
Principal's Newsletter

30 June 2023

Dear Parents,

The number of parties, celebrations and events simply explodes near the end of term. I fear this will be a long newsletter and I may still offend some by failure to give notice or sufficient attention to some aspect of the ever-expanding world of school life.

For example, even yesterday there were two more or less simultaneous events in more or less the same location. The excellent Chapter 6 were celebrating their Leavers' service with performances, memories, a slide show, singing and encouraging words from the chaplain. Outside the Chapel, in glorious sunshine, the Pre Prep was in full flow during sports day. This was a brilliantly organized series of events, supported by a large parental fan base, of sack races, sprints, and other participatory races. All this at 14.15. Only hours later it was the turn of Chapter 9 to gather for their diploma evening. Again, pupils performed music and celebrated the achievement of their Diploma, the recognition of the fact that at Liverpool College we learn much more than the national curriculum and we challenge ourselves to engage with new experiences, new activities, and new ideas so that we can develop our intellect and character.



And on the field of games, the PTA were selling their wares, including very cute and innovative tea towels. I attach the drawing which captures my hat wearing perambulations through that part of the College. The children and their art now immortalized, chapter by chapter. The PTA have also asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who has supported them this year. Please read the PTA newsletter which is sent out via MCAS to pick up all the important information on future events and news.

Our Chapter 12 geographers are in London today where they have received a guided tour of the Spitalfields and Banglatown ward that is one of their key case studies. The students are also carrying out human geography fieldwork techniques in preparation for their individual coursework projects to be completed in Chapter 13.

When Ofsted visit, it is always an intense experience for a school. We were fortunate in the professionalism of the boarding inspectors who visited us this week and their excellent work, but one cannot but conclude that the inspection system of this country places almost intolerable strains on even the most resilient professionals. An inspection is an overwhelming event, no matter how it is conducted and no matter what the outcome. Even excellent inspectors cannot prevent the framework and nature of the experience to resemble a PTSD inducing blow, and this is when the inspection is going well!

The report of the boarding inspection will be published in due course but the lead inspector gave me permission to share with you that we are very pleased with the feedback we received. In two years, pupils and staff have worked hard together to create this new boarding provision.

Ms Scott is leading our efforts to be recognized as a Rainbow Flag school. She writes about the activities of pupils in preparing for and celebrating Pride Month.

As part of our celebrations for Pride Month we are looking to spread awareness and show our support of the LGBTQ+ community. It is important for pupils to know that school is a safe space and that they are supported in their individual identities. In order to show this, we have been making rainbow ribbons and badges with our students and will be selling these to peers and teachers throughout the school. We look forward to seeing the school come together and show a united front of inclusion and acceptance. The money raised will go towards supporting future activities, events and to put towards inclusive resources and teaching materials to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues and support this community in our school. We will be selling them at break and lunch time during the last week of term. They will also be available from the School receptions and sold on the Prep School gate at the end of the school day for parents/carers to purchase for £1.00

One of the big successes of the week, and many would argue of the term, was the Art Café organised by Ms Harper. The atmosphere at this event, a sort of combination of talent show, cabaret evening, and parish hall supper, was electrically positive and celebratory. The Jazz band of Chapter 10 stars tied it all together musically, food was shared and consumed, new talents arose on the stage. Everyone is still talking about it and it was especially pleasing to see the cross-phase staff collaborations in various performances. Mr Atkinson has always been a snazzy dresser, but who knew what he could do on stage?

Congratulations to Jack C in Ch3 who will soon be appearing on stage in Ellesmere Port in a theatre production of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' playing the main boy, William Beech!

Today is also the day of the Muslim Student Experience Society, a group organized by our Chapter 12 students as part of Chaplaincy. Their bake sale coincides with Eid and will be welcomed by pupils as yet another example of the festivities at the end of term.



Another example was the trip of the Mini-Vinnies, a newly launched Chaplaincy Prep group focused on charitable activity, who visited the nearby nursing home with their cards for residents. The Mini-Vinnies delighted the residents with their energy, their questions and their curiosity.

After winning a competition to design a mural for the Prep School Library, Eva L (Ch5) finally got to see the finished result this week. Eva's design was painted by a group of Chapter 12 artists as part of their work experience week. An amazing collaboration of talent from both ends of our school!



