



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

11th February 2011

Dear Parents,

I learned many things while watching Oklahoma last night. My memory of the musical was that it points towards a sunny culture of cowboys, territory men, and fun loving farm girls. Last night I was struck by the brooding presence of Judd, played memorably on this occasion by Jason Zhao, the indifference and violence, and the strange foreboding in the story line. I also learned that every one of my pupils has a much better American accent than I have a British one.

It is remarkable to see about 30 pupils of the Upper School taking part. There are many stars, the leads Rebecca Marston Evans and Joe Burns, Tom Gornall as an excellent Judge, Melissa Jones, Abbey Middleton and Matthew Janvier, who display their talents as actors, singers and dancers, but perhaps most noteworthy is the continuing development of Tom Martin into a comedic actor of virtuosity and the emergence of Peggy Howard on our stage. The atmosphere was excellent. What a great way to finish a half term! Well done to Mrs Hall, Mr Harvey, Mr Loli and all the cast and crew.

When one looks at the stage with the Oklahoma performers, one realises just how busy some of our pupils are and how we need to encourage broad participation in sports and the arts. A lot of junior hockey players were on that stage and my mind turned to the inevitable challenge Ms Hannah would have in fielding her strongest teams the next day at Wyncote. As a school, we are looking seriously at the structures of our sports and extra-curricular activities, the way we communicate to parents and pupils about them, and the way we encourage more pupil leadership and involvement. One seems, unfortunately, to see the same faces, whether it is on the stage or on the pitch. Participation in our activities is intense for a majority of pupils, but for a substantial minority, the school does elicit their best out of classroom efforts.

We have decided to approach this in three ways:

1. a sports policy which makes clear the expectations of members of each squad and the communication which parents and pupils can expect about their involvement. In practice this consists of bringing together the best practice of the best teams and applying it universally across the Upper School. I attach a copy of our draft sports policy for your comment.
2. the development of societies with published events which do not necessarily preclude the involvement of pupils involved in sport or require weekly attendance. An example of this would be a debating society which sponsors occasional debates for the whole school. The goal here would be to encourage more leadership from sixth formers and senior pupils and to allow pupils to try different activities.
3. a restructuring of the curriculum of CCF and D of E to integrate it into specific years and specific curricular targets.

On **Tuesday, February 22nd**, at **18.00** we will hold our **Year 11 Options Evening**. From 18.00 to 18.30 there will be an introductory talk in the Drama Room (Sefton Room) followed by individual consultations with subject

staff in the dining room. I have met with most Year 11 pupils now and believe that the cohort is individually and collectively motivated to achieve their very best. The evening will allow us to explain what we offer and give pupils a chance to discuss subjects with the relevant teachers.

This half term, our University of Liverpool philosophy course has diminished in numbers due to time and examination pressures but the faithful philosophers have moved on from logic to other topics of philosophy. During the past half term, a small group of historians have worked with Dr Foka from the university on an exploration of the development of politics in the ancient world. Next half term Dr Foka will be working with pupils in the lower year groups.

Congratulations to a number of our Sixth Form pupils who took part in the European Youth Parliament North West regional debates this week. The group consisting of Jack Stanley, Jessie Peake, Emma Lathar, Matthew Brook, Hamza Saleh, Ron Sen, Sarah Bazley – Harrison and Sam Downes finished third overall.

Sixth Form lectures continue to add spice and variety. A new schedule has been published for the remainder of the days. Yesterday, pupils heard about drugs in sport as well as from a group of visiting pupils from Hong Kong. On Thursday 24th February: Why Microbiology is important to us all, followed on Thursday 3rd March by Animal Rights. A talk on Evolution is scheduled for March 10th. On the 17th March we will host our own Sixth Form political debate. The talks are in almost all cases given by academics from the universities of Liverpool or Manchester.

Mr Bishop is running a coursework morning on Saturday for the Music Tech students from 9am – 12pm. Mr Donnelly is also in action during half term with workshops for A level and GCSE candidates on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr Lock is holding a revision session on Hazards (Part 2) for geography IB students (SL and HL) on Sunday 20th February from 2-4pm in G16.

Mr Brady has asked me to remind you about the revision sessions run by history staff every week during the school term and I hope you will encourage your child to take advantage of these sessions. Starting again after half term, for Y11 GCSE students there are different sessions depending on the grades achieved in the Year 10 module exams: A\* & A group meet on Monday after school, those who achieved C – D grades have a session on Monday lunchtime, while the B grade group meet Thursday after school. Year 12 AS students meet Wednesday after school while Y13 A2 candidates have a session on Tuesday after school. Y13 IB pupils meet on Friday after school.

The busyness and intensity of school life requires rest and restorative relaxation. I hope that you and your family will find time for this during the half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



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](mailto:admin@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) Website: <http://www.liverpoolcollege.org.uk>  
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