



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

4th March 2011

Dear Parents,

On **Thursday 10th March**, we will hold our **Year 9 Options Evening** at **18.00** in the Dining Hall.

The **Parents' Association's May Ball** will take place on **Saturday 21st May** at the Isla Gladstone Conservatory in Stanley Park. This is the most prestigious event in the Parents' Association calendar and is always a most enjoyable occasion. I do hope you will be able to attend and support the hard work of the association. Further details about the event and booking information can be downloaded from the College website [here](#).

Congratulations to our performers at the Liverpool Performing Arts Festival. Our choir received a gold medal as did Oliver Yoxall-Dodd and Ros Gibson, who also received a silver medal.

Melissa Jones, also received silver and a bronze. Tim Cunningham received a bronze medal as did the Corps of Drums. The adjudicators, whom Mr Harvey described as excellent, praised performances from Hope Lappin, Asha Ray, Jonny Davidson, Laura Davidson and Abby Middleton.

The future of this festival, which is not supported by as many schools as one might expect, is in doubt because of budget cuts. In music and drama, the festival is a performance focus for our pupils and we hope that it will continue.

Congratulations to James Doyle in Year 8 who, after three trial games, has been selected to play for the North West region Independent Schools at an Easter football tournament.

As many of you know, from time to time, I meet with other headmasters and headmistresses to share ideas and concerns. It has become clear that the concerns of previous years namely that curricula were too prescriptive, insufficiently interesting and challenging, and that inspections were an exercise in appeasement of the gods of bureaucracy have not diminished. For all the promises of a reduction of regulation and a focus on raising standards, there are few signs of progress. In my brief time at the College there have been two completely different systems of inspecting independent schools. Now, because of government desires to reduce red tape, there will be more red tape. They insist on the creation of a new inspection regime. Like computer software and new model cars, each time a change is made, there are inevitable problems. In January 2012, a new system will be introduced. The third in my three and half years. My colleagues also express great concern about electronic marking of all papers, something which the head of AQA has promised or threatened, depending on your point of view, will soon be on its way. There is also much gnashing of teeth in frustration at the examination boards' unwillingness to address issues of consistency in marking between subjects and between examiners.

The week in sport has been mixed. We narrowly lost the U13 girls county final 1-0. We played well to beat Cowley in an U14 rugby plate competition. Our 1st XI drew with Bluecoat in a very good game of football last

Saturday. But there were disappointments for the U16 rugby team in their plate match against Arnold as they lost a wining position. I am also concerned about language and behaviour on the field of play in boys' sport. I can not single out the College players as solely responsible for the deterioration of games into ill-tempered melees. Other schools' players appear to play their part. But I believe in the idea of responsibility and believe that I should set an example of responsibility. As such I take responsibility for the behaviour of our players. Often it is not up to standard. A small minority of our sportsmen do not take enough pride in representing the school, do not train hard enough, and are hurting our reputation for fair play and sportsmanship. Our response in the school has been to increase training and focus, teach self-discipline explicitly, and develop disciplinary policies which hold pupils accountable for their behaviour during sports fixtures.

I see some evidence that this is working. I am particularly pleased by the increased commitment and enthusiasm of our senior rugby players to training. Sport and participation in sport is not pursued as an end in itself in our school. Sport is educationally valuable precisely when and only when it teaches teamwork, self-discipline, and the importance and rewards of a solid work ethic and commitment. This is and will be an area of focus for me and for the staff.

We have had a good response from parents who are willing to help the University of Liverpool with some brand research on March 9th. This meeting takes place at 18.30 at the College. There are still some places left and I hope you will tell my PA Susan Bamber sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you are able and willing to participate.

I am sure you will want to join us in wishing Jacqueline Davies a very happy retirement. Jacqueline has managed the school Uniform Shop for over eight years. We would also like to welcome Paula Griffiths who will be working alongside Anna in the shop.

The Sixth Form lecture yesterday was focused on animal welfare issues. Our Years 7 and 8 are enjoying their workshops with Dr Foka about the ancient world.

May I wish you and yours a glorious weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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](#).