



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

15th October 2010

Dear Parents,

Even after three Founders' Days, I still am thrilled with the routine of the day. No lessons. No school. The whole school ages 3-19 in the Cathedral, the only time in the year that the whole school gathers. Old Boys and Girls and representatives from Huyton College and Liverpool Collegiate join the celebration. Groups of pupils, parents and staff enjoy lunch in town. As I write one of my predecessor principals from 1849-1865, the Rev. Howson, smiles benignly at me across the room from his portrait on the wall. I could not stand the strictures implied in the portrait of Mr Gladstone on a daily basis. Therefore, Gladstone, the first speaker at the first Founders' Day, hangs far away from me and projects a minatory gaze at pupils entering Mr Brady's and Mr Hutchinson's history classrooms. Howson's smile is really a look of concern, of gentility, of kindness, and even of wisdom. Here is the look of avuncular encouragement which headmasters aspire to! Gladstone on the other hand appears as if he has just seen Disraeli in the bar of the House of Commons. He seems very displeased and angry.

The obvious question, of course, is what would they make of it all. Co-education, ICT, girls in the CCF, five choices for lunch, no boaters for the boys, years not forms, (the College had the unique tradition of counting forms backward, you ended your career at the school in the First Form), modular examinations, art lessons, science labs, sports, Pre Prep: none of these things would be conceivable or imaginable for them. Nevertheless, they would certainly recognize the patterns of the school day, a lot of the curriculum, chapel, sport (although the rules of rugby were not written until 1870), music, homework, and prefects, and yes, Founders' Day. They would recognize also, I believe, the spirit of the foundation still at work in the exceptional efforts of staff in motivating and inspiring pupils, the zeal of pupils to excel and be the best, and in the very desire to apply the principles of the education of the whole person in this day and this age in this place.

Next week promises to be even more eventful than this one. There will be a **Year 12 Parents' Evening** on **Tuesday 19th October** from **16.15 to 18.15** in the **Dining Hall**. On **Wednesday 20th October** at 19.00, the Upper School will perform its production of the **Taming of the Shrew**, in the Sutton Timmis Hall. Earlier that same day there is a Pupils' Lunchtime Concert in Beechlands at 13.30. On Thursday 21 October, at 19.30 there will be another concert at Beechlands.

This week has seen a display of our school's dominance in girls' hockey. Our U14 and U18 Girls hockey teams emerged as Merseyside champions, defeating all their rivals and not conceding a goal. The U16s were runners up and conceded only one goal. All three teams now move on to the Northwest regional round of the national tournament. There was victory also for our U14 rugby team in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. They defeated St. Mary's. The First XV lost to St. Anselm's on Wednesday but they themselves were convinced that it was their best performance of the season. It is always gratifying when pupils themselves recognize that they have improved and can improve still further. If they did not, there would be little point to sport, or school.

Our School Council under the guidance of Mr Turbitt has produced no less than two Liverpool Young Lord

Mayor winners. Out of 23 nominees for 8 posts, Rachael Carr and Abi McLindon both in Year 9 have been elected. They will go to official ceremonies and Council events in their chauffeured limo with their chains of office. So much for the age of austerity! Each of the girls has a month tenure as Mayor.

On Thursday, Mr Harry Bibring gave the Sixth Form lecture. Mr Bibring left Vienna after kristallnacht on the "kindertransport", the scheme which brought Jewish children from greater-Nazi Germany to England. His presence among us brought to life the realities of persecution in general and the holocaust in particular. Here was history studied abstractly incarnated and present before us.

Major Pickett asks me to remind parents of the obligations of members of the CCF on Remembrance Sunday. They must attend the service and the parade which precedes it on the morning of Sunday, 14th November. Their attendance is required from 10.15.

I hope you and your family enjoy a sun-drenched autumnal weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman

Principal



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