
Principal's Newsletter

10 July 2020

Dear Parents,

This extraordinary school year is certainly ending with a bang rather than a whimper.

We hosted next year's Year 3 on campus this week. Their transition activities were in the Forest School, and everyone trooped happily and purposefully in their wellies in the grove. Despite the weather, spirits of teachers and pupils were high.

The Year 7 were hosted online by the pastoral team that will be supporting them. Although it is strange to meet someone and welcome them on a flat screen, I could almost feel the excitement emanating from parents and pupils who were beginning to realize: this is real, it is going to happen, we will have school.

The Year 12s were on campus this week completing their EPQ. This independent research project throws up the most amazing materials and ideas from motorcycle reconstruction to medical dosage apps to prison reform and flamenco guitar compositions. The projects have certainly kept the year thinking and learning in lockdown.

Finally we have seen them, if only to say a temporary goodbye until results in August. The Year 13 are boisterously perambulating the campus in a socially distanced way. I am sure they have very mixed emotions. On the one hand they feel deprived of all the trappings and experiences of leaving school in a normal academic year, on the other there must be a sense of relief that the future beckons and this strange phase of their education is coming to an end. They will be addressed by their great leader Mr Brady, a man similarly welling up with wistful memories of 18 years with us. It is all a lot to take in.

Parents in Year 1Q have once again shown remarkable engagement and generosity. Their gift to our teachers took the form of supporting the charity the teachers had designated. A donation of £175.00 is going to the South Liverpool Foodbank at Bridge Chapel Centre. Very inspiring.

This week an intrepid team of students and pupils have been filming. Again, the weather has not cooperated but I believe that sometime this summer their film, a virtual tour of the school, will be released on our website. This will help all our new students and staff to get

further acquainted.

Year 12 students interested in careers in the medical field have formed their own society and this week they held a Teams meeting with former student Will Finnan who is studying medicine. Will gave an excellent talk and offered advice for their applications.

The Teams technology offers opportunities for such virtual presentations and Mr Griffith would be keen to hear from any parent who might be willing to speak to small numbers of sixth form students about their career field (ngriffith@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

What to do now term has ended. Take a break of course, but also use the freedom of summer to pursue your true interest. If your family is like mine, lockdown has been a very mixed blessing. On the one hand, there has been a fair amount of reading, writing, cooking, talking and walking. The board games were actually used. Musical instruments actually got played. But all of us, adults and children, have of course also frittered away so many opportunities to learn and renew during the lockdown. Screen times have gone through the roof. Sleeping habits have become nocturnal with excessive habitation between sheet covers. I hope you will find creative ways to make this summer meaningful and purposeful and that you can encourage reading, exercise, creativity and learning something new as an antidote to endless TikTok meme viewing and rather mindless social media screen time.

[LC Press](#), the publishing platform we created during lockdown, will continue throughout the summer. Currently, we have just published our interview with Pre Prep teacher Ms Gill Ridley which is all about how we can make a home into a school, and I suppose a school into a home. You can access it on Spotify, Google Podcast or indeed at Imagination in Education [here](#). I was really struck by some very profound insights Mrs Ridley was able to impact to me about the way to approach learning at home with young ones. Worth a listen. My gratitude to Sam Riley whose Oxford history degree has been somewhat disrupted by the virus but who is helping us make LC Press even better with his considerable flair and talent.

The Press will also be publishing blog posts and other podcasts every Tuesday. I do hope you will visit it from time to time.

I have been hugely impressed by the eco-committee's guide which you can read [here](#). It contains practical suggestions about how you can do things for the environment and activities you can undertake this summer.

We must talk uniform for a minute. Here is a message from the PTA about the used uniform sale:

The PTA are unable to organise a used uniform sale this year due to the current restrictions.

If you are struggling and require help with uniform, please contact Helen Young via the PTA facebook page or by emailing pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Whilst they are unable to access their main store of uniform they will try to help those who ask.

If you have uniform you are willing to donate, please contact the PTA through the same channels and they will arrange collection and redistribution in a covid-safe manner.

I want to reiterate a request from our uniform shop for people who need fittings to make appointments. That information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Mrs Duffy has asked me to remind you that there are lots of sources of advice and support for pupils and parents that you can still access even during the school holidays – more information can be found [here](#) and also on our Safeguarding & Wellbeing page on the school website [here](#).

We have received an important message from Liverpool City Council about what a parent should do if they become eligible for Free School Meals during the summer holiday period:

If your circumstances change and you think your child is eligible for free school meals after the schools close for the summer break you need to apply for FSMs using the link below:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/schools-and-education/free-school-meal-vouchers/>

If you are eligible, you will receive a notification confirming this. During school's summer holiday period, you will be sent vouchers by Liverpool City Council on a fortnightly basis.

Our plan for September is taking shape. I am sharing elements of it with our staff and governors over the summer. We are certain that we will be able to give you accurate and fully compliant advice about our timetable and plans in the week commencing August 17.

It remains for me to thank so many of you, who have written to my staff and to me many wonderful messages of support and gratitude, as well as encouragement and advice. The closure of our school, even in part, is experienced as a loss by all of us. But in the process of being deprived of the opportunity to see each other and to work together on your child's education, we have also learned a lot about the resilience of our school community, its ability to innovate and support, its capacity to come up with solutions. We have also learned that many parents are wonderful teachers and many pupils have told of us of the wonderful experiences they have had because of your ability, sometimes not voluntary, to spend so much time with your children.

I wish you and yours a wonderful, safe, sunny summer and on behalf of all of us, we are looking forward to seeing you again on campus in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal