
Principal's Newsletter

18 October 2019

Dear Parents,

What an extraordinarily busy and effective 7 weeks it has been. The beginning of the school year seems so long ago. More than 200 new pupils and students joined the College in September. They now know every nook and cranny, have mastered their respective timetables and routines, learned to pass the ball backwards in rugby, say the school prayer, or sing the school song.

Because of the excellent efforts of our staff, particularly our new members of staff, this term has started in brilliant fashion and we can now look forward to a well-earned rest.

Last Saturday, we tested more than 1250 students in our banding test. We can only do this because of our wonderful volunteers from the PTA and an all hands on deck approach by our staff. It really was like organizing D-Day. We were delighted that many of the families visiting told us how well organised and calm our banding test was.

The last weeks of a half term are filled with assessments. Through our Talk4Teaching programme I visit a class more or less every day. It can be a situation like in Ms Prince's reception class where I helped a young man make the leap of counting from 28 (his previous high number) to 29 and then beyond. Indeed, when I left he was confidently assaulting the upper 40s. It can mean watching a Year 7 class write essays about their visits to the Roman Forum. In some classrooms written assessments are underway when I arrive. One literally hears brains humming on these occasions. The concentration of pupils is palpable.

Assessment allows us to feedback to pupils about how to improve. It also allows us to report to you. There is a new style of report being used this year in the secondary phase. Reports have been issued for Year 11 and Year 13. They have been uploaded on SIMS Parent App and a paper copy will be issued (from next year, reports will only be available via SIMS Parent App).

The Boarders' Founders' Day dinner was an occasion of fellowship and wonderful cuisine. The boarders invited their day student guests and enjoyed an autumnal feast as well as each other's company.

There are some major IT developments on the way. The Sixth Form will get their filtered wifi codes after half term, enabling them to convert any space in Godwyn House into a bring your own device study spot. Visualisers, an antiquarian sounding name for a fantastic piece of kit which looks a little like an IKEA desk lamp, have been placed in all classrooms thanks to the PTA's generosity. These machines allow for the projection of any book, piece of paper or other flat representation directly onto the white board. This allows teachers to "scaffold" better, showing how something is done, linking pupil work with what they are teaching. We are also moving some IT switches to make way for the construction of the classics library in Godwyn House.

Today our pilgrims to Rome both ancient and new departed. It is a very busy itinerary for them in the Eternal City. Our students will pass the Colosseum and be guided by Dr McNamara's infinite knowledge of all things ancient Rome while Mr Brady will be able to comment on the anachronism of Mussolini's fascist architecture. Much pasta will be devoured before they return on Tuesday. Great excitement also around the Iceland Trip deposits coming in. Many parents have asked to go!

The new College Column has hit the news stand, a production of the new Media Hub led by Mr Farnan-Stone and Mr Bishop in activities, combining LC Radio and the young cub reporters of the Column who grilled me in my office over a lunch time. You can find it [here](#).

Ms Gimeno is organising another Spanish Language exchange. This is a fantastic way to learn a language and a culture. The exchange programme can accommodate up to 20 pupils in Years 9/10 and will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please contact Ms Gimeno if you would like to find out more information (igimeno@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). There is also an information meeting about the programme on Monday 11 November at 5pm.

Friday assemblies have been enhanced this term as pupils have entered the sports hall to music! Today's offering was provided by Oliver H on bass guitar, Yoma O on drums, Adam S on lead guitar and William M on rhythm guitar. The setup of this each week has been provided by our music tech team - Callum M, Alex C, Harriette C-K, Daniel C, Harrison D, Edden S and led by the very able Charles M.

We are looking for more acts to enhance our assemblies after half term, pupils should contact Mr Bishop if they are interested in performing (dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

A reminder for GCSE Art pupils that Mrs Hardisty is holding a support workshop on Saturday 19 October. The session will run from 9am- 3pm and pupils are welcome to attend all or part of the session on a drop in basis but will be required to sign in and out. Please e-mail Mrs Hardisty at shardisty@liverpoolcollege.org.uk to confirm your place.

Some important dates coming up. There is a non-uniform day on Friday 8 November in exchange for prizes for the PTA firework event: Pre Prep are asked to bring cakes, Prep to

bring chocolate and pupils in the secondary phase to bring either toiletries or a bottle.

There are a limited number of family tickets left for the firework extravaganza on Saturday 9 November. These will be available until Wednesday 6 November. Tickets are available from the school offices or by emailing pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. The PTA report that ticket sales have been very healthy so it looks like being a very well attended event.

Remembrance Sunday is on the horizon. Sunday 10 November is the date of our parade. In activity period yesterday, one squad was being put through its drill paces in anticipation of this public event. Our CCF will also participate in Liverpool Cathedral's performance of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* on the 9 November.

Advance notice of several parents' evenings next half term:

- Year 10 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 6 November
- Year 12 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 20 November
- Year 3, 4 and 5 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 26 November
- Year 3, 4 and 5 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 27 November
- Year 7 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 4 December

For those of you, like me, who need time for such things half term is an opportunity to download the app. As I wrote to you earlier, we are hugely frustrated that the news and calendar function are according to our developer "temporarily out of service". What does work is the messaging on the system and we need you to have the app on your phone so we can keep you updated on what is happening with reminders and save the date notices.

An excellent feature of this half term has been the blossoming of our house system across the College. We have seen endless house competitions and ever more ingenious ideas from house leaders and from the Parliament of Houses on how to improve everything and anything from recycling to Chapel, from lunch lines to homework, from Selwyn's 7 charity bake sale to the Sixth Form Sefton Park charity run. This combined with an increasing leadership role for Gladstone Scholars, house captains and house prefects has meant a substantive move to a proper house system for the entire College. It has been a great and noteworthy development.

Tomorrow we have our very own varsity matches in hockey and rugby against our friends at St Edwards. It promises to be a wonderful way to end a successful half term.

Well done one and all.

I hope you enjoy a dry, warm, autumnal half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal