

22 May 2020

Dear Parents

During normal times I would be writing to you in the aftermath of a celebration Leavers' Service in which tears of joy and reflection abound, as we hear speeches that extol the virtues of our wonderful Year 13 and the odd glass of something cool and refreshing is consumed as we raise a toast to this cohort.

It appears that the chances of having such a service this term are sadly waning and our planned Leavers' Dinner to be held at the Racquet Club is now cancelled. However, I will reiterate that these events are simply postponed and we will come together to celebrate our time together. Why should this Year 13 escape my Leavers' Speech?

This Year 13 arrived as the first Liverpool College Academy students. Their sense of purpose and desire to excel never ceased throughout the seven years they attended the school. Dare I say it without the risk of offending previous generations that their fortitude and desire to excel overtook some previous year groups. This could be seen in their fabulous GCSE results, sporting excellence and their commitment to the character aspect of our school. The Sixth Form Newsletters over the past two years are testament to this success.

In addition the Gladstone Scholars, The Heads of House, Captains of Sport, Boarding Prefects and our Heads of School have been outstanding ambassadors and leaders of our school and we thank them for all their contributions and leadership.

One thing that is an overwhelming character of our Sixth Form is how students, whether they joined us at age 4, 11 or 16 have merged to become one whole entity. If they have come from Moldova or Mossley Hill I have found it difficult to note who is new or not (accents might give it away) as the integration and immersion is so explicit.

We have had three outstanding Ofsted inspections the most recent being the inspection of Sixth Form Boarding. All these reports highlight the sense of Collegiality and the Collective will that flows from our Sixth Form and this year group.

I am very proud of all my Sixth Form and this Year 13 cohort. It has been my privilege to have led many of you on the Rugby field, teaching you Politics and History as well as travelling to France, Italy....Welsh Castles, but above all to greet and meet you every day in our Sixth Form home; Goldwyn House.

In the words of Dame Vera Lynn...."We'll meet again"

This week has been an emotional 'roller coaster' for myself and my family. On Monday the Principal and I sent a joint communication to all in Year 12 and Year 13 highlighting the fact that I have been appointed Assistant Principal at St Ambrose College in Hale Barnes. Below you will see the letters we sent.

May I just add how I am very grateful to each one of you for your support, kindness and friendship over the years, as a parental body you have been truly outstanding.

I assure you that Mr Broekman will make the transition and vacuum become so seamless that by the 1<sup>st</sup> September people will barely remember the former Head of Sixth!

Dear Sixth Formers,

I hope you are all well and that the current situation is not placing too much of a toll on you or your family and that you have found ways to adjust to life away from school.

I have news that I wish to share with my Sixth Form family. After a rigorous interview process, I have been invited to become an Assistant Vice Principal at St Ambrose College in Hale Barnes. This is a selective Catholic Grammar School for boys in which I will be undertaking a wide range of responsibilities. The post will commence in September 2020.

I have spent 18 wonderful years at Liverpool College and have seen many changes and undertaken a range of roles in my time. The greatest of these posts was when I was appointed Head of Sixth Form eight years ago. I am so very proud of all that we have achieved in those years and couldn't have done so without you and our outrageously fantastic staff. We have received three outstanding Ofsted reports including an outstanding verdict on Sixth Form Boarding. Above all we have rekindled and re-energised the Sixth Form to make it the vanguard of the school. Dare I say it is 'The Jewel in the Crown'!

You may ask why I am leaving if I am so content and proud of the Sixth Form and being a senior leader at Liverpool College. The abbreviated answer is that a new and exciting opportunity presented itself and I felt that the time for change was now upon us. After a degree of soul-searching, I confirmed that I would be accepting this new post.

I realise that this may be unexpected and in this time of change an unnecessary extra tumult. One of the reasons why the Sixth Form at the College is so successful is down to the team who work fastidiously to ensure that your education and pastoral care is 'outstanding'. I know that Mr Broekman will make sure that whoever takes on my role will be the very best person to undertake this magnificent office.

I will of course continue to work with pleasure and enthusiasm as Head of Sixth Form at Liverpool College until the end of August. I remain determined to make your learning and development as positive and fruitful as possible in these difficult circumstances. We will have time to reflect and say our goodbyes one way or another.

Whatever happens in my life or career, be assured that the pupils, staff and parents of Liverpool College, past and present will always have a big place in my heart.

Keep well and see you all soon.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady  
**Head of Sixth Form**

Dear Sixth Formers

I want to congratulate Mr Brady on your behalf on his appointment to a new and challenging senior position. I have no doubt that St Ambrose are extremely lucky and that he will work his magic there as he has done for 18 years with us.

Like you, I shall miss him as a colleague, teacher, mentor and friend, somebody who embodies all that is good in a teacher and a leader. He has given unstinting and generous service every day he has been at the College. His legendary commute never stopped him from being present in our community and enriching it with his person whether in the classroom, the rugby pitch, school trips or the common room. I completely understand his excitement about the new challenge he has taken on and support his decision wholeheartedly, much as his departure from us will be a big loss.

We will find a way and a time to be together and thank him and tell him in person all he has meant to our school and to us personally.

Mr Brady and I both believe that the Sixth Form is in fantastic shape. We have achieved all there is to achieve as far as Ofsted is concerned but our ambition for the Sixth Form goes much further and is far greater and lives on in the tremendous team of leaders, teachers, and support staff Mr Brady has gathered around the Sixth Form. We will continue with this work and appoint someone to the leadership of the Sixth Form who can realize and develop these ambitions. I shall stay in touch about this process and will have more to announce in due course.

Yours sincerely,  
**Hans van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**

### **Engagement in online Learning**

I am very impressed with the level of engagement of the Year 12. Their attendance to Teams lessons has been magnificent and the work completion rate is something I am very proud of. Staff have been superb both from an academic and pastoral point of view.

Mr Wilson has been particularly active in ensuring that his wards are kept busy and has written to them separately, including attaching his recipes to help everyone stay healthy whilst at University!

### **UCAS**

Mr Leeder and I wrote separately to Year 12 on Tuesday as a result of UCAS going live for the Year 2020/21. I discussed expectations and predicted grades whilst Mr Leeder discussed how to navigate the UCAS site.

I realise that with the launch of UCAS that many of you are concerned about predicted grades. The testing which guides colleagues in formulating their predicted grades usually occurs as a result of the summer examinations.

Due to Covid-19 we can't foresee this occurring in the Summer term as a result we will plan for this testing to take place in September. However, we may still be able to test if circumstance change. In conjunction with target grades and actual grades achieved in the September session we will then be able to predict with a greater degree of robustness the grade predictors for UCAS.

However, students who are not engaging in our on-line learning or not submitting work will naturally fall behind and as a result may not achieve the desired predicted grade.

To summarise my advice is as follow:

- 1) Keep up to date on all on-line learning.
- 2) Ensure that all work is submitted on time.
- 3) Summer examinations are unlikely but we will be able to confirm with greater certainty after the half term.
- 4) Work on coursework and EPQ and present progress at the end of the summer term.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

From Mr Leeder, Assistant Head of Sixth Form and UCAS Co-ordinator

Dear Y12,

I hope you are all keeping well.

The UCAS site is now open for 2021 applications. I realise this is an exceptional year, so I'll try and explain all the basics here, rather than being able to do it face to face and via your tutors.

Please ask me anything at all about UCAS, as it is important you begin to get on with it now.

#### **The basics of UCAS are as follows-**

- You apply for 5 courses typically, usually at 5 universities (although you can apply to more than 1 course at the same university). No university ever knows where else you've applied or has any sense of your preferences.
- There are lots of ways of deciding what and where to study. With some courses (Business for example), the content is broadly the same so you'd really just be choosing where you want to study. Open Days are perfect for this, but clearly right now, virtual open days are the simplest way of getting a feel for a place.
- Usually, you'd have done end of Y12 exams that would help decide your predicted grades in your subjects. This year, I'd use your target grades as a starting point for your application, and contact teachers for an idea of predicted grades. The plan (not confirmed 100%) is for you to do some kind of 3 week test next year to clarify predicted grades as well.
- Of your 5 choices, I'd usually say 1 can be aspirational (maybe a grade above your predictions), 3 should be based on your actual predicted grades, and 1 should be lower (a security choice).
- Most of the form is fairly functional stuff, and I'd get on with filling as much in as possible now. For nearly all of you, the fee code is 02- Student Finance. In the education section, put down all your GCSE's etc with the results (for most of you they were achieved in 08/18). Then put your A-Level subjects and EPQ, with **results pending for 08/21**. These will then become your predicted grades (to be entered by your tutor).

- The most important bit of the form is the personal statement, where you explain why the university should offer you a place on the course. I've attached a guide here. If you're applying for different courses, the personal statement should focus on your main course choice. It's a weird thing to try and write, so don't be embarrassed to send your attempts to your tutors or me, and we'll soon bash them into shape.
- Deadlines for Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Vets is 15th October (currently anyway).
- Everyone else the deadline is 15 January, but early applications get quicker, and sometimes better, offers and gives you more time to then think about where you want to study.
- Your tutors write you a reference and add in your predicted grades.
- Once your application is paid (£25) and sent, it comes to me. I then match it up with the reference, and I send off the form to the universities. There's very little chance of any mistakes being sent off, as the form is checked so many times.

There's loads more I could say, but for now I'll just give you the basic instructions of how to register- Always remember you are UCAS 2021. (UCAS 2020 is the current Y13)

Please register yourself using the link here-

<https://2021.undergrad.apply.ucas.com/appreg/SecurityServlet>

Click register, fill in your details. Then link your application to this centre. The buzzword to do so is '**Leeder**'. (with a capital)

Then you put yourself in your house group, and you can begin filling in your forms.

A good guide to the form filling part is here-

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undergraduate-application>

I realise for some of you, even the idea of starting UCAS now may be intimidating, and even a cause of stress. Please don't feel that you have to have already decided anything, many of you won't.

At the very least, just registering now gets you in the loop, even if courses and destinations are a mystery to you. We will all be back together at some point, and it will be easier to get the advice you need.

If I do say so myself, this school is excellent at UCAS, and you really will be supported all the way by myself, your tutors, Mrs Drew and everyone!.

Final thing, obviously some of you may not be considering university at all. If that's the case, we'll talk next year about apprenticeship options etc etc. I'd still register with UCAS for now though, again just to be in the loop for information etc.

As I've said, any questions at all, do ask.

Stay Safe, and please register asap.

Mrs Drew our wonderful Careers Officer has also produced a guide to help you through the processes – please see a copy of her e-mail below.

Hi All

I hope you are all safe and well.

I recently attended an online Advisers' Conference at Liverpool Hope University which focused on supporting students with university applications, finance etc. The best and most informative session for me was the Personal Statement session. I raised the concern regarding the inability to gain work experience.

I was assured that this will be taken into consideration by universities but there are things you can be doing to gain experience and improve your statement.

The first piece of advice was to complete Moocs. For anyone who doesn't know what MOOC is, I have put the link below; it is a wide catalogue of free, online courses that you can complete to boost your knowledge. <https://www.mooc.org/>

The next advice was to volunteer wherever possible, especially if you want to study for a teaching or healthcare degree. Again, this may be difficult but keep trying to secure even a day working in the field you want to go into.

Read current research in your field. Admissions Officers want to see evidence that you know what is going on in your chosen field of study particularly in science, law and engineering.

Wider reading is a must. Use this time at home to read more around your subject. Causeway Education who ran this session have a brilliant website (the link is below) and they have a wider reading section. This lists the sort of wider reading/journals that universities expect you to be reading when you apply for a degree

<https://causeway.education/wider-reading>

I have mentioned the Medic Portal to a few of you who I have discussed medicine/health care with. This is such an important website so please keep using this if you want to apply for medicine. Loads of up to date information about the UCAT on there.

<https://www.themedicportal.com/>

ICOULD is also a good website to use to watch videos of a range of careers <https://icould.com/>

I also attach a document that gives 5 tips for writing a personal statement.

I hope this helps but please contact me if you need careers support.  
[jdrew@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:jdrew@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)

## **Gladstone Scholars**

We received an exceptional set of applications for the posts of Gladstone Scholars. Heads of House will email those who were successful. The next process is that we now vote on who should be Head Boy and Head Girl. I will arrange a ballot when we return to school or if not in school, an anonymous online voting system.

## **Phased Return to School**

We are still awaiting clarification from the government regarding the possibility of Year 12 returning to school. In the short term this will not be a full return and we will be continuing to develop the Teams lessons and online connectivity to ensure that the quality of learning is as enhanced as it can be. Once I know what we can do I will develop a plan with the leadership of the College to ensure some 'face to face' meetings take place albeit at a distance.

## **Staff**

Finally, I would like to thank all our staff for their exceptional efforts during this most traumatic of periods. Their stoicism and humour continues to impress us all and your kind and generous comments to them really does bolster their resolve to ensure that the Year 12 receive the very best we can offer in these difficult times.

Keep well and I wish you and your family a pleasant half term.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady  
**Head of Sixth Form**