

## Principal's Newsletter

9 February 2024

Dear Parents,

It is cold, wet and definitely still winter as we finish the half term.



The timing of the performances of the secondary phase production *Half A Sixpence* could not have been better for the raising of spirits and the sense of a grand finale to winter. Our pupils, assembled together for purpose, really shine. Their ability to speak with different accents remains one of the most mysterious gifts which have been showered equally upon all of them. Usually this leads to Chicago gangster sounds but here it was cockney, posh, and many in between. They all did this beautifully. The show is not only a tribute to Ms Kempton-Poole, Mr Bishop, Ms Clark, their orchestra pit stuffed full of 21 musicians from every secondary chapter, but also to Chapter 12 especially. I cannot recall a year group so devoted to making music and theatre together and there is so much talent to call upon for the purpose. Adam S was transformed into the happy go lucky aw-shucks cockney lad stumbling through life and love, and his journey was supported by his peers, literally his classmates. They can sing, they

can dance, and they very visibly enjoy doing these things together. That spirit is a balm for any member of the audience. Well done to all. And thank you.

Unsurprisingly Mr Bishop has also recognised this wonderful production in his nomination for musician of the week:



*This week's **Musician of the week** has to be Adam S (Ch 12) who played the lead role of Arthur Kipps in this week's production of Half A Sixpence. Other cast members were equally as vocally strong and pulled off first class performances, singing both main melodies and quite tricky harmonies. However, during the rehearsal process, Adam was not only present at every rehearsal, but also led rehearsals giving help and advice to other cast members and deciding which musical numbers needed priority - truly above and beyond.*

*We are all so proud of everything the cast, musicians, tech team and crew achieved during this production - the Arts is certainly strong at L.C.!*

Work continues for our musical staff and performers. Preparations and rehearsals are well underway for the next production, the Key Stage 2-Key Stage 3 production *Not Quite a High School Musical* at the end of this term. Miss Clark has asked me to include an important update about ticket sales for the production:

*Tickets will be available to purchase from the 5<sup>th</sup> March. This year all tickets will be sold online via [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)*

*Tickets will still be capped at 4 per family per show and are first come first served. If you don't have the MCAS app, download it now so you don't miss out on important announcements for ticket sales.*

In this last newsletter of the half term I want to exhort all to improve our traffic situation around school. Herein is a description provided by a parent. Apparently, traffic behaviours are worse not better. Can we return with a firm commitment to amendment of these behaviours?

*For the last fortnight, morning and afternoon, to my shock, I have seen parking situations go up a big notch on Queens Drive - Pre Prep side. As if parking on the opposite side wasn't enough, and parking in the driveway wasn't enough, cars have now started to park right across the zigzag marking - these are the same areas that you see children cross over from.*

*In the morning people park so inconsiderately that a few days ago I saw one car on the zigzag with their hazard lights on just chatting away to another parent whilst holding up traffic both ends.*

Then onto attendance. Attendance in schools nationally is far worse than before Covid. Reasons for this vary. Some children are anxious, there are more suspensions across the

country, and perhaps people got into the habit of not going to school when they did not fancy it that day.

But the effects are dramatic for pupils. Absence really effects learning and outcomes. At the moment about 11 % of our pupils miss one day a fortnight or more. This is much better than national figures but not as good as before Covid at the College. It's noticeable that there has been an increase in the "occasional day off" category, which can quickly, along with an illness or two, have very deleterious consequences for learning. Let's get to school next half term as the days lengthen and drive that persistent absence number down below pre-covid levels.

Congratulations to our cross-country runners in Prep. They performed brilliantly at the regional meet and Oscar M (Ch5) placed second, guaranteeing him an opportunity to run at the national meet.

Congrats also to our physicists. Ms Yates writes:

*Selected Chapter 12 and 13 physicists have recently competed in the challenging Physics Olympiad competition. They completed online tutorial sessions over six weeks, developing their problem-solving skills in Physics, and sat a gruelling 160-minute test paper. The Physics department are proud of their achievements, notably both Ella N and Jude C who achieved a Bronze I award, and Joseph W who achieved a Silver award.*

A special congratulations to Mr Barnicoat and the super debaters. We are slowly and surely becoming a dominant force, arriving at competitions only to watch others wilt in the face of our rhetorical whirlwinds.

Mr Barnicoat writes after the Oxford Schools' competition regional round:

*Our three teams were fantastic yet again. Hannah S and Zaenab R sailed through to the nationals in what has probably been our most comfortable break so far. They are getting to be astonishingly good.*

*That's now three nationals in twelve months and one step away from a fourth in the ESU.*

My thanks to Mrs Young who has somehow managed to collect an enormous number of large tyres which we will be able to use to enhance play opportunities on campus.



Our Eco Committee have reported on the success of their Christmas Gift Swap initiative which was organised in partnership with Liverpool World Centre and the Liverpool College PTA at the end of last term, and on their plans to host a Ramadan Gift Swap later in the term – [click here](#) to read more.

Mrs Miller (Librarian) is planning a Book Swap event in the secondary phase as one of the activities to celebrate World Book Day in March:

*Pupils can bring along any pre-loved books they would like to donate or swap for a new book. These can be brought to the Library any time after half term. If you don't have a book that you want to donate or swap, you could rescue a book from a charity shop and bring that to the Book Swap event, that way you would be recycling two books. Write a few words on a post-it note saying why this book was a 'good read'. You can do that in the Library when you bring your book to swap or donate. The date for our Book Swap will be announced after Half Term.*

On Wednesday, 10 sixth form students had the opportunity to travel to Poland on a powerful and moving visit to Auschwitz organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, as Hannah S (Ch12) describes:

*On our recent trip to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust, we were given a speech by Rabbi Epstein, one of the members of the charity that runs the trip. He reminded us how topical genocide is especially with current ongoing conflict in Palestine, he told us how 'normal' people were capable of genocide; he also told us how we were capable to stop this occurring through education and awareness. It was a haunting and humbling experience that will resonate with me for the rest of my life. The rabbi spoke a lot about choices and their importance. His speech was so powerful, yet it is still difficult to fathom such evil in this world, such hatred, such dehumanisation. It makes applying to be a prefect feel like such a small thing, in such a large world where 6 million people can be murdered, and others can still deny that it happened. However, I feel I must, as Rabbi Epstein said 'choose' to make positive change, rather than neutral or negative change. However small this starts; it can be certain that there will be some impact of my actions.*

The boarders are looking forward to their break. Ms Latham will be on maternity leave when they return and we wish her and her family much godspeed with the arrival of the new member, a child who will be able to say: I was born and started life living at Liverpool College. We have not had that said for a few decades.



I was delighted to receive confirmation this week that we have gained two more accreditations towards our Rainbow Flag Award application – successfully reaching the Supportive Governors and Parents and Pastoral Support standards. Congratulations to Mrs Scott, Mr Hall and Mr Beardsmore who are leading this effort.

This week's **artist of the week** is Poppy W (Ch10) with a homework piece from her sketchbook research on artist Keith Haring.



*She writes "I like the work of Haring for its colour and original design. I especially love the way he brought art to the subways of New York and made Art accessible to everyone"*

Chapter 9 have been fortunate enough to attend two talks over the past week during their LC+ lessons as Mrs Drew reports:



*The first talk was a careers talk from Chris at SBW Law which is a law firm based in Speke. Chris spoke to the students about his career journey and gave us an interesting insight into the many different roles in the legal services and the new routes into these field such as solicitor apprenticeships. Pupils were able to ask their questions and find out about Chris's many interesting legal cases.*

*During PSHE, Chapter 9 attended a talk by Katie from The Amy Winehouse Foundation. Chapter 9 first met Katie in Chapter 7 when they attended an introduction to drugs and alcohol education. This week the pupils attended an updated talk; Katie spoke to them again about her own recovery from addiction and the impact on her life, but she also spoke to them about the dangers of vaping. Pupils learned about the importance of resisting peer pressure and about how talking to someone they trust is vital for their mental health. Katie's talks are always*



*impactful and we are very grateful she continues to support our PSHE programme.*

We have been asked by the National Youth Agency to highlight an opportunity for pupils to contribute to the review of youth provision that is taking place across the city. Pupils can make sure their voices are heard by completing an online survey as explained below. Children and young people from age 8 upwards can take part in the survey:

*The National Youth Agency and Liverpool City Council are keen to find out your views on the activities and support available for young people in Liverpool. Your feedback is important to us as we want to make sure we are providing the services and support you need. The survey will take no longer than 10 minutes to answer (we've timed it). We won't be able to tell who you are from the questions, so please answer honestly. You do not have to answer anything you don't want to. We'll use the results to inform the future of youth work and play provision in Liverpool. [Complete the young people's survey by clicking here](#)*

There are always works going on our campus. I was excited to learn that our new bike storage is on order and that we are seeing steady progress in the construction of our new classroom building.

Advance notice that our termly parent information evening will take place on Thursday 29 February at 5.30pm. This term's meeting will take place online via Microsoft Teams and further information on how to register for the event will be included in my next newsletter.

### **An update from the PTA:**



### **LC's Got Talent**

*We are very excited to announce that the Auditions forms are now available [here](#)*

*We've had some great responses and we're looking to put on an amazing talent show to end the summer term!*

*Audition dates:*

- *Seniors, Friday 23 Feb 3-5pm GB1*
- *Prep school, Tuesday 5 March during school time.*
  - *Pre Prep TBC.*



When we come back from half term we will be in full force of the final preparations for our **Share Ramadan** event. With inspirational talks, a lavish sit-down buffet meal, and a deeper insight to Ramadan, we welcome you to join us. Tickets are available on <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/liverpool-college-pta/share-ramadan-feast/2024-03-15/17:00/t-yamavem>

Much to look forward to but first: rest. Not however for the pupils and staff on the Greece and Spain trips. It is amazing where we go and what we get up to. Other teachers are holding important revision and intervention sessions during the break. For them, rest comes later.

May I wish you and yours a peaceful and calm half term.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman  
Principal**