
LIVERPOOL COLLEGE

A School of Character

Principal's Newsletter

10 May 2024

Dear Parents,

Beautiful weather alters the experience of being at Liverpool College substantially.

As the GCSE exams kick off in the sports hall, the whole school secondary assemblies are cancelled while our pupils navigate through more than 20 exams. It seems perverse that they have to go through this while the weather beckons us to be outside.

Next week is SATs week in the Prep School. We encourage all our Chapter 6 pupils to relax, rest and enjoy life ahead of their days of SATs assessments.

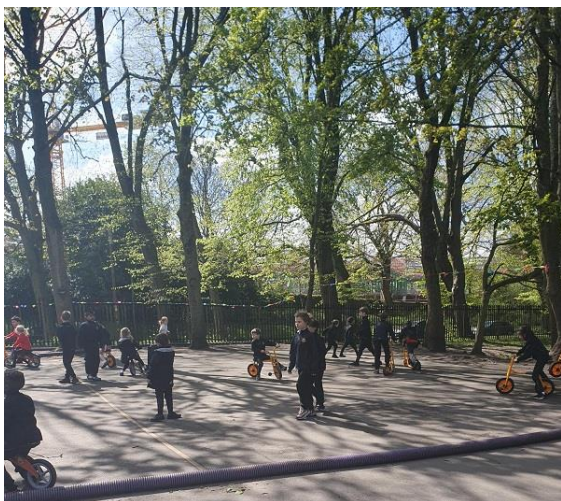


Yesterday, the Prep and Pre Prep were in full use of the new OPAL play equipment. Ms Bygroves explained to me how this system of activity and supervision had created a much richer outdoor experience for primary pupils. On offer is a great variety of activities from tennis to football to dance to various cycles and tricycles. Every inch of the campus is in use for these times of play and learning. The sight of this joyous eruption of play at school immediately reminds one of several wise quotations, the most apt being from one of my favourites Mark Twain: "Work and play are words used to describe the same thing under different conditions." It is clear that in the process of expressing their creativity, pupils are learning many things. They are exploring their own interests, setting up informal rules and conventions so they work and play together to each other's mutual benefit, sharing ideas and places. In short, OPAL play

will be an important part of the happy experience of our primary pupils and by no means "outside" the mission and purposes of the school.

It seems these types of activities and their engagement also promotes a reorientation about learning. Here is a brief description from the pedagogical and psychological literature:

Children who think that ability is fixed, that you are smart or not, able or not, tend to have a performance goal. They aim to show that they are smart, able, intelligent etc. Children who think that ability is learned, something that you can gain with practice and effort, tend to have a learning goal. They aim to learn and improve. Children with performance and learning goals look very similar when they are succeeding, but very different when they start to fail.



What one sees in the OPAL is the almost universal learning goal approach. The girls practising their dancing are not keen to show off to an adult or each other how good at dancing they actually are, they are enjoying getting better at dancing. They are playing not performing. This learning goal/play approach is a necessary balance corrective to the performance approach which dominates so much of the assessment culture of English schools.

Mr Devine reports on the amazing success of our Chapter 6 boys football team in the Liverpool schools' competition:

A massive well done to the Chapter 6 boys' football team. Last Friday, they headed to LFC's training ground to take part in the Liverpool schools' city finals having qualified earlier in the year.



The boys topped the league conceding only one goal all day and were crowned city champions. This is a tremendous achievement and a first at this level for Liverpool College.

On top of excellent performances on the pitch, the team were praised by organisers and staff at other schools for their behaviour and how they all supported each other as a team. It was a genuine delight to coach them throughout the tournament.

The boys should all be very proud of themselves for what is an amazing achievement.

Congratulations to the whole team and their coach!

The U13 Liverpool Schoolboys are now national champions after beating Croydon SFA 3-1 in the National Cup final. The phrase "can they do it on a Monday night in Stoke" does not quite apply but the stadium of this eponymous Club was the scene of the triumph and four of our Chapter 8 pupils contributed immensely to the success of the city team.

Congratulations to Charlie J, Darren M, Joe C and Leo T.



Mrs Doran has been busy this week working with the [Aspire](#) programme to support our Ch10 pupils and Ch12 students interested in Oxbridge applications:

Liverpool College is all about supporting our students to achieve their career goals, to be ambitious and to aspire to be all they can be. For those ambitious students who have their sights set on attending Oxford or Cambridge University, we recognise that the application process can be a little daunting and that more targeted advice and support may be required. As a result, we offered one-to-one advice meetings to students in Ch12 who are in the Oxbridge programme. Support sessions were led this week by Mr Doyle (Aspire Director) and Mrs Doran.



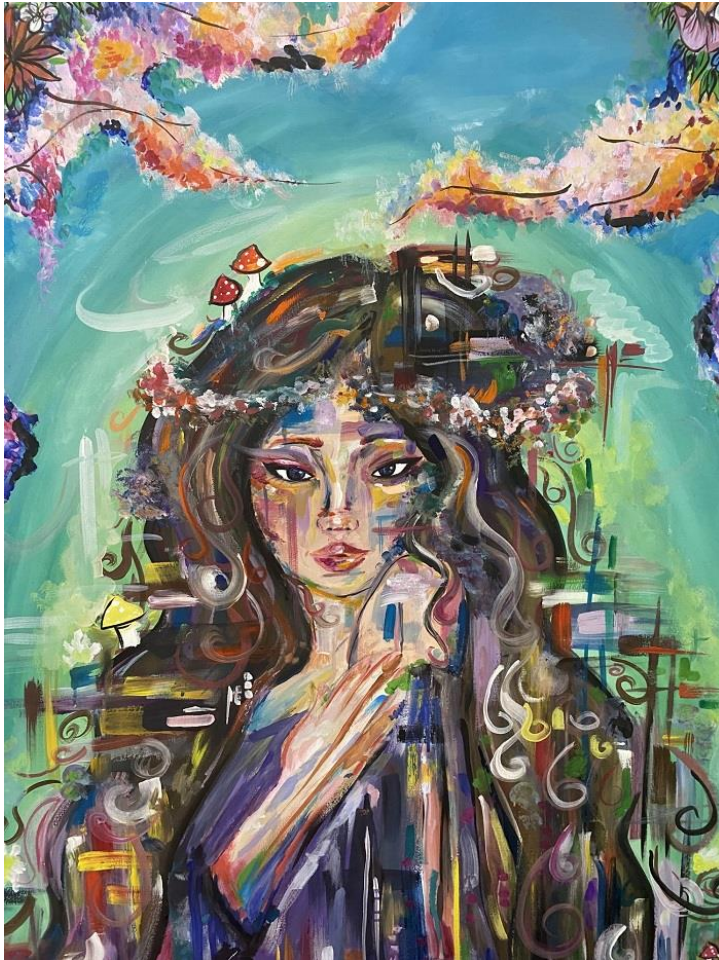
Ch10 Wilton Scholars had a wonderful talk by Aspire Director Mr Doyle this week, aimed at educating pupils about life at Oxford and Cambridge University. The talk included advice should they wish to pursue a route into one of the most prestigious and well-respected universities in the world, including the application process and super-curriculum opportunities.

Mr Bishop has nominated the musician of the week:



This week's **Musician of the Week** is Bailey S (Ch5) for his constant dedication to his music lessons, BPM and choir. He is currently preparing for his Grade 1 violin exam. His technique and intonation are excellent for his age - good luck with the upcoming exam, Bailey! Watch out for him at next week's Springtime Soiree.

Our **artist of the week** this week is Aubrey S (Ch13) with acrylic on canvas:



An update from the **PTA**:

Food festival (Saturday 18 May):

Volunteers required - for each volunteer who helps, they will be assigned 2x fireworks tickets for 8 November. More information in our newsletter. Contact pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk to volunteer.

Donations Please! We are in desperate need of prizes for our tombola at the Food Festival. If you have any of the following, please hand them in to Mrs Fraser, Mrs Herron or Upper School Reception on 16 or 17 May, or bring them to the Outlet during opening hours.

Primary: • Bottles (alcohol, soft drinks, anything in a bottle!) • New/unused gifts/items that would be a nice prize!

Secondary: • Chocolates or sweets (unopened and in date) • New/unused toys and games • New/unused gifts/items that would be a nice prize!



Tickets are available for the food festival - we have a much bigger response of vendors this year, with pizza, burgers, Indian cuisines, crepes, Indian mithai, spice garnishing, freeze dried candy, fresh donuts and so much more! Our own Prepling choir are making a special appearance too! You can purchase tickets and get more information here -

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/liverpool-college-pta/t-gaejan> or on our newsletter.

May I wish you a dry, pleasant and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal