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## Principal's Newsletter

9 July 2021

Dear Parents,

Somehow the own clothes day today in the secondary phase and the concomitant dishevelment of the pupils perfectly reflects the year we have all been through. We have got to the end of the year, but do not ask how. I want to thank you for all your support, whether responding to a request to self-isolate, or supporting your child in home learning. This plague which has struck more than 16 months ago, just keeps on going, even today, a half day, there are anxious phone calls from families about self-isolation rules. We are all hopeful that the school year 2021-2022 will not be disrupted in the manner this one has.

I enjoyed the Year 7 School of Rock performances. One of the great sorrows of this time is the lack of a choir, orchestra, or plays. But in their respective class bubbles, Ms Clark and Mr Bishop had given the Year 7 the confidence to have a go, in front of their peers. Somehow, seeing them perform gave hope for the future.

I attended the last session of Forest School for a Year 6 group. Last for now, because we are going to do everything in our power to make sure that pupils who benefit from Ms Shackell's guidance and outdoor learning, can find ways to continue to attend. Seeing the class huddled around the fire pit, among the trees and under the canopy, I was reminded of how much is still happening and being accomplished, and how important school is not only for pupils but also for us as educators.

Mr Briggs has been guerrilla gardening with his class. They pop up all over campus and garden, including I am happy to say, in front of my office. The sunflower which started as a seed in the depths of winter is now several feet tall.



I have been meeting the new Year 7s on zoom. They in turn have met their mentors and Mrs Hall. We are getting ready an amazing programme of learning for them and the launch of this pilot is one of the challenges we have set ourselves. Another was reflected in yesterday's "moving day" when estates teams and maths and English faculty members using a tractor with trailer began the process of moving across the bridge and occupying new faculty territory. It is remarkable to see how much stuff a faculty carries with it!

Congratulations to Ms Jones. After last week's news that our primary phase had been recognized with the writing gold mark, this week brings further triumph. Our primary phase has been awarded the gold mark for foreign language teaching, a fitting tribute to Ms Jones and all the work that goes into our Spanish programme in primary.

Congratulations also to Mr Lavelle, our network manager, who has become a father for the second time.

A message from Miss Whittell and the Eco-Committee:

*The Eco-Committee would like to thank parents, staff and pupils for their enthusiastic efforts and generosity which made our first ever Ten Tonne Challenge such a success. With your help, we were able to collect 886kg of textiles, which will be reused and recycled, and we raised a fantastic sum of £265, which will be donated to the Woodland Trust charity and will go towards an educational trip to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre next academic year. Thank you once again for all of your support this year and we wish you all a happy, restful and green summer - we hope you are able to take some time out to enjoy nature and our beautiful environment. Please follow us @livcolleco for ideas and inspiration for summer activities!*

Instagram apps, models of ships, Anne Boleyn the feminist, avant garde music and Amazonian women are just some of the 110 Extended Project Qualifications that have been submitted and presented this week by our Year 12 students. Mr Griffith reports that it has been a hugely enjoyable process listening to the articulated passion that our students demonstrate for their topic and there is no better work to bridge the gap between school teaching and the University experience.

At this time of year, we say goodbye to staff. Last week I wrote about Mr Hammersley. This week I want to thank Ms Laura McGee, science teacher, who is moving on to a school on the Wirral. She has done an amazing job, especially in light of the fact that she had a baby in the middle of this extraordinary year. We wish her all the best.

Planning for next year throws up some amazing facts. If you are going into Year 11 next year, you have never had a choice of CCF section. All of these programmes need to start again, and, when I write to you again, they hopefully will have done.

May I wish you a safe, and sunny summer

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman  
Principal**