
Principal's Newsletter

24 September 2021

Dear Parents,

I stumbled upon Joe Wicks in the Prep School. I saw him on a big screen, huffing and puffing, but as I crossed the threshold I nearly stumbled over Ms Deer and Ms Rogers leading their charges in an extremely energetic workout inside the music room. Everyone was indeed doing rolling planks, jumps, and other amazingly flexible movements. It was all the more extraordinary because a few doors down they were working on using the word opaque in a sentence with Ms Whittaker. I am convinced that the current national curriculum will lead to some amazing breakfast conversation in families: "Dad, I have ascertained that the purchasing strategy for cereals in this family is rather opaque." We are talking about 9- and 10-year olds. Fitter, smarter, and more switched on than any previous generation.

I have some food pictures for you to glide into the weekend. There are the banana cutters in Miss Russell-Moore's class. As part of the personal development pilot, pupils in Year 1 are learning to cook, and safe and effective use of utensils is the beginning of their journey.



By Year 7 we can look forward to some of the sandwiches on display from 7 Howard's' Great British Sandwich competition in the photographs shared by Mrs Drew. Full credit to the pupil who learned how to make some homemade guacamole to spice up her creation.



Miss Russell-Moore and her class have also enjoyed their first ukulele lesson this week, learning how to play the first few chords of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'.



Some congratulations. First to Mr Jones, DT teacher and now officer leading the RAF section of our CCF. Mr Jones is looking forward to plundering any excellent STEM resources the Air Force provides to its CCF pupils. The CCF has been able to attract the school staff leadership it needs to thrive in our school, and as we open up to its full programme, volunteers like Mr Jones will be essential to its future development and success. Congratulations also to Nye Thomas OL, who finished his A levels with us last year, and is now a professional rugby player with Sale Sharks. Nye's rugby career had already led him to what insiders call "the England international set up" but it is always remarkable for pupils, coaches, and friends to follow someone who has made his talents and passion for a sport into a job. We look forward to seeing his exploits on highlight programmes.

Congratulations to our Prep School cross country team, as Mr Stamper reports:

Well done to the twenty children who took part in the first cross-country race of the season at Croxteth Park. All the children ran amazingly well but a special mention must go to Charlie W and Beau R who won the races for the boys and girls. We are exceptionally proud of all those children who took part and have also been delighted to see so many other children at running club.

One of the days which grounds every head teacher in a healthy dose of reality is the safeguarding briefing from our expert colleagues at the city. They huddle us together and share with us not only the latest guidance and best practice but also some of the developments which make children less safe. The pandemic did not help. Almost every type of abuse or neglect increased. Most chilling, is the number of pupils who reported that their own sense of wellbeing and safety had been undermined further by on-line activity. I was especially intrigued by a small app designed by the BBC Own It. This is a tool for on-line safety and wellbeing designed for young people, especially younger pupils just beginning to use their phone but also older pupils. It receives a good rating from the NSPCC. The reality is that children spend hours a day on-line and that parents would never let their children roam hours a day around the city unsupervised but are often happy to do so on-line. I would encourage you to explore whether Own It can be a way of helping your child navigate this world. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/bbc-own-it/>

Much better than playing on your phone is auditioning for Legally Blonde, this year's secondary phase musical, on Monday 27 September in the MV Hall from 4-5.30pm. For those who have not attended or participated in one of these productions, participation is highly recommended. This is a genuine opera in the sense of its Latin meaning THE WORKS. Our orchestra of pupils and staff plays in the pit, a cast of hundreds perform, and we cheer the whole thing to the rafters. Any pupil and student can audition if they are in Year 7-13. More information is available from dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The Chaplaincy is forming a charity group led and directed by pupils who want to organize themselves to make a difference in the world by helping and supporting others. The first organizational meeting takes place on Tuesday 28 September at breaktime (10.30 to 11.00am) in the Chaplaincy room in MV. Please encourage your child to attend if they have an interest.

We continue with our new staff introductions:

- **Miss Green** will be familiar to some pupils and parents having worked last year at the College. She has now joined us as a permanent member of staff in the inclusion team, working as a Learning Support Assistant in the Secondary Phase. Miss Green has also taken on the role of Chaplaincy Lead and heads up our Chaplaincy team.
- **Miss White** is a new member of the Humanities faculty in the secondary phase, teaching RS, history and geography.
- **Mr Briggs** has joined us as a teacher in the Pre Prep. Mr Briggs knows the College well having completed his teacher training last year through our School Direct programme.

A reminder that **Friday 15 October** is **Founders' Day** and as usual, school will be closed that day with no lessons in any part of the school. A Service takes place at 12pm in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for pupils in the Prep and Secondary Phase. Parents will be sent further information about the specific arrangements.

Term dates for 2022-2023 are now published and you can find them [here](#). There is a small alteration to the length of the Michaelmas half-term in order to accommodate a longer Christmas break because of the way the calendar falls that year.

All sorts of sport will wash over us again this Saturday morning. Last weekend, I enjoyed a trip to Crosby with the Y7 U12 rugby team who were determined, effective and victorious. Every player contributed. Even more encouraging was the news from Wyncote and our Sports Hall, the girls had won every single hockey and netball match. The boys were some distance from this feat to their chagrin.

May I wish you an autumnally golden weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal