

### Principal's Newsletter

29 September 2023

Dear Parents,

A double-booked cake fuelled morning. Primary parents have been invited to Ms Pease's coffee morning. In senior school, the Macmillan cake sale organised by the Charity Action Group creates a palpable sense of excitement. I am going to try to sprint between the two.

Our governors work hard to make Liverpool College better and it is a sign of a stable and well governed school when parents do not worry about what the governors are up to. Every policy, and every new initiative is of course taken to and approved by governors who are 16 in number. They are responsible for oversight, strategic direction, compliance. They challenge us frequently to do better, think differently, and systematically improve the education we offer your child.

Few people have done more for governors since 2003 than Mrs Monica Mason who stepped down as chair of the governing body which she has led for 8 years. Mrs Mason is an A level examiner, and formerly a trainer of teachers in higher education. Her own son began at the College in 1990. She has been an enormous help in the period before and after our transition to academy status. Fortunately, her passion and knowledge will not be lost to us as she will continue as vice-chair. The new chair is Professor Tim Nichol who many of you know for his years of service as PTA treasurer. Professor Nichol is the Dean of the Liverpool Business School and has lengthy experience of service in governance of schools and educational settings.

Some parents ask how they can become a governor. There are two elected parent governors. The elections are held every four years. The majority of our governors are appointed by the Liverpool College Foundation.

Mr Heeley writes with passion about a fantastic display of character from his 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby team:

*The boys faced the formidable task of going against Kings Macclesfield in the national cup first round, one of the strongest and most successful rugby schools in the county. A team that had their own logo on their training balls, sub suits for replacement players and muscles upon muscles, I think expected a bit of a walkover. Our boys had a different idea....all I asked for was effort, character and pride and they delivered on that and more! Each player showed relentless commitment putting their bodies on the line time after time, as a result frustrating the opposition*

*and forcing error after error. Although the boys lost the game 45-15, I could not be more proud of the efforts made for each other and the school. The hugs, high fives and positivity after the game, make all the time and hard work put into organising sport worth it. There was also high praise for our team from the opposition coaches and the referee.*

*Huge well done to Ch11 pupils Charlie Y and Will H playing against lads two years older and many kilograms heavier!*

Our **musician of the week** this week is a Jacob O-M (Chapter 6). Miss Clark writes:



*Jacob is an extremely talented pianist who learns by ear. He loves listening to and learning music by Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy.*

*He regularly shares his talents with our primary phase in class and in assemblies and has exceptional natural talent and musicianship.*

*Here, Jacob is playing Gymnopédie No.1 by Erik Satie, followed by Für Elise by Beethoven - <https://youtu.be/mNYhs89z7mA>*

*This week he is tackling Chopin Nocturne in Eb major, which he eagerly tells me is Op 9 No 2. His next challenge is Flight of the Bumblebee! This love and passion for classical piano music is a joy to witness - one to watch!*

Our **artist of the week** is Malak H (Ch 13). This piece was created during an LC+ session with Chapter 13. Many of these pupils have not painted since they were in Chapter 9.



*"We explored painting as a means of relaxation and mindfulness, creating landscapes and views from our imagination. It brings back memories of working with colour and ideas from the past"*

Vaping is a curse in schools. My memory is that BC, before covid, the youth of this country were spared the temptations of these chemically altered tubes. Now we have a job on our hands educating everyone about this addictive activity and its negative consequences. Mrs Duffy (Assistant Principal: Safeguarding & Inclusion) is engaging with a programme at Alder Hey which will strengthen our education and work on this topic.

Exciting things are emerging ahead of Black History Month. Mrs Kelly's groups of students and pupils have many ideas of how we can promote a school where everyone is truly equal and where respect, tolerance, and inclusion are the focus. I look forward to writing to you about their various initiatives across this upcoming month and beyond.

This is also the season of harvest festivals. I ran into Mr Stamper taking his class in a single line all across the campus preparing videos for harvest assemblies and events. Mr Stamper has also shared with me a wonderful summary of all the activities and learning our primary pupils have been involved in this week as part of our LC+ curriculum - [click here](#) to read more.

Mrs Webb reports on this week's Cross Country fixture:



*12 students from Chapter 7 -11 took to the fields of Calderstones Park on Wednesday to take part in the first of four city cross country races of the year. Storm Agnes could not even keep them from racing.*

*Mia F and Lottie H (Chapter 7) took to the start line first along with 80 other students and came in a highly commendable top 10 place. This was immediately followed by Dylan D, Ezra D, Sam P (Chapter 7) who all put in an awesome uphill sprint finish taking over fellow athletes to all come in the top 25. They were joined by Shehab S and Aymem M (Chapter 7) who raced their first race and completed the course with sheer determination. The next race saw experienced cross country runners Lexi W, Seren R, Poppy M (Chapter 9) and Seb W (Chapter 8) run with style and confidence to put in some outstanding performances. Congratulations also to Miriam W (Chapter 11) who ran the last race, completing a distance of 2.5km in a commendable time and coming 13th in the seniors race. Well done to all athletes.*

*More runners from Chapter 7, 8 and 9 in both the girls and boys race would see them be able to compete for team points in the league. The next race is at Camp Hill in a few weeks. Pupils should speak to Mrs Webb if they are interested.*



We regularly ask people to look at our school and tell us how we can make it better. We regularly travel to other schools to see this for ourselves. Two events spring to mind this week in this regard. Our reception classes were visited by an educational expert in early years who

was very impressed with how our recently arrived pupils are settling in and their energetic progress. Such visits always lead to new ideas, new insights, new plans, always building on the good practice that is there and is shared. Another example is Ms Gimeno hosting a team from our partner school in Madrid, Colegio Newman. Our visitors will spend Thursday with us and it is always revealing to get this "outsiders" perspective. They will then, like all of us, make their way to the Cathedral on Friday for the 183<sup>rd</sup> celebration of Founders' Day. This D-Day assault of town means our uniform is the dominant garb in hostelryes from Mount Pleasant to Liverpool One. It promises to be another great day.

The Design and Technology department were involved in a Dutch Exchange to Rotterdam from 20-22 September. Two A level pupils involved in the exchange, Albany B and Caitlin McC, have written a short report about the activities:

*Attending the Rotterdam exchange trip was surely an experience to say the least. I thoroughly enjoyed the architecture and it offered a unique blend of culture, history, and modernity. We had the opportunity to visit the famous Markthal, a stunning food market with a vibrant atmosphere and delicious treats. Exploring the city by boat was also a highlight, as we got to see the Erasmus Bridge. The museums we visited provided fascinating insights into art, history, and maritime heritage. Overall, it was an enriching experience that allowed us to learn and have fun together! Of course, staying in the famous cube houses was a massive perk as they were located within short distance from the city centre and the cool shapes felt like I was living in a work of art. It was great interacting with the Dutch students too, as when it came to free time, we walked around together, and they knew where to take us for the best shopping experience.*



*The Chapter 13 exchange trip to Rotterdam might have been my favourite school trip. Meeting and spending time with new people, walking around museums and art galleries, visiting a technical university (TU Delft) and learning about the history of Rotterdam from one of their teachers. Of course, the trip wouldn't have been possible without Mr Cartwright and Mr Jones, they both made it that extra bit better. You could tell that there was a lot of effort put into making the trip the best it could be from both ends and everyone*

*put the effort in to have a good time which is what makes it special. Taking in the architecture as we were walking around the city was also very mesmerising since each and every building had something different about it that made it stand out, as well as having a story to go with it. If given the opportunity, I'd love to go again or on a trip to another city to experience life outside of Liverpool.*

Some careers news from Mrs Drew (Careers Leader):



*This week Chapter 11 and 12 attended an assembly from Old Lerpoolian Beth Andrew who works for Everton In the Community. The charity now run the NCS programme in local schools called Open To All. This experience encompasses three strands; life skills, work readiness and social action and will take place in school during our LC + time. Through this experience, students will gain important life skills, employability skills and*

*have the opportunity to volunteer and fundraise for a cause of their choice. There is also the opportunity for students to attend a five day residential. Students have all been given the chance to sign up but I have more application forms in my office if anyone else is interested.*

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to include information about a series of Virtual Group Question and Answer sessions that the Liverpool ASD Training Team are providing in October. They are for parents/carers who have any questions or concerns about their child, in regard to social communication difficulties, waiting an ASD assessment or your child has a diagnosis of autism. It is also an opportunity to speak with an ASD trainer and other parents. To find out more information and to book a place, please [click here](#).

Today is national teaching assistants' day. One of the privileges I have is to watch the work our TAs and LSAs do on a daily basis. From Reception to Chapter 11, this campus contains the individualised and supportive efforts of more than 35 LSAs and TAs. Their care, professionalism and commitment means that all our pupils, including those who have some needs, are able to engage with the school curriculum and make good progress, and most importantly, feel supported, challenged and helped to achieve the mastery of our curriculum. My thanks to all of them.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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

