
Principal's Newsletter

26 June 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils, Students, and Colleagues,

This is the morning after the night before. Half the city is in a state of euphoric recovery after the emotional release from a 30 year exile. The other half are rather sombrely walking their dogs in silence.

I believe this is what is referred to as a scorcher. The builders building our new Prep School classrooms are complaining of total physical exhaustion and dehydration. The premier league is taking water breaks. Our primary pupils get ice lollies after their morning jog.

We are now facing the final two weeks of term. I have had to write apologetic emails to parents who want their children back into school, however briefly. It is so frustrating for your child and it is also so frustrating for us that we are ourselves beginning to bang our proverbial heads against the wall. I know we have set out the complicated matrix of safety concerns, government guidance, staffing, facilities, cleaning and capacity which means we are restricted in what we can do, despite the pictures of everyone on the beach in Bournemouth sitting in each other's laps.

I am certain that a history of this time, when written by a future generation, will focus at length on how we can pass zoning laws for car parks to become pubs in a matter of days, but must limit secondary attendance on our 28 -acre campus to 25% of two cohorts. We had hoped to bring Year 7-9 on campus for an hour or so, but, in following all guidance and risk assessments, have concluded that this meeting should take place on-line. Your child will be invited to this meeting by their house mentor. All Year 11 pupils are being invited into school next Wednesday to meet with their House Mentors in small group sessions to help them with any well-being concerns and to assist with their planning for next year. Mr Griffith will email details to all pupils and parents. We will see if we can bring Year 13 on campus briefly in the last week of school.

I do have some good news amid the gloom and frustration. Even this period has not been without its seasons of fruitfulness. Today we are launching [LC Press](#), the publishing platform of the College. We hope to publish all sorts of discussion and reflection, art and music from teachers, pupils, parents, and colleagues about education on this site through a blog, a publication platform and a podcast.

Through the site, we are also launching our podcast Imagination in Education which consists of interviews and discussions with people from all sorts of backgrounds about all sorts of educational topics. The first podcast in the series is a conversation with Peter Francis, the director of the Gladstone Library who discusses Gladstone and his legacy at a time that Gladstone, one of the founders of Liverpool College, is very much in the news. The podcast is already on Spotify and google podcasts, and will regularly deliver interviews and discussions which I think you may find interesting and I hope you subscribe to it. We have interviews with Mrs Ridley and Lord Adonis to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

The Press has a twitter and instagram account @lcpres_ and I hope you will follow us, retweet us, and support us so we can spread the news about the way we are trying to get the discussion about education going, not only here at our school, but as widely as possible.

As part of the launch and in response to the opportunities to reflect deeply about education and about our school occasioned by the lockdown, I have written a book which is being published simultaneously. It is a book of reflection and ruminations about education in its widest sense based on my experiences as a headteacher for 22 years and teacher for 32. I hope it will stimulate discussion and reflection about what we really want school to be for our children. It is available as an ebook or paperback at cost through [Amazon](#).

We want LC Press to publish art, music, and writing and discussion inspired by the theme of imagination in education. If you would like to contribute or be involved please contact the editors editor@lcpres.org.uk.

Mr Ridley and Ms Odita-Sani are forming a steering group of pupils to lead our campaign of anti-racism. They have been able to gather a team of committed pupils and I am hugely impressed with the way they have decided to pursue the framework of the Unicef Rights Respecting School Award. I am already hearing about very fruitful conversations within faculties and subject areas as well as among governors and staff about how we can all be involved in our pursuit of a truly inclusive and anti-racist school.

The debate society is certainly contributing even in its virtual meetings as it holds passionate debates about every aspect of this question.

I wish you and yours a happy and shaded weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal