
Principal's Newsletter

23 April 2021

Dear Parents,

Congratulations Harrison D (Y10 Selwyn's). Harrison's essay titled "Modern day solutions for modern problems: what is the next challenge for humanity to overcome?" has been selected as joint winner of the University of Liverpool's science essay competition. We will certainly link to the publication of this essay. Harrison's essay is written in that clear style which is the result of careful research. He outlines in some detail the challenge of weaning the world off of fossil fuels. A subject which is entirely topical and entirely urgent.

Across the secondary phase, staff are huddled late into the afternoon with piles of GCSE papers in front of them. The government has performed an amazing sleight of hand, asking teachers to write the papers, mark the papers, moderate the papers and give the grade, all while still teaching their lessons and students. This is a herculean task and our staff, with typical devotion and integrity, are determined to do this to the best of their ability.

Ms Brooke (English Co-ordinator) has sent me some examples of Book Art, a programme which has been introduced into our primary phase. As a bibliophile, this activity seems to me about the best way that one can possibly spend time at school. Creatively making a book, telling a story.

Congratulations and thank you Amani A (Y9 Howson's), TV superstar. Amani is a campaigner, activist, and teacher about the issue of air pollution in Liverpool. She was filmed on the roads around the school yesterday by the BBC and her interview should be airing on the news today.

Ms Hardisty's virtual art gallery continues to invite and amaze. Several of our Key Stage 3 artists were selected for the Liverpool Heartbeat competition and you can view a selection of the entries at the Halliday Jones online art gallery [here](#).

Ms Hardisty has also informed me that our Year 9 pupils have been selected for the Liverpool DOT.ART exhibition. You can view and vote for them [here](#).

Our parent information evening was the best attended since 2009. One parent suggested that the format of Teams was much more conducive to parents being able to attend and participate. We discussed the lessons we feel we have learned from Covid and the outlines of our vision for the development of the school as set out in Intent 2022 in the post-covid

educational landscape. There were some excellent questions about topics as varied as Year 7 lunch and A level subject choice. We should certainly consider continuing these gatherings in this format. Something positive from Covid.

There was substantial excitement and thumbs up for our plans to work with the city to address parking on Queens Drive. Later this term, we will send you our plan which aims to prevent people parking dangerously and illegally on the side of Queens Drive opposite the school, and on zig zags. This integrated approach will involve staff, pupils, parents and some materials which will make clear that our pupils deserve to be safe and should not be endangered because parents refuse to park legally. As our parent code of conduct mentions, it is imperative that parents switch off their engines while waiting for their children to emerge from school. Perhaps we can involve our air pollution expert Amani in addressing this issue.

There was also a reminder at the meeting that the PTA will be running their nearly new uniform sale at the end of term – further details will be published in this newsletter nearer the time.

Yesterday the entire school had an extended assembly on Stephen Lawrence Day. Pupils in Years 7-10 have also been learning about his story and the impact of his murder, as well as discussing institutional racism and the recent Sewell report, in their NSI lessons. Not only is it important for all of us to remember this tragedy, a direct result of racism, and the subsequent police failings, we also see in the conduct of the family of Stephen Lawrence and the family of George Floyd the amazing dignity and strength of the human person. This is truly inspirational. The family of the victims of these crimes display a supernatural ability to search for justice, to persist in the righting of wrongs, to believe rather than to despair, and are able to do so without falling into bitterness. Strong stuff.

Mr McBride has shared with me how a pupil in the secondary phase can access almost all the maths we do through OneNote, a teaching platform. Although tending towards the luddite, his short demonstration was a revelation. It occurred to me that there is absolutely no excuse for a pupil not to engage in the learning proposed. It also revealed to me the amazing work that all our subject and strand leaders undertake to develop and review our curriculum.

The energetic Mr Cook has once again organized a weekend of sport for many pupils. The weather certainly invites us outside.

May I wish you and yours a sunny and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal