



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

1st October 2010

Dear Parents,

The Upper School will **begin at 09.00 on Monday October 4th**. The staff will meet for INSET at 08.15 that morning. **For those pupils who get the school bus, it will be a normal pick-up time on Monday morning** and these pupils will remain in the House Rooms until school begins at 09.00.

There will be a **concert at 13.15** in the Palm House in Sefton Park on **Friday 8th October**. Parents and the public are cordially invited to attend.

On Tuesday 5th, some Y11 and Sixth Form pupils will attend a production of John Ford's 1633 tragedy 'Tis Pity She's a Whore' at the Everyman Theatre, organised by the English Faculty.

We are preparing for **Open Day on Saturday 9th October** from 09.00 to 13.00. We need a large number of pupils to volunteer to be tour guides. There is also a full morning of fixtures on that day, so we are anxious to involve as many pupils as possible. I invite you to attend, and to bring friends and family who may not have seen the school on that day.

**Founders' Day is Friday October 15th**. The service in Liverpool Cathedral, at which attendance is compulsory for all pupils, will begin at 12 noon. This year our co-Chaplain Jill Duff will preach. For the first time in history, our Pre Prep will also be present, and will join the service briefly after their own service in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

Yesterday, at the AGM of the Parents' Society, I was able to thank, on behalf of all pupils and staff, Mrs Suzanne Davidson, our retiring Chair, and Mrs Jane Hawkins, our retiring Secretary. Their exemplary service and dedication have led to a more active, more successful and more widely supported Parents' Society. The meeting also elected new leadership. Mr Vincent Henniker is the new Chair of the society, Mrs Carol Cavanagh-Maddocks is the Vice-Chair, Mrs Kim Clarke and Mrs Carolyn Price are joint Secretary. I urge you to support them as they take on their new roles and build on the excellent work the society already does. Last year, the society was able to make donations and gifts to school programmes in excess of £10000.

Wednesday was our Year 10 parents' evening. The modular examination system means that these pupils are preparing very seriously for GCSE examinations, some as soon as January. A representative of ISCO was also present at the meeting. We offer all Year 10 pupils the possibility of signing on to the Futurewise programme ISCO offers. This programme includes a full psychometric test of ability and interest, interviews with professional careers counsellors, a profile report for each pupil, and access to the services of the organization until the age of 23. The ISCO programme is therefore at the heart of our newly strengthened and expanded careers and university advice service. There is a one time cost to join the programme which parents pay in instalments throughout Year 10 as an additional charge on the school fee. We strongly recommend the programme as the testing and interviews form a basis on which our own careers and university advice can be

built. Please contact Miss McCaughey for more information about this programme ([kmccaughey@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:kmccaughey@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)).

I have been at the HMC Conference in London this week. HMC is an organization of 250 independent schools of which Principals of the College have been members since 1869. According to Wikipedia, which on this uncontroversial topic can surely be trusted, "the Conference dates from 1869 when Edward Thring, Headmaster of Uppingham, asked sixty to seventy of his fellow headmasters, to meet at his house to consider the formation of a "School Society and Annual Conference". Fourteen accepted the invitation, and twelve were present for the whole of the initial meeting, and from that date there have been annual meetings." Liverpool College's then Principal, the Rev Butler, who had been a fellow of Merton College and would later become the Bishop of Ipswich and whose more famous wife Josephine Butler was a tireless campaigner for social causes in Victorian England, attended the meeting as a founding member. The website of HMC proclaims its purposes to be:

- to help Heads to be more effective as leaders and managers,
- to promote the discussion of national and international educational issues
- to influence national policy and public opinion with regard to the independent sector.

Thring himself stressed the importance of friendship, fellowship and conviviality among heads in establishing the organization, and although this is not mentioned on the website, as we now live in an age where we must justify the importance and significance of any meeting, I am pleased to report that friendship, fellowship and conviviality are still the most important and developed aspects of HMC and the HMC Conference. It is inspirational to meet and socialize with headmasters and headmistresses who are innovative and visionary and to learn from them.

Our Heads of Faculty are reviewing our Year 9 curriculum and exploring ways in which we can expand what we offer. We will be consulting with our current Year 9 pupils on this topic, but I would welcome any observations or insights from Year 9 parents about their child's curriculum.

Ten Sixth Formers began their philosophy course at the University of Liverpool this Thursday. We are also going to create a section on our website which will keep you abreast of all the lectures and programmes available at the university for pupils of all ages.

Rugby and netball both had very successful weekday fixtures and we now look forward to our block fixture against Cheadle Hulme tomorrow.

May I wish your family a happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



**Liverpool College**

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