

Principal's Newsletter

22 March 2024

Dear Parents,

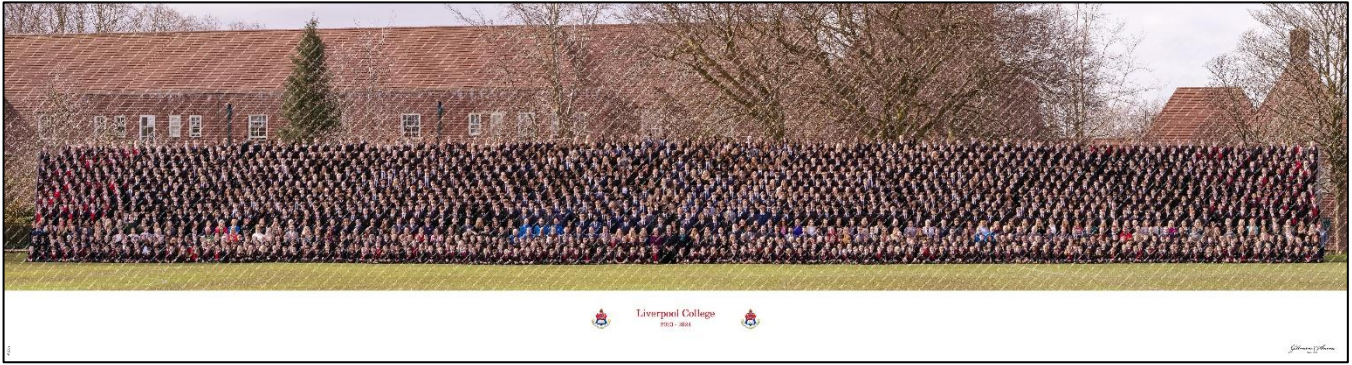
Last night we held the gathering of the tribe at Liverpool Cathedral for our Speech Night and Prize Giving. Many of you attended, and many of you made sure your child attended. I am especially grateful to those who were breaking fast in Ramadan just before the event and still managed to make it.

The evening was peppered by excellence. Charles McG and Celine S, head boy and head girl, performed the Oration composed by Alistair Thorley, OL, who works as a Classics teacher at Stockport Grammar. They also introduced the heads of house who gave brief accounts of the reasons for their gratitude to Liverpool College. The musical interlude included a rendition of *Bohemian Rhapsody* by choir and band and a beautifully performed Beethoven Sonata interpreted by Owen W in Chapter 13. People have commented to me how much they enjoyed the evening which always inspires at the end of a term.

Professor Tim Jones was our speaker, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, a man who spent his student years across the road from our school in university accommodation, before a glittering academic career and an eventual return to the city of his university education to lead the university a £700 million annual research and teaching institution at the heart of our city.

The same civic, and charitable impulse which drove the creation of the University of Liverpool drove the creation of Liverpool College decades earlier and Professor Jones highlighted this common civic purpose and the way education can, if opportunities are taken, transform lives. In the case of the university we find a stated purpose "for the advancement of knowledge and the ennoblement of life". We are not a research institution like a great university but we take the ennoblement of life seriously, one pupil at a time, through an emphasis on "not only the intellect but character".

The scale of that project became clear during our school photograph, the first since 2015. The sheer mass of humanity arranged in tight rows, the age range, the size of the staff, it all became clear on that field as we were marshalled professionally into the picture, with Elsie the school dog added last. The professionals who do these pictures more or less every day across the country told me they only did one school bigger, and that they were surprised at how well we all behaved. Is it not marvellous to be a scouser? As Mark Twain said: "you will delight some people, and surprise the rest." We can look forward to the picture arriving in school very soon.



On Wednesday Mr Griffith and I travelled to Preston to see our 1st XV play in the Lancashire bowl final. Our guys lost narrowly 17-13 in a very hard fought and well-played game. I was very proud of their performance, their coach Mr Heeley, and our parents and fans who had made the trip to support them.

To cast one's mind back to the iftar last Friday night is to relive its delight. The hospitality was excellent, the sixth form pupils assisted beautifully, the PTA and Ms Ali and others all contributed to an evening of friendship and celebration. Attendance was excellent and we were able to welcome charity and other leaders from the Muslim community. I am certain this event can become a tradition we all look forward to.

