



**Liverpool College**

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## Principal's Newsletter

29th January 2010

Dear Parents,

Monday, February 1, is an INSET morning for Upper School staff. School will begin at 09.00. Buses will run at the regular times. Pupils who come to school before 09.00 should go to the dining room where they will be supervised.

It may interest you to know what staff do on an INSET morning. We meet as a group, and each faculty has an opportunity to meet and discuss curricular matters, performance review, and implementation of goals and objectives in school improvement. The full schedule, hectic activity and supervision requirements of school days are such that if we do not schedule a dedicated block of time, it is almost impossible to bring everyone together. Hence, the morning INSET. Our next INSET morning will be March 1. Lesson time is not affected.

This week I have met with many Year 11 parents and pupils. I am impressed with their focus on the GCSE examinations and coursework and the exceptional efforts our teachers are making in providing lessons, workshops and revision sessions outside of the timetable after school and at lunch. There can be no excuse for not using these opportunities. I urge all Year 11 pupils to attend these and to avail themselves of this personalized support.

Our pupils throughout the school are loquacious and many even garrulous, but, from some ancient cultural predisposition, some view a conversation with a teacher rather like a visit to a dentist: best avoided unless absolutely necessary. I hope parents will encourage pupils to approach teachers to ask for help, to share with their teachers their particular concern and to be more proactive in discussing their performance with their teacher. Teachers appreciate this more mature approach and it is an absolute requirement in sixth form and university.

Friday is our day for house activity: today houses are competing in table tennis, basketball and chess. It is encouraging to see the keen participation of our younger pupils in these events. I hope we can increase the involvement of senior pupils in these activities.

Wednesday saw a good 1-1 draw against QEGS Blackburn, a "football school" for our 1st XI. Football continues tomorrow with a block fixture of six matches against Rishworth. There has been a change of time for kick off. Our three home matches will now kick off at 10.00. Last week, I failed to mention that we have 5 teams still in rugby competitions this term. With some help from the weather, it promises to be a very full sporting term.

International visits are always exciting events and a girls' hockey team from Barker College in Buenos Aires will be visiting our school and city. The matches will take place on Tuesday afternoon from 14.00 to 17.00. I would like to thank our parents and families who are hosting the visitors.

Well done to our Junior Debating team led by Mrs Alexander. Laura Erskine and Hope Lappin have progressed to the final of the Liverpool Law Society Public Speaking competition proposing the motion that there should be a mandatory retirement age. The final will be held in Liverpool Town Hall on March 1.

Although the sun is trying to break through, I do think with awe and wonder from time to time about our pupils who spend Sundays on the Duke of Edinburgh Open Canoe course at Merseysport. Too cold for me, I am

afraid.

I wish you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



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