



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

21st January 2012

Dear Parents,

There is a **Year 8 Parents' Evening** next **Tuesday 24th January** from 16.30-18.30 in the Dining Room.

For any parents & staff wishing to support the spiritual life of the College, our twice termly prayer meetings organised by the Chaplains will be **Tuesday 24th January** and **Tuesday 6th March, 8.30-9.00** in the meeting room, upstairs from Upper School Reception (ask on Reception for directions). Everyone 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

Monday, January 30th, is an **INSET morning** for Upper School staff. Upper School will begin at 09.00 rather than 08.30. The school buses will run at the normal time.

You can download our new academic monitoring and tracking policy from the school website [here](#).

Over the last few months, we have worked on developing and implementing a system of academic monitoring and tracking which provides feedback to pupils from Year 10-Year 13. The system provides for the setting of targets, the assessment of progress to these targets, a variety of graduated responses to underperformance and constant focus on progress between teachers and pupils.

I hope you will note that these measures are not voluntary or optional. They apply to all pupils and form part of the curriculum of the school. I hope and expect that we can rely on your support for these ambitious plans which have already helped our pupils to achieve more.

Our next academic target is to put all homework online. I often hear pupils say that no homework was set, and parents also express concern when no homework appears to be assigned, but when I read pupils' reports these very same pupils are criticised for their homework performance. The system will supplement and not replace pupils' writing and teachers' commenting in planners. It will instead form, to use an American baseball expression, a backstop for the communication of homework. Putting the homework assignments on line in an easily accessible place will have a number of benefits. It will enable pupils who are absent for any reason to access their assignments. It will show parents very clearly what is happening in the curriculum and the kind of effort that is required. It will enable heads of faculty and management to monitor the setting and marking of homework. We will begin the technical development of this capability immediately, and I expect that this system will be operational after half-term.

It was great to see Dr Chris Bee from the European Space Agency back at his old school and talking to a Sixth Form Physics class. He has invited us to visit the agency's operations in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

Every Wednesday our Sixth Form have a general interest lecture. The term started with a clear explanation of the new arrangements for university Tuition Fees and Student Finance. Last week Mr Eric Cohen from the

Jewish Refugees Association gave an account of the persecution of his family in Nazi-occupied Austria- the students found it engaging and moving, and asked plenty of follow-up questions. This week Year 12 students were introduced to the wide range of university Taster Courses and other exciting opportunities to help them make informed choices and stand out from the crowd when it comes to university applications. Next week Mr Iain Dupere from the Maths Department of the University of Manchester will lecture to the whole Sixth Form on "Casino Royale: The Mathematics of Gambling"! We are always on the lookout for general interest lectures- please do get in touch if you, or a contact of yours, might be able to help.

We want to expand instrumental ensemble opportunities for our pupils. To this end, we hope to expand the current string ensemble, which rehearses on Thursday afternoons under the direction of Mrs Dennerley our cello teacher, to include other instrumental players at grade 4 or above. An attempt in other words to begin building an orchestral ensemble. After half-term we will also begin a junior ensemble for all players grades 1-3. There are instrumentalists hiding in the thickets, so to speak, and we need your help in encouraging them to come forward and commit to playing in some of these ensembles. Watch this space for further announcements.

Congratulations to James Washington, Jonathan Cook and Anthony Hammond who have been selected for Lancashire trials at U15 level in Rugby. The weather has gotten the better of our football fixtures. We did manage a draw, a loss and a win against Arnold at home last Saturday. The First XI remain undefeated after away draws at The King's School, Chester and St. Mary's Crosby. This Saturday our fixtures against Rishworth had to be cancelled. Our U13 girls hockey team remains on course to retain their title. They have not conceded a goal in the league. Sedbergh proved too strong in netball this week, defeating our U14 and U15 sides.

I am writing this during the entrance examination for Year 7 pupils. It is always inspirational to see this young talent walking through our doors.

I wish you and your family a very happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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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 Website: <http://www.liverpoolcollege.org.uk>
If you would prefer no to be sent future emails please [click here](#).