
Principal's Newsletter

3 July 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils, Students, and Colleagues,

Yesterday, the government published guidance about the way it would like schools to plan for the reopening of schools for all pupils in September. You can read the guidance yourself [here](#). The DfE have also produced some information specifically for parents which you can access [here](#).

The good news is that there appears to be a real commitment to work towards having everyone back in school, every day, within the context of the constraints of measures and risk assessments which protect the health of pupils, staff and the wider community.

We have already begun to plan for a full September reopening according to the guidance. In addition, we have begun a process which should, if successful, enable us to have a full timetable of on-line learning in the event that our school is shut down again. These latter preparations can best be described as building the most robust safety net possible if it proves necessary for a year group or even multiple year groups to stay away from school.

Our basic intention is to ensure that every pupil can continue to access the same broad and challenging curriculum and that we make sure that we take every opportunity to enthuse, inspire, and expand the ambitions of our pupils as they return to school. We refer to our "regular" curriculum as LCA+. The curriculum we are following in September is called LC Xponential as it will include the elements you all recognize and are used to but also, where necessary, additional activities, material, and support to make sure we see exponential increases in engagement and learning after our time away from school. Unlike national media outlets, commentators, and even politicians, we are determined to approach the development of this temporary curriculum in a spirit of joy and optimism about the new school year.

My intention is to write to you in the week commencing 17 August to give exact details about the way our timetable will operate and the times involved. You should assume there may be minor changes to our current start and finish times. Get ready for school everyone!

You may be interested in reading about the consultation that Ofqual is currently undertaking on proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs and A levels in 2021. Please [click here](#) to access the consultation information.

The end of an academic year is also a moment of sad goodbyes. The Year 13 will visit us next week. Mrs Nolan, the intrepid head of boarding that steered our boarding programme to all outstanding judgments in the March inspection has decided to hang up the proverbial boots after 45 years of amazing service in many great schools across Merseyside. She has been a fantastic head of boarding, inspiring teacher, and of course radio personality, for many years. We wish her all the best in a well-earned retirement. Ms Eve Latham, who has been involved in boarding from its reintroduction will take over. She will re-occupy the flat in Godwyn House with her young family. This flat was the residence of the last head of boarding when we had a boarding house on our own campus. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Mr Raymund McAlea is also retiring. Mr McAlea has for twenty years been a titan of teaching in the school. Every inspector who visits us always comments to me on his exceptionally effective and energetic teaching. His recognizable utterances will no longer be heard down the corridor, but we can only hope that his commitment to the highest standards remains a lodestar for the faculty and for all of us.

Mrs Lewis, a star of the Pre Prep for many decades is also retiring. She is remarkable for her energy, passion for gardening, and natural child whispering skills. I have often been delighted to visit a class where she is working with children either inside or outside.

Our only sadness is that Covid-19 prevents us giving these people the send-off they so richly deserve. I wanted to let you know so you can email or express your gratitude just as I have.

A wonderful act of tender kindness by the children in the primary hub reflected in the picture below as they made a beautiful thank you card for our wonderful catering staff who have kept us fed, watered and in good spirits throughout lockdown.



We have a heroine in our midst. Ms McCartney alerted me to the flood of positive comments about the actions of Isabella L (Y11 Brook's) in aiding the victim of an assault in Sefton Park. Bella, trained by our CCF in the latest first aid skills, assisted the victim of the

assault until ambulance and police arrived. Her attitude, politeness, competence, and sympathy have been praised in more than 1400 comments online and in a [newspaper article](#). Bella has appeared on the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment's homepage, she has been nominated for a cadet award, and I have expressed on your behalf our admiration to her. Bella is keen on a career in our armed services and she has certainly proved that she has the right stuff.

Bella is somewhat bemused at all the attention. Her own theory for the overwhelming praise she has received is that people have a very negative stereotype of teenagers as lockdown-busting rave-attending never do wells. Bella showed all of Liverpool that young people are much better than that.

A reminder from the school shop. 39 people have booked an appointment under the new Covid-19 measures to be fitted out for new uniforms. I urge you to make such an appointment or place a web order as there is some concern that it will get very busy later in the summer. You can also read our supplier's guide [here](#) about how this process will work.

My thanks to all those who have bought the [book I wrote](#) during lockdown and those who are tuning in to the Imagination in Education podcast available on Spotify, Google Podcast and www.lcpress.org.uk. The current episode is a conversation with Lord Adonis about his own education as a child in the care of the local authority, and his own work as schools minister. Every Tuesday throughout the summer we will publish a new podcast. Next Tuesday, we publish our podcast with our own Mrs Gill Ridley, educational innovator and superstar, who helps me understand how we can make our homes places of learning. I hope you get a listen.

We also have a sixth form team of film makers at work on a film so that prospective students and pupils can look around our campus now that traditional open days are a thing of the past. They have ambitious plans to use their peers, drones, and various interviews to make sure everyone can still catch a glimpse of what life at school here is like.

This week we had Year 11 on campus for some individual meetings as well as Reception, Year 1, Year 5, Year 6, Year 12 and Year 10 and our hub pupils. Next week we hope to bring in Year 12 to finish their EPQs and work on their UCAS applications and have some meetings with our Year 13. Mrs Pease has invited our Year 2 pupils in next week (in class bubbles) for a one-hour forest school session with their new class teachers. This is part of our transition work to support their move to the Prep School next year. Next year's Year 7 pupils and parents meanwhile will be meeting their house mentors and heads of house, via video conferencing, for their transition meetings.

Building works continue apace. The Prep School expansion has a roof and it is possible to peer into the classroom spaces and imagine the space we will ultimately get from this building. Our boarding house is also coming along apace and will provide excellent accommodation in a beautiful Victorian mansion.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal