



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

27th November 2009

Dear Parents,

We received some sad news this week – Mrs Alison Parkes, former Head of the Pre-Prep and Nursery, died suddenly last Sunday. Mrs Parkes was known for her care and concern for her pupils. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 1st December at 11.30am at St Peter's Church, Formby.

Tomorrow is the day of the **Christmas Market**, an extravaganza of the holiday spirit and all that comes with it. It takes place in the Sports Hall from 13.00-16.00. Last year, this was a great success as a community building event but also as a fund raiser for the Parents Society. I hope you and your family will stop by.

I would like to refer you to an update on our website which will be in place early next week. In the parent information section of the site we are constructing a staff list which will enable you to email directly those members of staff who can help you with a query.

In our new House system, it is important to stress that the first point of contact, if you have a concern about your child's progress or another matter, is the House Tutor. The reason for this is that the House Tutor has much more regular contact with your child than anyone else in the school, seeing him or her every single day in one capacity or another, and teaching the Choices curriculum to your child. I urge you to make contact with the House Tutor in the first instance. The House Tutor will refer you to appropriate member or members of staff and, of course, you can always contact me.

On Monday, I was briefly in London to meet with the London OL Society. The OLs are excited by and very supportive of the direction of the College. They intend to support financially the refurbishment of our dining room. In the early part of next term I will be able to share drawings and conceptual design for the space with you. We also hope to do some work on the front entrance of the school, making visiting the school a little easier and our entrance a little clearer.

This week and next week are very disjointed weeks of teaching because of the various mock examinations, trips, and other assessments. Today we have the further disruption of a so called "own clothes" day, as pupils bring in materials for the Christmas Market. The school is quite transformed when the uniform disappears. Indeed, "own clothes" day is a salutary and timely reminder of the benefits of uniforms in British schools.

On Monday of this week, we had Dr Christoph Grunenberg, the Director of Tate Liverpool, as our assembly guest. Dr Grunenberg spoke of his own passion for art and of his role as a museum director. On my recent travels in China and Germany, I have been struck by the abundance of educational and cultural resources in the city of Liverpool and how comparatively little we make use of these as parents and educators. I am therefore pleased that we will have another concert in the Palm House next Friday, a Carol Service in the Cathedral the subsequent Monday and that a theatre trip and poetry trip are planned. All this before the end of term. I hope that you will also make plans during the Christmas holidays to make visits to the museums and galleries which are at your doorstep and in the region.

We look forward to seeing you at the Market tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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