
Principal's Newsletter

10 January 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year.

The relative quiet of the post-Christmas holiday season already feels like the memory of another age. We have launched into 2020 with our customary brio. All systems are blazing. The eco committee resumed its meetings about how to improve our environment and minimize our damage to it (see the information on our school website [here](#) about how you can support their recycling projects), Mr Farnan-Stone has already planned a quiz competition this Friday, the Pre Prep is full of pupils reengaging with the challenges of phonics after a period of holiday bliss and forgetfulness.

Of course the holiday period was not so restful for Ms Knoop. She gave birth to Emmylou Brontë on December 27. Mum and baby are thriving.

Ms Knoop's temporary replacement is Ms Birch who joins us having many years of experience teaching English and classics.

The Romans counted their history in a five-year time period. Just before taking a census, they made sacrifices of expiation and called this 5 yearly festival a lustrum.

Well, it is time for our lustrum. 2015 saw us celebrate our 175 year birthday in style. We made a special tie, we invited OLs from every decade back to campus. Most magnificently, parent volunteers led by Alice Case put on the most extraordinary ball I have ever attended, a shindig for about 650 friends, colleagues, parents, OLs, and VIPs in the Cathedral. It is hoped that we will be able to hold a similar event in 2020 to celebrate our 180th birthday and all the wonderful things which have happened at and for our school in the intervening 5 years. I will keep you posted on the exact date of the celebration but it is anticipated that the event will occur sometime in the Michaelmas or autumn term of 2020.

Scouting is up and running. The irrepressible Ms Rogers has asked me to include the following message from her:

I'm pleased to say our four weeks of Scouts taster sessions were a huge success. We've got a truly brilliant group of young people keen to join the Scout Group (10-14 years) and an

equally fantastic group of adults ready to volunteer with the Scouts and create some amazing memories.

Our Cub Pack (8-10 years) and Beaver Colony (6-8 years) also each have a great team of adults keen to take on the challenge. We were overwhelmed by the number of children dying to join the Cubs and Beavers and, in order to cater to the 79 Beavers and 54 Cubs, we were hoping to set up a second Colony and Pack running on a Tuesday. We have a couple of eager volunteers ready to help our Tuesday group but we need a couple more adults to facilitate these sessions. We'd hate to disappoint the ~60 children who would love to join our Tuesday meetings so, if you think you could help us out, please get in touch!

I'd like to end with a huge and sincere thank you to everyone who has volunteered, from occasional helpers to leaders to members of the executive committee. If you think you could be part of the adventure; behind the scenes as a secretary or member of the committee, as an occasional helper on camps and excursions or as a member of our leader and assistant leader teams, please contact progers@liverpoolcollege.org.uk for more information on all the roles.

7 Selwyn's ended last term with a [special delivery to the Whitechapel Centre](#) which supports the homeless and more vulnerable people in Liverpool. The class had organised a collection of toiletries, hats, socks and gloves which they then put together in Christmas gift bags to be handed out to people over Christmas. There were also bags full of dog biscuits and treats for those who owned dogs. Mrs Webb reports that the Centre staff were overwhelmed with the kindness shown to them by the pupils from Liverpool College.

Of course, every new year comes with its resolutions, many of which relate to health and wellbeing. In this spirit, I include an invitation from Mr Adam Murphy who manages our LC Sports Club:

We are offering an exclusive gym membership deal to all Liverpool College parents - join now and get the rest of January completely free. There is no contract, no joining fee, all classes are included (there are a range of different classes from HIIT to yoga for you to take full advantage of) plus a personal training session. The offer is only valid until 26 January 2020 so don't miss out! Contact LCSports staff on 0151 724 4488 or LCSports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

[Sister Act the musical](#) is beginning its descent toward the performance stage. Tickets are now available and, in our experience, they sell out quickly. The musical involves hundreds and is the perfect way to lift the hiemal gloom that is January and February. You can buy your tickets from main reception and they cost £5 each.

Some dates for the diary: January 15 is the Y9 GCSE Curriculum Parents' Evening and January 22 is the all-important Year 11 Parents' Evening. We are also holding our termly Parent Information Evening on January 30 at 6pm where we would like to discuss with interested parents our "next steps" after Ofsted including a review of our mobile phone policy and a presentation about inclusion in our school. The Classics Hub has invited Dr Ben Cartlidge to give a talk which will be held at Merchant Taylors Girls in Crosby. The talk is all

about the deciphering of Linear B, an example of code breaking which always fascinates. The talk will take place on Thursday 30 January at 6.30pm and you can register for the event [here](#).

From Monday January 13, Mr Nick Crofts, will begin his work and be based on our campus. Mr Crofts is the coordinator of the Liverpool Aspire programme, a philanthropic effort by members of the Liverpool business community to increase the number and quality of applications from Liverpool schools to the very best universities. Mr Crofts will be working with all secondary schools in Liverpool to make sure this happens. Some of our own Year 12 and Year 13 students will be able to participate in the activities and opportunities he organises and leads.

Our sport is in full swing. I trained with the Year 6 rugby players on Tuesday and we have already hosted a football team from King's School, not from Chester this time but Sydney, Australia. Hockey matches have begun and this weekend we are playing both hockey and football against Oswestry School.

I wrote this newsletter on Thursday because I am travelling to Denmark with one of our governors to study Danish boarding schools. We hope that visiting these innovative Danish institutions will strengthen and improve our own plans for the residential and day boarding programmes we will be launching from September 2020.

May I wish you and yours a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal