



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

24th June 2011

Dear Parents

Some weeks in schools are relatively pedestrian and uneventful. Teachers and pupils drag themselves towards some far off goal or just towards Friday out of duty and an instinctive determination.

Some weeks are full of plans, energy, heroism and a strong sense of unity and community. Such a week is coming to an end today.

Our Year 9 had a successful camp at the end of last week, and returned refreshed to the fray this week. The arts festival which took place last night was a massive success. The exhibitions, awards, concerts, performances, all of which were for the first time assembled in the dining room, were well attended and of high quality. Pupils, siblings, parents, friends, teachers, spouses, governors and foundation members all enjoyed some excellent chilli and marvelled at the talent of our pupils and teachers. Mr Foy, our DT technician, had constructed ingenious displays which made it possible to exhibit fully and effectively the creativity and design processes of our design students.

It is impossible to single out names but I was particularly struck by the preternatural energies of Tom Martin and Adam Titchmarsh who were to be seen on the stage and in the films made for the occasion. We will have a link to these films from our website soon. Their comic acting gets better and better and it is a particular accomplishment that all the drama we saw was written by pupils. Melissa Jones, inexorably linked in the imagination of her fanclub to the role of mother superior in last academic year's Sound of Music, appeared again in protean guises in various places, and on various stages, gracing them all.

In short, a triumph for Mr Donnelley, Mr Harvey, Mr Bishop, Mr Cartwright, Mr Miller, Mrs Hall and Mr Loli and their pupils.

I was delighted, at the end of the evening to receive an email from Ms Miller regarding her Year 12 biologists and their work at Liverpool University.

"Our students had a very enjoyable and rewarding trip to Liverpool University School of Biological Sciences on Wednesday. The day gave the students a great insight into the strenuous and challenging nature of a science degree. Apart from a 25 minute lunch break the students were fully engaged in the practical analysis of both their own personal DNA sequences along with that of bacterial plasmids. This enabled them to have a glimpse into the fast evolving field of DNA technology.

The students also enjoyed a tour around a number of the University's research facilities enabling them to have a glimpse into the work carried out at the University which is not normally seen on university open days.

The students were a credit to the College responding well in the lecture, tours and most impressively in the practical itself. I have never seen students work so hard in following complex practical procedures."

Mr Mike Kerr, our science technician and sponsor of the Science Club, has been making still more connections between the University and the College in the area of science. Dr Bates, Dr Moran, Dr Newsam, the man who runs the Liverpool telescope, are all offering our science sixth formers lectures and work experience opportunities. Next year, Mr Kerr will expand these liaisons to include pupils in Year 7-9 by taking them on trips to the university also.

Delightfully, the introduction of English Baseball at the College has borne fruit and has led to our competition in a league. Mr Hughes, our coach, has formed a mixed team of mostly Year 8 pupils who compete in this local and ancient game best described as "rounders on steroids." Lydia Helsby is our bowler. Last night, the team won its first game. Next year we hope to host the youth international versus Wales at the College and Mr Hughes hopes some of our pupils may yet make that team. In the meantime, we will host a substantial baseball tournament after school on Thursday 7th July.

Between the showers and the storms, some summer did break out and we were ready to capture these instants with spirited displays of cricket.

We held the annual Junior (U 15) festival this week. Due to the ever-encroaching modular GCSE examinations the format was changed this year.

King William's, Isle of Man was defeated by Liverpool College in a "proper" 40 over game in glorious sunshine, mostly, on Monday.

On Tuesday St Margaret's and Bluecoat made up a 20 / 20 competition resulting in Bluecoat defeating Liverpool College in the final.

Saint Francis Xavier and St Mary's made up the competition on Wednesday with Liverpool College beating King William's in the final.

After 3 days of intensive cricket, Liverpool College won 4 games out of a possible 5.

Teams of all descriptions always comment on the quality of our wickets and fields. Mr Green our groundsman is to be commended for keeping our facilities in such good shape despite very changeable weather and hard use. Mr Gannon, an OL, a university student, and a volunteer has been heroic in his activities this term. He umpired every cricket match, coached hockey and is a mainstay of the CCF and any trip or expedition going. Inspirational stuff.

The U13 team also defeated Cowley International College by 6 wickets on Tuesday.

Several players achieved representative honours this week and next week. Kieran Hughes plays in and captains Liverpool Schools U13's. Daniel Perry and Mark Chappell play for Liverpool Schools U15's. I must make special mention of Mark Chappell who has been selected to represent Lancashire at U14 level. This is a tremendous achievement as Lancashire is one of the biggest counties with an excellent record at schoolboy level.

This "fiesta della cricket" is continuing unabated and in fact accelerating now that examinations are out of the way. In the next 12 days the College will play 20 cricket matches, beginning with, weather gods permitting, a block fixture v St Mary's this weekend, followed by U13 tour to the Isle of Man starting on Monday and two Warrington festivals next week for U 12, 13 & 14's.

Some advance notice of events. Next week is the Sixth Form induction week for our Year 11 pupils. They will visit the university and attend taster lessons. On Wednesday 29th June, our Year 10 will be sitting their Futurewise Careers Tests. This is a fantastic scheme aiming to give our pupils the best possible advantage in the world of work. The test is a full psychometric profiling test which will provide the basis of personalised advice for pupils as they begin to think about their career paths. The Futurewise scheme offers support from

now until the young people graduate from University and is highly regarded amongst Independent Schools.

The vast majority of Year 10 parents have already paid for the Scheme through the school bills this year but if there is any change to your decision to allow your child to participate, please contact Miss McCaughey before Wednesday.

There will also be a lunchtime pupil concert in Beechlands on Wednesday. Our Year 11 will hold their prom at the Crowne Plaza, Speke, that evening.

On **Thursday 30th June** there will be a **Parent Information Evening** at 18.30 in the Dining Hall. We will discuss curricular and reporting changes, facility improvements, and hopefully hear concerns and ideas from parents. Please RSVP to Susan Bamber sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The Parent Information evening competes head on with the CCF's Race Night fundraiser in the Senior Common Room of the University of Liverpool in Carnatic House. The first race is at 8pm and tickets are available from Reception.

Friday 1st July is our Sports Day. This will consist of competitions all day. We will post a schedule of events on the website. We welcome parents to this event and coffee and tea will be available in our pavilion.

Sunday July 3rd the Parents' Association will hold their annual picnic. The association has had another year of fundraising, friendraising and organizing activities for parents and pupils. This has enabled the association to sponsor educational activities for pupils with more than £7 000 in grants.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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