

Principal's Newsletter

28 April 2023

Dear Parents,

Sometimes it is best to start with the less welcome news first. Mrs Gannon has been informed by her doctors that she is not able to work at school for the next 5 weeks after suffering an ankle injury. This is sad for her, and for us, and especially in light of this being her last summer term with us, but she will return to us in the month of June and we will be able to fete her then. In this period, Mrs Pease is in charge of the Pre Prep on a day to day basis.

Several major congratulations are in order.



Let us begin the encomia with a song of praise for the Chapter 5 and below boys' Cross Country Team, city champions! This triumph is an indication of the strength and depth of sport in the Prep School, the dedication of their coach Mr Stamper, and the enthusiastic embrace of competition by the team. They celebrated at an assembly this morning. The trophy is an impressive glass thing, a worthy symbol of this achievement.

Congratulations to Ms Boyle and Reception pupils whose daffodil project ultimately led to a lot of beautiful flowers in the Pre Prep garden and about £180 raised for Marie Curie which was presented to the charity at assembly. It is at this time of the year that the labours of winter and autumn bear literal fruit and the Pre Prep pupils are able to observe with wonder the life popping up across the garden.





Congratulations to Mr Harvey who was the impresario of a fundraising organ concert on Tuesday. The entire event was a lesson for me. When Mr Harvey approached me on a gloomy autumn morning and told me of his plans, his date, his vision, I was sceptical. I should not have been. The concert was well attended. Mr Harvey persuaded 8 organists to offer a lovely diversity of pieces, and he managed to get the substantial brass and wind section of our orchestra to chip in as well. In total £2000 was raised, all of which is needed to maintain and repair parts of our organ.

Sitting in the Chapel, and inspired by Mr Harvey's success, I resolved to accelerate the efforts to refurbish and repair the Chapel building now seeing daily and extensive use. Our campus has few buildings shared by everyone. This is it. Now we need £450K to make the place special for the next 100 years of its existence.

Congratulations and thanks also to two groups of secondary phase pupils. The Chapter 7 pupils are to be commended for their enthusiastic embrace and diligent training in the after-school sports on offer this term, badminton and cricket. Their enthusiasm for the sporting life of the College is another shoot of spring after the devastations on sporting habits caused by Covid.



Our gratitude also to Dr Tait and Vinny's Kitchen where our Charity Action Group accompanied by some of our boarders go to learn to cook from scratch nutritious plant-based dishes. When they have cooked them successfully these culinary creations are brought to the homeless. It is an educational cycle that truly promotes the development of character.

The strike days are certainly affecting the rhythm of school life. Details of the partial school closure on Tuesday 2 May was sent out last week to parents but I wanted to remind you that the Chapter 11 Careers day and interview is going ahead on Tuesday. Pupils will be expected to attend this event.

Some advance notice of an event not to be missed. May 11 is the evening chosen for the Springtime Soiree in the Palm House. A delicious blend of the fragrance of tropical flora and the strains of pupils making beautiful music. Tickets will shortly be on sale and available via Parent Pay - a notification will be sent on MCAS when tickets are available for purchase.

Our artist of the week this week is Ava B (Ch8)



This drawing is based off aboriginal artwork and another smaller dragon drawing I did. I felt I should do a full-scale drawing of it to really bring it life and black circles to make the blue stand out.

A reminder that next Monday (8 May) is an additional bank holiday to mark the Coronation.

The maths challenges for the week:

Q1. How many groups are there of order 21 up to isomorphism? If so, can you state the presentations of these groups?

Q2. 5 cells are on a petri dish. Each cell divides into two once every 20 minutes. Can you find the number of cells on the petri dish after a day?

Answers to last week's challenges:

Q1. 180	Q2. 2
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May I wish you and yours a happy and healthy bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal