

30 November 2018

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday night we held a well-attended Year 12 Parents' Evening. It was very pleasing to hear so many positive comments from my colleagues about your son/daughter.

DOE

On Tuesday Miss Wynne and I visited St James' Palace to meet Prince Edward and to be part of the award ceremony in which six former students achieved their Gold DoE. Thomas S, Olivia D, Isabelle H, Edward B, Jack F and William S all met HRH and spoke to him about their achievements and what they learned from the experiences they undertook. This should be something to spur on others in the Sixth Form to achieve their Gold DOE.

Sport

Each week we have reported individual and team success. This week is no different. Jack R is partaking in the Swimming Nationals in Cardiff this week. We wish him every success. Thomas H has been awarded a Black Belt in Karate. This is an outstanding achievement. Thomas has written this profile of his key sport.

The Journey to Black Belt by Thomas Hallam

It all started in the year of 2007 when I heard about a Karate club taking place at Hope University from some of my friends. I decided to join and ended up attending classes for a lot longer than any of my friends to the point where I am still attending.

There are two classes running one after another with the first being the White Belt class for younger children and beginners, which is where I began and where most people will remain for the first few years of their Karate career.

As you go through the White Belt class you achieve badges representing various moves, sequences called 'Kata' or even the learning of Japanese phrases like counting. Every three badges you achieve you also get a stripe that goes on the White Belt and each stripe mirrors the order of colour belts that come after the White belt. Once you achieve all of the badges and stripes you take a final test or 'grading' to see if you are ready to move on to the coloured belt class. With that grading passed you are finally a Red Belt.

The coloured belt class is where things get serious, the training aspect becomes harder, the kata become longer and you even learn how to use various weapons like short metal swords called 'Sai', Nunchucks and a wooden sword called a 'Bokken'.

No matter how far you progress; the basic moves are always the same, just used in more advanced ways.

The progression between belts is more streamlined with a minimum of just six months in between gradings. If you fail the grading you get a stripe on your belt representing the next belt's colour. If you pass you obtain the next belt. You can have a maximum of three stripes on your belt. This style of progression continues until you reach Brown Belt. After brown belt you have to wait a year before going for another grading but this time you actually have to get the stripes before you can go for Black Belt the year after.

Last Saturday I attended my Black Belt grading. A full five-hour session going through everything you have ever learned. If you are under 18 you do the Junior version of the Black Belt grading.

Obtaining the Black Belt feels somewhat like a finale to the past eleven years of Karate but on the other hand it is the beginning of the next stage (which is a lot longer). Black belt is referred to as Shodan meaning First Dan or First Degree, which is the lowest degree of Black Belt. To obtain the higher degrees you have to train for the number of years as the number rank. For instance, I will have to train for two years from now to be able to get the Second Dan and then three years after that to get the Third Dan. This goes all the way up to Tenth Dan. Currently there is only one man in the world with the rank of Tenth Dan and his name is Morio

Higaonna who visited our Dojo once and he could make the entire hall shake with one punch (no exaggeration!)

Maybe one day I will even get to Tenth Dan; only fifty-four more years to go!

Hockey

The girls triumphed over the boys in the Sixth Form Hockey match played during games on Wednesday. Michael J has written this account:

The Sixth Form Girls v Boys Hockey began with team talks motivating the sides.

The match was a great one: not only was there full effort from the girls and boys, but both sides were able to work as a unit in cold and wet conditions. We had goals from both teams, but the final score was 6-1 to the girls. Michael J is hoping to lead the boys in a rematch and will hopefully encourage those who played to form a team of their own.

Many thanks to Miss Arnold for umpiring.

Rugby

On Wednesday our 1st XV play AKS away in Blackpool as part of our Cup run. We wish our boys every success as we prepare to meet the boys from Blackpool.

Extended Project Qualification: Year 12 Launch

The EPQ for year 12 was launched by Dr McNamara two weeks ago.

A reminder to all of Year 13 that the EPQ is a compulsory part of education at Liverpool College, and that all students should be completing the project according to the timeline previously released.

By the end of the Michaelmas term students should have approached the teacher they would like to be their tutor.

When seeking out a tutor it does not have to be based upon their knowledge of the subject; it is more important that the potential tutor is approached based upon the relationship that the teacher has with the student.

PPI

PPI should be available by the beginning of next week. If you have any concerns about the results please do not hesitate to contact me and in association with our colleagues, we can discuss how to move forward.

Subject Enquiries: Faculty Heads

English: Miss E Nixon: enixon@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Expressive Arts: Miss A McWatt: amcwatt@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Humanities: Mr J Hutchinson: jhutchinson@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Mathematics: Mrs J Bibby/Mr T Daly: jbibby@liverpoolcollege.org.uk tdaly@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Modern Foreign Languages: Mrs I Gimeno: igimeno@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Technology, Enterprise & Sport: Mr P Cartwright: pcartwright@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Science: Ms A Ormrod: aormrod@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to use the e-mail address assigned to your son or daughter's **House** to contact the House Administrator regarding reasons for lateness or absence on the first day and that you provide medical notes to cover extended periods of absence.

House	E-mail	Telephone	Extension	House Administrator
Brook's	brooks@liverpoolcollege.org.uk	0151 724 4000	3247	Mrs Davies
Butler's	butlers@liverpoolcollege.org.uk		3232	Mrs Crute-Jain
Howard's	howards@liverpoolcollege.org.uk		3280	Mrs Bradley
Howson's	howsons@liverpoolcollege.org.uk		3247	Mrs Davies
School's	school@liverpoolcollege.org.uk		3280	Mrs Bradley
Selwyn's	selwyns@liverpoolcollege.org.uk		3232	Mrs Crute-Jain

Student Safety

If you have given permission for your son or daughter to travel in a car to and from school outside the school hours that is a private arrangement and nothing to do with Liverpool College.

Unfortunately, last week I had to chastise and punish three students for leaving school in a vehicle during the school day.

All of our students are aware of the rules ie they do not have permission to travel in their cars during the day and no student is permitted to travel in another student's car. The reason for this is to protect our students. Young people are not experienced at driving and often, if they travel with passengers they are distracted and can be reckless.

A number of years ago two Bolton schoolboys died as they travelled in their car as they left school to buy some lunch. They lost control of the car and as a result both boys died at the scene.

I would appreciate it if you would discuss with your son and daughter the issues and risks that can be undertaken by travelling with their friends and how it is totally prohibited to do so during the school day.

Medicine & Oxbridge

We are currently in the midst of preparing students for interviews they have for Medicine and Oxbridge. The Principal and Mr Leeder are co-ordinating their efforts to ensure our students are well prepared for the rigour of the Oxbridge and Medical interview.

Staff INSET Afternoon: Wednesday, 5th December

On Wednesday the student body will enjoy a half-day as staff embark on some CPD training. School will finish at 1.00 pm.

We have less than three weeks to the of term and are delighted with the wonderful Christmas tree that adorns our Reception. Nevertheless there is a great deal of work and preparation to be done before we can adorn the Christmas jumper and eat turkey.

Have a pleasant weekend.

Stephen Brady
Head of Sixth Form