

## Principal's Newsletter

20 November 2020

Dear Parents,

Our week has been, like so many, punctuated by the demands of the coronavirus. We had more pupils tested in our school by the army engineers than in any Liverpool school. No tests were positive. However one pupil who didn't have a test in school had been tested the day before elsewhere. That result was positive. There is something in this strange circumstance that sums up the arbitrary effects and uncontrollable dimensions of the way schools have to deal with the virus.

I taught or tried to teach a Teams lesson yesterday with a Y7 RS class. This was my first foray into this kind of teaching. I am now even more amazed that Year 2 have had Teams lessons. The whole situation is at once inspirational, full of pathos and bathos, and also quite frustrating. But we muddle on, strive forward, keep going, whatever metaphor you wish to use.

Mr Garden and the crew of Pre Prep 1Q parents who cleaned our paths and made Queens Drive and Ibbotsons Lane look good again were not merely muddling on. Their clean up has had fantastic results. I attach these photographs of their work.



My brief visit to the Pre Prep coincided with one of those moments which French education ministers are said to love. In both Year 1 classes, the pupils were busy building houses and learning about them. Their enthusiasm for this activity made me think that we could build a house right there on the spot. They then vigorously cleaned their classrooms, a habit which certainly fades by the time we get to Year 7 cleaning their tables at the end of lunch.

The boarders engage in an amazing variety of activities during the lockdown. There are the house quizzes which go round after round. One stumbles across them having finished a game of handball in their bubble. On one weekday, they enjoy a book club, something which inspires and delights me. They take pictures of their odd socks to support the first day of [Anti-Bullying Week](#). They take walks on the weekend, before returning to the hard work needed for their A level workload.

Mr Stamper's Prep and Pre Prep art show is an amazing visual experience which can be found at [www.lchouseart.com/](http://www.lchouseart.com/) You will need a password which you can get from [pstamper@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:pstamper@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). I am not a Minecraft builder, but this conversion of our school into an art gallery where some amazing works are on display took Mr Stamper a few weeks to build and the result shows it. Art, music, creativity, innovation are the recipes to keep going and it is very heart warming and uplifting to see these works of art digitally displayed.

A letter of praise from the trustees of the Wilton Trust and Liverpool College Foundation. They, like all of us, are quite in awe of all the activities and opportunities which Mrs Doran continues to find and provide for pupils, such as the [Year 6 videography history day](#). Their funding makes these activities and opportunities possible.

Mrs Doran is also involved in our careers masterclass series. Pupils across the secondary phase have enjoyed some inspiring talks this week: from the [importance of leadership](#) to hearing from [women in leadership roles](#) to [careers in law](#).

Ms Drew, our Assistant Careers Leader, has been busy securing some fantastic new partnerships with external organisations to support and enhance our Careers programme. You can read the latest news about this on our website [here](#).

Ms Drew also prepares our secondary phase NSI (PSHE) programme and reports on this week's lessons:

*This week has been Anti Bullying Week 2020 with the theme of Unite Against Bullying. Through the Anti Bullying Alliance, all Year 7 and 8 pupils have had lessons based on identifying bullying and how we can tackle it in school. All pupils will be making their pledge to unite against bullying on a jigsaw piece that will be displayed in school. We also have information on the screens around school and the Anti Bullying song is the music of our bell. As a result of our work, we have been given a supporter's certificate to display in school from the Anti Bullying Alliance.*

Our Chapels are now televised affairs. Omar K, Luke P and friends turn up with lights, camera, action. Mr Hammersley, while by no means a televangelist, has certainly become a star of the screen. One class is able to experience being in the Chapel. It has never looked or smelled so clean. Mr Bishop plays hymns, but we are not allowed to sing. I am partially writing these things so the strangeness of it all can be recorded for posterity. I am not sure I will remember all the details of this time in school.

We have had a tough week with social media in school. I have had many occasions this week to curse the malice, bile, and nonsense which circulates freely among children, causing endless tension and fomenting misunderstanding and self-righteous bursts from parents and pupils alike. I would like to hear views from parents on our phone policy in school. In the past we have been able to discuss such topics at parent information evenings, but these are difficult to hold on site at the moment. I plan instead to have a virtual parent information meeting before the end of term so parents can feedback on particular topics and raise any questions or concerns they may have and we can update you on current and future plans. Further details in next week's newsletter.

No Saturday sport during lockdown. We have moved some of the sessions and practices to weekday slots.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant and restful weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**