



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

14th January 2011

Dear Parents,

It can be sobering to think of the tsunami of assessment coming towards our pupils, particularly in Years 10 - 13. This is the term when the wave of modular examinations, trial examinations, and revision for examinations begins to crest. I am very nervous when pupils do not perform well in their trial examinations. It is perhaps understandable that pupils feel these are not the "real thing", but it can be very difficult to make up for an unwillingness to prepare for trial examinations and modules, and often poor performance in these is an indication of unsatisfactory preparation. We must work together to impress upon pupils that success in the summer months is always based on revision, organization, and relentless effort in the winter ones.

Already staff are beginning weekend revision lessons, extra lessons and clubs, and revision guides. They realize that revision must begin early. Their commitment is total. It is a painful irony that the pupils who would benefit from such sessions are often least likely to attend. The mystery of education, and indeed of human beings, is surely the great variations in motivation in pursuit of the same goal. As a school, we set a very ambitious target for each pupil: to outperform their predicted grade by on average at least half a grade. The key to success in this endeavour is the ability to increase the motivation of the pupil.

One of our duties at this time of the year is to appoint new leadership for the school and the houses. This is not easy because our Year 12 contains a lot of talent and a lot of commitment. I have appointed Melissa Pagan as Head Girl. Melissa is an exemplary pupil who serves the school and her house, and is always doing her best. Her involvement in sport, in CCF, and in every part of the school is always consistent, positive and mature. Her deputy will be Rosie Maher who has an equally distinctive record of service to the College. Joshua Smith will be the Head Boy. Joshua has shown excellent academic determination, leadership quality, and commitment to sport and CCF especially. Sergio Koytzoumis, his deputy, is a gentleman and scholar, and a musician of quality.

Our fixtures with the Bluecoat have been postponed and they will be played on a future Saturday this term. We did have two noticeable successes. Our First XI defeated Bolton School, a perennial powerhouse in independent school football last Saturday. Our U16 footballers are also described as "ruthless" (which the author intended as a compliment I believe) in an article about their Cup progress at <http://www.isfa.org.uk/boys/news.php?go=fullnews&id=133>.

Mr Brady's History School for AS and A2 pupils will be held **next Saturday** (22nd) from 12-3pm in the history classrooms.

There are several girls hockey fixtures tomorrow against St Edwards. There has been a very pleasing development in Year 7 where a group of boys have shown tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to hockey, practicing consistently and developing as a team. It is typical of the College that their enthusiasm is being nourished and sustained by our coaching staff who are laying on more practice and exploring the possibility of this young team playing some fixtures.

I was delighted to hear of the examination success of our Sixth Formers in their University of Liverpool philosophy course. Gareth Moulton deserves particular praise, having achieved a perfect 100% on his examination in Logic. There were also several firsts. This term, we have invited Dr Folka from the university to provide a lecture programme in ancient history and the development of ancient politics to our Sixth Form on Wednesdays. She will offer a course to Year 7-9 after half term.

The Chaplains write that for any parents and staff wishing to support the spiritual life of the College, they organise twice termly prayer meetings. This term these will be **Tuesday 25th January** and **Tuesday 1st March**, 8.30-9.00am in the meeting room, upstairs from Upper School Reception (ask on Reception for directions). Everyone is welcome! If you can't make these but would still like to support the College in this way please get in touch: Chaplain@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

May I wish you a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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