
Principal's Newsletter

26 February 2021

Dear Parents,

The sun is shining, an indication of the impending end of our semi-hibernation behind computer screens in winter.

We are naturally all excited that it will soon be possible to teach every year group face to face again. But this excitement is tempered by a few factors. The first is a need to make clear to you and to your child exactly what will happen to start school again and any changes they may experience in routines and rules since the last time school operated fully on campus.

I heard a man on the radio explain that he had solved happiness, or rather that he had been able to express it mathematically (he was a gifted Egyptian hedge fund brainiac). He claimed that happiness is that state which occurs when your experience is more than or equal to your expectations of your experience. I thought this was rather lamely argued myself, but it does hold a lesson about setting the right expectation, or rather a lesson about embracing reality rather than pollyannaish figmentation. Yes, we are going back to school. Yes, it is great. But we must continue to expect that the protocols of track and trace will lead to some interruption for some students. Therefore, it is possible that on-line learning will continue at some points for some pupils. Parents must not send children with symptoms to school. Bubbles will most likely have to be sent home from time to time as confirmed cases will inevitably be confirmed. We do need everyone in the secondary phase to agree to getting tested. Higher rates of consent for testing, administered on campus by our staff and a group of trained volunteers, and eventually with test kits at home, will mean everyone is safer. It is folly to think that our school has been unaffected by Covid or that this is some kind of flu-like hoax. Staff have been seriously ill, including on oxygen at a hospital, unlike any flu season ever experienced at this school. Parents of children in our school have died from the disease or its after-effects. We all need to take this entire situation extremely seriously, even while our hopes and expectations are raised by the success of the vaccine rollout and the subtle psychological effect of sunshine. We do need everyone to work with us to meet all ingredients of our risk assessment, including wearing masks when dropping children off at school and picking them up, and wearing masks on campus as directed by the risk assessment. This is a test of solidarity, not a test of misguided individualism. This is no time to be complacent. Mrs Cassidy has written to all secondary phase parents to set out the testing arrangements and how school will restart for secondary pupils. All pupils in the

primary phase will return on 8 March and Mrs Gannon and Mrs Pease will be writing to parents with further details. Next week you will also receive a copy of the school's risk assessment and details about everything from mask wearing in the secondary phase, to protocols in classrooms, to the way bubbles will continue to operate.

Nothing is ever simple when Gavin Williamson is involved. His department has at a very late date finalized arrangements for the grading of qualifications. Most of this is in line with previous communications from Ms Haynes but we will continue to work with pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 to set out the way forward.

It may seem a strange time to launch a broad consultation of the future development of Liverpool College, but that is what is happening this week. The pandemic and its disruption is also an opportunity to take stock. Liverpool College is not an institution which sits on the laurels of 9 Ofsted outstanding judgments. We are determined to reflect, to assess, to discuss, to think, to plan, and to constantly challenge ourselves on whether we are doing everything we can to live out the mission of this school. The form this process of discussion and reflection will take is called Intent 2022. It is a long-range view. You can read a little bit more about it [here](#). If you would like a copy of the document which our 193 employees, 89 foundation members, and 17 governors are reading, please email intent2022@liverpoolcollege.org.uk stating your name and address and we will post one to you. In this process, there will be multiple opportunities for parents and pupils to respond to the challenge of building an even better school with an even healthier culture. We will do so at parent information evenings on-line and in person over the next 16 months.

I received the following suggestion from Mr Bishop

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-56205697>

I was moved by his and other musicians' desperation to play together again. The world will not be normal until our orchestra rehearses without tents!

Mr Bishop also announces a special event for your delectation and enjoyment. We will be premiering a video at 5.00pm tomorrow (Saturday 27 February) highlighting Upper School (GCSE) music at the College via the following link: https://youtu.be/gxC8_A1xd-Q

Please note this is a premiere and will only be available at 5.00pm on Saturday. The video will not be available after this time.

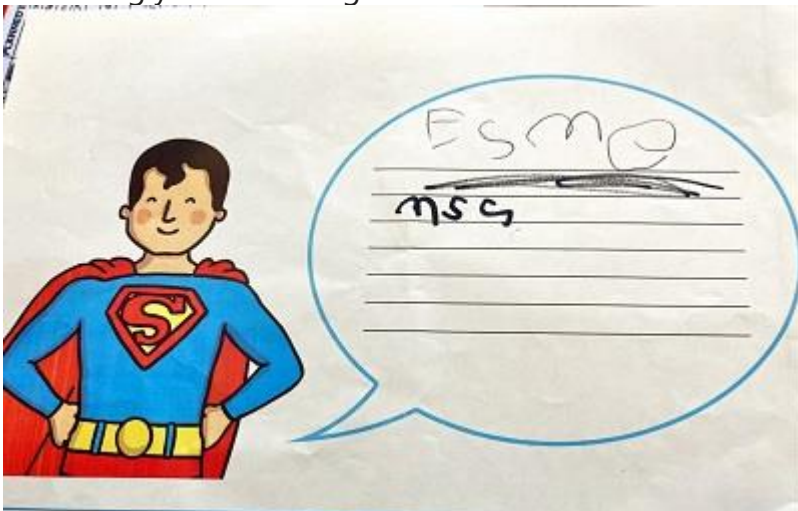
Congratulations to Omar K (Y9 Howard's). With our current Mayor standing down after being arrested, I have often thought that we should ask him to take over running the city. He is making a start as he writes:

In June last year, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham set up a Youth Advisory Group to capture young people's voices across the city region. I signed up to the group following a webinar Q+A with the Metro Mayor, which was sent to me by Mrs Doran through the Wilton Scholars programme. Since then, I have kept in touch with the Combined Authority via emails and am one of three young people across the city region (and the only one from LC) that volunteered to help the CA communicate with the rest of the group. Thursday's meeting was an amazing opportunity where the three of us from the LCR Youth group met with other youth representatives from the Sheffield City Region, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. Each group gave a presentation on their work and then shared ideas and data about their groups. From here we're looking at how we can shape a national youth advisory group as well as create a 'Young Combined Authority' here in the Liverpool City Region! This has been a really amazing opportunity and I'm excited to see where it will lead!

Congratulations to all the pupils in the Prep School and Middle School who took part in the creative creatures design competition organised by George Lucas' special effects company, Industrial Light and Magic. The finalists and winners have just been announced and you can read about our pupils' successes and also see some of their award-winning designs on our website [here](#).

Our school website news feed is bursting with reports about all the amazing events and workshops that our pupils have been enjoying over the last couple of weeks: [click here](#) to access the news page.

I am pleased to say that my status in Reception exceeds my expectations, causing me happiness as the hedge fund manager would say. I enclose Esme's gift to me, with her increasingly confident signature.



I am not sure if the man or woman in the drawing is me, but I would like to think so! My promise to Year 1, who think I am a cowboy, to bring my horse as well as my cowboy boots is causing me some worries. Does anyone have a pony I can borrow?

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal