

14th March 2019

Dear Parents,

As storm 'Gareth' laid a spate of devastation in its wake and we gird our loins for yet another wet and windy weekend we can only hope that the promise of Springtime that we saw in February will return. It is a very British and uniquely idiosyncratic to compare so much of what we go through to the weather that we are facing.

On Monday the weather gave us a brief respite to allow our rugby players to complete their much awaited final. Whilst we a huddled in the cold and damp our Spanish students enjoyed a weekend of glorious sunshine in Valencia.

The PP2 for Year 12 and 13 could be described as four seasons in one spread sheet with many enjoying sunshine and comfort whilst others experiencing turbulence and tumult.

Basking in the glorious sunshine of our previous destinations our Year 12 Oxbridge potential enjoy the Oxford Lecture Programme promoted by the Wilton Scholars.

The Head boy and Head girl will travel to the capital by train hoping that the wind and rain will result in little delay as they attend the OL dinner and our former Head Girl, Eva B writes to us from a snowy Newcastle.

The Year 12 Geographers have packed their waterproofs and cagoules to undertake field work in stormy Anglesey, whilst their Geography teacher and our Head of SEND, Mrs Duffy gave birth in the warmth of a hospital to a healthy baby boy.

Life after Liverpool College – Eva B

Being just over half-way through my second semester at Newcastle University I have taken the time to share my experiences of University life after leaving Liverpool College, having attended there for fourteen years.

I must say, the first semester at University is quite different to what people may expect. It is the period in which huge adjustments are made, both physically and mentally. Moving into a flat with people who I had never met before was certainly a challenge for me given that I had grown up around the same social circle and is one that took me at least 2 months to settle in to.

Academics wise, University teaching and routines are far from the school experience. Contact time varies from course to course although is still much less than school, therefore a lot of emphasis is put on self-motivation to go to the library and read further into what has been taught in lectures. This is something I also found challenging; however after a few weeks I was quickly adapting to this new routine.

Outside the lecture theatres, there is a large stereotype amongst many students before coming to University that nights out are a key factor in socialising. To an extent this is true, clubbing nights are a great way to socialise and meet new people but also explore the city and its culture. However, this may not suit all individuals, therefore I must place emphasis on the fact that Newcastle University amongst many others provide such an extensive range of societies, clubs and activities, aiming to promote socialising.

Playing for the University's Hockey team as well as Geography's Netball team and attending ice skating lessons (completely new to me) I would strongly recommend diving into these options available at University and trying something new!

Another aspect of University life that is great is the relationship between my personal tutor and me. Having meetings every couple of weeks, my personal tutor is there to support me not only in my academics but also my social life, settling in, finding housing for second year and many more aspects outside the teaching realm.

Conclusively, I cannot express enough how valuable I believe the University experience is to the transitioning of an individual. I have met people who have already had a huge impact on my life and met friends I never thought I would have met, some of whom I am going away on holiday with in summer! No matter which University you attend, there is always something to do, people to meet and further challenges to achieve. The experience is truly rewarding and is one that I would highly recommend.

Rugby Report

Our deepest and sincerest thanks to Adam for all his wonderful reports and indeed his outstanding leadership and courage as 1st XV Captain. Adam's final report is provided below:

Mr Heeley summed up perfectly what I was thinking after the final whistle blew.

"Be proud of what you have achieved this season. Don't pin everything on this one game - you tried your hardest and it just wasn't to be. You can all walk off this pitch with your heads held high."

Anyone who knows me will know I don't take defeats well, especially in big games. I will take myself aside for the rest of the day, replaying in my head every fine detail that didn't go our way or every lineout/penalty call I could have perhaps done better. Looking at the player's faces at the end of the game I could see the exhaustion - physically and mentally they had given everything possible and because of that the usual overwhelming feeling of disappointment I have after a loss, was replaced with pride.

In my five years playing rugby that was by far the most physical game I'd ever been in. Both sides unwilling to back down at any stage or give a single meter.

In the last ten minutes we were only two points down and threatening to get a winning score, but a late try for St Mary's sealed their victory.

As this will likely be my final match report I would like to say thank you to some people.

To Mr Brady, whose unrelenting support drives the First team forward.

To Mr Smith and Mr Heeley who have allowed myself and all of the players to play some fantastic rugby against the best school and for showing the trust in me by making me Captain of the side.

Finally to all the parents who have stood in the wind and rain to watch and cheer on Liverpool College at every possible moment, no matter where the game was held.

Thank you to you all, you have made the past two years truly special. Adam M

Spanish Trip

I enviously read Brendan R's Valencia report. Please see below.

Last Friday, seventeen Art and Spanish students descended upon Manchester Airport in the early hours of the morning full of excitement and anticipation of the trip ahead. We arrived in Valencia at 1230 that day greeted by a wave of invitingly incandescent warmth from the Spanish sun.

The trip commenced with us checking into our accommodation, a quaint hostel situated right in the centre of Valencia's old town with a spectacular 15th century building (known as La Lonja de La Seda) adjoining it. The hostel had an ambience of liveliness, culture and all together friendliness. We proceeded with the day by having lunch in a typical Spanish restaurant in the old town plaza, sampling the local culinary delicacy of Paella Valenciana (made of rabbit, chicken, rice, string beans and green beans).

We continued the day with a tour of Valencia's venerate cathedral, its Romanesque style arches and its gold adorned alter, which captivated every one of us (but the arm of St Vincent which was displayed, perhaps scared a few of us). We continued the tour with an arduous walk up the, seemingly never ending, spiral staircase that lead to the outer roof of the cathedral. However, the strife was worth it due to the awe-inspiring views of Valencia with a golden hue of the setting sun clinging to the rooftops down below. In the evening we dined in what can only be described as the Valencian Baltic market, sampling the finest Spanish street food known as Pinchos.

In the early hours of the morning we were awoken by a traditional Valencia outdoor play/singing outside of our balconies; truly a unique experience. On the Saturday we visited the Oceanographic Aquarium, we viewed a spectacularly moving dolphin display which caused a tearful smile in all of us.

We continued the day by exploring the beautifully modernistic buildings of the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, where we watched a 4D film in the 'Hemisphere' cinema and attended an exhibition of the ninots which are handmade paper-Mache figurines built to celebrate the Las Fallas festival. They are later burnt during the festivities.

We finished off the day with a meal in an Italian restaurant followed by the night mesclata which is a truly amazing spectacle of fireworks that start at midnight and last for 10 minutes. On the final day we began with a bicycle tour of the old river bank and old town which was bustling with locals and an inviting temperature of 25 degrees.

At 2.00pm we proceeded to attend a day mascletta which contrasted with that of the night as it mainly consisted of bangers opposed to fireworks. Around 5.00pm we descended on the Estadi Ciutat de Valencia to watch the fiery football fixture between Levante and Villarreal. The hard-fought game unfortunately ended in Villarreal winning 2-0. The evening was rounded off with a meal in TGB burger restaurant. Our trip concluded with a weary eyed 4.00 am start for an early flight home.

The Valencia trip is definitely an experience we will never forget and a city we will all undoubtedly wish to return to one day.

Thank you to Mrs Gimeno and Miss McWatt for organising the trip.

View from the Cathedral



Ninot



Ciudad de Artes and Ciencias



Levantes Stadium



PP2

The PP2 results will be available by the end of next week. I will write to you if we are concerned and if the results are very disappointing we will request a meeting.

Wilton Scholars: Oxbridge Conference:

Year 12 Oxbridge Conference Trip: Wednesday 20th March at Aintree Race Course

Baby Duffy

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Duffy on the new addition to their family. We are delighted to report of the birth of their baby son, who came in at 7lb 15oz. After an arduous journey mother and son are doing well.

William Thomas Duffy

By Monday they say that the storm will be behind us and we can see a sunny horizon in which Spring may bathe us in her glow.

Have a pleasant weekend.

Stephen Brady
Head of Sixth Form