



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

8th October 2010

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow is **Open Day** from 09.00 to 13.00. Many pupils are involved in welcoming our visitors, and there are also displays and activities throughout the Upper School and Prep School. I hope you will visit if you have an opportunity.

Next **Thursday, 14th October** is a **Year 8 Parents Evening** from 16.15-18.15 in the Dining Room.

Next **Friday** is **Founders' Day**. There will be no lessons that day but all pupils must report to the Anglican cathedral at 11.30 for our 170th anniversary of Founders' Day.

Today, I attended a concert in the Palm House. An appreciative audience of parents, staff and members of the local community enjoyed a selection of high quality solo and ensemble performances from our pupils. Two first time performers: Phoebe Pell-Scholes, who joined Laura Erskine and Laura Davidson in Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Reed Flutes* and Bethan Roberts who sang *On My Own* from Les Miserables, impressed. Palm House veterans Jonny Davidson and Tim Cunningham entertained on the saxophone, while Anna Parry gave a sensitive performance of Pergolesi's *Nina* on the viola. Laura Erskine (Rutter's *Suite Antique*) and Laura Davidson (Norton's *John Peel on Holiday*) gave outstanding solo flute performances. There were powerful vocal performances by Melissa Jones (Martini's *Plaisir d'amour*) and Hope Lappin (*I Dreamed a Dream* from Les Miserables) and the concert concluded with a violin piece by Simonetti, *Ronde Joyeuse* performed by Oliver Yoxall-Dodd.

We hosted several debating teams from as far away as Skipton for the Cambridge University debating workshop last Wednesday. Our pupils gave an excellent account of themselves in the practice rounds and will now compete in the competition proper. It is alleged that next to fear of dying, the fear of public speaking is uppermost in people's minds. Debating, acting, and public speaking as activities convert this debilitating fear into exhilarating energy. In my own experience, it was one of the most truly useful things I learned to do in school. Opportunities to learn to act, debate and speak in public are widespread throughout the school. I would love to see more pupils involved.

Twenty pupils attended "*Tis Pity*" at the Everyman, the play which proves that you do not need to live in the 21st century to write something intense and shocking for the stage. Written in 1633, it still captures the imagination. All this, after our visit to the theatre for a production of *The Game* at the end of September.

Our boarders and our boarding staff are awaiting an inspection visit from OFSTED. The facilities in Robertson and Lightbody Hall have been completely refurbished and can now be described as luxurious for boarding school standards. More importantly, our boarders and boarding staff have settled in, made many friends who are day pupils, and are enjoying the weekday and weekend activities.

The school has published a tuition policy. This policy is intended to clarify procedures which apply for teachers when they tutor pupils of the school. Our staff give many hours of their own time to help and support pupils without asking for any additional compensation. In some cases, which should always be discussed with the Head of the Faculty first, a pupil may need and benefit from regular tutoring outside of school hours. We prefer for this tutoring to be done by teachers from other institutions. This avoids any appearances of conflict of interest. In the event that this is not possible, a teacher at the school may tutor a pupil for additional compensation only with the permission of the Head of Faculty.

May I plead with parents not to use the Molyneux Road gates, in front of the dining hall, as a turning circle and car park. Our pupils are sometimes barely able to get out of the school gates and the tight manoeuvring of so many cars is intrinsically dangerous. I have asked the staff on these gates to move cars on from them. Upper School pupils can walk some distance. There is also a crossing guard.

Our Thursday lecture this week was given by a representative of Amnesty International. After the lecture, two taxis left to take our 10 Sixth Form philosophers to the University for their studies in logic. The University is sponsoring a philosophy in the city festival, which we are recommending to all our Year 11-13 pupils. I hope you will encourage your child to attend some of these talks or even attend them yourself:

<http://philosophyinthecity.info/festival/programme-of-events/>. Pupils may be interested in: 'Seeing through the Mind's Eye: Visualising Mathematics': Monday 11th October 3-5 at the Box, FACT; 'Philosophy and Prayer' 14th October, 6.30 The Concert Room, Anglican Cathedral, and 'Truth and Art' Tuesday 19th October, 6.00 Tate Liverpool.

These events are part of the Philosophy in the City initiative (<http://philosophyinthecity.info/>), the aim of which is to make philosophy accessible and relevant. The organizers are running an essay competition where they ask students to write a report on festival events. The prize is £100 to spend on philosophy books in Waterstone's and they will publish the winning essay on their web site.

Our midweek sporting success has set us up nicely for the full block fixture against King Edwards Queen Mary's Lytham. We have still not lost any girls hockey fixtures going into this Saturday's U14 national championship round. Our senior netball teams defeated Archbishop Blanch and the U12 rugby team won their second match away at Rishworth, while the 1st XV won against QEGS Blackburn.

Here is a part of a gratifying email Dr Atkins received today:

*Sir.*

*I'm just writing this email to say thanks for being such a great teacher throughout my time in the IB. I'm in my 3rd week right now, studying English, and it has really shown me how well prepared I am. In poetry, my tutor says that I'm on par with many of her third years, and I ended up giving a mini-lecture to our class about Blake's personal history and writings.*

It is wonderful for teachers and for the school to receive feedback like this. A few months ago he was a pupil at the College, now he is lecturing at University!

May I wish you and your family a warm and wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal

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