
Principal's Newsletter

8 January 2021

Dear Parents,

It was perhaps more than accidental that the Prime Minister would speak at the same time as the Liverpool game kicked off. The 8 o'clock moment was in fact an hour disappointment in both cases. We are locked down again, and after one marvellous day of school (although the parking on Queens Drive was not marvellous), our primary staff were told to switch in less than 12 hours to another way of teaching. The College has rallied to impose some order and clarity where our government created uncertainty. Surveying what has been achieved thus far, we can be proud of the way we are all working together to keep learning going. You have been patient with us and we have appreciated your patience. There is constant improvement to the on-line provision. For example, some pupils are receiving one to one support on-line for the first time, allowing them to access the curriculum and receive the support they need.

This lockdown is not like the last. Every pupil from Year 2 upward is being taught live Teams lessons on-line. Every year group is receiving actual live instruction. This places great strain on teachers particularly those who have children at home themselves, and on broadband, wi-fi and other systems both at school and at your house. I would like any parent who has a "technology" need to let us know and we will try to support you so that your child can access learning on-line. The government has also launched a scheme to allow pupils to increase their data allowance on their digital device for free. If you would like to be considered for this scheme please get in touch with Mrs Duffy (Assistant Principal: Safeguarding & Inclusion) – kduffy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. Currently the pilot is running for pupils with devices on the following networks: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile.

Attendance is taken. The Prep School achieved an amazing 98% teams lesson attendance yesterday. As a parent, just like a regular school day, you must ensure that your child is engaging with the school's educational provision. Mrs Haynes (Vice Principal) wrote to secondary phase parents yesterday to set out the key features of our current remote learning provision for pupils in the secondary phase and our learning expectations – you can access a copy of the letter [here](#).

It is not possible for us to provide every child who wants to come in to school a place in school. There is the guidance to consider, but more generally, it would be perverse to close

schools to stop the spread of the covid virus in the community and then have the majority of our pupils back in school again doing precisely that. All of us must do our part to control the spread of the virus. School attendance should be limited only to those who are designated as needing it.

Mr Cook has asked me to confirm to parents that no Saturday sport is taking place.

A reminder from Mrs Duffy that we have collated on our website lots of **safeguarding and well-being resources**, including important e-safety advice, to support pupils and parents. Please [click here](#) to access the page. We have also been asked to highlight the support and advice available from Liverpool Local Authority's SEND Support Services – please [click here](#) to download the contact details for the support services available. The Liverpool ASD Training Team are also providing a series of virtual drop-in advisory sessions via zoom. They are for parent/carers wishing to talk in a private one to one setting about any questions or concerns they may have about their child – please [click here](#) for further information.

Congratulations to Amelia Y in Y11 who, having joined the NHS cadets at the suggestion of Mrs Drew has now been accelerated to the NHS Youth Council, an advisor group of only 10 young people.

All sorts of things are thrown into immediate relief by the decision to lockdown. Exams are one such thing. BTEC examinations were optional, all primary assessments and GCSE and A level exams have been cancelled and at the time of writing we do not know yet what the plan is for them. The key thing for pupils and teachers is to keep working and learning, particularly for those pupils in Year 11 and Year 13. It may be that further assessment done by the school will be used to form teacher assessed grades. As soon as we know what the government and Ofqual intend, we will be writing to pupils affected by the cancellation of exams.

In lockdown there is some time for podcasts and videos. Omar K and Luke P who run the LC Filming team have started a [Liverpool College YouTube channel](#) you can subscribe to – you will be able to watch chapels, assemblies and other Liverpool College productions. I am very impressed with [Gresham College](#) which offers great on-line lectures for pupils in the secondary phase. The ubiquitous Professor Chris Whitty has found time to give a lecture on vaccinations in February (you can register [here](#)).

Just before lockdown, a small group of pupils and I interviewed Dwayne Fields, the adventurer and broadcaster. His story made for a really engaging podcast which you can find [here](#).

We would also like to solicit some pupil contributions to the LC Press blog www.lcpres.org.uk . We are looking for amusing, harrowing, interesting descriptions or reflections of what it is like to learn from home. We want to publish some pupil and/or parent pieces about this experience. You can email them to submissions@lcpres.org.uk

A new teacher joined us this week. What a time to meet your students. Ms Houghton is an inspirational and very experienced Business Studies teacher who joins us from Altrincham College. I am only sorry that she has to begin her career with us in these straightened circumstances. Mr Doyle has taken over from Mr Croft as the Aspire Liverpool director. This programme inspires pupils to apply to selective universities.

A reminder that we are currently undertaking a consultation on our admissions policy for September 2022. You can access further information on the school website [here](#).

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal