



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

25th November 2011

Dear Parents,

This Saturday, the Parents' Association will hold their annual **Christmas Market** from **13.00-16.00** in the Sports Hall. The event promises to combine performances by pupils, the sale of gift items, refreshments, Santa's Grotto, and other, now traditional, expressions of Christmas preparation. Please do not miss it.

Next **Monday, November 28th**, will be a **Staff INSET morning from 8.15-9.00**. Buses will run at their regular times, lessons will begin at 09.05.

Rugby Dinner tickets are, to use the Chicago expression, selling like hot dogs. Parents and pupils in Years 7-10 involved in rugby are invited for this dinner which will be held on **Saturday December 10th at 19.00** in the College Dining Room. Mr Phil Greening, ex Wasps, England and British Lions, will be the guest speaker and will entertain and inform us as to the life of a professional rugby player and coach. He will also host a question and answer session. Tickets are priced at £10 a head and are available from the school reception. Any questions please contact Mr Gammon - agammon@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The Chaplains are hosting family chapel next week. This means that parents and grandparents and siblings of pupils are invited to attend Chapel at 08.30 until 09.00. You are welcome on any day from Tuesday to Friday but you may wish to attend on your child's chapel day: Brook's (Wednesday), Butler's (Thursday), Howson's (Friday) and Selwyn's (Tuesday). It is hoped that attendees will be able to stay for some refreshments after the Chapel service.

There will be a **Year 12 Parents' Evening** on **Tuesday November 29th** at **16.30** in the Dining Room.

The Nuffield Science Bursary applications are available for our Year 12 pupils studying Science, Technology and/or Maths subjects at 'A' and 'AS' Level and I have attached information about them to this email in the hope that parents will cajole, exhort, and inspire their pupils to consider applying. The Nuffield is a fantastic opportunity for students to work alongside scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians on independent research projects. The awards are competitive and highly prized. I am sure that some of our pupils, like Emma Lathar and Archer Wang last year, will win the bursary and benefit enormously from the experience this year.

Last Saturday the 1st XV made history, No one can remember the last time our 1st XV defeated St Edward's at St Edward's. This game was played in a tremendous spirit by both sides and after a close first half, the College were deserved 32-12 winners. The team was not able to repeat its heroics in the Daily Mail Cup losing 17-14 to Wirral Grammar after having fallen behind 17-0 in the first half. There was a good win for the U13's and close losses for the U12s and U15 teams. Tomorrow we play our block fixture against Rydal Penrhos.

The anticipated National Day of Action on November 30th will affect many schools as teachers and support staff go on strike. We will be open that day.

Several pupils and parents attended a wonderful concert last night at Beechlands. Mr Harvey was his incomparable self. His performance of Listz's Sonnet 123 of Petrarch was one of those moments where audience, performer, and music combine to create something transcendent. Ms Francis, our flute teacher, and Ms Dennerley, playing her 300 year old cello named Gladys, added real quality and variety to the concert. Quelles artistes!

Last week I made an attempt to explain the character of the Rev Howson, the eponymous founder of Mr Griffith's Howson's House. This week it is the turn of Butler's. Unlike Howson, Rev. Butler's tenure coincided with the introduction of photography so it is possible to gaze upon the doleful countenance of this man wearing a cap and gown and peering into the middle distance while being sure that this portrait is one of historical accuracy and verisimilitude. While the Rev Butler appears to have been a fine headmaster from 1866-1882, it is his wife who was one of the extraordinary women of the age and who deserves our praise and recognition. She was the daughter of a prime minister and a tireless campaigner for the rights of women in general and the repeal of the odious Contagious Diseases Act of 1864. This act made it possible for the authorities to arrest any women anywhere on suspicion of prostitution and subject them to an invasive, crude and degrading medical examination. Men in the meantime were never arrested under the act. Josephine Butler was a scandal in Liverpool society. She campaigned in public, made common cause with the oppressed and downtrodden slum dwellers of the booming city. The Butler's lived on Sefton Park and her home often became a shelter for abused women and fellow social activists. Indeed her stature is so great that she and Liverpool College are mentioned in A.N. Wilson's The Victorians. There is such a thing as the Josephine Butler Society and our pupils participate in the society's essay writing competition. In truth, a house could not have a better or more impressive founder than this extraordinary woman. Her husband, George, was always supportive of her efforts and deserves credit for this more than anything he may have done at Liverpool College. This extraordinary couple should surely both be considered the spiritual ancestors of Mrs Hall's house.

May I wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving and a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



Liverpool College

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