



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

22nd October 2010

Dear Parents,

Last Friday's Founders' Day was a particular success. Admittedly, the service itself is traditional and, for good reason, changes little from year to year. But on this occasion, there was a particularly positive approach from prefects and pupils, a cameo performance by the Pre Prep and exceptional music from our growing choir.

The next evening the Jazz Band performed at the OL Dinner in the Hilton.

In the middle of this ensemble, led by Mr Harvey, stood Ted Burnham, Year 7, who had been at the College for a mere 7 weeks at the time. As an indication of the way the College educates the whole person, Ted had played rugby against Bury Grammar in the morning, recording, like all other teams, a convincing win. After a quick change, he played the gig next to Johnny Davidson Year 10 and Tim Cunningham Year 12. Ted and his clarinet did not look or sound out of place, but it did occur to me how full and rewarding College life can be and how well our pupils support and interact with each other, no matter what their respective ages.

Another Year 7 pupil, Sarah Hignett, played her flute excellently Thursday evening at the autumn concert in Beechlands. The quality of these evenings keeps increasing and it was especially gratifying to host the biggest audience yet. Tim and Johnny, Ted's friends from the Jazz Band, could be heard here also. Tim has expanded his repertoire into some avant garde bass playing to complement his soaring sax, while Johnny played a swinging Herbie Hancock in his kilt! There were excellent performances from Laura Erskine, Amy Murphy, Melissa Jones, Fiona Sinclair- Ford, Antony Wilby (vocally, not the piano this time), Oliver Yoxall-Dodd, Abby Middeton and Hope Lappin.

Hope and Melissa I had seen the night before in a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*! Their excellence and industry in expanding their artistic horizons further and further are impressive and amazing. In this performance, we discovered some new talents also. Peter Jones, Year7, was joined by his classmates Rebecca Lacey Rhodes and Isabella Lawton. For a young man of eleven, Peter played a drunk exceptionally well. Tom Martin and Adam Titchmarsh whose film featured among the products of our "Acting for Camera" workshop shown before the play, gave further proof of their maturing talents as their timing and delivery maximized the humour in the play.

This rarely performed play can not be said, on the face of it, to promote the idea of equality between the sexes, although some deconstructionist academic has doubtless proved that it does in fact do so, but Mrs Hall had cleverly moved the action from Padua to Liverpool, allowing Elliott Powell to strut like a gangster and Sophie Davies as Katherina to wear a leather jacket, and so diminishing the shock when, in the climactic finale, he praised her with the words: "What a wench!". The whole production had been rehearsed in a mere five weeks, and the College Players had managed to understand their parts, interpret Shakespeare's language, and given the whole thing verve and pace. Now we can look forward to *Oklahoma* in February although I can assure you, having lived near that state, that the corn there is not as high as an elephant's eye.

Thursday also saw what many believe was our most successful house competition yet. Two teams from each house competed in the House Design Technology Competition. The atmosphere was febrile and intense as teams attempted to design, construct and test a catapult that would propel an egg against a target 2.5m away. In the two hours allowed for the competition. Selwyn's emerged as winners. In December, we can look forward to similar competition between the houses in art.

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils Kieran Hughes (Brook's), Rhiannon Morris (Butler's), Rebecca Lacey Rhodes (Howson's) and Sophie Griffiths (Selwyn's) who acquired the most number of credits in their house this half term. They will be awarded a book token in assembly after half term to mark this excellent achievement.

On **Wednesday 3rd November** there is a **Year 11 Parents' Evening** in the Dining Hall from 4.15pm to 6.15pm.

On **Friday November 5th**, we will hold our annual **Fireworks Party**. This is a great family occasion. Doors open at 6pm and the fireworks will start at 8pm. Tickets are available from the school secretaries and are priced at £15 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) and £5 for single tickets.

We have decided to move, at the request of pupils, the mock examinations for IB pupils to immediately after the Christmas holidays. Pupils believed this would lead to more and better revision by them. Indeed, the three weeks of our Christmas holidays will provide this opportunity for pupils sitting modules in January also.

Last week, I was able to boast of the performance of our girls' hockey teams who each qualified for the next round of the national championships while conceding only one goal. Now I must sing the praises of our netball team. The senior girls have not lost a match beating QEGS Blackburn, Belvedere, and St Edwards, among others, and the U16 team has lost only one match by one goal.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal



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