In the moveable feast that is the College, the head boy and head girl, Ms Cassidy and I are all travelling to London on Saturday for the gathering of the OL society in the RAF club. This annual event is taking on a beautiful complexion as we see a new generation of OLs attending. This time Mr Brady, formerly of this parish, will be the speaker, and an exceptional number of recent graduates have gathered to hear and see him. Parents and sixth formers are invited to connect to the platform of the Liverpool College community: www.theliverpoolians.org.uk. and stay connected.

While we travel, the boarders are at the climbing wall, scaling the heights, a metaphor for their progress towards the Easter holiday. The big scheduled event is the Alton Towers activity trip in summer term. Something to look forward to.

Our **artist of the week** this week is **Khalyla W** (Ch7):



Fauvist landscape created using oil pastel.

Our **musicians of the week**:

This week's musicians of the week feature four pupils who played prominent parts at last night's Speech Night ceremony at the Cathedral.

Valentin B, Max M and Seb W from Chapter 8 played the band parts accompanying the choir's performance of Queen's iconic song *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a six-minute through composed suite, arguably one of Queen's most famous hits, known by many and expertly performed by the choir and these pupils to an audience of over 1000 people.

Following the traditional Latin Oration, expertly given by the heads of school, **Owen W** from Ch 13 performed the first movement of Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No.8 in C minor - 'Pathétique'*. Owen expertly navigated the various sections of this work, unaided with no page-turner, tackling the arresting Grave sections and contrasting episodes alongside the exciting virtuosic passages, really bringing an electric performance of this work to an audience which included 38 highly-critical past and current pupils who are studying/have studied this piece as one of the set works at GCSE.

The image displays three staves of musical notation for Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 8, first movement. The first staff (measures 276-280) shows a piano (p) section with a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The second staff (measures 281-285) features a crescendo (cresc.) leading to a forte (f) section. The third staff (measures 287-291) shows a very forte (ff) section with a more complex, rhythmic bass line and a melodic line in the right hand.

part of one of the fast virtuosic passages of the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 8

Congratulations to everyone who spent weeks of rehearsal time and dedication to prepare and perform the music at the ceremony.

After the excellent musical performances at Speech Night, Miss Clark and Mr Bishop have no time to relax with all day rehearsals today and this weekend for the highly anticipated Key Stage 2 and 3 production of *High School Musical* next week. Good luck to all the performers and musicians and the technical and backstage teams.

Mrs Webb reports on the final Liverpool Secondary Schools cross country race of the year:

As in traditional form, the weather and course conditions did not disappoint the runners. A fierce wind combined with a course that could only be likened to a swamp in places ensured the Liverpool College runners were tested to their limits.



Chapter 7 girls Beau R and Mia F were unable to compete as they were representing Liverpool in the annual Merseyside XC race. This left Lottie H the opportunity to run her best race - and she did just that. A fantastic 2nd place. Well done Lottie!

Ezra D (Chapter 7) was next up to take on the challenging course, followed by Seb W (Chapter 8). They both battled through the field to both take top 10 places. Ezra (5th) and Seb (8th). Congratulations to both boys.

Newcomer Eve R (Chapter 10) took on the challenging Yr 10-11 course. A highly commendable 14th place was achieved for which she should be very proud of.

Finally, a special mention must also go to Beau who came 3rd and Mia F who came 10th in Merseyside. Congratulations to you both.

Well done to all runners who have taken part this year.



Congratulations to Khan O (Ch12) who won first prize at the National Crimebeat awards in London on Tuesday for his Urbanscape Community Garden project. National Crimebeat is the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriffs' Association, and the awards give recognition to the most innovative and successful crime prevention projects conducted by young people. Khan, who was competing with 5 other finalist groups from around the country, also won the prize for the best presentation on the day.

This will be the last newsletter of the term because we finish on Thursday next week, as Friday is Good Friday.

We are doing more on campus over Easter. Beechlands, the boarding house, will be painted, the bridge surveyed, new fire doors installed in all the old buildings and our alarm systems will be connected and integrated in a state-of-the-art system. No sleep therefore for our maintenance team over Easter.

May I wish you a blessed holy week and Easter, a happy and successful completion of Ramadan and a great break. When we return it will be warmer, lighter and summer term. Cricket whites and athletic spikes at the ready.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal