



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

21st April 2011

Dear Parents,

There will be a **Year 7 Parents' Evening on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April** from 16.15-18.15. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend as I will be travelling to Hinckley United FC, in Leicestershire to support our U16 footballers as they compete in the national final of the Independent Schools Football Association competition. Dr Downes, Head of Upper School, will however be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

The walk into school was a little slower for many pupils this Monday. During the holidays, many pupils were involved in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and Mr Griffith led a successful ski trip to Austria. It is difficult to forsake a day of your holidays, particularly when the weather is glorious. We have nevertheless had a focused and productive albeit short week.

What was, before the holidays, only a dawning realization of impending examinations, is now a blazing midday sun singeing the consciousness of every pupil and every member of staff. Our IB candidates begin their examination leave at the end of next week's shortened lessons. Two weeks later it is the turn of our AS and GCSE candidates. Revision lessons and oral examinations have certainly begun. The weather is not cooperating as it provides a constant temptation to find a lawn and chat with a friend.

We took a school photograph on Wednesday. This event, rather like the Olympics, takes place once every four years and requires the building of new stadia and a great deal of organization. There is something inspiring and novel about seeing the entire College of 750 or so pupils assembled from Nursery to Year 13, as well as the army of staff working in different places and different capacities to keep us running. This was a photograph of our community. I was very gratified when the photographer who shoots about 100 independent schools per year, commented on what he experienced as the excellent behaviour and attitude of our pupils.

That same afternoon, we hosted the Bluecoat 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team in the first sporting fixture of the term. We shook off the winter cobwebs slightly better than our gracious opponents and won the match comfortably, Duncan Walsh getting a fifty. Just before the holidays, our U15 Hockey team won the Girls County Championship by beating Merchant Taylor's in the final 1-0 through a goal by Anna Parry.

Just before the holidays, and as part of the strategic plan developed with all our stakeholders, I appointed three Assistant Heads for September 2011. Mr Fox's title will change from Head of Guidance to Assistant Head for Guidance. Mrs Kate Reid will be the Assistant Head for Teaching. Her job description and its objectives are easy to summarize. In the last inspection, the Upper School's teaching was described as good with many examples of outstanding teaching. The inspectors made a specific recommendation to build on this foundation of high quality to achieve uniformly and consistently excellent and inspiring teaching. Mrs Reid's position is specifically focused on this recommendation and this objective. By developing new performance management and evaluative systems, by coordinating curricular developments, by seeking feedback from pupils and parents, and by review of the effectiveness of our curriculum, Mrs Reid and the other heads of faculty, will drive improvement in teaching in the Upper School. Mrs Reid will continue to teach English.

I have appointed Mr Nik Griffith as Assistant Head for Extra Curricular. Mr Griffith will further coordinate and develop our entire programme of extracurricular learning. We do so many things outside of lessons but we can improve the integration of these activities explicitly and systematically into the curriculum of every pupil at the school. Our aim is to improve the variety and quality of our extracurricular programme and involve more pupils in them. We want to develop a programme where societies and other activities receive the attention and resources to attract and retain pupil interest. Our mission has always been to educate the whole person and we use the classroom as well as activities outside the classroom to achieve this goal. Mr Griffith will ensure that our extra-curriculars are structured and led in a way which will allow them to make maximum contribution to the development of our pupils. Mr Griffith will continue to teach Geography.

A reminder that tickets are on sale for the Parent's Association May Ball on Saturday 21st May. Further information can be downloaded from the school website [here](#).

May I wish you and your family a blessed Passover and Happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



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