



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

27th May 2011

Dear Parents,

Eleanor and I thoroughly enjoyed the Parents' Association May Ball at the newly refurbished Isla Gladstone Conservatory. There was much conversation and dancing, and generous support of the auction. The monies raised during the auction will, as always, be used to support the extra-curricular life of the College. One item is still available. Every year we auction two parking places on Molyneux Road, very convenient for the Upper School and Pre- Prep. This year we will auction these by sealed bid. If you are interested in a car parking space available for your use on Molyneux Road in front of the dining room, please submit a sealed bid to Mrs Rigby on Reception by 9am on June 8.

I missed the Year 13 Leavers' Service, which is tremendously frustrating. Our IB pupils now have a chance for a holiday until they get their results around July 6th. I have heard it was a positive and reflective occasion. The dinner, I hope, went well.

Mr Brady is holding history revision classes on Tuesday 31st May at the College. For Y11 GCSE pupils the revision session is from 9.00-12.30 and for Y13 A2 pupils from 12.30-15.30.

The internal exams for Years 7-9 will take place from Friday 10th June and finish on Wednesday 15th June. Pupils will have already received a copy of their timetable from their House Tutor.

The Liverpool City Athletic Championships were held on Monday 23rd May. Podium positions were obtained by Jack Field (1st and a 2nd), Ethan Campbell (2nd) and Tyler Reddin (3rd) from Year 7, Josef Yarney (2nd) from Year 8 and the 4 x 100m Relay team (2nd) from Year 9. From Year 10, podium positions were achieved by David Ruddock (2nd), Jayson Van Flute (1st) and Ryan Woof (2nd).

Despite a wet and windy Isle of Man, the Yr 7 cricket team enjoyed convincing victories over Castle Rushen and King William's. The U 13s meanwhile beat SFX on Tuesday and Formby HS on Wednesday in the Lancashire Cup. Kit Stevens led the way with a very impressive 61.

The U 14s in a restricted 16 over game v Bluecoat (due to the weather) chased down a very good score of 97. Major contributors were Mark Chappell and Dan Perry who scored an opening 65 partnership and Jojo Ferguson and Alex Cooke who scored a quick fire 38 at the end of the innings to win with 4 balls left. The next round of cup matches for Year 7, 8 and 9 will be played in the first week back after half term.

The Year 7 and 8 rounders league was cancelled this week but in the previous week, the Year 9s kept themselves in a good qualifying position by beating Calderstones in a very close match. They have one game left to play and should make the City Finals. Last week, the girls also had a friendly athletics fixture against St Edward's and St Mary's. Sarah Hignett won the shot for Year 7, Lydia Helsby won both the long jump and 100m and was part of the winning relay team for Year 8. The Year 9 relay team were also victorious and Beth Evans came 1st in the long jump. For the Year 10s Lauren Pickup won long jump and Charlotte Sweeney won

the Shot. Well done to all of the girls who took part. We look forward to the Liverpool Schools Championships on the 14th June.

I am writing from Hong Kong which, again frustratingly, makes my newsletter slightly distant from all the events of the week.

Tonight I had dinner with some OLs who have both lived with their families in Hong Kong for a long time. They had excellent questions about the CCF, the musical life of the school, our league table position, the past and future of Classics and numerous other things. It really is inspiring to hear how the College developed their interests and presented them with friends and committed teachers. I was able to give genuine assurances that, while changed in countless ways, the College continues to inspire and challenge its pupils.

Wednesday, hours after arriving after a 12 hour flight, I experienced some of the most extraordinary hospitality imaginable from a Liverpool College family. The food served was of a wondrous variety and included sea cucumbers, jellyfish soup, abalone (a giant sea snail) and a dish helpfully translated as salt and pepper pissing shrimp. 15 courses when I stopped counting. I do not think there can be a delicacy left in the sea. The flavours were subtle and utterly exotic.

As the unprepared honouree at a three hour banquet, I was reminded again of the importance of good manners. Most of the guests and I had the immediate difficulty of not being able to communicate with each other as I speak no Cantonese at all. Often, when language fails utterly to bridge a cultural divide, we are left with manners and civility as the only methods to communicate with our hosts. One's manners are never perfect and are of course culturally subjective, and mine certainly need constant attention, but it did occur to me how important it is to be taught basic manners which, even in the context of another culture, enable a person to communicate their appreciation and education without the use of language. I was suddenly grateful that I had been made to study at least some manners as a teenager even if I found it embarrassing and unnecessary at the time. I only wished I had paid more attention. I notice our friends at Birkenhead School have decided to teach some basic etiquette such as how to shake someone's hand, how to get up when a lady enters the room, how to work with various forks/chopsticks and spoons, and how to engage one's near neighbours in pleasant conversation. I believe that school may be doing its pupils much good in insisting on this. This important subject may safely be housed in either the faculty of social studies or languages. Manners are after all a historical, cultural but especially an internationally understood language.

Catching a glimpse of Hong Kong harbour, one senses the internationalism of this city and the interconnectedness of the world. Hong Kong looks in every direction: mainland China, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, the USA, Canada and of course the UK. Hong Kong pupils study in Australia, Japan, mainland China, the UK and the US and Canada. No one thinks anything of moving or travelling. The energy and cosmopolitan entrepreneurial drive is quite overwhelming. The reality is that, if we get it right, we are preparing pupils to live in this world of geographical and cultural flexibility.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant half term.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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