
Principal's Newsletter

20 September 2019

Dear Parents,

Glorious weather has meant a glorious week. We are enjoying our campus. One very lucky group of Year 11 Silver DofE candidates are dressed for a walk in Derbyshire, carrying their large packs, but certainly delighted to be in the splendid countryside on a day like today. They assure me it will rain on Sunday, but that seems a long time away. Enthusiasm for climate strikes is diminishing. This seems mostly due to the dawning realization among pupils that protesting is only part of the solution. Action is required. Ms Whittell's Eco School committee is the talk of our small village and pupils are engaging in the development of plans to make a difference to the environment right here at school.

In these meteorological conditions, it is particularly energizing to see Ms Lewis march her charges into the Pre Prep garden and watch the explosion of sporting activity on activity afternoons.

My eyes and ears are still full of the glory of the Expressive Arts award evening. From a Principal's perspective, it is sobering to read the long list of names of pupils who have contributed to the arts in our school. Literally hundreds of pupils deserve to be recognized for their courage to create and their openness to displaying their work. The confidence of Mary M and Amelia B both in Year 7 in performing a short dramatic scene was an excellent example of this. It was good to see some of the Prep School musicians being honoured, as the all-through nature of the school is driving a massive increase in the size of the choir and the orchestra. The art on display was of the highest quality.

Congratulations to Heather C (Howson's), formerly of this parish now a university student, whose art work is about to travel the country as an example of best practice in A level art.

There are several new initiatives this year. The first concerns charities which is one of the strands of the LC+ curriculum. The houses, across all the phases of the school, have adopted their charities for the year, and will be fundraising and contributing to the charity across the College. Already speakers are booked. Brook's is the first house to begin their charity work, starting with their house assembly on Tuesday led by a speaker from KIND.

Here are the chosen charities:

- Brook's - KIND
- Butler's - Action Aid
- Howard's - Young Minds
- Howson's - Mersey Forest Trust
- School - Vitality Housing
- Selwyn's – Whitechapel

Houses are also undertaking improvement projects across the school which are called House Actions. School House for example is focusing on cultural and artistic improvements to the school. Students and pupils themselves are driving these projects, usually with sixth formers taking a leadership role. Our goal is that each house will make an improvement to school life.

Here are the areas that each house will be working on:

- Brook's - Intellectual
- Butler's - Physical Environment (inside)
- Howard's - Wellbeing
- Howson's - Ecological (outside)
- School - Cultural and Artistic
- Selwyn's – Challenge

A parent has encouraged me to reply or address some parental concerns expressed in discussions which have taken place on Whatsapp about catering. Last year, the concerns seemed to be focused on our new Pre Prep and Prep dining facility in Sutton Timmis. This parent told me that the concerns now are centred on the time available to eat food in the secondary phase of the school, particularly Year 8.

I want to reassure parents that no child who wishes to eat has ever been denied food, or not had food to eat, or not had time or been given time to eat it. Feeding more than a thousand people in about 40 minutes across three sites is a logistical achievement and we assess carefully whether our routines are working. We look on a daily and weekly basis at how many pupils eat lunch, what they eat for lunch, at what time the lunch queue disappeared, and when the last diner obtained their food. We are confident that anyone who wants to eat lunch has an opportunity to do so and a broad selection of food to choose from. I console myself that pupils themselves use the various fora such as the parliament of houses and form time to give us tips on how we can cater even better. I was comforted when speaking to a pupil who is now studying a specialist course at a college. I asked him whether there was anything he missed about our school. His answer: the food. As Evelyn Waugh wrote, the only true sin of the schoolboy is gluttony.

Of course our caterers and we are always keen to improve the service still further. We are also happy to show any parent who may have a concern what we do and how we do it. Consider yourself invited for lunch!

I promised to introduce you to some new members of staff:

Miss Shields is a new member of the Pre Prep teaching staff. Miss Shields knows the College well having previously provided one to one support to pupils in the Pre Prep. She worked most recently at St Cleopas' CofE Primary School before joining us.

Miss Rogers will be familiar to many parents having provided maternity cover in the Prep School last year. She has joined us as a permanent member of Prep School teaching staff from Netherton CofE Primary School.

Miss Whittaker has also joined the Prep School as a teacher. She completed her PGCE at Liverpool Hope University and joins us from a post at Holy Name Catholic Primary.

Last week's trip to Cambridge seems a long time ago. I enjoyed the conversation while stuck on the M6. Students revealed themselves as opinionated, knowledgeable and as my Texan friend would say whippersnapper barracuda smart! Their banterous interventions made the hours of stationary frustration an amusing and inspiring journey.

Congratulations to our Big Bang Competition finalists – Lucy C, Ethan F and Emily T. You will recall that through the Wilton Trust some of our Wilton scholars triumphed at the Big Bang Fair North West last year. They will now be attending the national Finals held at the NEC in Birmingham in March and will present their STEM project to a panel of judges alongside a wider audience of visitors to the Fair. Mrs Doran has once again produced a full programme of Wilton Scholar activities, now supplemented by careers experiences which we try to fit to the interests of particular pupils, whether they are Wilton scholars or not.

A full weekend of sport in the sunshine beckons. Last Wednesday, our first XV advanced in the NatWest trophy by defeating Birkenhead School. Next up St Mary's at home.

Mr Cook has invited grandparents of Year 7 pupils to spend the morning at Liverpool College on Friday 27 September between 9.30-11.30am. The morning will include: a tour, entertainment from some of our talented musicians, a quiz and refreshments served by the pupils. For those wanting to take up this invitation, please email Mr Cook with the pupil's name and how many grandparents will be attending: jcook@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

Advance notice that the next **Parent Information Evening** will take place on Thursday 3 October at 6pm in the MV Hall.

A reminder also that Friday 11 October is **Founders' Day** and as usual, school will be closed that day with no lessons in any part of the school. A Service takes place at 12pm in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral (compulsory for pupils in Years 3-13).

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

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal