
Principal's Newsletter

12 June 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils, Students, and Colleagues,

It is a great sight. The Year 6 with Ms Brooke and Ms Robinson just walked by, socially distanced, after their morning mile. This is the week that smiles returned to our campus. It has been a thrill to visit Reception and Year 1, to see our growing hubs, to watch the enthusiasm of pupils as they return to school. I am really in awe of the work of our staff, from the caterers to our LSAs to our teachers, who are making this work, safely.

Next week we will begin to welcome Year 10 and Year 12 back on campus. Those year groups will be notified separately about their "joining instructions" and it is essential that every piece of the guidance and the directions is followed by everyone.

As you will be aware from news reports, the Secretary of State for Education announced on Tuesday that the government is stepping back from its ambition for all primary school children to return to school before the summer holidays. However, he stated that the DfE would be working with the sector to allow schools that have the capacity to bring back more children to do so.

As we set out in our reopening report in the Next Steps section under Primary Provision, we have already been assessing whether there could be an expansion of year groups attending on site. We are now awaiting guidance from government on this matter and I will be in touch with you when there are further developments. In the meantime, we wait for Whitehall which is liking waiting for Godot.

It is great to hear of the success of the Year 9 Teams lessons which began this week. Many teachers report how well the pupils are engaging with these.

Mr Bishop is encouraging his musicians to engage in virtual rehearsals using YouTube. If you have a child involved in our music programme, I hope you will encourage her or him to engage with these efforts. Mr Bishop sets out more details below:

The LC+ curriculum is one of the things that makes our College unique and whilst performing together in any context is exciting, unfortunately it is currently not safe to do so. The Music Department have setup a series of Remote Rehearsal videos which our young musicians can

access via YouTube. These videos enable our rehearsals to continue from the safety of your own home and can be accessed [here](#). Why not have a sing-along as a family?!

Major Ridley has shared an amazing fact with me. Our DofE volunteers have contributed an amazing 1833 hours to the community in the last year. The DofE organization puts a monetary amount on the social value of this which seems a bit odd, even if it is impressive to see the totals clocked up. It does call to mind Oscar Wilde's quip: a cynic is a person who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Then there is the indefatigable Eco Committee who have awarded their prizes for their recent upcycling competition. This is one of my favourite initiatives in school, partly because it is so student and pupil led and because of the obvious impact pupils are having on our school community. Here are some photographs of the winning entries:



1st: George W (Year 8) - made a bird house from spare wood he had at home.



2nd: Ewan McQ (Year 7) - made a functioning wind turbine from plastic bottles.



3rd: Isabelle S (Year 7) - made a rainbow tunnel for her pet tortoise.

We must plan for September! When I hear the doomed predictions of closed schools, my soul bristles. We are working flat out to prepare to welcome pupils back, including our boarders, even if some social distancing and other measures will remain in place. It can be good to focus on what will be possible. The Greek Academy for example is recruiting pupils again. This amazing initiative allows any of our pupils in Years 8 and above to study ancient Greek, on a Saturday along with pupils from other school. You can read more about it [here](#) or contact info@liverpoolclassicshub.co.uk for further information.

May I wish you and yours a sunny and warm weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal