



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

9th September 2011

Dear Parents,

The season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us.

John Keats wrote *To Autumn*, in 1820:

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

How very far away this scene seems from the pace, energy and action at the College this week. And how different the climate must have been in 1820.

The rainy start to the week did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of our 68 new Year 7s, 13 new boarders and the 12 new pupils who joined other year groups in the Upper School. With 476 pupils in the Upper School, 11 more than the total last September, assembly is looking very full indeed.

It was considerably warmer in the hinterland of Spain where a group of our Gold D of E candidates distinguished themselves on expedition this summer. Major Pickett has reported to me how impressively our candidates rose to the various challenges which a DofE Gold expedition contains.

I am pleased to attach the training schedules for our sports teams this term. Next week we will publish the list of non-team based sporting activities along with the other clubs and societies which will run at lunchtimes and after school during this first term.

Our pupils and teachers have made a brisk and determined start. In examination years particularly there is a focus and glint of steely determination in the faces of parents and pupils.

Next week we will meet with Year 13 to set our targets with them. We are implementing a new system of academic monitoring and support for examination years this year, and we will be discussing this with parents at our Year 13 Parents' Evening on September 29th.

I shall also be writing to every Year 11 pupil to arrange a meeting with them and their parents to set targets, go through predicted grades, explain our careers advice service and plan for the future. You can make an appointment by contacting my PA Susan Bamber at sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

There will be an opportunity for Year 7 parents to meet with house tutors and Heads of House this Tuesday (13th September) from 4.30-6.30pm in the Dining Hall. Parents will be able to discuss any concerns or issues they may have with how their child is settling in to Year 7.

The Biology lab is the biggest physical change on campus this year. Pupils are enthusiastic but also a little bit worried by the "not-lived-in-look" and the radical newness of the place. I am sure this will change as Ms Miller and Mr Taylor settle into their new classrooms. There is still quite a bit of work to be done on the external part of the building. We expect to be able to do this work without interruption to teaching.

Our scientists can draw some inspiration from the exhibition being prepared for the Carisbrooke Museum on the Isle of Wight. Apparently, the design of the mechanical seismometer used today is based on the work of one John Milne OL (1863-1867) who worked in Japan in the 1880s and later set up the world's first global seismic monitoring network. The museum have asked us to work with them in creating the resources about this remarkable man's life.

I would like to remind pupils and parents that Ms Julia Dolowicz, our careers advisor and coach, will be at school every Thursday to meet with pupils and parents. If you would like to meet with her or have any questions she can be contacted at jdolowicz@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. Her book on writing an excellent UCAS statement is also available on [Amazon](#).

Mr Harvey advises that the "Choosing an instrument evening" scheduled for this Monday has had to be postponed until later in the term. The new date will be added to the website calendar when it is confirmed.

The number of items in lost property continues to grow. This growing protuberance of clothes and other items has been cauterized by the ministrations of Mrs Rigby and other staff. I do hope that these orphaned items will be claimed by their rightful owners next Wednesday lunchtime in the Brook's House room. Thereafter they will be sold to the highest bidders at the Parents' Association sale or your local charity shop.

The Body & Mind Health club within Liverpool College is offering a Free Month trial membership for College parents. This will include 2 Personal Training sessions and a Nutritional Consultation completely free with no obligation to join. Bring a print out of this newsletter along to start your free trial. For more information about Body & Mind at Liverpool College please [click here](#) or you can contact Mr Adam Murphy, Manager, on 724 4488.

Following the fantastic success last term of our first session at the Can Cook Studios at the Matchworks in Speke when 20 staff and parents learnt to cook splendid Thai food and share a meal together, the Parents Association are running two more events this term, one for women and one for men! The evenings are great fun - chefs demonstrate a dish and then you cook them and eat together. The price includes a glass of wine, all ingredients and you don't even have to do your own washing up!

The **Women's Can Cook Italian Evening** will take place on Thursday 29th September from 6.30-10 pm (Price £35 a head) and the **Can Cook Men Only Indian Evening** will be held on Tuesday 18th October 6.30-10 pm (Price £35 a head). Places are very limited so please email Alice Case (casealice@aol.com) asap to confirm your place - we may put on other evenings if there is sufficient interest, so if you can't make the date but want to do one, please let Alice know. For further information please check out the Can Cook website at <http://www.cancook.co.uk/>

In Pamplona, it is during the festival of San Fermin in July that they run the bulls. We mark the beginning of term with the festival of the fitting of mouthguards. O-Pro will be in to fit the guards this Monday morning for all pupils, except Year 7 who will be fitted on Friday 16th.

The rugby team has trained more seriously this summer than at any time I can remember. We are looking forward to our first games of the season. The senior teams will have to wait a little longer but U15, 14 and 13 kick off at 9.30 tomorrow. Please meet at the coach at 8.10am at the school and remember, we travel in full school uniform.

A great report from our shooting team at Bisley. Our pupils were essentially a new team and there was excellent progression in their scores. Ben Diamond (Year 10) is a precocious talent and a great find; he scored 18/20 in the Clay Pigeon competition and got a best shot certificate for the Gallery Rifle competition. All of our pupils were excellent and a credit to the CCF. There were a fair number of OLs present as well and they were able to field 2 OL teams in the veteran competition.

The enthusiasm generated by this occasion, and the appointment of Mr Turbitt as section leader of our RAF section have coincided to give new life to shooting at the College. Wednesday lunchtime will hopefully see our pupils firing accurately at their targets. We also intend to send our top marksmen and women to train at Altcar.

The Chaplains invite parents & staff wishing to support the spiritual life of the College, to the twice termly prayer meetings organised by the Chaplains on **Tuesday 20th September** and **Tuesday 15th November, 8.30-9.00am** in the meeting room, upstairs from Upper School Reception (ask on Reception for directions). Everyone welcome! If you can't make these but would still like to support the College in this way please get in touch: Chaplain@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Mrs Hall reports a very healthy attendance at auditions for the Scottish play. 25 pupils auditioned and we can look forward to a College *Macbeth* near half-term of this term.

Mr Leo Loli begins work on Monday 12th September on one of four projects he will lead in drama. Gaynor Zwaggstra's GCSE Dance classes will resume on Thursday in the dance studio at 16.15 and Sherril Parsons's extra speech and drama lessons resume on the 14th September.

There will be an increased focus on communication with parents about extra curricular and cultural activities. We are currently investigating the purchase of an automatic texting system which will mean that we can give you the latest information about clubs, activities, events, cancellations and all manner of things. In this season of mellow fruitfulness, we will aim to use it sparingly and efficiently.

Yours sincerely

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



Liverpool College

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