
Principal's Newsletter

12 February 2021

Dear Parents,

An important reminder: Monday February 22 will be an INSET day. There will be no on-site provision that day and no on-line lessons.

A big well done to us all. A mutual, albeit virtual, pat on the back. Applause for everyone, such as the one zoom allows us to invoke on our virtual reactions buttons. We all did a great job this half-term. Parents have supported teachers, and vice versa. Pupils have shown amazing patience and commitment. It really is inspiring stuff.

Our parent survey helped us to think about our provision. After half term we will respond to some of the practical suggestions which emerged from the survey. We read in the press and see from the smoke signals emanating from Whitehall that March 8 does increasingly look like a date when something will change. We have all been promised two weeks- notice and no more. In this instance this should preserve our half-term as a period of creative ambiguity. We have our plans in place. We will respond as soon as this date is confirmed, or postponed.

My visits to Pre Prep and Prep allow me to follow the curricular themes of the week. Earlier, the focus was on Chinese New Year. Pupils asked me what my year was, and it emerged that I was entirely too old to be mentioned in the various charts indicating my destiny. I am also regularly criticized or praised for being a cowboy, having a horse, and wearing the same jumper more than one day.

Later in the week, I was introduced to our reading dog Elsie. It really is uncanny to see this bright Labrador respond to the written rather than the spoken word without any Pavlovian prompts. Then it was a glimpse online of the amazing workshops which the irrepressible Ms Doran continues to organize. Greeks, romans, art, films, gladiators, it is all happening in the Teams rooms. You can read about some of them [here](#) on our website.

Progress also on our work to become a Unicef Rights Respecting School. You can read about it [here](#). This College-wide framework will involve staff and pupils from Reception through sixth form. It challenges us to become more inclusive, more aware, and more active as global and local citizens. I was amazed to read the testimony of schools who have

followed the framework. It turns out that researchers have discovered all sorts of beneficial effects including positive developments in behaviour, reductions in bullying, more pupil voice and activism. We are looking forward to seeing where the framework takes us.

More activity supporting pupils and students to imagine an exciting future in the world of work. Ms Drew reports:

On Monday, Year 12 attended an online apprenticeship talk I arranged given by Ernst and Young. Their school leavers and graduate programmes give students the opportunity to work for one of the biggest companies in the world. We were introduced to the EY Business Academy which involves a week's paid work experience in the summer. Through this programme, students, if successful, have the opportunity to progress onto an apprenticeship/employment with the company. We already have 2 students applying for this amazing opportunity.

We have now successfully placed our first 3 students on virtual work experience with InvestIn which will be taking place after half term. They will be completing work experience in fashion, medicine and art. We have another 3 students waiting in the wings for their placements to take place in the summer term too.

We were very lucky that our IT team ploughed ahead with physical upgrades this past summer. Our bandwidth has doubled. I forget the exact number of trig bytes, or whatever the measurement of data flow is now called, but this was a crucial upgrade. Also nearing completion is the Prep School window project. This too was timely as the Beast from the East roared in with low temperatures. The Prep School is much warmer now that the original steel windows have been replaced.

The Year 9 parents' evening was a success. This was a case where virtual technology led to efficiency and the possibility of some effective feedback. We can now explore if this is a method we can use in various ways in the future while the pandemic is still with us.

Golf has a long tradition at the College and the annual match against the Old Lerpoolians, the OLs is a freebie for the ages. We are seeking any Y11 and sixth formers that play golf to play in future school competitions. Please email the Director of Sport for further information: jcook@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The Lerpoolians are an organisation of friends of the College. They are essentially our extended community and continuous community. They have developed a website which combines news and ways to keep in touch both with the College and with the community of people surrounding it. They are keen to invite current parents to sign up. You can do so [here](#).

We are all struggling to cope with the restrictions imposed by lockdowns and the curtailment of contacts with friends. Mrs Duffy rates [these resources](#) which help parents talk to children about health, mental health and mental ill health.

The volunteer army is growing and getting ready. Somehow their efforts in becoming testers is a sign that we are moving toward having school again. Let us hope we will soon welcome them on campus to get ourselves ready for pupils and the reopening of school.

We have been asked to circulate a letter from Mr Ashton, Liverpool's Director of Public Health regarding accessing testing for 'additional' covid symptoms – please [click here](#) to read the letter.

I wish you and yours a sunny, peaceful and restful half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal