



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

21st October 2011

Dear Parents,

After six weeks of learning, teaching, playing, practising, auditioning, performing, preparing, we are all ready to take a little break. I am writing this while the talent show for Malawi organized by Sixth Former Julian Toh is in full swing in the drama room. I shall miss a rare performance by Mr Donnelly but will hear about newly discovered singers. (I have just heard the show raised nearly £400. No word yet on Mr Donnelly's performance).

When we return there will be a **Parents' Evening for Year 7 on Tuesday, November 1**, from 16.30 to 18.30 in the Dining Room.

The **Parents' Association** would like to invite parents to a **Coffee Morning on Friday 4th November** at 9.00am until 10.30am in the Pre-Prep Hall. You will be able to meet members of the Parents' Association and find out more about the events they organise and how the money raised benefits the College.

During the half term, we shall be everywhere once again. There will be a Silver DofE expedition, for which we trained last weekend, and a girls and boys U14 hockey trip to Lille.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mr Miller today. Mr Miller needs to move to London for unavoidable and personal reasons and today was his last day with us. We have come to admire his commitment, his kindness and flexibility, as he taught across two faculties and in three subjects. We will miss him and wish him all the best. Most of Mr Miller's classes will be taught by Mr Lee Thompson after half term. Mr Thompson has been with us for several weeks meeting pupils and colleagues and preparing for the transition. Mr Thompson is an OL. He excelled as a pupil and was captain of the 1st XV. Mr Thompson has worked as a designer and a teacher in a variety of community settings. I know he will make a great contribution to the College.

Riveting, is the word to describe the production of Macbeth to which we were treated on Wednesday. Tom Martin, tackling one of the great parts in the canon, showed how he has developed his preternatural talents. Anna Wiggins, whom I had not seen perform before, and Abby Middleton was a revelation as Lady Macbeth. In a school drama production you do not only watch the performances, you are also watching pupils you know transform themselves into new characters. Abby Middleton is soft spoken, very charming, and eminently sane and mature, but on Wednesday we all saw a side which we had not known she could discover. Adam Titchmarsh was his usual congenial self, but this time as a medieval king of Scotland. From the witches to the guards, to the updating of the military theme, it was riveting. The achievement of Mrs Hall and her charges is even more amazing when one considers that the play is cast, rehearsed, and performed in about five or six weeks.

We were also treated to the work of several pupils from their Acting for Camera programme, taught by our actor in residence Mr Loli. The humour, wit, subtlety and technical sophistication of these short films is impressive. In some sense these films capture something of the spirit of the school. They tend to contain humour, focus on relationships, and testify to the discovery of sole latent talent or insight. I had no idea that

Nayan Thampi was such a good actress.

One of the people in the film Russia, Ted Burnham was still displaying a black eye which he had sustained on the rugby pitch. It has since cleared up and after watching his film on Wednesday, Ted was playing his clarinet at the Beechlands concert the next evening, where Lady Macbeth made another appearance, and six other pupils performed. Our pupils are not only all-rounders, they are all-timers also.

Congratulations to U15 hockey team who won their final league game last night so are now U15 Liverpool League Champions.

Our 1st XV has been reformed through injury. Bruised and broken ribs, ligament damage, stitches, and other hospital-visit inducing injuries have meant that new players are constantly required. After easily defeating Bury Grammar school, the brave players drafted in as replacements alongside the surviving remnant lost to Rishworth 19-20. Our U12 keep winning. They beat St. Mary's and Bury in the last 6 days.

Some of our boarders are meeting their parents and guardians before heading home for half-term. I asked Nika, whose family live in Russia, whether he was happy to be flying to Moscow tomorrow. Mixed feelings, he answered, I like this country so very much.

Not bad for your first seven weeks in England.

May I wish you and your family a happy half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



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