

### Principal's Newsletter

23 February 2024

Dear Parents,

During our time away, we all received some marvellous news. Ms Latham, our head of boarding, gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Elsie. Elsie lives with her brother and with her parents on the campus of Liverpool College. We shall have to consult the archives to see if any child was born on the LC campus, or spent the first days of life before this moment. Her birth is likely to be a historic first. This is the sort of question the Liverpoolian website is usually able to answer.

Our half term has begun in typically strenuous fashion.

This is the part of the year when we all begin to focus relentlessly on the high stakes exam season now just months away. The Chapter 11 pupils who received their mock results at the end of last half term were in many cases sobered by what their envelope contained. There is much strategizing going on among teachers and pupils about exam entries, about interventions and additional tuition, about how to make sure that 11 years of formal education bears total fruit in the 12<sup>th</sup> year.

The same spirit pervades options evening, that moment when Chapter 9 pupils and their parents begin to make educational choices having been fed a set staple for the first 10 years of formal education. It is always exciting to eavesdrop on these conversations about what pupils are motivated to pursue and where their passion and orientations are taking them.

The Open Book afternoon in primary phase took place at the same time. Carers, parents and grandparents had a chance to come in to the school and review their child's books with teachers. This seems to me to be one of the best ways of "reporting" progress as it leads to fruitful educational discussion about progress and obstacles to progress and helps parents to support their child. I was impressed with the pride with which pupils showed off their work.

Carys E and Tahlia R (Ch12) have reported on the Spanish trip that took place in half term:

*During our trip to Spain, we visited many beautiful and culturally rich parts of the region of Andalucía. A particular favourite experience of ours was visiting La Alhambra in Granada, which is an exquisite palace of Islamic architecture, containing delicate Arabic carvings and stunning*

views over the city of Granada. The gardens and many flowers of 'el Generalife' were incredible, and the history explained by the tour guide was very interesting. Visiting a town called Ronda, one which is famous for its bullfighting history, was also very useful as it directly links to what we are learning at A-Level, and visiting The Alcazaba of Málaga, with its ancient architecture, was fascinating. Overall, the trip gave us a better understanding and appreciation for Spanish culture, as well as showing us how vastly diverse and unique the different parts of Andalucía are, despite there only being a short distance between them. We are incredibly thankful to our teachers for giving us this opportunity to learn about the culture, try the local cuisine and practice the language.



Reports about the Greece and Spain trips have been uniformly positive. Teachers have commented on the slew of compliments they received while perambulating hotels and tourist sites. Some hotel staff could not, apparently, believe this was a school trip as the behaviour and attitude of our pupils was so good. My gratitude to all the staff who were willing to take a half term holiday and lead a trip.

Currently, the Chapter 4 trip to Barnstondale is enjoying some sort of sunshine among the showers. This is that first experience of the LC overnight, extended stay adventure learning which is a hallmark of going to school here. If the past is a guide, they will return simultaneously elated and exhausted.

Mrs Hardisty has selected our **artist of the week**, Ava B (Chapter 9):

*This week, we're thrilled to showcase the incredible talent of one of our pupils who shared their artwork straight to our inbox. It's truly inspiring to witness our pupils engaging in creative endeavors from the comfort of their own homes. Not only does this demonstrate their artistic flair, but it also serves as a fantastic means to enhance focus and promote mental well-being. So, if you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, why not pick up a pencil and let your creativity flow?*



*Allow me to introduce "Blue Octopus," a captivating piece by Ava B, Chapter 9.*

*Drawing inspiration from the fluidity of movement and the enchanting world of marine life, Ava's artwork is a testament to her imagination and skill.*

An important notice that there is a **vacancy for a parent governor** on our governing body. Further details about the role of parent governors as well the nomination and election process will be sent out to parents by email next week.

This week's **musician of the week** is Olivia H (Ch 12) as Mr Bishop explains:

*Alongside her constant dedication to the musical life of the College, she has been attending Ch5 music lessons, gaining experience of working with and helping pupils of that age develop their musical skills. She has also taken chamber choir rehearsals - leading choir rehearsals require an immense amount of patience and people skills, something Olivia has in abundance!*

Mr Cartwright (Chapter 12 Dean) has asked me to include an important request for parental help to support our sixth form work experience programme:

*Our Sixth Form students are due to participate in the annual work experience week from Mon 24 to Fri 28 June 2024. All students are in the process of organising their own placements, but it would be very beneficial if we could tap into parents' places of work and businesses of all types and sizes. If parents are able to offer part or all of the week to one or more students, would they please contact [pcartwright@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:pcartwright@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) and I will be in touch to organise it.*

A reminder that we will be holding our **termly Parent Information Evening** on Thursday 29 February at 5.30pm. This is open to all parents. You can register for the event (which will be held online on Microsoft Teams as we feel this encourages participation) by emailing Ms Bamber on [sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). We would like to update you on our plans as well as giving parents an opportunity to ask questions and make observations about how we can further improve the school.

Advance warning of the secondary phase **Speech Night and Prize Giving** on Thursday 21 March in Liverpool Cathedral at 7.30pm. 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. Parents are welcome to attend and further details of arrangements will be sent out separately.

Miss Miller has reported on some fantastic results that our Sixth Form biology students achieved in this year's British Biology Olympiad competition. Well done to the students achieving Commended and Highly Commended results and particular congratulations to those who qualified for medals:

<b>Gold:</b>	Ruby A (Ch13) and Joseph W (Ch12)
<b>Silver:</b>	Ewelina G (Ch13), Holly B (Ch13), Enosh W (Ch12), Thomas McP (Ch12)
<b>Bronze:</b>	Henry K (Ch13), Hannah S (Ch12), Jeffrey C (Ch12), Malak H (Ch13), Celine S (Ch13), Wesley Y (Ch12), Malak A (Ch13)

Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team suffered the frustration of postponement. They were all ready to go to Fylde for the Lancashire Bowl Final and every seat on the bus had been assigned and taken when images of the inundated field came through with a notice of postponement. They will now have to restrain themselves until the new date is known.

Ms Finnegan is a dance coach, so I learned on a recent unplanned visit to her classroom. I discovered her with her Chapter charges practising some carefully choreographed moves for attendance at this week's Key Stage 1 dance festival held at St Julie's school.

Lent began during our half term and we are also preparing for our Iftar celebration on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March organised by the PTA and the Muslim Student Experience (MSE). Having previously tasted some of the cooking which will be available at this meal, I can only recommend that you

get a ticket as soon as possible. All are invited to share. [Click here](#) to find out more and purchase your ticket.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**