



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents,

Next **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at **19.30** we will hold our annual **Carol Service** in the Anglican Cathedral. All Upper School and Prep school pupils are required to attend, except those who, by previous arrangement, do not attend chapel services in school. Upper School pupils should report to their House tutor inside the Cathedral by 19.00.

A reminder to members of the Upper School choir that they are to meet Mr Bishop at the Anglican Cathedral at 09.00 on Monday morning for a rehearsal. Boarding pupils will be transported by minibus to the Cathedral after assembly on Monday morning.

Term will end on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 16.00, after our termly awards assembly and ceremony. Lent Term will begin with assembly on Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup>.

We had a very friendly visit from Moreton Bay College's hockey team from Brisbane, Australia. Some define sport as an enterprise in which individuals and teams compete before Australians win, but such a view was confounded by the performance of our hockey girls. They won both matches easily. The sight of our pupils waving goodbye to their antipodean guests after a brief but intense visit confirmed the clichéd but valid view that sport brings people together more effectively than almost any other human activity. Thanks must go to Ms Hannah for organizing this visit.

Tomorrow is our Rugby Dinner. Ticket sales have accelerated again and we will have a good turnout on this occasion. The dress code is printed on the tickets.

On Wednesday, Mr Donnelly hosted an exhibition of Sixth Form art in progress which unfortunately I was unable to attend. A parent told me how impressed he was with what he had seen and with the variety of work on display.

Next week will see the departure of several trips. The ski trip to the Unites States will take 81 pupils and 10 members of staff under the leadership of Major Pickett to Lake Tahoe for 5 days of skiing as well as sightseeing in San Francisco. We will also be waving our rugby team goodbye as they embark on a tour of Ireland, playing against Sligo Grammar School and Portora Royal School. Let us hope this will be a fitting conclusion to their excellent season.

During the Christmas holidays, work will continue on the Biology building. The unfinished façade of the brutalist "tower" which is still disfiguring the quadrangle will be transformed. That will certainly be something to look

forward to on our return in January.

Another thing to look forward to is today's talent show to raise funds for Malawi organized again by the irrepressible Julien Toh. Nika will perform a Russian rap. Roz Gibson, I am sure will not be rapping, but will be singing in her memorable fashion. We can also look forward to a new sketch from our own Fry and Laurie, Adam and Tom.

It seems there is a lot of energy for volunteering and charity this year. An invitation to pupils to volunteer at Redbridge School has led to a deluge of applications. We now have the rather embarrassing situation of having to restrict the number of pupils involved in the scheme and select pupils on the basis of letters of application. I hope parents can help here. If you are able to accompany a group of pupils to a volunteering opportunity on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, I hope you will contact me at [principal@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:principal@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). You may make it possible for us to offer many more volunteering opportunities to our pupils who want to volunteer.

If all these things are not exciting enough, we can all look forward to the schedule of review and revision classes which we published last week and which can be found [here](#). The holidays must in the case of our examination classes be a time of serious revision and focus.

Back at the ranch, as they say in Kansas, we will also be working on extending the system of Principal's Tutorials to give pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 more frequent and effective feedback. We are also beginning the exploration of a possible transformation of our Haygarth Centre (DT and ICT) into an Imagineering Centre with a new Key Stage 3 independent learning curriculum. Much more on this in the future.

In my overview of Houses and their founders, Selwyn's and the Rev Selwyn are last but not least. Against the objections and advice of all his friends who viewed the young scholar as a man unsuited to the hustle and bustle of the thriving port city, Selwyn applied to become the head of the College at age 28 after some very frugal and possibly prudent governors had failed to meet the salary requirements of their preferred candidate. He had apparently become bored with his parish duties and New Testament scholarship in Tyneside. Selwyn is described as tall, dark, impetuous and dynamic. He found a school in decline. One master was 77 years of age, which, I suppose, if the proposed pension arrangements of the current government proceed, is a prospect once again before us. Selwyn reduced the average age of the staff from 65 to 30 in a year. But Selwyn whirled on. His next idea was to move the school from Shaw Street, where the building still stands now converted into flats, to Sefton Park. He drove the project to its completion and the governors to distraction with a move to Lodge Lane in 1884. Sadly this was the moment when the alienation between the Upper School, now housed in the fashionable suburbs of Sefton Park, from the rest of the institution still stuck in the dark and filthy building on Shaw Street began and accelerated, leading ultimately to a complete split at the turn of the century.

Selwyn brooked absolutely no nonsense and by all accounts was perpetually punishing boys and scolding governors. He managed to get the governors to agree to the building of the new school on Lodge Lane, now sadly demolished, at a cost of £11000. Shortly thereafter he left to become the Head of Uppingham where he succeeded the very famous and venerable headmaster Dr Thring.

May I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal

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