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## Principal's Newsletter

27 January 2023

Dear Parents,

I am afraid I have to report that two teachers were hit by a taxi which had parked on zigzags and objected to their attempts to ask the taxi to move to allow pupils in a PD session to safely cross a road. The staff members were luckily unhurt but I would ask all of you who do park on zigzags, or loiter there waiting for children at the end of the day, which is a daily occurrence, not to do so, for the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and our staff. I will also be asking parking enforcement for more and more active assistance.

Chapter 11 have been hard at work taking Mock examinations. They emerged from a chilly sports hall where in a few months they are likely to sit in warmer conditions, sweating over examinations. England is unique in asking the average 16-year-old to do about 30 hours of exams at age 16 to take their next step in education. The mocks are essential for pupils to experience what this *via dolorosa* is actually like, but the examinations give our skilled staff real insight into what must be emphasized, revised, further developed in the months ahead.

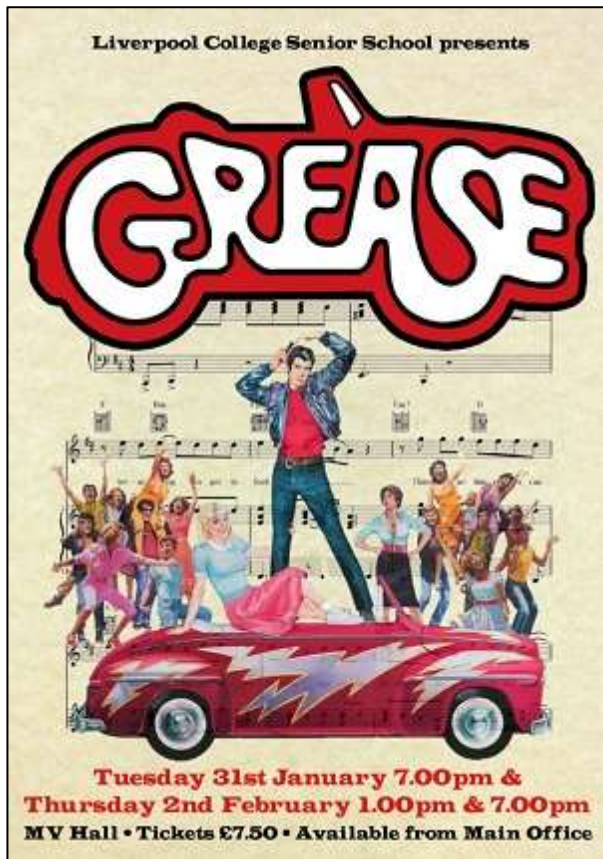
Congratulations to the magnificent Chapter 8 Rugby team, and their coaches Mr O'Connell and Mr Heeley, who have won the county rugby championship! On the way they defeated Manchester Grammar, Lancaster Grammar, Stonyhurst's Prep School, Bolton and AKS. Ethan B and Isaac O led from the front, Sean F dominated every game. We are all delighted that our players and coaches have been able to celebrate this win after hard work and we hope that this success will inspire other Chapters to pursue excellence in the same disciplined and focussed manner.

Mrs Doran's creativity led to Roman Day for Chapter 5. I stumbled upon a group of pupils dancing in the round. Leading them was a live personification of the Roman goddess Diana. They were learning some Roman moves, some Latin words, and thoroughly inspired.

Mrs Ridley gave me a brief demonstration of superphonics in her class. Her pupil sat next to her at a small desk. Out came the cards which are a ubiquitous presence across Pre Prep and the sound making began. The pace was incomprehensibly quick, the 5-year-old zooming through the cards, recognizing the sound, skilfully encouraged. It reminded me of the bumper sticker in the USA: If you can read this, thank a teacher.

Next Tuesday an RAF helicopter will be landing on our playing fields. Chapter 9 has been chosen as the lucky Chapter from which groups of pupils will get a visit to the chopper. Very exciting.

Pupils are busy rehearsing for next week's highly anticipated production of *Grease*. Tickets are still available for the performances on Tuesday 31 January and Thursday 2 February and can be purchased from the main school office.



After Covid, we are finally back to creating some school photographs. The last whole school photo was taken in 2015, with the 2022 version cancelled due to the plague. But now Chapters will be photographed, a bit like small schools, and Chapters 11 and 13 are first, next week. Time for a weekend haircut, in some cases a shave, and a buttoning of the top button. In a few months' time, the 1850 pupils and staff will be photographed together, a feat of logistical planning and photoshop technology.

Several visitors to the College this week, all contributing something special to our plans and our learning. Dr. Carl Larsen, College parent, a university zoologist, was our guest for the sixth form lecture. He shared his eclectic journey into science, his interdisciplinary approach, and his own personal commitment as a scientist and a researcher. We learned that the DNA of a great auk has in fact been preserved and the futility of "creating" one great auk. Interesting stuff.

Stephen Yip, who founded the charity KIND when he was 17 more than 50 years ago, gave me some insights into how his charity has developed and how it serves primary aged pupils across the city.

Our artist of the week this week is Isabella M (Ch7):



*This is Isabella's final piece for her first unit in art 'All About Me' - a celebration of our life, family and culture. Isabella is a keen gymnast and took inspiration from the World Gymnastics Championships in Liverpool that she had recently been to see to create this mixed media piece.*

Adam Hall OL, an architect, visited our Chapel. This building from 1934 is in desperate need of structural repair and some much-needed refurbishment to meet the needs of the College pupils and staff who need it for various purposes. Mr Hall has offered to assemble a team of OL professionals who will advise and guide us through the possible and needed saving of this building. A big challenge ahead.



The boarders sent their lanterns skyward for Chinese New Year and enjoyed a special meal. It's a delight to meet them after their afternoon 5K walks/hikes through the park. The day

boarders are not sitting in front of a video game screen but are instead doing the sort of varied, fun, and socially interactive stuff that we all associate with youth and its opportunities.

A request from Miss McCartney (Assistant Sixth Form Dean) for support with our Chapter 12 work experience programme:

*As part of the Chapter 12 programme of study, students will be undertaking work experience between the 19 and 23 June 2023. As a school we would like to support students in this process. If any of the wider college community are in a position to offer a work experience placement to a Chapter 12 student during this time we would love to hear from you. Please complete the online form here (<https://forms.office.com/e/R5e7i1vQBc>) and we will get back to you with more details and to answer any further questions you may have. It would be great to build relationships with businesses in the local community.*

Our maths challenges for the week:

- Q1. Without a calculator, can you write  $\tan(\sin^{-1}(\cos(\tan^{-1}(\frac{4321}{1234}))))$  as a fraction in its simplest form?
- Q2. Two integers add to give 11 and multiply to give -60. Can you find out what the two integers are?

Answers to last week's challenges:

Q1. 2	Q2. 120
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I shall be writing to you all in relation to the strike which has been called and which will affect our school.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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