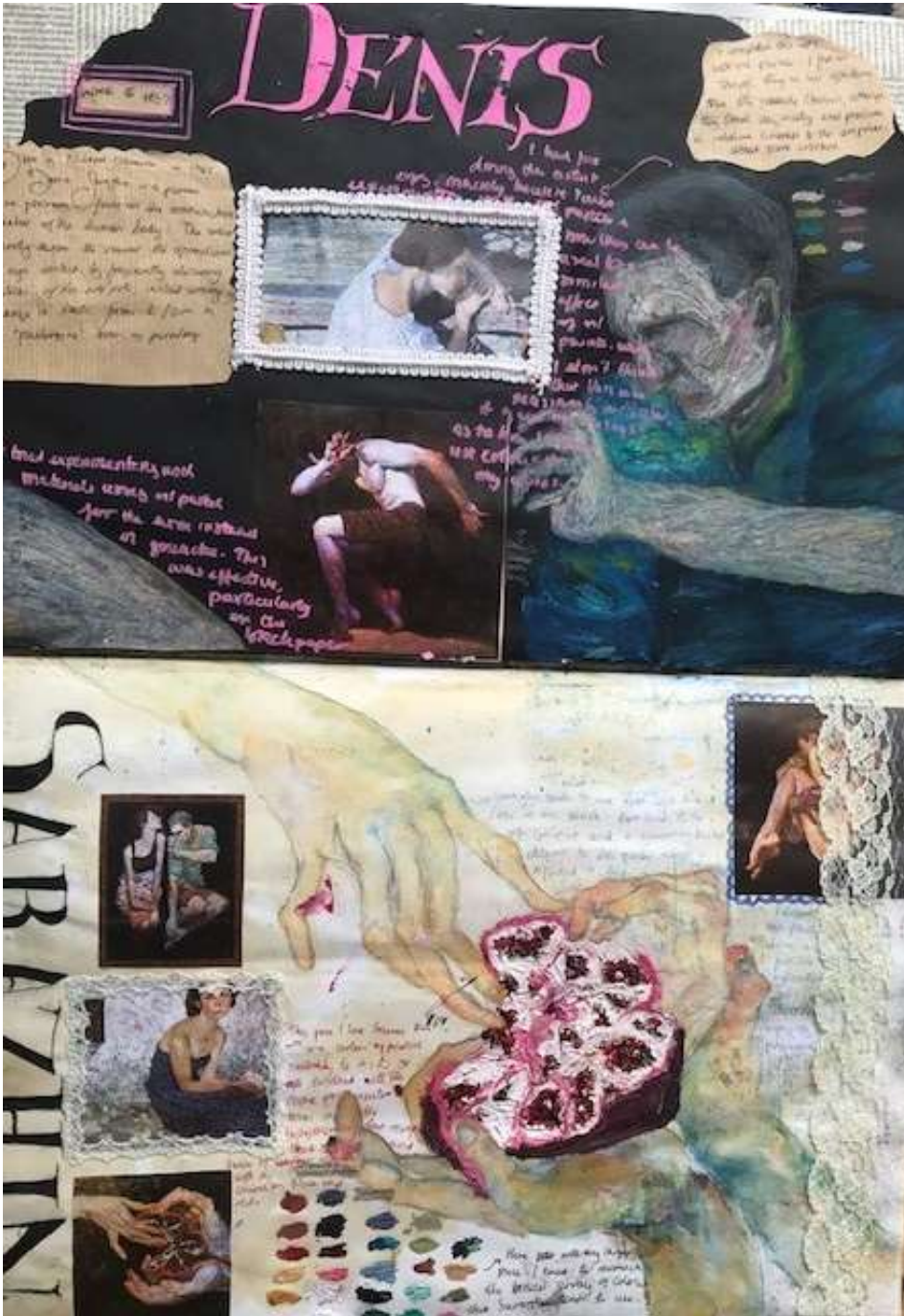
Mrs Drew reports on some more pupil success:

Well done to the following pupils who have managed to secure places on highly sought-after work experience programmes in their chosen fields.

Ella C (Ch10 Sel) has secured one of ten places on a 2-week placement in August with the National Prom Show who are bringing their nationwide show to Liverpool in 2024. Ella will gain valuable experience in event planning, social content, branding and fashion buying.

Mera B (Ch12 Hsn) has secured one of fifty places at the Placed Academy which is a year long programme for students who are interested in careers in the built environment, construction, design or architecture in the future. Mera will work on creative installations, develop her knowledge and design skills and have input on real life projects.

Our artist of the week this week is Zizi M (Ch 12) with "SKETCHBOOK INSIGHTS"



This is a double page spread extract from my sketchbook. It is an artist study on Denis Sarazhin. I selected this artist for his use of cold tones and subtle colour layering to convey form. This has inspired my larger creative piece, combining painting with embroidery and textiles techniques.

I have written to you already about the way the strikes will impact our school next week. I will not be writing a newsletter next week so I wanted to tell you a little bit about some changes for next year in the area of parental engagement in a Liverpool College Even Better post.

You said

Feedback from parents from across the school is that they would like more opportunities to interact face to face with teachers and leaders so they can better support their child's learning and be more involved with the school.

We did

An important part of our strategy is to increase parental engagement and reignite a sense of community and common understanding and support for what the school is trying to achieve. We recognise that parental engagement and involvement in their child's education is a vital component in pupil progress and success and that direct face to face parental engagement and communication can have a positive effect in building relationships, rapport and trust between staff and parents.

From September 2023, there will be a structured engagement programme for each Chapter (year) group across the school:

- Chapter Information Evening during the first weeks of term in September
- Hybrid parents' evenings in primary phase in the Michaelmas term (*parents' evening held over 2 evenings and parents have choice of attending in person or virtually*)
- Face to face parents' evenings in the secondary phase
- Face to face Progress Meeting with class teacher (primary) / house mentor (secondary) during the April INSET day
- Termly 'book looks' for parents in primary phase
- Diploma Awards Events at end of year

What information will be shared during the Chapter Information Evenings?

The face to face 'start of year' meetings for every Chapter will be led by the Chapter Dean and will include:

- ✓ Introduction to key staff
- ✓ Expectations for the year ahead
- ✓ Talk through curriculum structure and planning
- ✓ Key dates / events throughout the year for the Chapter (eg. parents' evening)
- ✓ Communication platforms i.e. SeeSaw (primary) / MCAS / Show My Homework (being reintroduced in the secondary phase in September)
- ✓ Reports

Dates for each Chapter meeting will be confirmed next week before the end of the school year.

There are of course also many other informal opportunities for parents to visit the school or take part in school events throughout the year and these events will be advertised through our newsletters and calendar: Founders' Day service, Speech Night and Prep School Awards Afternoon, Carol Service and Christingles, class assemblies, school plays, sports events, music events, PTA events.....

As this is the last newsletter of the 2022-2023 academic year, I would like to thank you for your engagement, interest, and involvement in our school. We have great plans for next year as we continue to make the College even better together.

May I wish you a dry, restful, and restorative summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal