



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Weekly Newsletter

2 October 2009

Dear Parents,

Yesterday, I had two prospective parent visitors who asked to see "the school in operation." I climbed the stairs towards the library, my guests in tow, and hoped that the visitors would see our school at its best. I need not have had a moment's concern. The library was orderly, a mixture of pupils of all ages working quietly, and in some cases helping each other. As we walked through the corridors, pupils politely greeted us, told us about their various activities and concerns, and asked relevant questions about upcoming events. We ended our brief tour in Howson's House room where Mr Griffith was encouraging his flock and getting them on their way to afternoon lessons. On the parade ground, pupil NCOs were preparing a smartly turned out CCF for parade. The Year 9 games afternoon was already beginning, with our U14 girls' hockey team warming up in their new kit before their 3-0 victory over St Julie's (Mille Miller, Gabby Hawkins, Ella Moss scoring). Everywhere there was purpose and focus. My visitors were not only impressed, but seemed genuinely bemused by the happy busyness of the place. Principals like such moments.

We shall soon have a chance to show more visitors what makes our school special. We are preparing for **Open Day on 10th October 2009 09.00-13.00**. In practice, a majority of our Upper School students will be involved either through sport, faculty activities, or as guides. Open Day is an excellent opportunity for current parents to see the refurbishment and the school and we hope you will attend and bring friends, grandparents and any other people you would like to show the school to.

Refurbishments are continuing. The Sixth Form Library is about two weeks away from completion. The Holland Block foreign language classrooms are also being completely refurbished on a rotating basis. We hope to complete the Holland Block refurbishment by the end of November.

Plans are also beginning to take shape for a complete refurbishment of our dining room in the period between Easter 2010 and September 2010. These refurbishments will not disrupt our catering to students but will provide the College with an attractive dining hall and a multi-purpose venue for meetings.

Beginning Greek and Beginning Egyptian courses at the University have attracted a healthy number of pupils. I am delighted pupils have the passion for learning to make a commitment to travel to the University on a weekly basis to study these subjects. Mr Othen is teaching Beginning Latin on Tuesday at lunch time. If your child is interested in beginning Latin, please ask him or her to see me or Mr Othen about starting.

On Tuesday, a successful AGM of our Parents' Society elected a committee and officers. They are Suzanne Davidson, Chairperson; Jane Hawkins, Secretary; Donna Parry-Richards, Treasurer and Jane Brindley, Secretary Elect. The Society is planning many events which build up our community and financially support programmes which improve the educational experience of our pupils. The society welcomes volunteers.

Pupils are wearing Jeans for Genes today. This is a worthwhile event and an excellent charity, although experiencing our school today confirms the fundamental wisdom of schools in the UK insisting on uniform.

Compliance with school uniform has improved dramatically this year. Part of this is due to our working lunch detentions. These detentions can also be issued for being late or for not having done one's homework or being otherwise unprepared or uncooperative in lessons. Although for some students, these rather basic demands are initially challenging, I believe they are the framework within which we can focus on learning and teaching. Big things fall into place when we take care to do little things correctly.

We have conducted a survey of our Year 11 pupils and are building a Sixth Form curriculum that meets their expressed interests. There is strong interest in Year 11 in Liverpool College Sixth Form and in both the IB and AQA Baccalaureate (A level) subjects and we are determined to meet pupils' requests and expressions of interest as well as we possibly can. We will therefore increase substantially the number of A levels we offer alongside the IB. Further information of our Sixth Form offerings will be available at the Year 11 Parents' Evening, Wednesday 4th November.

The auditions for the Sound of Music are complete and Mr Harvey will be posting the cast list today at 4pm. He invited pupils to the audition by means of our bell system, which, as your child may have told you, is capable of playing songs fairly loudly over the speaker. We are all now reacquainted with some of the tunes. I am told some staff cameos will be part of the show.

This has been an excellent week for sport as we prepare for Rugby against Cheadle Hulme, a tough opponent, and Hockey against St Edward's. On Tuesday 29th September our U13s and U12s both won 14-5 against Ellesmere College. On Wednesday our first XV beat Bury GS 41-6 in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup. Our senior Netball team beat King's Macclesfield and narrowly lost to QEGS Blackburn on the same day. Our Hockey team defeated King's Macclesfield 3-2 with Jane Bazley-Harrison scoring twice and Emma Cunliffe once. Let's hope these fine performances continue this weekend.

May I wish you and your family a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



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