



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

25th March 2011

Dear Parents,

The rhythm of school changes when the weather changes. During their break, pupils stroll around the campus and spend their lunch break sitting in the sun. Does everyone smile more in the spring, or is this what psychologists call a projection. In any event, the ethos of school this week is one of awakened potential. The weather signals not only the arrival of spring but also the end of the Lent term next Wednesday.

For pupils sitting examinations next term, the impending holidays offer a chance to recharge before the marathon diet of examinations to come. Revision during this time is crucial although on days like today I think everyone should seize the opportunity to be outside in some bucolic or sporting capacity.

The smooth and deliberate rhythm in which this term will end with our annual Lent Service in Mossley Hill parish church and awards assembly on Wednesday will not be repeated at the beginning of next term.

I need to remind you that, as previously announced, **April 18th**, the day term recommences, will not be a Staff INSET day but rather a regular day of school in the Upper School (Years 7-13) only. This is necessary to protect teaching time before the examinations in light of the destruction of educational continuity wrought by the combined forces of a royal wedding, a bank holiday weekend and a late Easter.

In this remarkable period we will also be competing against Chilton Cantelo, a Somerset boarding school in the national independent school U16 football final at Hinckley United FC, in Leicestershire on Thursday 28th April. We have invited any pupil who wishes to attend to make use of the transportation the school will provide to the match. Pupils will leave school after lunch and not return to the school until approximately 11pm. Parents who wish to come to the match are also welcome to make use of this transportation, more details of this to follow.

The **Parents' Association** has asked me to remind you of their **May Ball** on **Saturday 21st May** which this year will be held in the Isla Gladstone Conservatory. These occasions are memorable, amiable and very good fun. For further details and for booking information please [click here](#).

Mr Brady has asked me to publicise some holiday revision classes: on Thursday 31st March and Friday 1st April there will be history revision workshops from 9am-4pm for Y13 IB students and for Y13 A2 students on Thursday 31st from 9am-2pm. On Thursday 14th April there is a revision class for all Year 12 historians from 9am to 4pm.

Mr Bishop is running coursework days for Y12 Music Tech and Y11 Music pupils on Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th April.

Last week, I made an error in presenting a long list of winners at the Speech and Drama festival without mentioning Elliot Powell's Gold medal in solo acting. I hope Elliot will accept my apology for this omission.

I attach a letter from our Drama teacher Sherill Parsons explaining how you can help to support the campaign to prevent the Liverpool Music and Performing Arts festivals from closing. These events are important as a focus for educational excellence and we hope that a sustained campaign may yet save the festivals.

Our U14 Rugby team played valiantly in a 14-10 loss to Manchester Grammar School in the semi final of the Lancashire Plate. It was also two tries to two and again a 14-10 loss in the final of the Lancashire U18 plate. Our players felt they could and should have won both matches and they are disappointed with the results. Much as I love to win and watch our teams win, I am not disappointed. In both matches, I was pleased to note the progress our players have made as individual rugby players. I was proud of the conduct, attitude, self-discipline and spirit displayed by these teams. It is wonderful to see a group of young men playing more and more as a team.

A great victory for the 1st XI over Oldham Hulme Grammar school coming from 4-1 down to win 5-4. It is a remarkable feature of our school that some of the players in this match also featured in our rugby match the next day.

Our U13 boys hockey team had the privilege of playing in the North Final of the national championship in Leeds. The boys lack tournament experience but they showed great character in competing with well established boys hockey schools. The first game was fairly matched but the team lost 1-0 to Red House School. Against Rossall the boys had a great game narrowly losing, but they also failed to take their chances. St Olave's dominated their final game.

The tournament was a great learning curve and credit must go to the team for a successful season and showing great character and commitment throughout. Tyler Reddin was player of the season, dominating and controlling almost every game he has played. Also a particular thanks to Mr Gannon and also to Taylor Dart who has helped with the team during this term.

Today, on one of the sunniest days of the year, we hosted the U13 Lancashire indoor cricket tournament in our Sports Hall! Well done to the College team who won 3 games out of 4.

The amount of exciting sport this week threatened to overwhelm me entirely until the Palm House Concert this lunchtime and I regained perspective. Our music and drama festival medal winners performed in sunshine. Music, as Plato already knew, goes straight to the soul and shapes it, but for a Principal the real delight is the growth in confidence and technical expertise of the 15 performers. The opportunity to study music and drama in the College is one of its distinctive characteristics and one which is sadly, in my view, not always sufficiently appreciated by pupils and parents. The pupils who do participate form a band of performers who are encouraged and nurtured. Their education is immeasurably richer for the experience.

On Tuesday this week, the school Amnesty group led by Mr Leeder went to a Human Rights event at St George's Hall, attended by a selection of national and international organisations all of whom are concerned with Human Rights. The day was themed around 'Human Rights in the age of austerity' and featured a number of keynote speakers and workshops. The highlight was probably Shami Chakrabati of Liberty delivering a rousing speech on the importance of the Human Rights Act in the modern world. Our students (Hamza Saleh, Rifat Khan and Jack Stanley) attended a number of workshops including ones themed on the Roma community, Human Rights in the UK and whether education beyond school is a basic human right, and whether tuition fees prevent this.

We shall be travelling and expeditioning during the holidays. It seems on this balmy Friday incongruous that we are about to go skiing, but that will happen from April 1st to April 9th in Austria. Our Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Silver candidates will have the chance to undertake an expedition in the Lake District at different times over the holidays and there is also a Bronze expedition in the Peaks. It does not look like our CCF and Duke of Edinburgh staff will have much of a holiday at all.

May I wish you and your family a great weekend and a restful and restorative holiday.

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](#).