

Principal's Newsletter

30 September 2022

Dear Parents,

Last Saturday was a great day of sport at the College. We played hockey and netball against Rydal, and rugby against St Edwards, Scarisbrick Hall and, later in the day, King William's Isle of Man. Chapter 9 were involved in a very exciting game, but this last fixture proved particularly impressive from a College perspective. Our 1st XV held out for all of the 70 minutes, scoring one break away try, and achieving a truly famous victory.

Tomorrow there is a full day of sport again.

Pupils share with me some of the amazing things they do. Chapter 2 tell me about their exploratory visit of Chapel. They were encouraged to draw their favourite bit of it, and this now covers the entrances to Chapel. Then there were the girls keen to share with me that their class had learned in their Personal Development session how to make a badge and stitch it. This is when I become very jealous of their education as I wish I knew or had learned to do what they showed me they could do.



Mr Stamper's class is learning to play the glockenspiel/xylophone. Melodies scroll across a screen, pupils bang away. Eventually, he challenged someone to offer a solo performance. It was musical and magical. All this in a school day.

For my sins but hopefully not to the detriment of our students, I am now involved in the Sixth Form Lecture programme which forms part of the extensive Block 5, a programme of intellectual and personal formation that every sixth former engages in in order to become educated rather than just qualified. Speakers this term will include professors of computer science, architecture, philosophy, and politics, on topics ranging from the built environment, AI, the importance of philosophy, and the development of multicultural societies. I have been honoured to offer some lectures and interested to discover the worldviews and philosophies which drive our pupils. British education in general has a strong distaste for four words: philosophy, Continental, personal and innovative. For the most part, schools are supposed to raise good citizens - a good thing to be sure, but perhaps not what could be described as an education, more like a training programme for democratic participation. The College has been swimming against the tide of educational reduction, reduction of curriculum, reduction of the teaching profession, reduction of the purposes of education, all of which begins with the reduction of a person into a vessel which must be filled up with knowledge rather than an individual who must learn to exercise their freedom. Our ambition within the school day and outside it therefore takes as its goal not blind compliance because of overwhelming controls and enforcement, but growth in responsibility and wisdom through the examples of others and the inspiration derived from learning relationships. This is a difficult approach and, at times, a tough balance to strike, and doubtless contains the seeds of disappointment, but it is better than an educational programme which ignores the freedom of the individual. Everyday I see the noble struggle to recover or at least preserve some islands of an expanded vision of education, and the impact that can have on the flourishing of young people and their development to a true maturity. We do not want to be a school which can be recognized by the words of TS Eliot

They constantly try to escape from the darkness outside and within

By dreaming up systems so perfect that no one will need to be good.

Well done to Mr Scott and his golfers. Robert Frost said that education allows a person to listen to anyone and anything with a smile. I was hugely impressed when Manu in Chapter 11 sat down to dinner with the great and the good after the annual OL golf match. He conversed, an art which is sadly underdeveloped and poorly taught. Turning from side to side, he simple listened, asked questions, and made himself agreeable to people who he had not met before. This is an educational experience in and of itself.



Mrs Doran has organised some fantastic workshops and events this week for pupils across the College. Wilton Scholars in Chapters 8-11 enjoyed some challenging workshops covering topics as diverse as the psychology of politics, creative thinking, innovations in sustainability and architectural design. You can read more about these and other events on our website News page which can be accessed [here](#).

An important update for secondary phase parents from Mrs Lines (Assistant Principal) on the further rollout of the school's new management information system Bromcom:

With Bromcom we also have the student app which has many useful features such as showing the pupil's individual timetable, positive rewards, detentions and homework that has been set. From Monday, we will no longer be using Satchel One (SMHW) and all homework in the secondary phase will be set on the Bromcom student app. Please ensure your child if they are in the secondary phase has the app on their mobile or other device. House tutors have shown pupils today how easy it is to download the app and they can all sign on using their school email address and school password. If your child cannot access the app they can login via a web browser <https://vle.bromcomcloud.com/> (Bromcom Student Portal) logging in using their school Microsoft account.

We are working to launch the Bromcom parent app, MCAS (My Child at School) over the next few weeks with a view to all communication, letters and correspondence being sent via the app from Wednesday 2 November.

Our artist of the week is Lena A (Chapter 10) for her amazing art homework exploring the work of Clet Abraham, a major figure in street art. Painter Clet Abraham uses customized stickers to make humorous alterations to traffic signs and traffic cones from his adopted home of Florence using graphical language to reach a broad audience.



Some more reminders. Monday October 3 in the Drama Room from 3.15pm, the Youth Alpha team from St Barnabas Church, Penny Lane will be starting their sessions to which all secondary pupils are invited. This is a place where pupils can tackle big questions together.

Advance warning again of October 14, the 182nd anniversary of our Founding. There is no school that day in any part of the school and pupils in Chapters 3-13 will attend a Service at Liverpool Cathedral at 12pm to celebrate our Founders' Day.

May you and your family enjoy a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal