

3 July 2020

Dear Parents,

From the moment I was successful in my new appointment as Assistant Principal at St Ambrose College I dreaded the time that I would have to write my final Newsletter. Now that this occasion is upon us I am struggling to conjure the words that can summarise my time with you and many families before I depart.

I recorded a Leavers' speech message to the Year 13 on Thursday in which I stated that the year I joined the College your sons or daughters were being born and you as parents cradled them in their swaddling clothes. Life was slightly more exciting for the Year 12 parents who, in the midst of 'in flagrante delicto' would sometime soon create new life!

Whether your son or daughter is in Year 12 or Year 13, I have had an exceptional time being their Head of Sixth Form, History and Politics teacher, Rugby Coach, Form Tutor, Boarding Tutor and travel companion. Like all journeys through life we have had to endure tumult and upset. However, this has been a year like no other in which the norm has been undermined and a great deal of upheaval has occurred.

The Year 13 have been deeply deprived of their examinations and their final revisional thrust has been vaporised, though they are relatively fortunate because they are truly 'cooked' with regard to the taught narrative. The contraction has been our Year 12 who were plucked from the midst of their learning. Our teachers have been remarkable in trying to bridge the learning gaps.

I have been so impressed by the attitude of learning from our students; their consistency and deliberation has been so encouraging. This has been enhanced by the flexibility and dedication of the staff. I have to stress that I have friends who have sons or daughters at private schools who have not received the service our Year 12 have enjoyed.

Our thanks go to Mrs Haynes, our Vice-Principal who has led the online school and Mrs Lines who has facilitated all the timetabling and technology that has ensured that your son or daughter are not deprived in this world of Covid lockdown. Mrs Cassidy the Vice-Principal has been outstanding in ensuring that the school is fit for our students to return. This is a tumultuous wall to climb when government legislation continues to change.

So many people to thank, especially when they have families of their own to keep safe.

In the 'new norm' circumstances I would announce the Heads of School and Heads of Houses however, this will now occur in September. What is the 'old norm' is my inclusion of thanks that is presented in my Leavers' speech for Year 13 which I will email to them separately. In addition, I would like to thank all the Year 12 tutors for their continued industry and endeavour and remind you all that they will be pivotal to ensure the success of your son and daughter in the year ahead. Huge thanks to Mrs Hayes, our Sixth Form Manager who for years has worked tirelessly in the background and foreground to ensure that our Sixth Form works.

As always the sentimental elements must be put aside and the reality of the week ahead must be discussed. Our Year 12 are engaged in the most important element of their year 12 progression to date and that is the delivery of their EPQ. The timings of their appointments are attached to this Newsletter we will also be inviting them in to discuss their predicted grades and UCAS on Wednesday, 8th July. An invite will have been sent by the time that you have received this email.

Your Year 12 son or daughter will be aware of their predicted grades as they currently stand. The counter-beauty of Covid's ugliness is that there will be a three-week test in September to fuel the case file to enhance the predicted grade. The revision files on *Show My homework* will ensure that you all have the revision profile to be well prepared for September. Engagement will ensure success!

We are also inviting the Year 13 in for a pastoral meeting with their Form tutors and a time to greet their friends, tutors and a moment for me to say my final farewell in person. We are still determined to celebrate your time in style when we have our Leavers' Dinner at the Racquet Club on the 23rd October. We hope you can attend and we have reserved the downstairs area for our parents to join us for the pre-reception. Please ensure that payment is undertaken by the end of August.

We say goodbye not only to only to Year 13 but also to Mrs Nolan and Mr McAlea as both these esteemed Colleagues will be retiring. Mrs Nolan is the wonderful matriarch who has led our Boarding House and Mr McAlea has been a leader of Spanish instruction for two decades. We thank them for their wonderful service, great pastoral and academic care as well as their friendship.

In very few instances in life we can never truly be assured that when we leave a post, the person who is disembarking the role will be fulfilled by one of equal parity. I am delighted to say that the appointment of Mr Griffith as Head of Sixth Form is truly an exceptional appointment. Our young men and women are well blessed by his appointment.

I would like to thank all the families of our Sixth Form for their support over the years. You have been exceptional and I thank you and your young adults for making my time at the College a pleasure not a chore.

**That's it. Time to go!  
Liverpool College - for 18 years you have been my heart and soul.  
I will truly miss you all.**

**Stephen Brady**