

Principal's Newsletter

15 December 2023

Dear Parents,

This is the week where our school takes over Mossley Hill Parish Church and where the Christmas season begins to invade our days and mood.

Tuesday's Lesson and Carols, performed by the Choir, Chamber Choir and Orchestra (BPM) was another milestone in the development of music at the College. There are now 180 pupils involved in one way or another in such a service. The quality of the music, the innovation in its performance, the multi-tasking of Matthew D-H (Ch13) and Isabella C (Ch13). It is all very impressive and very moving. The perfect start to the week.

My own Wednesday night moved on to the Boarders' Christmas dinner. Our catering staff who had distinguished themselves last Friday during a gas leak emergency, continue to amaze. Boarders eat like fine diners, served various options, restaurant style desserts, amazing variety day in day out. On these grand occasions they are served their meal by the devoted staff who do so much for them throughout the year. The mood was jovial. Our boarding community is now in its third year. Established boarders know each other, know the routines, are at home. While we were tucking into turkey, the Christingles had begun. Chapter 4 and 5 went first, performing elaborate and complicated sketches, songs and carols, supported by the amazing Ms Clark who conducts, choreographs, directs and produces, class teachers included, an opera of dazzling length and complexity.

But we were still not yet finished as Thursday combined Chapter 3 and 6 in a display of lights, Bethlehem based talent shows, Crispin the Camel, and the finale, the Christingle solo sung so well by John-Paul O (Ch6).

Throughout these three evenings our PTA were working hard, shipping out the mulled wine, drinks and snacks, making the evening even more enjoyable.

And we are still not finished because tomorrow will be a true extravaganza as well with our PTA Christmas market from 12pm to 5pm which includes pantomime performances, the Preplings choir and a general acceleration of the Christmas activities.

Next week it is the turn of the Pre Prep pupils to dazzle their families with their Christmas performances.

Mr Bishop reports there are too many musicians who have excelled this week to single out one or even a few from across the College:



It could be John-Paul O who sang the Once in Royal David's City solo at the Prep Christingle services this week. It could be members of Preplings for their increasingly musical singing at Christmas events this week under the direction of Miss Clark. It could be Matthew D-H (Ch13) and Olivia H (Ch 12) for their solos at the senior school carols on Tuesday. It could be the

following pupils who showed extreme bravery by auditioning for the Once in Royal David's City solo in front of the entire senior school choir: Olivia T, Lulu F (Ch 7), Myles M-M, Maro O, Christelle L (Ch 8). It could be Seb W (Ch 8) and Elodie J (Ch 7) who auditioned for and sang that solo with style at the carol service. It could be members of the Chamber Choir, headed up by Isabella C (Ch 13) for their exquisite performance of Mr Bishop's (really quite tricky) arrangement of White Christmas. It could be members of BPM and the senior choir for their ever-sophisticated music making.

The image shows a musical score for a piano piece titled "Theme and Variations". The score is written for piano and is in 4/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. The score is divided into a "Theme" section (measures 1-8) and three "Variation" sections: Variation 1 (measures 9-17), Variation 2 (measures 18-24), and Variation 3 (measures 25-29). The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

On the academic side, it could be James K (Ch 8) for his recorded Theme & Variations and Max M (Ch8) for his excellent Theme & Variations (pictured) which he has composed in his recent music lessons. Our pupils from across the College continue to excel and impress us with their talents and abilities!

A group of pupils from the Chaplaincy Charity Action Group delivered the Whitechapel Appeal donations on Wednesday, as they describe below:



A big thank you to all the Liverpool College families who donated items to support the homeless, those at risk of homelessness and families with children! At the warehouse we received a warm welcome and learned that Whitechapel supports many people at Christmas with food and clothing and also prepares 1000 gift bags. At this point Whitechapel are still short of donations this year and were very grateful for the donations from Liverpool College.

<https://www.whitechapelcentre.co.uk/christmas-2023.html>

Mrs Gimeno has asked me to include a reminder for Chapter 7 parents about the expression of interest survey for our Exchange Programme with Colegio Newman in Madrid -please [click here](#).

Pastoral staff in the secondary phase have raised a concern after they looked at the bikes that are in the College bike park. Only 10% of them today had lights attached. In these weeks either side of the Winter solstice, it can be dark. Sunrise this morning was 08:21 and sunset this afternoon was 15:53. It is made worse on cloudy days. Can you please check your child's bike and ensure that they have the appropriate safety features? As Mr Turbitt has recently reminded Chapter 11 families, the wearing of helmets is also advisable.

The Liverpool ASD Training Team are providing 1:1 consultations and group question and answer sessions over the Christmas period. They are for parents/carers who have any questions or concerns about their child, in regard to pre and post Autism diagnosis. It is also an opportunity to speak with an ASD trainer and other parents. Please [click here](#) for more information.

We will finish next Friday, and there will not be a final newsletter so I would like to express my best wishes to you and your family during this season. At Christmas we are able to reflect on the desires of our hearts: peace, harmony, a world transformed by love and built up by a commitment to serve. My own thoughts wander mostly to our amazing staff, the 250 or so people from receptionists to exam manager to IT specialist to catering staff to 44 LSAs and more than a hundred teachers. What a privilege it is to see their efforts every day. The greatest thrill remains watching young people develop and flourish. They are the hope of Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal