
Principal's Newsletter

28 January 2022

Dear Parents,

We are celebrating triumphs today.

A record 6 students in our Sixth Form have received offers for places at Oxford or Cambridge. They have traversed a challenging process of tests and interviews and are now in the antechamber of courses ranging from Medicine to Archaeology. It is a real tribute to them and their teachers that almost half of our applicants to Oxbridge have obtained an offer, a percentage much higher than the national average. It is gratifying to note the continued excellence of our Sixth Form.

We hope to share some of that excellence at our Sixth Form Open Evening this Wednesday, 2 February from 4.30-6.30pm. This will be an opportunity to look more closely at what we offer our sixth formers and to meet some of the subject teachers. We hope you will make any promising candidates you know, currently in Year 10 or Year 11 at our school or another school, aware of this opportunity to visit. More information on our website [here](#).

Triumph is also the word we should use to describe the debating society's rapid progress in the Ethics Cup. Here pupils are invited to speak on a number of topics ranging from basic income to political and ethical questions. I briefly watched this group preparing with Mr Barnicoat and like a footballer manager filling in the team sheet with a smile, I reckoned on a lot of success based on the quality and acuity of the team. And so it proved. They flew through the early rounds and into the regional final, being pipped at the post there but not without leaving a substantial mark on a competition which our school has never entered before.

Mr Stamper and his U10 football team, bursting with excitement at playing a fixture in the league against Gilmour primary school. Mr Stamper's own enthusiasm at the start of this season shines through. He writes:

I was so impressed with the performance, picking a MOTM proved very tricky. However, despite being a defender in a 9-1 victory, Jack W was our star man. He was first to everything, kept dictating play and generally raised everyone else's performances. These boys have laid down a real marker in this league - I can't wait for the next fixture!

Mr Cartwright and Mr Jones are celebrating the triumph of having established an Anglo-Dutch design technology partnership and project with a school near Rotterdam. My native country excels in technical education and more recently schools have popped up across the Netherlands which specialize in the intersection between industry, design, technology and entrepreneurial flair. Our Dutch friends are hugely impressed by what we are doing. Together, our pupils will learn a lot about the way the world of work and design transcends borders. Mr Cartwright sets out more details of the venture:

The Liverpool College DT Department and staff from Melanchthon School, Rotterdam, have embarked on an exciting joint venture to provide a manufactured solution to a brief set by Arcadis, the world's leading company delivering sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. The project will run from January to April and Design and Technology students, aged 17 – 18 will be participating (approximately 8 in each country) in 4 teams with 2 English and 2 Dutch students in each. They will visit the Arcadis Office in Warrington or Rotterdam, meet some Arcadians who will share an overview of some of the projects they are involved in. They will carry out research into Arcadis, create ideas and designs, have several further meetings with Arcadis, and the final design solutions will be manufactured in the Netherlands and in Liverpool. Once manufactured and finished, they will then return to the office and present the product they have made.

Ms Robinson and her legions are celebrating a triumph of a different sort. Their efforts at landscaping the poolhouse gardens have begun to gather an unstoppable momentum. Her request for paint has been answered by a generous donation from a parent. The dress down day raised £600 and today her pupils are following up with a cake sale, that most lucrative of fundraisers. Now Mr Geoff Baird one of the multi-skilled miracle workers on the maintenance team, has begun the masonry work which will help transform the area. Projects like this are always the most inspiring because they do not depend or rely on government funding or management interference. They are about people taking matters into their own hands to improve and beautify their environment.

Mr Farnan-Stone's Women in Sports competition highlights the journey to equality in sport participation and recognition, not only in our school but also in our society. The creative writing competition encourages pupils to write about a woman athlete who inspires them, as fiction, non-fiction or poetry. The winner will also score many points for their house. Last weekend our girls played hockey against St Bede's as our boys took them on in football. It was an excellent block fixture against our Mancunian friends and whilst we won more than we lost, the games were competitive and challenging. I suspect that challenge will also be present when our U13 footballers take on Sefton School boys. One school against an entire authority!

This is a final call for any responses to our admissions policy consultation. Details of the proposed changes to our policy and how to submit comments or responses can be found on our website [here](#). The deadline for responses is Monday 31 January.

Mrs Duffy (Assistant Principal: Safeguarding and Inclusion) has asked me to highlight a new walk-in service, run by YPAS, which is available for 5-25 year olds and parents to access. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Covid restrictions are being slowly lifted. Soon our virtual chapels and meetings will be able to take place in person. Assemblies will no longer be recorded, and extended lunch times will come to an end. Not a moment too soon. The effects of covid restrictions pop up across the school in various ways. There is the disruption caused by absence, but also the developmental challenges which arise. Nationally, there is increasing evidence that this period of time has been harmful to children and has, for many, changed not only the trajectory of their academic development but also their social development and their mental well-being. I learned that our boarders read a book for 30 minutes before their lights go off. And before they read, their phones are put away. It is a small step but I have often wondered how much good we as parents could achieve with routines like this, sensitively introduced and continued. As life returns to normal, we as adults still have a lot of work to do.

For pupils in Chapter 7 and 8 who have an interest in drama, there is a weekly drama workshop that takes place on a Friday between 3.15pm and 4.30pm in the MV Hall. This is not a club organised by the school so to find out more information please contact Mrs Sherril Parsons who runs the sessions. Her contact details, along with additional information about the workshops can be found [here](#).

May I wish you a happy and dry weekend.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal**