



Liverpool College

Principal's Newsletter

23rd September 2011

Dear Parents,

This **Thursday, 29th September**, there is a **Year 13 Parents' Evening** from 4.30-6.30pm in the Dining Hall. On **Monday 3rd October** there is a **Staff INSET meeting** in the Upper School from 8.15-9am. School will begin at 9am. For those pupils who get the school bus, it will be a normal pick-up time on that Monday morning.

It was perhaps fitting that the week began with an assembly from Mr Griffith outlining the many extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils.

Every day subsequently has provided evidence of the talent of our pupils and the myriad opportunities available to them to expand education beyond the classroom.

Over thirty girls, for example, have stayed after school to join the Zumba workshops run for us by Liverpool dance company 'Dance Passion'. On Wednesday evening a new band of cross country runners took part in their first fixture in Calderstones Park, where the highlight was Year 7 pupil Jacob Atherton finishing sixth in a race of 90 runners. The Year 8 girls team recorded some promising positions, made more encouraging by the fact that they were racing against Year 9 girls.

Lunchtimes have seen the sports hall used to full effect. Year 11 pupils Charlotte Sweeney and Christina Smith are running a trampolining club for younger girls and it was pleasing to see their enthusiasm and leadership qualities. Other lunchtime sessions have included the ever popular badminton group which has had to be extended to be offered on three lunchtimes! Our Year 9 and 10 boys have been keeping their cricket skills up to date in the quick version played indoors and led by Mr Gunawardena. There is also a badminton club being run on a Saturday morning in the College sports hall by a qualified coach. The club runs from 9-11am and is for children aged 10-17. The cost is £4 per session.

Our main sporting teams have been training hard and it has been good to see so many pupils involved. The Year 7 to 9 girls after school hockey club saw 34 girls, immaculately attired being led through their drills by three hockey coaches. In the sports hall that evening the Year 10 netballers were working hard, while on the field the same night, the Year 9 and 10 boys were being put through their paces by four coaches. It was pleasing to hear from two parents commenting on how smartly the boys were dressed for training.

After a great game against Birkenhead school which they lost narrowly, our First XV opened their winning account by defeating St Mary's, Crosby 35-0 with Jordan Tisdale scoring three tries. I have been particularly inspired by the excellent attitude of our 1st XV and 2nd XV this year. Their progress has been remarkable and their spirit and attitude are exemplary.

The U13s bounced back from a heavy defeat against Birkenhead with a smart 28-12 win over Ripley St Thomas from Lancaster in the Lancashire Cup on Tuesday. The U15s won comfortably twice this week, 55-5 against Birkenhead and a pulsating encounter in the Lancashire Cup against rivals Arnold, 10-8.

Congratulations to the Senior Girls 1st XI as they remain unbeaten in the Liverpool Schools League. On Thursday, they beat St Edwards 1-0. The goal was scored by Catherine Bazley- Harrison from a penalty corner. Good luck to the U16s who play in the County round of the National Tournament on Tuesday.

There are netball matches against QEGS at home on Saturday morning for U12 - U15 teams.

Mrs Hall has been very impressed with the energy and commitment of the pupils who are busy rehearsing for our production of Macbeth.

Wednesday saw a lecture by Dr Lynne Moran from the University of Liverpool on aliens! Next Monday, Dr Gillian Howie will introduce the multi-disciplinary course offered by the University of Liverpool on Tuesday afternoons specifically for our Sixth Form pupils. It was also the day of the Parents' Association's AGM. I want to thank Mr Henniker for his service as chair of the society during the 2010-2011 school year. At the meeting those present elected Mrs Jane Hawkins as the new chair. There is, once again this year, an impressive list of activities, all of which add immeasurably to school life and which are only possible because of the active planning and hard work of volunteer parents.

Some events planned this term by the society include a **70s night** on Saturday 19th November in the school dining hall. Tickets cost £35 each and can be reserved by emailing Jane Nagus at janenagus@hotmail.co.uk. Tickets include a 3 course 70s style dinner, babycham on arrival, dancing and entertainment! There is also a **Christmas Craft Evening** on Thursday 13th October from 6.30-9.30pm in the Dining Hall. There will be a wreath making demonstration, as well as a chance to have a go at different craft activities (including cake decorating, beading, quilling, decopatch, knitting and garland/tassel making). Tickets cost £20 each including refreshments and all materials. For information/booking contact Alice Case on casealice@aol.com.

The women's Italian Can Cook Evening on 29 September is now fully booked but there are still a few places available on the men's Indian evening on 18th October. Please email Alice Case at casealice@aol.com if you want to book a place on this.

On Thursday Major Pickett hosted a Gold Duke of Edinburgh presentation evening. Seventeen members of Year 13 delivered presentations based on their experiences of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition which took place in the Spanish Pyrenees this summer. The three groups delighted their parents with informative tales of how they faced and overcame physical and mental challenges, with the accompanying video presentations showing clearly what strong bonds of friendship have been forged.

This year, we are focusing especially on rates of participation and completion of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Year 9 will be focused on Bronze, 10 and 11 on Silver. Last year, the inspection of our delivery of this scheme commented on its many strengths. This programme is yet another example of an opportunity to expand the horizon of learning for our pupils.

I missed the presentation although I can look forward to seeing one at assembly next Monday. Instead, I attended the dinner which follows the annual golf match between our pupils and the OL Golfing Society. After several losses, this year's team of Matthew Thomas, Gareth Bell, John Connell and Alasdair Keogh contrived to tie the match at 108 points each. The Golf Society members were keen to introduce our pupils to their society and the young men were a credit to the school.

Mr Brady has asked me to mention that his Humanities Trip to Munich, which was scheduled in the calendar for October half term, has been postponed until next year.

Our Year 7 are settling in. Their survival experience in the peaks appears to have raised confidence and strengthened bonds. The Butler's Year 7 pupils prepared (with the help of Miss Foster) an entertaining house assembly about their experiences on the recent camping trip. They ended by singing 'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head' - very, very brave. Although it did appear that Miss Foster did most of the singing! There is still some clothing and kit from the Year 7 camp that is waiting to be claimed in the school office.

May I wish you and your family a pleasant weekend of autumnal sunshine.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal



Liverpool College

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