
Principal's Newsletter

25 March 2022

Dear Parents,



"A person is a person, no matter how small." This lyric from the musical *Seussical* was amply demonstrated by the performance of more than 100 persons large and small. They delighted and entertained a sold-out MV Hall. The energy, joy, colour and light of it all heralded the end of winter, the end of years without plays, without music, without applause, without being together to celebrate. It would be difficult to single out stars as almost every part was double cast and double performed, in case the mighty covid struck again. This revealed the tremendous bank of talent which we have not been able to see or hear for years bursting forth under the lights. The atmosphere on these occasions is infectiously positive. We are filled with hope, and reminded of what some pupils missed when they could not get together to put on plays and musicals. More than 100 people are directly involved in a production of this kind. The orchestra pit is filled with secondary pupils, lighting booths are manned by armies of pupil volunteers, pupils of various ages and sizes trip the light fantastic, dancing, singing, and basking in the sheer joy of putting on a play. It really is fantastic and I hope you get a chance to get to the hall tonight to see the last performance. Our gratitude must go to the staff, especially Ms Clark and Mr Bishop, whose

determination to be bold, to include huge numbers, and to infuse their actors, musicians and crew with their own unstoppable, unflagging enthusiasm makes this possible.



A reminder, one last time, of secondary phase Speech Night this Tuesday, March 29 at 19.30 at Liverpool Cathedral. You have received "joining instructions" previously. The secondary phase will finish at 15.00 that day and all pupils are required to attend the Cathedral, parents are welcome.

There have been some fantastic charity activities and results this week. The whole of Chapter 7 were led on a sponsored walk for Marie Curie. Mrs Hall (Dean of Chapter 7) writes:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chapter 7 pupils, parents and families who have very generously supported our Charity Daffodil Walk on Wednesday in Sefton Park in aid of the Marie Curie. It was a glorious day and we enjoyed taking a group Chapter photo outside the Palm House.



It was a poignant moment also for Miss Whittell and I. We had arranged this walk for Marie Curie the week prior to lockdown in 2020 for Howard's House, but it could not go ahead. Our daffodil badges, bibs, hats and other materials were locked away but remarkably rediscovered by Mr Cartwright on Wednesday morning, to the delight of us all! The beautiful weather on Wednesday was coupled with the hope of more positive days ahead and reflected in the smiles from the children, especially Tom in 7 Selwyn's who led our number with a confident request for passers-by to buy a daffodil!

Any outstanding monies will be collected on Monday to send to Marie Curie who will total our final fundraising total.

Mr Cartwright informs me that our Sixth Form managed to raise more than £1200 for Red Nose Day through the various activities they sponsored and organised. Mr Cook and Ms Green report a fantastic response to our MYA Foodbank collection, with some parents donating vast amounts of food for the cause.

It has also been a week of meaningful presentation and education. Ms Duffy and Ms Drew took a group of our pupils to a day at the University of Liverpool dedicated to learning about racism and extremism. Mr Cook ingeniously took Chapter 7 and 8 pupils to a session at the Rotunda Inclusive Hub focused on supporting sports teams with their concentration and mental focus before fixtures. The Chapter 8 boys were so inspired that they came from behind to win their football match against St Edwards that same day.

The Chapter 8 boys also played their first hockey match of the academic year this week, beating St Margaret's 3-0. Adam K (Butler's) with a hat-trick.

I enjoyed visits to Ms McCartney's climate change workshop and Dr McNamara's meeting with our trainee teachers. Her doctoral research is focused on improving pupils' understanding of climate change and of their commitment to do something about it. This raises interesting questions and challenges about how to engage pupils in issues. Is it simply a matter of knowing more or do we also have to inspire pupils to care more, do more? Is it enough for a person to know about something, or do we need that knowledge to lead to action as well? It will be fascinating to read her conclusions when the research is finished. Training teachers, which we do every year through our School Direct programme, is also both an art and a science. There are elements of technique, skill, and research-based strategy. There is also a need to train or educate teachers who bring passion and humanity to bear. Much more difficult to find the exact ways to teach, mentor or inspire a person to do that.

I teach a Chapter 7 Latin class. These two hours a fortnight are a highlight. This one class contains the two U12 Merseyside regional cross-country champions. Think about that. One class, two regional champions. Congratulations to Lexi W and Ethan B in Chapter 7 who have swallowed the field and won their races.

Some great results in the Physics Olympiad for Sixth Formers. Ethan F in Y12 deserves special mention for scoring in the top 10% of entries in this competition among the top physicists in the country. Similarly, the results are rolling in from the national Biology competitions. Ms Miller reports strong performance once again in the Olympiad from our Year 12s. Emily C and Matteo S especially measuring up very well nationally.

The artist of the week this week is a colourful self-portrait from Dylan D (Y11). This is a piece he has created alongside a full series of paintings for his GCSE coursework. He has been exploring the cross between photography and digital editing and used these ideas to develop his painting compositions.



Tomorrow our boarders will climb Moel Famau and we will play some football matches. The wonderful set of *Seussical* will stand as a reminder of the joy of the week of these performances.

Let us hope the sun continues to shine on us.

May I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal**