



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

30 April 2010

Dear Parents,

This week we sent a parents' survey to all parents. As I wrote in my last newsletter, the surveys are very important to us in evaluating our performance. So far we have received a very small percentage back. The entire survey will be invalid and insignificant if we do not reach at least a 50% return rate. I want to ask you to please take a moment to complete the survey and give it to your child to return to school.

We have been very busy preparing for the Royal Visit of HRH the Duke of Gloucester on Tuesday May 4th. On that day, parking on campus will be impossible and we anticipate traffic difficulties in the morning. Please take care.

Parents of members of the guard of honour or the corps of drums can view the Duke's inspection from the lawn of Beechlands if they arrive at 12.45. The Duke will inspect the entire contingent on the parade ground next to the Holland Block at 14.15. Parents are welcome to attend the event.

This week I have enjoyed three instances of the creative excellence of our pupils and our Expressive Arts faculty. The Key Stage 3 art show in the art building inspired me especially. The maturity and subtlety of much of the work, particularly in the African themed projects, belied the young age of the artists. Abigail McLindon's piece was my particular favourite. Mrs Lawrenson has clearly inspired her pupils to think and see like artists.

A quick trip to the Haygarth Building to review some of the GCSE DT projects was similarly exciting. The ingenuity, finish and scope of many of the projects made one wonder if this really could be GCSE work. I am sure the grades will reflect the exceptional efforts of so many of our pupils and the commitment of Mr Miller and Mr Cartwright. Our pupils invented, designed and manufactured everything from a guitar to a polished rabbit hutch. I was struck by a very ingenious step system for a child's playroom. I am particularly impressed by such efforts as my own design ability is nugatory.

Today the Palm House hosted our GCSE musicians in their performance component concert. These occasions in the Palm House offer a wonderful interlude in a day. Members of the wider community enjoyed our pupils' performances which were diverse and original, ranging from Sergio Koytzoomis' bouzouki to Sam Downes' Jimi Hendrix with stops along Abby Middleton's Debussy, Roz Gibson and Hope Lapin's "chansons" and Herbie Hancock interpreted by Jonny Davidson and Tim Cunningham. Our pupils seem always to rise to the occasion in a performance setting.

If election fever has not yet gripped the country, it has certainly gripped the imagination of the candidates in our mock election. Mr. Turbitt has organized an election debate for Wednesday, May 5th. Judging from the election posters ubiquitously scattered around campus, this event will prove popular and lively.

Our IB cohort, now on examination leave, are ready to begin their examinations on May 4th. They are proving diligent and focused in their preparations. The offers they have received from universities are impressive and competitive. It is uplifting to see the focus and dedication of this group as they are still coming to school to huddle with their teachers and study together in groups.

There is a **Year 7 Parents' Evening** on **Tuesday 4th May** from 16.15 to 18.15 in the Sports Hall.

OFSTED visited our school this week and confirmed our plans to open our boarding programme. They will return in the summer to monitor our progress with the first boarders arriving in September. As well as full time boarders, we intend to allow weekly and occasional boarding by pupils aged 16 or older. Occasional boarding has proved very popular in other schools. This allows a pupil to board for up to three weeks if convenient. So far, we have recruited 10 pupils to begin boarding in September.

The University of Liverpool have confirmed that they will be offering a course in Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic for our Sixth Formers. This will be an exciting opportunity for our pupils to experience tutorial style university teaching and to expand their intellectual formation beyond the pre-chewed cud of the A level and IB syllabus. We are also pursuing establishing a similar course in the history and development of political systems in Ancient Greece.

Saturday night will be the occasion of much parental exultation and even dancing at the Parents' Society May Ball. This promises to be a wonderful occasion. I believe pupils would be amazed to see their parents dancing the night away.

May I wish you and your family a pleasant and restful bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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Liverpool College, Queen's Drive Mossley Hill Liverpool L18 8BG Tel: 0151 724 4000; 0151 724 1611 (Admissions)
Fax: 0151 729 0105 Email: admin@liverpoolcollege.org.uk Website: <http://www.liverpoolcollege.org.uk>
If you would prefer no to be sent future emails please [click here](#).