

Principal's Newsletter

2 July 2021

Dear Parents,

Another disrupted week passes. While 40,000 fans delight in the excellent Raheem Sterling, a man much maligned two days previously and now seemingly in the pantheon of greatness, while shouting, singing, screaming, and jubilating, Mr Bishop may still not hold a choir rehearsal, we have had to cancel a play, and bubbles continue to be sent home disrupting the family and economic life for everyone affected. There is a contradiction in all this, a contradiction borne of an unwillingness to put the education of children first. Our sixth formers can watch the match in the pub, but need to go home when they are near a friend with covid. As one person said, it is almost time to move from not being allowed to go to school to not being allowed to go on holiday. Let us hope for a less covid affected week.

The local authority has asked us to share some updated information about testing for residents in 3 local wards which have the highest rates of infection in the city– please [click here](#) for more information.



The ingenuity of staff appears to have no limit. Can't have a prizegiving in the Prep, ok, let's do it in the MV Hall with pupils only, with mocktails and cake to follow, and try to give the children the best possible experience. Even in this year, Ms Brooke, our English Lead in primary, has managed to get us through the Gold Writing Quality Mark in primary. Some of the improvements in the quality of teaching and learning of writing have been the product of imagination and ingenuity. Writing assignments about visits to the Forest School, Book Art to stimulate a love of writing and learning. It is a triumph for all the primary phase.



Congratulations to our team of Year 9 girls who entered the Go4SET engineering competition and have been named the overall winners out of over 100 schools nationwide! Mrs Diamond reports that the assessors (who are engineers working for large companies such as Network Rail and GlaxoSmithKline) chose the Liverpool College team, made up of Hannah S, Amy P, Olivia C, Nia M and Ella D, as the winners because their design was incredibly innovative, detailed and thorough, with 'no stone left unturned' and because the girls demonstrated such enthusiasm, dedication and resilience throughout.

Sadly, *The Frogs*, a biting political satire from ancient Athens adapted for our age, the play our sixth formers hoped to perform this evening has had to be postponed. It is now due to be performed September 7. This will be an amazing start to the cultural life of the school year. But it must be difficult to remember your lines for 9 weeks!

Mr Hammersley, our chaplain, RS and History teacher, has been called to a church in Hertfordshire. This is a very special time of blessing for him and his wife Kate and their growing family and we wish him all the best. Mr Hammersley has involved himself in every aspect of school, founding the Maynard society, coaching rugby, setting up a service for parents during lockdown, Oxbridge preparation. I shall miss him and I know many pupils and families will join me in sending best wishes.

While term rumbles on to its ending, we held a parent information evening, an event which has received internally the acronym PIE. Almost all of the discussion was about the changes planned for 2021-2022. The evening was especially well attended and there was a lot of discussion about the plans. There are clearly logistical concerns for some families, which we will try to address. But it was also clear that the vision we are pursuing and the programmes we are building, especially the expansion, articulation and full integration of an ambitious and inclusive personal development programme into the curriculum of the College across every phase, received a lot of support from parents. You have already been emailed the proposals in some details and they can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

One aspect of our discussion was the old chestnut of parking. The parking pilot is underway. On the first day, the cones, pupil parking tickets, and posters and signs appear to have worked, although parking is obviously less of an issue when some of the classes are self-isolating. But by day two, someone was crashing into the cone with the image of a child on

it. We will continue to build on the pilot. Thank you to the PTA who have so generously supported the investment needed to set up these materials for parking.

North Mossley Hill Road was mentioned as another locus of agony for parking. The absence of university students is making the situation better temporarily but when the university is in session the students do not wish to pay for the parking on campus so they legally park on the road. Perhaps the staggered starts and finishes proposed in our plans for 2021-2022 will improve afternoon parking a little.

Our plans for next year include the introduction of some new learning in our curriculum. At one CPD session, mentors were learning to play the ukulele so they become more confident as our intention is for every Year 7 next year to play this instrument from time to time with their class. There were meetings with the Youth Sport Trust about how to embed physical activity into our school day and make sure everyone benefits from this. The maths department are introducing teaching software which is innovative and effective. Mr Cartwright is sharpening his pencil to make the activity programme even better. Mr Stamper who has provided a brilliant summer term activity experience to so many in the Prep, is thinking through how we can make each day next year even better. There has been a spate of interviewing, as we increase our staff to deal with our growth. In short, we are very busy until the very end of term, getting ready for the next one.

It is especially exciting to watch the transition video made by the irrepressible LC Video production team. The pupils themselves welcome the new Year 7 for 2021 which includes for the first time in about 36 years, boarders. Meeting these young people, about a third of whom come from the Prep and from many primary schools across the region is always a moment of pure excitement and potential. Mrs Hall, their Dean with whom they will make the journey across secondary school, explains how it will all work, and they sit in their zoom screen with a slightly anxious look on their faces. I try to tell them what a wonderful adventure they are embarking on, how many friends they will make, the amazing things they will learn and the possibilities and opportunities afforded to them. Going to school is so great, and, next year we will make it even better still!

May I wish you a dry, sunny and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal