

Principal's Newsletter

20 October 2023

Dear Parents,

Walking across a sun dappled autumnal field behind our Prep School, I stumbled upon Mr Beardsmore coaching tag rugby to an entire class and a line of Chapter 2s heading into reflection assembly and a reception class exploring the slides and growing food in the garden. Here was a pastoral and bucolic scene of unmatched happiness and tranquillity to send us into the last few days of half-term. Earlier in the day, they had clustered energetically in small groups to accelerate to warp speed in the learning of phonics, energetically writing stories and performing rapid mathematical challenges. I was vouchsafed a brief glimpse of how marvellous it must be to be a pupil at a school which is able to offer all this on an autumnal afternoon.

The dance competition is the big hit in the house competition in this week before every half-term. I was extremely impressed with Ms Maloney leading her class through the preparation by showing them how to perform the dance. Somehow the natural diffidence and shyness of teenagers disappears when this process begins and the competition becomes fierce.

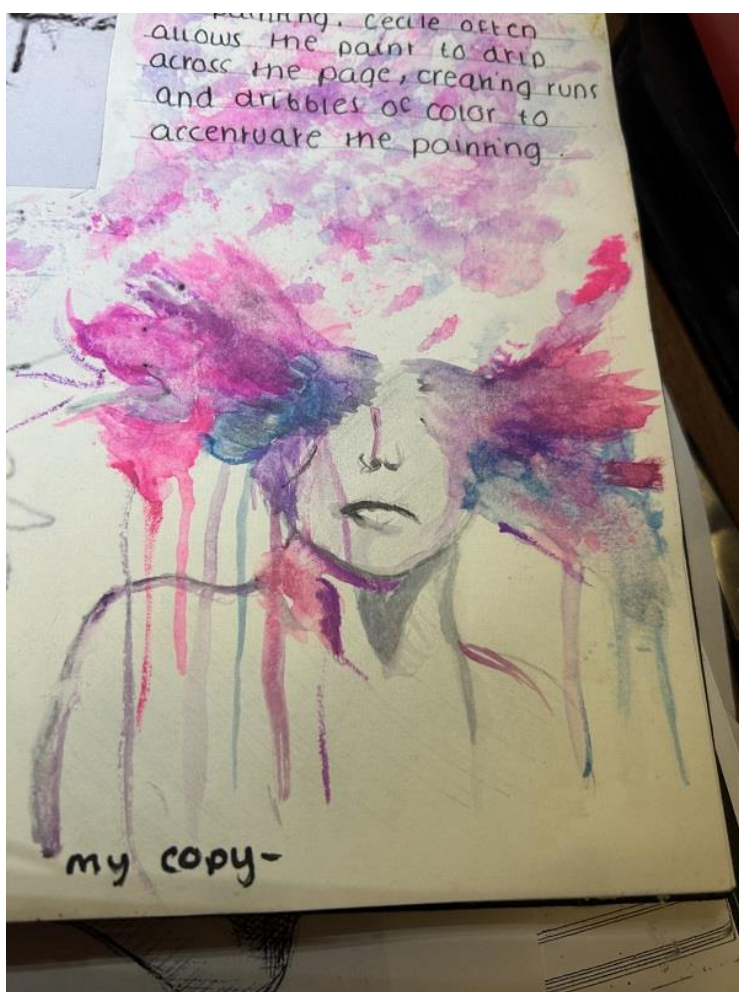
On Wednesday we held the first fully face to face parents' evening across the College. One parent told me that they had never been to a parents' evening at Liverpool College. The last ones were held in the autumn term of 2019. It was great to see parents and pupils mingling, the beaming faces of children who had leveraged the compliments of teachers into a McDonald's visit and the attentive presence of the PTA offering snacks for the whole experience. Our sixth formers organized the completion of surveys by parents. This was an example of their increasing visibility as leaders in the College. Sixth Form leaders had also been in action on Tuesday when they met Members of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) Global Strategy Programme who were visiting the College to learn about the education sector in England. Feedback from our visitors, who were from a variety of military, civilian and political backgrounds from both the UK and overseas, was very positive – describing our students as "inspiring".

Earlier on Wednesday, Mrs Taylor and Ms Kerr took their class to visit our IT department's server room. This is an extraordinarily small and dark place which somehow is the hub for the endless stream of communication and storage across the College. Thereafter, they detoured to

my office. One pupil walked in, sniffed, turned to me and said: Wonderful, it smells of flowers!" Our cleaning team appreciated the compliment of this young man.

Congratulations and thank you to Mrs Sandra Broadfoot who celebrated 25 years in our finance office recently. Mrs Broadfoot has taken the journey with the College across several decades and heads, bursars and CFOs, and her offices have in that period moved several times. It would be impossible to count the number of purchase orders she has processed and accounted for in that time. Earlier in the term we had also recognised the 30 years of service of Mr Ray Green, one of our grounds staff and member of the Estates team. Their faithful service is much appreciated and is an example of the way so many people work tirelessly away from the classroom to make sure our school continues to develop and thrive.

Our **artist of the week** this week is Chloe H (Ch10):



"This is an extract from my sketchbook exploring the work of artist Agnes Cecile. I explored making art at home getting creative with materials such as eye make up and water! I noticed that you can recreate brush effects with everyday materials. I find the work of Agnes Cecile unique and expressive incorporating a range of brush techniques"

Congratulations to Sam P (Ch7), Zachary H (Ch8) and Olivia C (Ch8) who have all for the second consecutive year been selected for the Lancashire County Hockey Squad. This follows a series of extensive trials over the past few months and after another fantastic year of coaching at Liverpool College and City of Liverpool Hockey Club by Jean Arnold. Congratulations to everyone involved and we look forward to hearing how they all get on.



This week's **Musicians of the Week** are 'The Staggs' (Riley A, Enzo S, Adam S and Nick D from Ch9 and Ch10 respectively) who have twice performed in front of the entire secondary phase at Assembly, the latest being today. They performed Louie Louie (The Kingsmen) and Step On (Happy Mondays) while pupils entered, setting the tone for the Half Term to follow. Well done!

A boarder told me of his experience on Field Day. Most of Chapter 10 were out this week in their various CCF sections either navigating, paintballing, visiting an RAF base or watersporting. Mrs Diamond and Mr Jones sent a report from the RAF field day:

The Year 10 CCF RAF Field day to the Inskip base was a great success - pupils made the most of the amazing opportunity they had to try air rifle shooting, archery, climbing, abseiling and low ropes all on one day. This enjoyable day of fun and personal development was supported by sixth form NCOs Shammah, Eddie and Charlie who all showed great initiative and leadership to help the day run smoothly. The staff at Inskip were highly complimentary of our pupils' behaviour, teamwork and 'can-do' attitude.



All those involved in the CCF activities returned enthusiastic. Hopefully many of them will be inspired to go on annual camp and use some of the training and leadership development outdoor opportunities which the CCF provides at minimal cost. Meanwhile those who didn't take part in the CCF activities enjoyed a day of structured football leadership coaching sessions including sessions on fitness testing, resilience and determination as well as learning how to develop and deliver their own training sessions. Mrs Webb praised the participants positive attitude and engagement with the activities.



On Tuesday, Chapter 12 attended the annual University and Apprenticeship Fair at Anfield Stadium. This informative event provided our students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers which included Russell Group, red brick and modern institutions, as well as apprenticeship providers and local colleges. Our students also had the opportunity to attend a wide range of vital seminars including: UCAS Personal Statement & Application Advice, Why take an Apprenticeship, Choosing a University Course, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and Student Finance.

This month we celebrated Black History month and we are looking on the legacy of these celebrations to drive our intent of creating a truly inclusive school. It was wonderful to hear of the excellent reception of some of the assemblies and discussions which formed part of the month. Now we have to build on these events to create an ever more inclusive and anti-racist school. We will keep you posted on our initiatives and efforts in this important part of our school life.

Ms Webb reports on the cross-country exploits of our intrepid runners:



Congratulations to the 12 pupils from Chapter 7-9 who took to the slopes of Camp Hill, Woolton on Wednesday to participate in the second of four city cross country races of the year. Camp Hill is known for its formidable long uphill finish which is known to challenge even the more experienced athletes. The Chapter 7 trio of Beau R, Mia F and Lottie H took to the start line first. With over 80 runners also competing; they worked their way through the field to establish strong positions within the first 1km. Despite the wind picking up on the final

200m uphill finish, a determined final sprint led Beau to finish 3rd, Mia 5th and Lottie 13th. A fantastic race which only needs two more Chapter 7 girls to make up a team!

This race was followed by the talents and sheer determination of the Chapter 7 boys. Not to be phased by a 2.2km race which saw them battle with the uphill section twice, their cross-country experience saw Dylan D come 10th, Sam P 24th and newcomer Josh L 30th. Efforts of the day must go to Dylan D who was still recovering from illness and Shehab S and Aymem M who despite being new to running took on the tough hilly course with courage and tenacity.



The Chapter 8-9 runners of Seb W, Lexi W, Poppy M and Gracie May P were the last to race. The wind had picked up more by this time and the course was well trodden by the previous races making the course harder. The girls race was made up of a very strong field of experienced runners but this did not deter them. Maintaining a steady pace throughout the two lap course, Lexi W took the final sprint to come 14th, followed by Gracie May P - 34th and Poppy M - 36th. The ever reliant trio still managed to finish with a smile on their face despite their exhaustion.

As for Seb W, the only LC runner in his team took on boys nearly twice his size, but this did not discourage him. He battled his way through the field to come a fantastic 11th place. He now needs the talents of LC Chapter 8 and 9 boys to step up and join him on the line. Cross country is great training for all sports and develops stamina and endurance. With two more races still to go, we need to get a team behind Seb!

More runners from Chapter 7, 8 and 9 in both the girls and boys race would see the athletes being able to compete for team points in the league. The third race is now not until January. Date and Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.



Mrs Boyle reports that the Pre Prep after school club were getting ready for Halloween this week. They had a visit from Spencer the Spider who joined their Halloween activities and told the children a fabulous spooky story. The children then joined an old tradition of "Duck Apple" and fun was had by all!

An update from the PTA:



Our newsletter (sent via MCAS) is packed with lots of important information and volunteer requests in relation to our much-awaited fireworks event. We've sold over 1400 tickets and this is amazing for us and our school - the funds raised will be used for sports, music and other departmental requests that have, and future ones that will, come through.

One of the important items of information in the newsletter is the version of the email that has been sent out to everyone who has purchased their fireworks tickets.

Please ignore this email if it doesn't apply to you. If this does apply to you, please ensure you've supplied all the information that is requested to avoid any delays and respond as soon as you can.

Thank you! Have a restful half term...no doubt it'll be all systems go again!

When we return it will be **Week B** in the secondary phase. May I wish you and your family a pleasant, restful and relaxing half-term.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal**

Liverpool College Even Better

Mrs van Gordon has shared some of the wonderful poetry being produced by our aspiring poets in Chapter 8:

These poems were written as part of us learning about the structure of poetry. They are experiments with caesurae, enjambment and endstops that developed into something quite lovely!

Poetry about Places

Take one step and the tropical scents flow
over you.
Foreign flowers that twist like vines across the wall.
And a small pond of water
With fish that shimmer, shine and intertwine.
Colours drift through greens, purples and yellows.
You could almost hear the tropical birds crying.
Crying for a real tropical place.
For the flowers and scents and colours and shapes and water
Are all unnatural,
Grown in a false environment,
Heat in the cold
Of Britain.
Hot, sticky air in the rain.
Raindrops that fall,
Pitter patter on the glass roof.

By Myles McC M (Chapter 8)

A Heron

As the ponds turn to lakes,
As the cygnets turn to swans,
The Heron watches, still as a statue,
Poised in his position,
But, when the fish come out to play,
He greets them, with his hearty smile
Knowing that they will never see another day!

By Rosa M (Chapter 8)

