



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

26th February 2010

Dear Parents,

A week can be so full of activities and events that it is possible to forget that last week we were still enjoying a half term holiday.

I had a wonderful experience of contrasts yesterday. During the day, I was at Newcastle-under-Lyme School for an HMC heads meeting. The subjects covered at such meetings are almost all of national scope and include issues like inspections, public policy toward the independent sector and assessments of the activities of Ofqual, a quango charged with ensuring the equality and integrity of exam board qualifications. From this brief description of the agenda, you will understand how much of a contrast it was to return to Liverpool and attend the Spring Concert of our music department in Beechlands in the evening. The intimacy of the venue, the quality and variety of performances and genres and the inspiration that young talent always provide, combined to make this the perfect way to end a day of meetings. I could write paragraphs about Connor Keating and Kyran Seth's sonatas, Tim Cunningham's, Marco Cook's or Laura Davidson's soulful jazz, Melissa Jones' ballads, Fiona Sinclair-Ford's Puccini, or Dan Murphy's version of Fats Waller's Alligator Crawl. A particular triumph was the performance of Bach's Concerto for 2 Violins (1st movement) performed by Anna Parry and Oliver Yoxall- Dodd.

I have three important reminders about our calendar next week. **Monday, March 1** is an **INSET morning for Upper School**. Buses run at the regular times. Lessons will begin at 09.05. **Tuesday 2 March** is a **Parents Information Evening** in the Sutton Timmis Hall at 18.30. **Wednesday 3 March** is the **Year 12 Parents Evening** from 16.15 to 18.15 in the Sports Hall.

While we were away on half term break, our Year 8 Morocco trip was in full swing. The group had a great time in Marrakech for 3 days where they immersed themselves in the local traditions of henna tattoos, bartering in the souks and eating delicious tagines. They then travelled into the mountains for a 2 night camping expedition. The pupils had a challenging walk to complete and they also learnt some basic camp craft skills. They very much enjoyed the experience of trekking with the aid of a few donkeys and many cups of Berber mint tea!

Our rowers, undeterred by the colder weather, were on the water for the first time. We managed to get two quads out on the water and you can view [here](#) some photographs courtesy of Ms Russell Moore from the Pre Prep who is helping to coach the team. Ms Russell Moore has commented to me how gratifying it is to see her former Year 2 pupils now rowing together in a boat. A unique perspective on human development! Congratulations to Matthew Hanlon, Year 13. His excellent golf game has earned him a place on the Lancashire team for the four counties tournament. Success there could mean national representation.

Congratulations also to some of our Year 10 and 11 mathematicians who were recognized in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. They earned 5 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze certificates. Two of our pupils did so well that they were entered in a competition curiously titled; The Pink Kangaroo. This is an international competition between more than 25 countries. Let's hope they do not let team GB down.

Yesterday we hosted 10 schools in the first Liverpool ICAEW National Business Game (ICAEW- Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales). Our 6 Sixth Formers were given a business case study in which they had to choose a suitable investment for their 'friend'. They then presented their ideas to a panel of judges who were selected from various Directors of the ICAEW. Our students genuinely did very well, having

been asked to present their ideas first. Although they didn't win, they won praise from their mentors for their maturity and teamwork. Overall, it was a very challenging and useful experience for them to take into future university and job interviews. Several of them commented that they knew exactly how they could have done better, and wanted to enter next year where they would be sure of victory.

I was delighted to receive an email from the Rydal 1st XI football coach commenting on his team's victorious match against our 2nd XI: "It was nice to play against a "good" school. The match was in good spirit, not dirty, friendly lads, no bad language and boys on both sides took referee decisions with good grace. If only all schools were that good."

Friendly and educational are also words that could describe our fixtures against Shrewsbury. Our 1st XI have now played against the two finalist for the national independent school football championship: Repton and Shrewsbury. On a beautiful pitch, we struggled to get into a game against such superior competition. But the experience of playing against the better teams inspires rather than demoralizes the team and will help us raise our game. This weekend our away matches against Stockport Grammar have had to be cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. Our home matches however are still on.

Our girls dominated St Edward's College in their netball fixture on Tuesday winning 14-2.

Congratulations to the U14 girls hockey team who won the city tournament yesterday. Although only 3 teams entered they beat Bluecoat 6-1 and Archbishop Blanche 3- 0.

Good luck to the U13 team who compete in the national mini hockey tournament at Kirkham tomorrow morning.

I wish you and your family a happy and restful 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](#).