
Principal's Newsletter

6 December 2019

Dear Parents,

It was bound to happen and now it has. We have all heard of the horror of a car striking and killing a child in front of a school. This week we were lucky that the traffic accident caused by a parent executing a three-point turn in the middle of the road only involved contact between cars. The driver of the car that struck the other car fled the scene. I assure you that if Ofsted inspected the behaviour of parent drivers we would be in trouble. The incident described above occurred while traffic officers from the city were on patrol. They observe with breathless stupefaction the way parents respond to their presence not by parking carefully but by letting their children out in the middle of the road without parking at all. There is no legislation, no rule, no enforcement that can legislate or curb this utterly dangerous selfishness. We must all do better.

I have not quite despaired entirely of our parental body. An amazing 39 parent volunteers have come forward to launch scouting in the school. This is an exceptional number and Ms Rogers assures me that all is in place for scouting to take off. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered. Turnout at parents' evening remains exceptionally positive. May I ask parents not to try to come on campus before 3.15pm on the day of parents' evenings.

And it seems that my pleas for help with the launching of an online school excellence magazine did not fall on rocky ground. I shall have a meeting next week with parents who are experts in this field and who have offered to build the web-based platform for the magazine. It shall be called *Esmeduna*, an exotic name requiring some explanation. The Liverpool Collegiate Institution, the original Liverpool College on Shaw Street, had a student magazine by this name which was published with ritual regularity from 1896 to 1979. It was student run and organized and chronicled the life of the school as well as highlighting some of the fantastic literary and artistic and academic work undertaken. The name comes from the Domesday Book and is the earliest reference to Liverpool. Over centuries, Esmeduna became Esmedune by the late Middle Ages before eventually morphing into Smithdune and Smithdown. The name refers to the manor house which stood near our current location.

The boarders are a motley crew. Their patisserie skills were on display in their own [bake off for charity competition](#). The boarding halls' kitchens were absolutely swamped with the detritus of these confections. But winners emerged and money was raised. One of the realities of our last inspection is that Ofsted neglected to integrate its boarding inspection

into it. We are therefore still on "Ofsted watch" seeking to become that rare school with not six but seven outstanding judgments. The boarders, Ms Nolan and the entire staff are ready for the battle.

7 Selwyn's under Ms Webb must be the most philanthropically inclined class in the history of the school, they simply can't stop raising money for charity.

Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime this week saw the return of staff vs pupil fixtures to the College with a series of 5-a-side football matches organised by 12 Selwyn's. Despite a seemingly relentless assault by dozens of pupil teams, age and wisdom prevailed over youth and talent, with only one staff loss across the two days (and on penalties at that!). Thanks to Mr Heeley and the sixth formers for organising the fixtures and well done to the Y10 boys team for their narrowly scraped win.

It is very much the Christmas season and we can look forward to the two services at Mossley Hill Parish Church next week. The secondary phase Service of Lessons and Carols will be on Monday at 7.30pm. Normally this takes place in the Cathedral but a scheduling conflict has compelled us to retrench to more intimate surroundings. The choirs and orchestra will perform, we will hear the message of the coming of Jesus, we will have a chance to reflect on the coming of the Light of the World. All are welcome at this service. The PTA will also be selling an assortment of refreshments before the service (from 6.30pm) including mulled wine, tea, coffee and hot chocolate as well as mince pies and cakes. Pupils not involved in the service are not required to attend. They will have a final day of term service on Wednesday December 18. That will also be a Christmas jumper fundraising day.

The Prep School is holding its Christingle Service on Tuesday at 7pm in the same church. All Prep School parents are invited to attend.

In the intensity of an Ofsted inspection, I forgot last week to mention the lecture on Hercules delivered by Dr Llewelyn Morgan, formerly of this parish, now professor of Classics at Oxford. His talk attracted an intellectually fertile audience of people from the community, academics, parents, pupils, and pupils from other schools. This week some Lerpooilians could be spotted at the University of Liverpool for the Postgate lecture in Classics, on this occasion about the Roman army. This talk was an excellent example of the Socratic maxim: I am wise because I know that I know nothing, as the professor giving the lecture disabused us of everything we thought we knew about the Roman army.

To describe the state of the country as being in the grip of election fever is perhaps to indulge in hyperbole. But now, all the bickering, nastiness, personal attacks, and fatuous claims and counter claims have taken hold on our campus as pupils and students campaign vigorously for our mock election on December 12. Mr Hutchinson insists on a level of discourse which our national politicians seem unwilling or unable to reach. I look forward to the hustings.

Harry D (Y9 Selwyn's) has already got himself elected. Stepping into the noble tradition of

Lerpoolian public service, he is now a junior lord mayor, engaged in debates about everything under the sun, wearing a heavy chain of office, and making sure the voice of the young is heard clearly along with the other five Year 9 pupils who are our representatives at the [Liverpool Schools' Parliament](#).

LC Sports Health & Fitness within Liverpool College would like to offer all College parents the opportunity to purchase 2 full Gym Memberships at LC Sports for just £25 per month. Membership includes all classes, 2 personal training sessions and a free nutritional consultation. Please call in and see a member of staff or call 0151 724 4488 / Email LCSports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk for more information.

Our neighbour, Fr Kevin from St Anthony of Padua has not yet abandoned his friendship with us despite parents and sixth formers parking illegally on his church property every day. He gave a talk to the Year 9 about his decision to forego owning property and live out instead the vows of a Franciscan. He presided well over the emotionally charged funeral mass for Wyn Clarke, beloved wife of our former CCF commander Major Walter Clarke TD. In the eulogy, OL Jeremy Clitherow beautifully described the way she had supported her husband and the young men of the College and how they waved to her cheerfully when passing West Lodge on their way to the Sefton Park run which is still part of our school curriculum. This Sunday, Fr Kevin will be installed as parish priest. Amazingly he has invited us, an act of forgiveness which we surely do not merit. I hope we will prove better neighbours in the future.

I must congratulate Ms Diamond on a brilliant science lesson which involved the sort of cross-phase learning which thrills my soul. Ms Diamond's Year 8 class taught an experimental science lesson to the Year 5s. The buzz was audible.

Congratulations also to Jacob O'B (Y9 Brook's), our first Bronze Award winner of an Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA).

Rugby block fixtures are coming to an end. We play St Anselm's across all the age groups on Saturday. Let's hope for dry and slightly milder weather.

May I wish you and yours a happy and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal