Liverpool College
Learning *with* Character

Liverpool College in partnership with University of Liverpool

Principal's Newsletter

19 June 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils, Students, and Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are surviving the monsoon season.

We have all woken up to the news that there is to be a £1 billion investment in helping pupils catch up on their missed learning. I am eagerly awaiting details. Since the funding is over three years, excludes some things, my back of the fag packet calculation is that this could be worth anything from £10,000 to 30,000 per annum to the College. Enough to hire a part time person but hardly the sort of game changer we might hope for.

This week, the rain has had a bad effect on our on-campus provision, driving us indoors from the fields of play, the forests of discovery, and our perambulations of the campus.

Nevertheless, our builders continue. The foundation for the prep school expansion was laid and we anticipate, weather willing, a rapid construction of the four additional classrooms planned for the space between the MV Hall and the Prep School.

Excellent learning has also been taking place on site despite the weather – Ismail A for example has been working with Ms McCarthy in the secondary Hub. We are very proud of his work and his excellent attitude, one of which I include herewith:

I have already written to primary phase parents setting out our proposals for the further re-opening of primary provision effective Monday 22 June. Government guidance means that an enormous amount of care and deliberation goes into any and all decisions in relation to these matters. We think we have got the right plan to see us through, probably until the end of term. Now our focus in terms of planning is already beginning to switch to the

September challenge. We are preparing for various contingencies and restrictions, making sure that we can flexibly and quickly adjust our school to whatever the circumstances will be at that time.

I received a delightful account of a meeting of the debate society on-line. Within a Teams meeting, the students and pupils were debating whether it can ever be right to topple or deface a statue. I am told Lucas N in Year 12 gave a very compelling and impassioned argument.

I want to thank everyone who responded to my invitation to be actively engaged in our anti-racism project. I am proposing to the governors on Monday that Mr Ridley and Ms Odita-Sani co-chair the steering group. I will be keeping you informed on the progress of this group as they study, evaluate, and discuss how we can improve the College together. One of the key principles I have enjoined on the co-chairs is that this should be both a democratic and educational project so that everyone's voice is actively listened to and we arrive at recommendations which have broad and compelling support because they are borne from a proper process of study and reflection and dialogue.

The Year 10 and Year 12 were in this week for the first time. We had an experience of the enormous size of our campus. 70 Year 10s were on the campus but you could barely hear or see them. Everyone followed the guidance dutifully and carefully. Many pupils told us how much more productive it had been to work at school and how they had enjoyed, even with the restrictions of social distancing, seeing their friends and teachers again. Next week, there is some more campus teaching. Please follow the guidelines which have been emailed to you about this.

Together with staff and pupils, we have begun work on some podcasts and blogs which we will publish to you in due course. The project has provided me with some thrilling moments as emails from pupils with reflections, artwork, and pieces of music pop up in my email inbox. They are testimony of the way that pupils are continuing their education, and continuing to be creative. I am looking forward to curating their submissions and sharing them with you.

Mrs Rigby sent out an important update to our DofE participants this week (you can read a copy of the letter here). She confirmed that at present there are no plans for the completion of the expedition section of the award but participants who have enrolled on any level of the DofE award since Summer 2019 will be receiving a Certificate of Achievement once they have completed the skill, physical and volunteering sections.

The school shop have confirmed that they will be reopening from 27 July but due to social distancing and other protective measures it will be operating very differently than it has in the past. Please read their parent handbook here for further details and click here for details of their opening hours. Appointment booking will go live on Friday 26 June for all appointments.

It is very sobering to think this week would have been the week of the Year 11 prom, and our Y7 Open Evening. The new normal, as it is called, does seem to wipe away even the memory of how life at school used to be. But this too will end, and we will be very ready to appreciate every aspect of school life when we do.

May I wish you and yours a dry and safe weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal