

Principal's Newsletter

19 April 2024

Dear Parents,

It has been a short week, but not without event, incident, and delightful intimations of the sunshine and warmer weather of summer term.

The playground of the primary phase keeps developing new possibilities. Today I noticed the large collection of scooters and practice bicycles deployed, the new equipment, and the fact that the large tree which fell on our playing fields had already been cleared so we can make use of the summer term to get outside and learn outside.

Welcome to Mr Bijster who joins us from Notre Dame. He will be working primarily with the nurture groups in the secondary phase.

Before this newsletter launches into the four days of pupil return, it is important to recognise that during the holidays many things still happen here on campus. Parents and pupils engaged well with the revision and examination preparation sessions which were put on during the break. Pupils were effusive about the effect these sessions had and the quality of our teachers ensures that these sessions are especially productive.

It is sobering to return to school facing some hard facts. 22 teaching days left until A level study leave, first exams weeks away, SATs mocks, the hard and rather cold reality that we are at school and not just in the premier league at the business end of the season. It is showtime. Most of our GCSE candidates will take more than 20 examinations this term. Our A level and BTEC candidates are feeling the pressure of meeting the conditions of their offers for university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. All this just as the sun begins to shine and beckon us outside.

Dr Atkins is a 21-year veteran of LC and his verdict on any event carries additional weight because he is not a man prone towards hyperbole. He feels that the cultural diversity day we celebrated today is the best thing he has seen at LC in his time.



Congratulations must go to Ms Green, Ms Kelly, Ms Odita-Sani and Ms Lalley who have together with pupil groups and staff organized an amazing festival of the cultural diversity of our school. From Lithuania and Ireland to Georgia to Malaysia by way of Yemen and China, this was a culinary and sartorial world tour. The energy of the presenting pupils was fantastic. Mr Muscatelli's pizza oven fired up every second of the day. I tasted sweet tea from Yemen and a sort of pink lemonade from Jamaica. Our diversity is our strength.

We also held a whole school assembly in the secondary phase about Kooth, a mental health service for pupils. It is impossible not to be aware of the increasing number of school aged pupils who are experiencing mental ill health. Indeed since 2010 the number of pupils with such difficulties has increased every year, services are stretched and even pupils who have experienced no mental ill health know friends and family who have. The assembly invited pupils to speak to others, and to develop an understanding which takes away the stigma still attached to issues of mental health.



Congratulations to Isaac J (Ch8). He sent me this awesome picture of the race kart with which in the style of the great F1 drivers he won his race and obtained his trophy at a recent GKL UK Championship race.

Our **artist of the week** this week, selected by Mr Madonna, is Isla L (Ch10) with Pomegranate (2024).



The image of the pomegranate has been used in works by many artists of different periods such as Sandro Botticelli's Madonna of the Pomegranate (1485), Dante Gabriel Rossetti's Proserpine (1874), and Salvador Dalí's Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee (1944). Although the pomegranate is often interpreted as a symbol of fertility, there have been many other interpretations and usages of the pomegranate throughout art history such as mythological, religious or simply as a natural object in a still-life study.

Isla has delved into tonality and accuracy, making them the central focus of our recent drawing assessment.

"We've been learning about composition and techniques for conveying texture and three-dimensionality in our artwork. Personally, I found great satisfaction in refining a variety of tones in my pieces to enhance the definition within my drawings."

Mr Bishop has identified our musician of the week:



This week's **musician of the week** is Joseph W (Ch12) who has single-handedly arranged and orchestrated 'Test Drive' from *How to Train Your Dragon*. Orchestration is a specific skill, usually taught and studied at university level, which requires imagination, knowledge of how to write for a range of orchestral instruments including specific playing techniques of each one and creativity on how to blend everything successfully together. This is a truly spectacular example of orchestration at its best. Well done Joseph!

You can hear his orchestration here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtYeILR61Gs>

Regular readers of this newsletter will remember that last term one of the musicians of the week were the Prep School's 'The Box of Frogs'. They had recorded an original song to raise money for the South Liverpool Foodbank. Over the holiday, they received their certificate of thanks from the organisation and a final update on the funds raised:



On behalf of South Liverpool Foodbank, we want to pass on our sincere thanks for your fundraising support and the money you've raised from the sales of your first single 'Everywhere' - £114.23. We're so incredibly grateful.

Support like yours is invaluable, making a big difference to local people struggling to afford the basics.

Well done and congratulations to Jonah F, Will G, Max D, and Oscar M of 'The Box of Frogs' from Chapter 5.

Congratulations to Omar K (Ch12) who managed to secure an excellent work experience opportunity in London at the Department for Business and Trade. During his placement he worked with a mentor in the Wider Europe South Team of the ISTR directorate shadowing his mentor in meetings and gaining a glimpse into the day-to-day work that happens in international trade policy. He was also able to gather plenty of careers advice and increase his awareness of the diversity of roles available in the civil service. Omar reported:

Overall, I found my placement very useful, and I would say I got exactly what I'd hoped to get from it. It's given me a really good idea of what's available for me in the Civil Service and how I would fit in. It's been a great experience overall, and I would recommend the opportunity to others considering a career as a civil servant.

A reminder from Mr Harvey about next week's organ recital:

On Tuesday 23 April, at 7pm (St. George's Day), in the School Chapel, the Music Department will be hosting its annual organ and brass concert in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund project. Should you have a free evening then why not tag along? It is free entry with an online donation towards the organ restoration fund. Links are below to reserve your spaces and make your donation! It would be lovely to see some of you there! Music includes works by: Henry Purcell, Eric Coates, Louis Vierne, Jean Langlais, Dietrich Buxtehude, John Stanley, Percy Whitlock, Noel Rawsthorne, Felix Mendelssohn, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Howard Goodall and Daniel Bishop.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DGYK> (reservation link!)

<https://thelerspoolians.org.uk/supportus> (donation link)

Refreshments in the MV Servery from 6pm, available parking in the Prep School Car Park. Chapel doors open from 6.30pm for a prompt start at 7pm!

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal