



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Parents,

We welcomed two new part time teachers at the beginning of this term to replace Mr Miller. Mrs Hardisty returns to the College from Lymm High School where she was Head of Art. She will be teaching mainly Key Stage 3 art on a part time basis. We feel very lucky to have someone of her experience and quality prepared to join us in this capacity.

Mr Steve Rich joins us to teach DT and ICT. He is a former head of department with extensive teaching experience and has written a number of textbooks. He will teach mostly Key Stage 3 while also taking sets of A level DT.

Our pupils travelled to Ireland and the United States over the Christmas break. The Ireland trip was a rugby tour. Our team, accompanied by Mr Brady, Mr Gammon and Mr Roberts, played against Sligo Grammar School, losing narrowly, and ruining the undefeated season of Portora, a school in Enniskillen by defeating their hosts 20-8. There is a genuinely amusing article about this match, reported by a Portora partisan with Swiftian powers of satirical prose, which can be viewed [here](#). The touring side also enjoyed a tour of Dublin and visits to the Guinness Brewery as well as a Heineken Cup match between Leinster and Bath at the Aviva stadium. Thanks must go to Mr Brady and Mr Gammon for organizing this venture and connecting us with two wonderful schools whom we are likely to visit in the future.

The ski trip this year took 81 pupils and 10 members of staff to San Francisco and Lake Tahoe. My fear for this journey concentrated on air ambulances and the cost of orthopaedic surgery in the US but I am happy to report that the insurance was only briefly and insignificantly needed, surely a statistical anomaly for over 90 skiers on the slopes for several days. All returned safe and sound to sleep for several days.

For many pupils, the gloom of winter term allows a pathetic fallacy to persist about impending examinations.

They sense in the howling winds and early morning darkness some sympathy for their own sense of foreboding. Review lessons are under way and a schedule of these can be found [here](#), and for many there is a real need to plan a systematic approach to these. Many pupils in Year 13 already hold three or four offers and are rightly focusing their minds on ensuring they obtain the necessary grades. In every other year except 7, 8 and 9, pupils face a month of examinations. This is a crucial period of the year and previous experience teaches that many are not ready for it. As a parent you should feel free to nag, query, cajole and exhort.

Next week, Mr Donnelly will begin his lunch time art lectures for the Sixth Form. These are genuinely discursive and thought provoking moments. Rehearsals for our musical *The Boyfriend* have also started. The performance is 5 weeks away so our thespians will be on a punishing schedule of work with Mrs Hall and Mr Loli, our actor in residence.

On Wednesday of next week we will also hold our Entrance Examination Information Evening for parents and pupils sitting our entrance examination on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Football aficionados speak of "who is on top at Christmas". Mr Fox has recently shared the results of House competitions and, at Christmas, it was Howson's in the lead by 5 points with Brook's in second. Selwyn's and Butler's are by no means out of the running but will need to find activities in which they can excel and in which their personnel can match the ruthless organization of the Howson's juggernaut.

I wish you a very happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



**Liverpool College**

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>  
If you would prefer no to be sent future emails please [click here](#).