume - Wonders of Nature.

"Inspired by the theme The Wonders of Nature I created this felt costume. The bodice is felted by hand and embroidered whilst the skirt is printed and hand painted. The ram horns form structural elements and are inspired by artist Georgia O'Keefe."

Netball games resumed immediately. We even played a tournament on Monday's INSET day. It was impressive to see our pupils arrive for that on a so called "free day" in kit to play for their school.

Well done to the combined Ch9/Ch10 football team that beat St Margaret's 2-0 on Wednesday in preparation for their Merseyside Cup quarter final match next week versus SFX. Goal scorers were Tom C and Erdis R. Mr Cook also highlighted the contribution of Adenya D (Ch10) as an excellent role model both on and off the pitch for the squad.

Today we are hosting teams from St Margaret's, Cowley and Calderstones schools for a Y8-Y10 Hockey tournament. The tournament is being held in memory of a young person, who attended St Margaret's school, who recently died of a brain tumour.

Mrs Doran reports that a number of our Chapter 9 pupils are busy preparing for the National Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition. The competition helps young people understand how the law touches every aspect of their lives, gaining an insight into how the legal justice system works. Pupils are given access to resources, including a specially written

criminal case, to help teams prepare legal arguments. The Liverpool College Law team will take part in a local heat next weekend, going head-to-head with other schools to prosecute and defend the case. Good luck to the team!

Miss Brooke has announced some events next week for our keen readers in the Prep School to help celebrate World Book Day:

Two Exciting Events Next Week!



On **Thursday 2nd March 2023** we'll be celebrating **World Book Day!**

To celebrate, we're going to be doing all sorts of fun activities throughout the day including coming into school dressed up as book characters! Be as creative as you like! If you're stuck for ideas, just ask your teachers, they'll have lots of suggestions!

Things to bring in on the day to help us celebrate and get creative:

- Spare costumes to enjoy as a class
- Toilet roll tubes
- Empty shoe boxes
- Old magazines



Spring Book Fair



Our Spring Book Fair will be in the Sutton Timmis Hall after school from **Wednesday 1st March – Monday 6th March.**

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesday 1st March
Year 5 & 6 - Thursday 2nd March
All Years – Friday 3rd March and Monday 6th March

You can purchase books using one of these three methods:

- Cash payment at the fair
- Online payment using the QR code at the fair
- Pre-order using the wish list (your teacher will have some) and the online payment system. ***Bring your wish list to Mrs Herron so we know what you've ordered and who to deliver books to!**



The Charity Action Group have asked me to draw your attention to an important initiative they are involved in supporting:

The Charity Action Group is highlighting Fairtrade Fortnight at Liverpool College from 27 Feb - 12 March. This year's Fairtrade Fortnight campaign highlights the urgent threat from climate change to the crops we love so much - coffee, bananas and chocolate. The pupils want to pass on a message to families that 'if you want to enjoy coffee and chocolate (and other fairtrade products), think about being sustainable whatever your budget and wherever you shop'.



The PTA's highly anticipated nearly new uniform outlet was officially opened yesterday! Situated near the school shop by the playing fields, LC's Preloved Outlet provides parents with access to a wide range of preloved uniform items here on campus. A big thank you to the PTA Committee and all the volunteers who have made this possible and those who have kindly donated their time to run the outlet. For more information and opening times, please see the PTA newsletter.

Our first maths challenges of the half term:

Q1. Three unit circles are optimally packed into the smallest possible square. If s is the side length of the square, can you find the polynomial $P(x)$ with the smallest possible degree such that all of the following are satisfied? All coefficients are rational, the leading coefficient is 1, and $P(s) = 0$.

Q2. What is the last digit of 7^{100} ?

Answers to the questions in the previous newsletter:

Q1. $8\pi/3$	Q2. $(\pi+4)\text{cm}^2$
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I hope you and your family will enjoy a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal