
Principal's Newsletter

21 May 2021

Dear Parents,

The sunshine of our brief farewell to the Year 11 seems more than a few days ago. Seeing them gathered together in the dining room, their shirts signed by friends and teachers, made me realize how much of the school experience we have all missed. This group has endured a very disrupted GCSE programme. Their social lives, like all of ours, have been disrupted, and their school experience has been also. They have acquitted themselves marvellously in the circumstances. It's always a delight to see the way some of the more boisterous and sanctioned Year 7s have turned into excellent company. It seems the lot of the educator that just as pupils are able to offer conversation, delightful insights, humorous anecdotes, and wistful nostalgia, they move on to the next marvellous thing in their lives, away from Year 11. Thank you also to the Year 11 parents who have helped their children throughout and who have often sent us messages of support and appreciation for the fight to keep the education of children moving forward.

Congratulations to Mercedes K B and Jan M who have been chosen as the head girl and head boy for the 2021-2022 school year. They are both excellent scholars and have contributed to our school's excellence outside the classroom. The head boy and head girl are chosen by their peers and by the staff. In the coming weeks, we will also be announcing the appointments of the respective heads of houses and other prefects for leadership positions. If the covid crisis continues to abate, there will be more need and more opportunity for our Year 13 leaders to take an active role in the school.

Last weekend, the 1st XV played against St Edwards. It was according to the account of Captain Seb C an epic struggle played in great spirit, and we won by a narrow margin. You can read about it [here](#). It is remarkable to observe how much positive energy flows from a team experience like this. The "normality" of playing fixtures had long ago disappeared. How grateful we are that the chance to play has returned.

We have been patiently waiting for the pandemic to disappear, hoping against hope, that we would be able to give out the prizes that were due to be awarded at Speech Night last

year in some public way. But rather like the situation in the NHS, the backlog was so long and threatened to encapsulate two years' worth of prizes that we will begin to distribute these directly to the prize winners. As I signed these certificates and read the names of the pupils many of whom are now in their second year of university, I even missed Speech Night and began to actively dream of its return. Ms Pease in her usual innovative way intends to hold a version of prizegiving this year for her Prep. The rest of us will have to wait until the Lent term of 2022.

What has not changed are the number of applications and then appeals for places to our school. We have been informed that more than 1700 young people expressed some sort of preference for Liverpool College's 91 available Y7 places. More than 100 have appealed. This is not a cause of celebration but rather of profound regret. Many more people would like a place at the College than places available.

Mr Hammersley is expanding his day boarding pilot. After half term this merry band of Year 9s who study, play and eat at the College can be joined by any Year 7 or 8 who wishes to join the programme. Further information about the programme will be emailed to Year 7 and 8 parents or you can contact Mr Hammersley on dayboarding@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

Highlights in classrooms this week included my visit to Ms Whittaker's class where Olivia dared to raise her hand and ask what the purpose was of studying history as the future was much more important. The discussion which ensued, although it can only be described as very tangentially related to the planned and intended World Numeracy Day activities, was the sort of thing which grips my imagination. One pupil pointed out that without their study of the history of the football clubs, they could never have understood the thorough vileness of the super league proposals. Others seemed to repeat the well-known saying that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. This was great stuff.

Then I was introduced to the potato dinosaur built by Theo in Year 1. His class had all made the most amazing origami bookmarks. The members of the class were in a state of extreme agitation to show me their artistic creations. Theo's potato dinosaur which had been painted green stood some distance away in relative tranquillity near Ms Freeman's desk. I wanted to stay.

But I could not. This is the time of year when we plan the next and begin to discuss the projects which we need to undertake to keep the College moving forward whether it is our maintenance team scheming over their summer builds and refurbishments or our leadership gathering to make plans for development. It is also the season we appoint some new staff which excites pupils and colleagues involved in the interview and selection processes. Pupils' observation of candidates for jobs are always amazingly sagacious and penetrating. I often doubt I would ever have been appointed Principal of the College if the pupils had been involved!

It has been another great week.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal