



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

22nd January 2010

Dear Parents,

The Upper School interview season is underway, and one concerned parent asked me at interview why Liverpool College's GCSE results had gone down. I was puzzled because they have not gone down, until it occurred to me that the parent may have been looking at government league tables published by the DCSF. According to the government, Eton, Harrow, Manchester Grammar School, Winchester, Westminster, and Liverpool College are all in furious competition for the worse performance at GCSE.

The reason for this absurd tabulation is that our pupils, like pupils in many fine schools, sat the IGCSE in Maths last year. This qualification which is respected and recognized by universities and examined in many independent schools, is not recognized by the government. So, we are keeping pretty good company this year at the bottom of the tables as according to the government none of our pupils passed maths. I am not sure whether to describe the whole thing as Orwellian, Kafkaesque, or simply pathetic.

Our Year 12 IB Drama pupils performed their own dramatic one woman shows this week. I was struck by the achievement of Emily Clark and Sophie Davies. While studying five other subjects, they had, in less than a term and a half, created, imagined, rehearsed, staged, self-directed, learned and performed a 25 minute show. It was one of those inspirational examples of pupils' talents and commitment. These shows were particularly impressive because of their creativity and individuality.

Congratulations to Laura Erskine who achieved her Grade 7 Flute with distinction in her recent music examination.

Mrs Alexander is taking a group of Year 10 to the Junior Liverpool Law Society debating competition. Debating at the College has a glorious past, as several OLS who are now politicians, QCs and judges have told me of the importance of this training and have regaled me with the excitement of outrageous motions and notions carried or defeated. Junior debating club meets Tuesday lunchtimes.

All activities and clubs are to be found in our Lent term calendar. Your child should have received one through their House Tutor. All 83 weekly revision sessions, clubs, activities, and sport practices are listed on our website [here](#).

I want to direct your attention to several upcoming events. The first is the 70's disco (a flyer is attached). This parent event is in aid of the girls' sports trip to Australia. Also, a reminder about the [Sound of Music](#), our musical which will be staged in the Sutton Timmis Hall from February 10-12th. Tickets are available from the Upper School office and we hope that many pupils and parents will turn out to enjoy the show.

**February 1st** is not far away. Please remember that this day is our first INSET morning in the Upper School. School will begin at 9:00 that morning for pupils in the Upper School. Our staff are able to meet as faculty and collectively from 8:15 to 9:00. Buses will run at regular times, and pupils who are early are asked to go to the dining room.

Our playing fields and astro are barely playable but we do hope to get our sporting term firmly on its way. A

change this term is that every year group of boys will have opportunities to play football fixtures. We are developing a block fixture calendar and Mr Griffith has worked hard to get us on the "circuit" of football playing independent schools. This weekend his 1st XI are playing Repton and Wellbeck College. Our U14 XV and our 1st XV are still in a cup competition. Boys and girls hockey have a block fixture against King's Macclesfield while our netballers are bracing for league competition and matches with QEGS Blackburn this week.

May I wish your family a restful and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mouirk Broekman  
Principal

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