



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

2nd December 2011

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to Jack Stanley and Ron Sen who won the first round of the English Speaking Union's Schools Mace competition at Birkenhead School last night, beating a number of excellent debating teams from local schools. School debating competitions are intense affairs which demand careful preparation as well as remarkable verbal agility in the rebuttal stages. They opposed the motion 'This house believes that phone tapping can never be justified' and our boys defeated an emotive argument from Birkenhead School, winning the house vote as well as the overall competition. I am delighted for these two young men with whom I have occasionally debated and lost to myself and for their coach Mrs Reid.

The **rugby dinner**, after an initial flurry of excitement and ticket sales, has stalled a little. It is always difficult to add a new event to a busy calendar, but I do hope that all boys who played rugby for the College this season in Year 7-10 will attend with at least one parent. It is taking place on **Saturday 10th December** from 19.00-22.00 in the College Dining Room. The presence of the ex-British Lions and England player Phil Greening as our after dinner speaker makes it all the more important we get a good turnout. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from the school reception . Please email Mr Gammon agammon@liverpoolcollege.org.uk for more information.

There will be a **Parents' Evening on Thursday 8th December** for **Year 10** in the Dining Room from 16.30-18.30.

On **Wednesday 7th December** from 18.30 to 20.00 in the Art Department, there is an **Interim Exhibition** of painting, photography and sculpture from 6th form students and selected students in Year 10-11. All are welcome.

I would like to give some advanced warning about our annual **Carol Service** in the Anglican Cathedral on **Monday 12th December at 19.30**. At this point of a term, exhaustion is the most commonly shared experience among pupils, staff and parents, and this evening will help us get to the finish line together spiritually. More details about arrangements for the evening will be emailed separately to parents.

Brook's House, who could not have their Chapel this past Wednesday, will have their Family Chapel next Wednesday, December 7th at 8.30. It is hoped parents will be able to stay for some refreshments after the Chapel service.

We have put together **extra revision classes** for pupils who are taking public examinations in January. A **timetable of these revision sessions**, as well as the actual exam timetable, can be downloaded from the

Examination Office section of the school website [here](#).

Last Saturday all 5 of our rugby teams recorded convincing victories against Rydal Penrhos. Unfortunately we also suffered two defeats during the week. The First's lost in the quarterfinals of the Lancashire Cup to Merchant Taylors, a tough loss to a good rugby school. Our U15 are also out of the Daily Mail Vase competition losing to Holmes Chapel.

On Friday the Senior hockey teams played 2 matches against King William's. Both games were closely contested and finished in draws. The 1st XI drew 2-2 and the 2nd XI drew 0 - 0.

The U13s made a pleasing start to their hockey league competition on Thursday. The team drew 0-0 with St Julies in a game they dominated but could not score. In their second game they managed to find the net and beat Archbishop Blanch convincingly 3-0.

I have heard remarkably positive reports and general buzz about the combined DT/Art London trip for our GCSE and A Level pupils. Our pupils were totally engaged, focused, and enthused by the programme. In Mr Donnelly's view, Mr Cartwright has done a fantastic job putting together and leading the trip. During the visit the students conducted coursework research in front of the real thing throughout some of the most prestigious galleries and design museums in the world which included tours of Kessler International, the workings of Tower Bridge, the hidden secrets of Drury Lane Theatre, the Saatchi, Cork Street, National, V&A galleries, the Science museum and more. Mr Donnelly reports that Mr Cartwright's 'cultural cocktail' continued with the sensational additions of a West End production - 'We will rock you' and the noted zany animated film 'Arthur Christmas' in Odeon Leicester Square.

Now onto my brief potted history of the founder of Brook's House. The Rev Brook was a distinguished Anglican divine who was born in 1880. After more than ten years as a fellow of Merton College, he became Head of Liverpool College in 1919 until 1928. This was a period of transition for the school in many ways. The whole country was recovering from the exhaustion and horrors of the war, and the school was moving in a slightly piecemeal fashion from Lodge Lane on Sefton Park to its arcadian and sylvan home today. A move of this kind was not without difficulty and essentially, our current campus was completely surrounded by countryside at the time. It was a semi-rural location. The villas of Conybeare and Gladstone were used very much as they are today, but it is really shocking to think that those two were the only buildings then on the campus. Beechlands was a private residence, and the land across the bridge, as I once heard a Year 7 describe it, was undeveloped except for the Victorian coach houses and Mossley Vale. Like so many titans of the past, Brook seems to have combined boundless energy with an amazing degree of calmness and depth of scholarship. Brook was in this sense the first principal of the school as we know it today. He lived to a tremendously ripe age of 89, dying in 1969, having been elevated to the episcopate of Ipswich in 1940 and having been made a chaplain to the King in 1935, a position from which he does not appear to have been able to persuade King Edward VIII to forego his intention to marry Wallace Simpson and relinquish the crown. I am quite sure, Mr Fox, the current Head of House provides more practical and effective pastoral advice.

May I wish you a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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