
Principal's Newsletter

20 March 2020

Dear Parents,

It feels like a phoney war, or a general mobilization, or, as some kids told me, a sci-fi movie.

This newsletter is intended to keep you updated in these extraordinary times.

They are not only confusing for prime ministers. Our pupils are only beginning to get the hang of it. One Year 7 pupil asked that if people have to self-isolate do they have to go to G12 and sit with Mr Fox. Another asked if you could use your phone if you were self-isolating.

The week has been full of beautiful acts and gestures, including the 7 Selwyn's Easter hamper for the elderly and the Hope Hampers made by Archbishop of York award pupils in Year 9. I myself find constant inspiration in the commitment of our amazing staff. It is foolish to single out examples, because across the College our staff have been heroes and heroines already every day. Their willingness to work through this crisis and their innovation and leadership is unparalleled in my experience in education.

We want to thank you for the many offers of support which you have sent the school and also for your notes of encouragement.

Together we are going to get through this.

Our first and most important job collectively is to keep ourselves safe and slow the rate of infection and thus protect our health service and vulnerable people. As such, we should not forget the basics as we plan for education without schools. Wash your hands. Self-isolate when you and your family are asked to. Keep a social distance. Look after yourself.

The city of Liverpool has announced a strategy for providing provision for the children of key workers. Their focus is on providing sustainable provision for children age 3-12 and younger. We have been asked to act as a hub and will need to focus our resources on this provision for this age group. You can read more [here](#). On Monday, the children of key workers, as defined by the government [here](#), only aged up to 12 in our school who can not be looked after safely at home or in another setting, will be able to attend a day care provision from 9am to 4pm in our Prep School. This is a "backstop" solution. It is much better for children and for containing the virus if every person who can find a safe way for

their child to be looked after without resorting to this provision does so. Lunch and a snack will be provided in this provision.

This provision is part of a city-wide strategy. There will therefore be children from other schools who attend this provision.

This is the latest information we have at the time of writing but if there are any changes these will be posted on our website.

Mrs Cassidy is in charge of this provision. If you are a Liverpool College parent and have questions over the weekend you should email either Mrs Cassidy (hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) or Mrs Gannon (ggannon@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) with your questions.

Some pupils will, as part of pastoral work with them, be invited to come to school for specific support in very small groups for specific pastoral or academic or personal reasons. We will contact you if your child is one of those whom we are inviting to this provision and provide you with a description of it along with the invitation.

Everyone else should stay at home and work, in a systematic and daily way, on the various assignments which are posted on Show My Homework.

A letter from the local authority has been posted out today to families whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals explaining how free school meal weekly vouchers can be redeemed.

At 3.30pm today we got the first hint of government advice on how grades will be awarded at GCSE and A level. We will study that advice over the weekend and communicate with all of you as soon as possible about our response. The good news, and this is an initial quick take, is that it appears pupils will have several pathways to getting the grades they will have earned: examination, teacher assessment, and even appeal. This means hard work ahead for pupils, students and teachers in Year 11 and Year 13.

From the week of March 30, you will be informed about the timetable of new learning from home for your child. It is essential that you not allow your child to fall into lazy habits. School is on. They have got to do the work.

You will receive further information by email about our plans for the continuation of learning while the school is shut and what you are expected to do as a parent, what your child is expected to do and what our staff can reasonably be expected to do.

This is a situation of unprecedented disruption and change. Over time, our provision in these circumstances will change, and I am sure improve. As a parent or a pupil, your job is to make sure we keep learning, keep hoping, keep our minds focused on getting through this and beyond this.

If you are not invited to come on to the school campus, do not do so. If your child has left belongings in school, please email me so we can arrange a safe time and mechanism for retrieval.

You can also expect regular updates from us about how we are developing learning for your child and serving their needs while keeping the strategic intent of school closure, namely reduction in the spread of infection, uppermost in our minds.

School, to misquote TS Eliot, should always end with an end of term bang. It is sad to see the campus empty with a whimper. All of us are anxious, not only about the illness caused by the virus but also by the key questions: how will we cope? How will I cope? Am I up to the challenge? Is my family up to the challenge? Our Chaplain, Mr Hammersley (phammersley@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) is on hand to chat with anyone who needs to talk to someone, or needs advice, or just needs someone to listen.

I shall write again on Monday with further details.

Keep safe. Be prudent. We will emerge from this as better people, better pupils, better parents and grandparents, and as a better school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal