

Principal's Newsletter

16 April 2021

Dear Parents,

This is much more like it. The sun is shining, and we are allowed in some limited way to play sport. Cricket even. Fixtures are even being planned. Much, much more like a regular start to summer term.

Ms Ware's class has provided a marvellous written pictorial report of their excursions in the sunshine:



Reception 2 had a lovely day in the sunshine on Thursday. In the morning we walked along to Sefton Meadows and sprinkled wildflower seeds to help create a wildflower meadow. It should be flowering in July and we can't wait to see it! There was even a three-piece band playing for us while we worked!



In the afternoon we had a lovely time in Forest School. We showed Miss Ware just how brave and adventurous we are, climbing along huge trees and exploring every part of the forest!



Prep School pupils also enjoyed getting involved with the wildflower planting that had been organised by our local councillors in partnership with Scouse Flowerhouse.



Despite these glimpses of outdoor freedom, mask wearing is continuing for the moment and so is secondary pupil covid testing. May I remind everyone who wisely undertakes such a test to report the result: positive, negative or void to the school via an online form [here](#). You are also asked to make a report of the result to [NHS Test and Trace](#). A reminder to park safely, and wear a mask when collecting your child from school or coming onto the school campus. In this way, together, we can keep cases declining and to an absolute minimum.

Today marks the opening of the Halliday Jones Virtual Art Gallery. The gallery is named after Edward Halliday, Garston native, OL, broadcaster but especially portrait painter, eventually a member of the Royal Academy. Trained at art schools in Rome and Paris, some of Halliday's portraits are still hanging on the walls of the College. Halliday's cartoons as a pupil give ample evidence of his artistic talent, good humour, and interest in the life of the College.

You can see his efforts to capture the rugby team in cartoon style and his self-portrait in the reception area. Halliday died in 1984. Stephen Jones, OL, is arguably the most famous milliner in the world. He is certainly one of the few milliners who can boast that he has been the subject of a V&A exhibition. Stephen Jones wrote us some encouraging words:

It is a huge honour that the Halliday-Jones Art Gallery at Alma Mater Liverpool College, is named after me. My time in the art class at the college was life defining, although I knew prowess on the rugby field was more important than expertise with a paintbrush.

I was particularly inspired by my classmates, who taught me to be unafraid of self-expression and provided a healthy dose of happy competition.

Without the magic that our art room afforded me, I could not have achieved what I have done today.

Stephen Jones OBE, RDI

The gallery will host exhibitions on a rolling basis which will include works from pupils across the College. The current exhibition is entitled Isolation Monochromes and is a collection of works created by Year 10 pupils from the lockdown periods of 2020 and 2021 (with music by Charles L, Jake G and Adam K in Year 8) – you can view the exhibition [here](#). This is all very genuinely exciting and I must thank Ms Hardisty for driving the initiative with such vigour and vision. I hope to visit the gallery on a regular basis. Eventually, the gallery will also host fundraisers for charitable causes chosen by pupils.

In the new term, the Liverpool College Foundation has informed us of the name they have chosen for the Prep School additional building. This structure was funded entirely through the generosity of an anonymous consortium of donors and the support of the Liverpool College Foundation. The building shall be referred to henceforth as the Noel Chavasse VC Pool House. Chavasse, the doctor who died selflessly saving the lives of soldiers wounded at Passchendaele thus becoming a double VC and the most sculpted war hero in the country, attended the College, ran in an Olympics, and ran a youth club in Liverpool. As is to be expected from our Foundation, a rather brilliant name alluding to the location of the new building on the edge of what many OLs will remember was the swimming pool where young men were compelled to brave rather cold water in pursuit of becoming an aquanaut. The pool is long gone, but this playful and clever name will keep its memory alive.

Congratulations to Yazmin H (Y13 Brook's) who has become a published academic. The geographical academic journal Routes has accepted and published her work which can be read [here](#).

Congratulations also to Ms Drew who has, through a clever and diligent application, procured a place for one of our pupils on The Accelerator course of the Skills Builder Partnership. This course focuses on the essential skills needed for the world of work.

It is perhaps surprising that such a programme is necessary as many people would assume that schools already teach these essential skills, but this is not so. Employers regularly tell anyone who will listen that they are looking for skills that many school leavers and university graduates do not have. Many of these are related, to use a Liverpool College motto, to the character not the intellect. Some of these matters are further discussed in Intent 2022 which you can read about and which you can order [here](#).

Next Tuesday (20 April) we will hold a virtual Parent Information Evening at 5.30pm. We will share with you some "learnings" from Covid, plans for our future, and especially hope to have input from parents on ideas which stem from the Intent 2022 document. These meetings are invaluable to me as we chart the future out of Covid school. All parents are cordially invited to attend – please email sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you have not done so already to request an invitation to the meeting.

There is a new trend in Liverpool. Hired electric scooters are everywhere, and it will not be long before they turn up in other continents. The law about these little platforms of deadly velocity is that one should have at least a provisional driving licence to operate one and they may only be operated on the road. To be clear, they are not allowed on campus at any time.

More sunshine, more participation in all sorts of sport this Saturday. Summer Term really is a new beginning. Mr Cook has asked me to remind parents that he updates the calendar on the school website every Friday with all the details of the following week's training sessions and sports events.

May I wish you and yours a sunny, warm, and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal