
Principal's Newsletter

30 April 2021

Dear Parents,

I am no horticulturist but my natural inclination toward competition has me excited about the sunflower growing challenge in Pre Prep. Mr Briggs allowed me to choose from the last two seedlings and sent me on my way suggesting a diet of sun and forbidding artificial fertilisers. In a short time, it will become necessary for me to find the sun dappled location on campus where "my plant" can grow into a winner.



All the Prep and Pre Prep can take a bow. They raised an amazing £10000.00, I repeat £10K, for North West Cancer Research with their charity run. At first, I thought reports of this achievement were typos, but it has since been confirmed to me by the charity itself. Well done to all the teachers, pupils, staff, mums and dads who have combined to make this happen.

Speaking of winning, there are few more clear indications of the slow thawing of lockdown than the return of rugby fixtures in summer climes. Our friends at St Edwards kindly

organized fixtures for our Year 9 and Year 10. We won both and the entire exercise of competing in a sports fixture again has, according to Mr Scott, raised the spirits of many boys. Jacob W (Y9) was singled out as a star player but much credit must also go to Mr Smith, a new rugby coach, who has done so much with Mr Cook and all our coaches to convert our Y9 locked down team into a competitive and disciplined unit.

I am always tempted when leaving work around 6pm to stop by the dining room. Chef Darren cooks for boarders and day boarders and the reviews of his food are worthy of TripAdvisor 5 stars. It is here that I bump into the pilot day boarding group from Year 9. The group is in high spirits. The programme allows them to play games, visit Sefton Park, study and revise, and hang out together. Its popularity is growing. Next year, this programme will be rolled out to other year groups. If you would like your Year 9 child to get a flavour of day boarding you can email its coordinator Mr Hammersley (phammersley@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

Last Sunday I bicycled past our pupils hiking through the wilds of South Liverpool on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. This strange sight was due to the continued restrictions placed on camping, However, the candidates had to display all the skills and therefore they pitched camp, showed they could read maps, and set off in the various backpack laden groups. Mr Ridley was very pleased with the attitude and performance on display, as he sets out in his report [here](#). I am very pleased with the ingenuity of our staff which allows events and experience like this to continue despite the restrictions.

The boarders are also benefitting from the loosening of their confinement to barracks. Last weekend they played paintball together, tonight it is off to Shiverpool. Later in the weekend its Liverpool watersports. While they prepare for more mocks and begin to contemplate their leavers' BBQ next weekend (no inside dinner allowed) they are at the very least able to enjoy the weekend activities which have been denied them for so long.

The virtual art gallery, the Halliday Jones, is going from strength to strength. You can visit the gallery [here](#). All Year 12 art students have entered this year's Royal Academy Arts Summer exhibition and hopefully we will hear of shortlisting soon. You can find online events and more about this [here](#).

Some safety messages from Mr Cook and Mr Fox for secondary phase parents.

Following a few concerns about the amount of traffic around the campus and pupils walking to and from the astro turf for Saturday sports sessions, pupils are now asked to walk in through the normal entrance to the school and then walk around the front of school to the astro turf. We are also asking all pupils who participate in rugby and hockey to have a gum shield with them. It is also necessary for pupils to have shin pads for hockey.

Concerns have also been raised by the use of the staff car park as a drop off and collection zone by parents at the beginning and end of the school day. Cars entering and leaving the

car park is creating a traffic bottleneck on North Mossley Hill Road, making the road around the school unsafe for our pupils as they enter and leave school. Please do not use the car park.

Every year there is one unfortunate pupil who turns up on bank holiday Monday and realizes she might have slept in. For the avoidance of doubt, we want you to enjoy a sunny, peaceful and restful bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal