

Principal's Newsletter

17 November 2023

Dear Parents,

Last weekend was an exceptionally busy one at the College. The PTA's Fireworks party was attended by a staggering 1600 people who came to eat, drink, socialize, listen to the band, and, finally, watch the spectacular fireworks launched over the rugby pitches. It is wonderful to be able to gather the College nation like this again in post-Covid times. Families were able to catch up, children played exhaustingly and exhaustively on the astroturf, and the atmosphere was welcoming. Credit must go to all the student and staff volunteers and especially the organisational drive and enthusiasm of the PTA and its Chair Amara Javeed. These sorts of events require volunteers, and without them we would be a school but never a community.

The next day I jumped on the bicycle to pedal to Shaw Street and the august entrance of the original Liverpool College. Here in the vaulted entrance hall of what is now a luxury apartment building is the plaque commemorating the hundreds of Old Boys of the Collegiate who died in what was thought would be the war to end all wars. Former pupils have faithfully kept this remembrance for decades after the school closed, and during the service residents of the buildings would occasionally descend the stairs with a look of bemused confusion as the service went on. Our CCF NCOs Josh, Matthew and Isabel did a marvellous job and it is really appreciated by the Collegiate Old Boys.

News dripped in from the Isle of Man during that Saturday. One of the longest running fixtures in school sports aka Isle of Man away had led to one defeat on Friday, one win on Saturday for our 1st XV rugby team. I often joke with rugby players that they need not come back to school after a loss, except, like Spartans, on their shield. They said it was difficult to play rugby after getting off a plane. They won their Saturday match more comfortably.



Then Sunday, where the CCF gathered to give a poignant parade and service of remembrance, the first for a few years. The OLs attended, the tea was served, and there is a particular experience of remembrance because of the consciousness of devastating conflict across the world and the real-time tragedy. Our thanks to Mr Newton, his staff officers, NCOs, and all the pupils who participated in the act of remembrance.

While all this was going on, Ali Al Hamadi, well known to many as he left school a few years ago was scoring for Iraq on home soil in a football international. Nye Thomas, also of this parish and recently departed from sixth form, came on for Sale in the premiership rugby match with Bristol. Even from a sporting perspective it was busy, except for the sad cancellation of some fixtures due to waterlogged pitches. We will try again this weekend. Our netball fixtures did go ahead though and Mrs Achilleos has highlighted her star players from Saturday's fixture against Cheadle Hulme – well done to Rania W-P, Lena A, Evelyn R, Lottie H and Zaynab A and a special mention also to Orla C (Ch8) who played up on the Ch11 team.

The staff in Pre Prep and Prep have been decorating the new noticeboards down the renovated halls. This has given the school a much more "lived in" feel after its renovation. There are inspirational accounts of life in the Forest School opposite the world history timeline. Our pupils have benefited from a variety of learning opportunities this week as our Chaplaincy Team describe:



It's been a busy week in Chaplaincy! We are so grateful to all of our visitors for sharing their time with our school community. Our visitor for Diwali to Chapters 10, 7 and 2 was Dr Teena

Cartwright- Terry who explained the significance of Diwali and made a beautiful Rangoli in front of the chapel.

Nicolas Nzirubusa visited Chapters 11 and 8 to speak about his upbringing in Burundi and his training to be a missionary priest with the White Fathers, Missionaries of Africa. He is currently at St Vincent de Paul Church in town.

A group of pupils, including boarders, spent time after school learning about plant-based nutrition and cooking vegan meals from scratch with parent Hayley Tait of Vinny's Kitchen. Hannah in Chapter 13 also helped! Their cooking provided healthy meals to be delivered to people in recovery.

Our LC+ lessons have had a very particular focus this week in the secondary phase:

This week is Antibullying Week and the theme this year is Make A Noise About Bullying. During the LC+ curriculum lessons and using resources provided by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the pupils have had discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Pupils worked in small groups to discuss a number of 'bullying versus banter' scenarios and how they would respond if put in these situations.

It has also been a season of Open Evening. About 180 families visited both a reception open evening, where the highlight is the tour given by the excellent Prep prefects, and the sixth form open evening which draws pupils from many schools all over the area. These evenings, the age of the pupils and parents, the different concerns and interests remind us of the educational variety within an all-through school. One night, the speech is to three year olds and their parents, the next it is about Oxbridge, and A level choices. From there it was a small step to the lecture of the Liverpool Classical Association and Llewelyn Morgan, OL, Chair of the Faculty of Classics at Oxford University who on this occasion gave a very interesting talk about the phenomenon of 19th century Latin newspapers and their idealistic purposes.

While all this is going on governors and teachers are working hard on improving, constantly, the core business. Governors visit the sixth form, speak to our anti-racism and Muslim Student Experience groups, chair meetings to develop and scrutinize our safeguarding policies and procedures. Teachers provided a session of speed pedagogy- a system where they share best practice and helpful tips and techniques, by teaching each other in short sharp sessions. It is simply marvellous to behold the teaching talent.

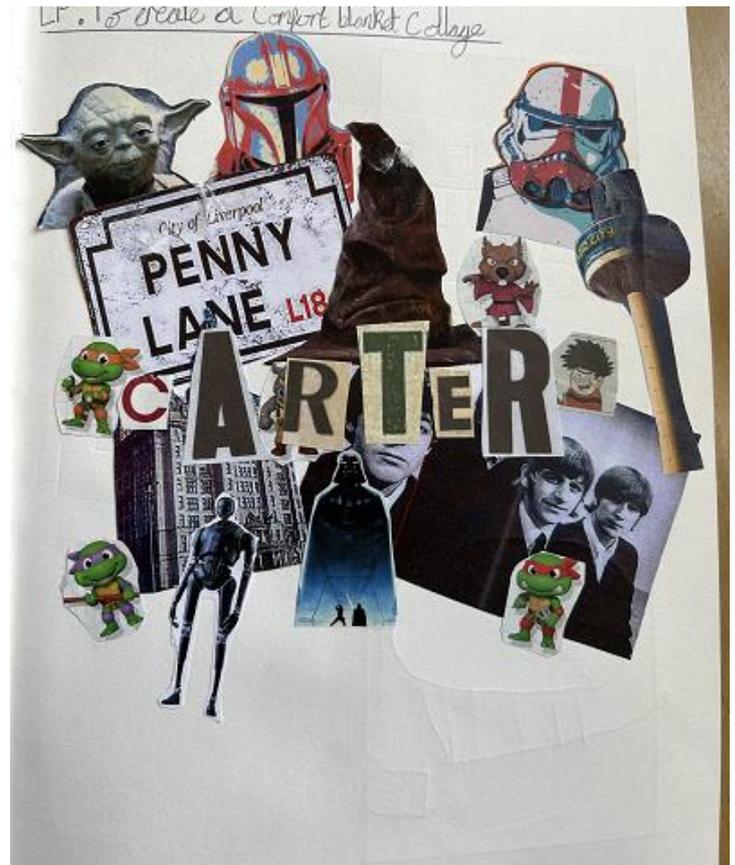
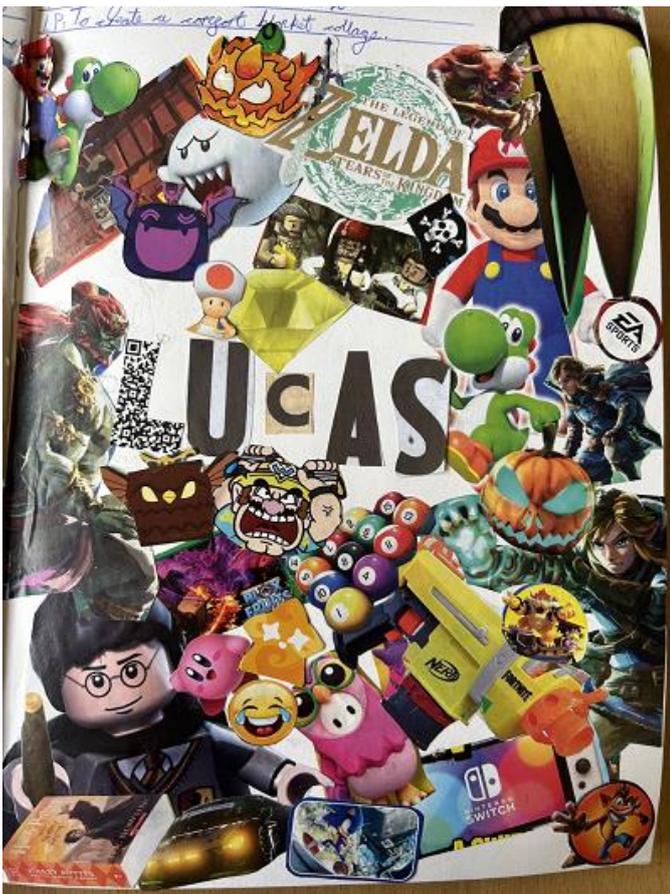
More musicians have come forward with exploits over the half term break. Paolo C (Ch 8) took part in Orchestral ensembles at Duffield House, Herofordshire, a course on which our very own strings and KS1 teacher, Ms Paiano, was teaching. In another part of the country, Ruaridh M (Ch 8) took part in pantomime in his spare time.



This week's **musician of the week**, Matthew D-H (Ch 13), has released his latest song on Spotify, The King's Ogre. The song is about a kingdom that goes to war with a dragon; however, all is not what it seems. This and other songs from Matt can be heard on his Spotify channel

here: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/6ZXi4Uk08ddzlgjKVRVOBW>

Our **artists of the week** are Carter C and Lucas D in Ch7. They have been exploring the artwork comfort blanket by Grayson Perry alongside collage techniques. They have devised their own comfort blanket collage inspired by the artist based on their identity and interests.



Congratulations to two of our Chapter 11 pupils, Izzy H and Lorik L, who got international caps in football over half term.

Izzy came on as a substitute for England U17s in a competition in Hungary. They were playing N. Ireland and won 6-0. Izzy who plays for Everton writes *"I trained with the Everton Women's 1st team all Summer and played for them in pre-season games against Burnley and Blackburn's 1st teams. I am not able to play in the Women's Super League yet but I have been lucky enough to be allowed to train with the 1st team 2 days a week alongside players such as Nathalie Björn and Hanna Bennison who both represented Sweden in the World Cup Semi-Finals in Australia this year.*

Lorik was playing for Kosovo U17: *"The experience I had was amazing playing for the Kosovo u17 national team. There were players there that came from countries all over Europe such as Germany, Finland, Sweden, and we all stayed in a hotel together. We ate together, trained together and did many bits of preparation for the upcoming games against the Albanian team.*

I played in the second game we played in Albania and was extremely happy to be able to stand in front of a crowd for the national anthem. I played as a left back in the game and had an amazing game which I enjoyed very much. In the end we ended up losing a very close game but I loved the overall experience."

Some advance notice of upcoming events:

On **Thursday 7 December at 5.30pm**, we are holding our termly **Parent Information Evening** in the Mossley Vale Hall. This is open to all parents. At the meeting, the College Leadership Team will provide information and updates on current issues and future plans and there will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions and make observations about how we can further improve the school.

The secondary phase will be holding its annual **service of lessons and carols** at Mossley Hill Parish Church on **Tuesday 12 December at 7.00pm**. This service is open to all members of the College community but due to the size of the venue, it will not be a requirement for secondary phase pupils to attend. There will of course still be a large number of pupils involved in the service on the 12 December and our musicians are busy preparing.

The PTA have asked me to pass on their message of thanks and advance notice of their next event (more information in the PTA newsletter):



We would like to thank everyone who came to our fireworks event. Without a doubt (and with constant mentions) everyone agreed that it was best fireworks event yet! The display was spectacular, we had hot and cold food and drink and entertainment for the full family and friends. Our special thanks to all our staff, students and volunteers who helped us plan and execute the event!

Our next event is another seasonal one - the Annual Christmas Market on Saturday 16 December - with an exceptional pantomime production from LC students! Tickets are on sale now on <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/50561>

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has received information from the Liverpool ASD Training Team about a number of upcoming events for parents. Please click on the links below to find out more:

- [ASD Workshop](#) (for parents whose child has an ASD diagnosis)

- [Social Communication and Social Behaviour Workshop](#)

The Road Safety Coordinator at Liverpool City Council has asked us to share with you a leaflet for parents about parking outside schools – please [click here](#) to download the information.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant and dry weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal