

Principal's Newsletter

15 March 2024

Dear Parents,

Ramadan Mubarak!

We are looking forward to the Iftar organized by the Muslim Student Experience and the PTA. It is great to hear that the event is sold out. Some pupils advised me to try to fast for one day, so that I can experience what it is like to for them. I am doing so as I write, and hope to make it staggering to 18.20 when the sun sets.

British Science Week led to some great experiences for our pupils. 20 of our Chapter 12 scientists had an opportunity to take part in a very special BSW event held at the University of Liverpool on Monday, as Shalika and Ella describe:



*In the morning we carried out many activities including DNA extraction from strawberries, looking at cancer cells using high tech microscopes and observing the mating preferences in female fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*). My favourite experience was DNA extraction. Taking part in these activities not only provided a valuable insight into laboratory procedures whilst working alongside the University professors and students but also potential career pathways we could pursue in biological sciences. We are all grateful for all this opportunity Mrs Miller and Miss Shaw organised for us. (Shalika S)*

In the afternoon, we had three interesting short talks from members of the academic staff at the University of Liverpool. The first talk was about model organisms, which are non-human species that are used in the lab to investigate and understand biological processes. It demonstrated how they have been used to help scientists understand the relationship between genes and the products they code for, as some model organisms share similar genomes to humans. Some examples of model organisms are nematode worms, fruit flies, zebrafish, brewer's yeast, and mice.

The second talk was about fluorescent-protein tagging. This is commonly used in the studies of protein–nucleic acid interactions for imaging and are also used to investigate the subcellular distribution of proteins. These fluorescent tags are important as they have enabled the imaging of almost any protein.





Finally, the last talk was about admissions to the University of Liverpool's School of Life Sciences, which includes a broad range of degrees in the biosciences. This talk detailed the great facilities and the many opportunities that the University of Liverpool has to offer, such as studying abroad, a year in China, and many other options.

Overall this was a very enjoyable and educational event, which I would recommend to anyone that is considering a career in science. (Ella D)

One of the boarders who attended the event showed me his capture of the DNA of a strawberry in a small plastic vile. He explained the process of extracting this. As a person whose scientific education is limited, I always listen to these accounts with a sense of envy but also wonder.

Pupils in Reception also joined in the events for Science Week:

To kick start British Science Week, the pupils in Reception visited Imagine That. They all had a wonderful time exploring all of their senses and learning so many new things about the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed learning how to make snow and slime and taking part in an amazing frozen ice workshop!



Dr Larsen, lecturer in evolutionary zoology spoke at the sixth form lecture this week. He is my kind of scientist as he can explain entire concepts with a few well-chosen examples from the millions of years of zoological history. He showed us how the biology of our planet is at the root of so many phenomena whose meaning we ascribe to other sources. Interesting.

Can you imagine there is on this planet any other primary school where you can walk into a class of 9 and 10 year olds and discover they are making a graphic representation of a musical composition they have made in the style of Kandinsky. It is beyond interdisciplinary or cross curricular. It is genius. Amidst the creative tsunami stands the person who sets it all in motion: Ms Clark.

In the Pre Prep I am similarly constantly amazed by the so called SPaG exercises of Chapter 1. The stories they read are filled with complex sentence structure and vocabulary. They then correct spelling, punctuation as if they were editors at the Times. The progress they make is so rapid and impressive that my mind races to what they will be able to do in 2, 3, 6, 10 years time.

Pupils in Reception meanwhile were busy developing their cycle skills:



Reception were so excited to take part in BikeRight BalanceAbility sessions this week! The pupils had fun whilst developing their cycle skills and enhancing their core balance and co-ordination.



Yesterday evening's Music Masters Concert was full of excellence - a real showcase of the talents of our young musicians. This week's **Musicians of the Week** are two pupils who made their public debut yesterday - Maisey K (Ch 8) and Gabby S (Ch 9). They wowed the audience with excellent renditions of *Think of Me* from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* and Adele's *Make You Feel My Love*. All performers did an excellent job and you can listen to the concert here: <https://youtu.be/I9X4xVF11tl>

Our **Artist of the Week** this week is Annabelle A (Ch13):



Dress created using hand painted silk, embroidery and freemachining.

Based on family heritage and influence from traditional Hungarian art.

Mrs Jones reports on the visit of our guests from Madrid:

This week we have been enjoying the visit from two Spanish teachers and ten Spanish children from Colegio Newman in Madrid. The children are here as part of a ten day Chapter 7 Spanish exchange and they have had an enjoyable time staying with families, visiting Liverpool and Chester and taking part in lessons. It has been wonderful to welcome the Spanish teachers and children to Liverpool.



The chaplaincy team sent a report of more powerful pupil-led reflections this week:

The Anti-Racism group presented an informative Reflection in the Chapel about the Arab world this week. Secondary pupils learned about the culture, language, geography, food, clothing and customs of the countries of the Arab world while also challenging stereotypes. With Sixth Form support, all the presenters were in Chapters 7 and 8 and did a great job!

Mrs Webb reports on the involvement of our pupils in the Cross Country Championships:



The National Cross Country Championships took place in Loughborough last weekend. Five of our Chapter 7 pupils were selected to represent Merseyside in the competition. In tough conditions the pupils involved all put in a huge effort and did themselves proud. The Year 7 boys' team finished in first place in the country and the girls' Year 7 team came second. This is a fantastic achievement at this level. Well done to Ezra D, Dylan D, Beau R, Lottie H and Mia F for their huge efforts to get selected and then to go on to achieve such success on the day. Special mention must also go to Beau who placed 13th in the country.



There is now the final Liverpool Schools Cross Country race to take place. Further details will have been sent out to those pupils who expressed an interest during the week.

A quick reminder to all parents and carers of pupils and students in the secondary phase.

Speech Night is on **Thursday March 21 at 7.30pm**. We have sent you separately arrangements for the evening via an MCAS notification. Our speaker is Professor Tim Jones, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. We will be celebrating the many accomplishments of our pupils on this occasion. A reminder also that the secondary phase of

the school will finish at 3pm that day (rather than the usual 4pm) to allow pupils and staff time to get to the Cathedral in the evening. All pupils are expected to attend.

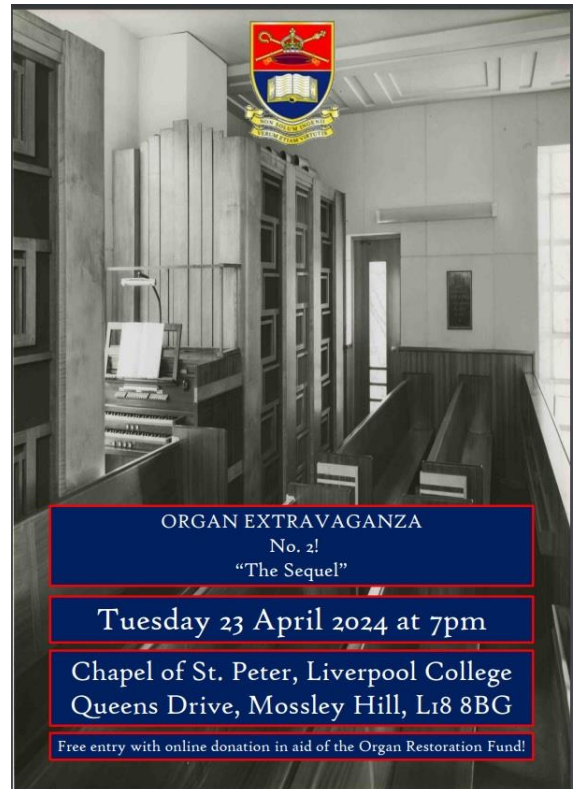
2024 Organ Gala Concert

The booking link is now live for people to book their spaces for the Organ Gala concert on Tuesday 23 April at 7pm.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/57418?>

It's free admission but with an online donation towards the Organ Restoration Fund project.

Any questions relating to the concert/restoration fund, please contact: lharvey@liverpoolcollege.org.uk



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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal