



Liverpool College

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## Principal's Newsletter

24th September 2010

Dear Parents,

On **Wednesday, 29th September** from 16.15-18.15 there is a **Year 10 Parents' Evening** in our **Dining Room**. At 17.15 there will be a short presentation about the careers and university advice and about the ISCO Futurewise programme.

**Monday 4th October** is a **Staff INSET morning**. School will begin at 09.00 that day.

Tuesday afternoon saw the return of our mud-encrusted, exhausted, and happy Year 7 from their camp in the Peaks. The weather had been kinder at the end of the trip. It reminded me of advice I received as a 12 year old making my first visit to the UK. There is no bad weather in England, only inappropriate clothing.

The previous Saturday that year group had played their first rugby game, and netball game against Birkenhead. In rugby against Birkenhead we lost four matches and won two. The closest match was a narrow loss for the improving U13 team against a Birkenhead team that had beaten them by more than 40 points the year before. Midweek, saw some excellent results in our netball fixtures against Bluecoat with the U13 drawing, and every other age group winning. Yesterday, our senior hockey players beat Archbishop Blanch and Bluecoat and our U15 drew against Bluecoat. Tomorrow we will be playing a senior girls hockey match against King William, Isle of Man and a block rugby fixture against Altrincham Grammar School.

On Tuesday, our English faculty organized a theatre trip to watch *The Game* at The Liverpool Playhouse attended by 19 pupils.

On Thursday, we welcomed the Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, the Very Revd Justin Welby, who gave an interesting talk about his work as a mediator and peace builder in various conflicts around the world. One of our Sixth Formers asked the rather sobering question; How many times have you been threatened with death and murder? It turned out that the number was high. Next week Ms Dolowicz will give a talk about UCAS and personal statements to our Sixth Formers.

Today a group of pupils are beginning their D of E bronze expedition. This programme, available to all Year 9 and Year 10 pupils is central to what we offer and what we believe makes a College education distinctive.

Last night, we also held a parents information evening, detailing the results of the parent, pupil and staff surveys, both in the Prep School and in the Upper School. The most important figure is that both the Prep and Upper Schools are highly rated by all constituents, and when benchmarked against other independent schools, the picture is one of a very successful school with positive and committed pupils, parents and staff.

The survey also pointed to areas which we must improve, especially careers advice and Choices, our programme of PHSE education. At the meeting, we were able to give parents an outline of the steps we are

taking to improve in these areas and in increasing academic rigour across the curriculum. As a staff, we have set ambitious targets for academic performance in all subject areas. Our teaching and assessment will challenge pupils more.

There were also many questions about ISCO and careers advice in general. I refer you to [our website](#) to see the programme which Ms Dolowicz is putting in place in this regard and we will focus on this aspect at the Year 10 parents' evening next week. I am confident that we have already made great strides in improving this programme and provision for pupils and parents.

There were also questions about the IB. Our Year 13 IB pupils are focused already on the challenge of preparing for their examinations and coursework. They are guided and supported by their teachers who are using all information provided by the IB about our performance last year to motivate and challenge them to reach their maximum potential. This year there were not enough pupils at the school who wished to take the IB to make it educationally viable in Year 12. We will be surveying the current Year 11 pupils shortly to estimate the strength of interest in the IB diploma and the A Level AQA Baccalaureate programme in the year. We will know by Christmas whether or not there are sufficient numbers of pupils interested in the IB to deliver the curriculum to our current Year 11 when they enter Year 12.

May I wish you and your family a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman  
Principal

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