



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

10th June 2011

Dear Parents,

The first week back after half-term and Mr McAlea and Mrs Hayes are living through the apocalyptic days of the examination year. The examinations office resembles Heathrow airport's control room. Reception will, again today, be filled with plastic bags, sealed, and on their way to the examiner.

Years 7-9 have begun their internal examinations. Year 10 have a maths module next Monday, a couple of GCSE papers are also taking place today. The Year 10 maths exam on Monday will finish at approximately 3.20pm and the pupils will be available to be picked up from 3.30pm onwards. Year 13 began their A2 examinations on Wednesday. Year 12 have finished their AS examinations excepting one Further Maths paper, but must now embrace the challenge of the Extended Project immediately.

Normally at any given time in the school day there are more than 30 lessons going on. Exam time means this number drops to about 5. The pattern of anxiety before and relative relief after the examinations is visible on the faces of pupils wandering around the campus today.

Yesterday we had a very amiable BBQ for next year's external Year 7 pupils. It is amazing to think of the friendships and experiences these young people will enjoy in the next seven years at our school. The mood is one of pure potential. Year 7 is very full, and we are experiencing the reality of a waiting list with good pupils hoping to come but finding that we are full.

Some advance notice of the **Arts Festival on Thursday 23rd June** from 5-8 pm. This promises to be a very entertaining and diverse evening. Please come to the dining hall before setting off to all corners of our campus to experience the creativity of our pupils and staff.

Some advance notice also of the **Parents' Association Picnic and Car Boot Sale on Sunday 3rd July** from 1-4pm in the grounds of the Prep School. This is always an enjoyable family occasion and I hope you will be able to support the event. More information can be viewed on the College website [here](#).

There is a towering presence in my office. Gladstone, the removal of whose portrait from my office I had considered the end of his stern gaze in my life, is back. Mr Murphy, father of Tommy in Year 8, who was also the sculptor of our bust of Noel Chavasse has donated a new likeness of Gladstone to the school. The search is on for a place from which this Victorian giant can inspire us.

Dr Anna Foka, honorary research fellow in Classics at the University of Liverpool, has been teaching courses in ancient history and Greek civilization after school. Her senior group concentrated on politics and history, while her junior group is currently exploring Greek drama, and even hoping to put on a production of Aristophanes' Peace. Dr Foka's work with us is an example of our expanding relationship with the University. This year, four pupils, Georgina Hawkins, Sergio Koytzoumis, Sarah Kassim, Hager Alkshaik persisted in their year long study of philosophy at the University in a course titled: Introduction to Philosophy: From Thales to

Plato.

Next year, Sixth Formers will be able to study a course titled Technology and Identity. This series of seminars will incorporate a multidisciplinary approach in psychology, art, philosophy and sociology to explore ideas about the development of identity in light of modern technology. Fascinating stuff. I am very grateful to Dr Gillian Howie, College parent and professor of philosophy at the University for her leadership in developing this opportunity. Dr Howie's university students will also be involved in Ms McCaughey's Choices programme next year. We intend to pilot a short philosophy course with our Year 7 pupils.

A small group of teachers and academics has also begun to work on a project to build a new curriculum for Year 7-11 which will develop pupils' ability to reflect on the virtues exhibited in ordinary and extraordinary lives. The course, which will be allocated one period per week, is part RS, part philosophy, part history, part autobiography. This is a new idea, and unique to the College although other independent schools are also developing courses to deepen pupil's thinking and reflection as compensation for the superficiality of many subject syllabuses. We are convinced it will be welcomed by our pupils and will help us deliver an education of the whole person. The tentative name of the course is The Arete Project. Arete being the Greek word for excellence and for virtue. I will keep you posted on the development of the course.

Yesterday, I met some pupils who were on the way to an English Baseball match in West Derby. You will recall our introduction of the game in the younger years of the school. I was delighted to hear that these pupils were now training, playing in matches and joining teams and they hoped to represent England in this little known game.

It has been several years in development, including feedback from parents at parent information evenings, but we are putting the finishing touches on a new report format and timetable of parent evenings for next year. We believe the new reports will have clearer grade criteria and that pupils and parents will have clearer guidance.

Hopefully the weather will hold for our cricket matches tomorrow against Rydal.

May I wish you and your family a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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