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## Principal's Newsletter

27 September 2019

Dear Parents,

The Prep School and Secondary Phase are doing Jeans for Genes today. This is an annual reminder to school leaders and teachers of the need for school uniform as well as a tremendously effective fundraiser for a good cause.

The rain has not deterred our intrepid Year 7 grandparents from attending Mr Cook's grandparents' morning today. Many are touring the middle school with their grandchildren and listening to some of the music our pupils produce. It is always striking how well and how quickly grandparents understand what we are trying to do at the College and how they can support their grandchildren. Particularly impressive are the cakes baked by Year 7 for their grandparents under the organisational genius of Ms Webb.

Prep School parents have received the exciting news about the birth of Elsie, the most brilliantly named puppy in the history of the school. Even in Pre Prep chapel yesterday, no subject produces more pupil enthusiasm than a discussion around pets and animals more generally.

This week a Prep School parent asked me to include a request in the newsletter. He accompanies his child daily to school and finds the fumes of parked cars idling their engines quite overpowering. The child in question is asthmatic. I commended him for his calm demeanour as I fear I would grow agitated to pass by hundreds of idling cars, their engines running, while parked in front of a school.

There does appear about to be serious movement on the road markings on Queens Drive. Parking will be forbidden opposite the school. We wholeheartedly support this suggestion from the city.

All that traffic, the excoriating jeremiads of Greta Thunberg at the UN, the climate change protests and the mild weather itself all combine to make Mr Turbitt's work with his class on carbon footprints so interesting.

He has sent a link you can use to measure your own likely output - <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>. The average Briton has a footprint more than 50% smaller than the average American, and so on for other countries. The usual response to these ratings of countries' relative filthy habits is to blame the other countries first and to take

comfort in the fact that at least we are not as bad as the Americans. I saw this psychology in action when I worked in the state of Tennessee whose educational outcomes were regularly 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states. This led to the somewhat wry joke by educators: Thank God for Alabama. Alabama was always 50<sup>th</sup>.

One pupil took the test so to speak and was amazed to find that his footprint was 217% of the average British person. I need not tell you that if everyone strove to have a below average carbon footprint we would eventually seriously reduce carbon emissions.

We live, so the cliché goes, in turbulent political times. I am not sure which vituperation will ultimately prevail in deadening all sense of shame: traitor, remoaner, fascist, idiot, racist. It all makes the British Values curriculum seem a quaint history lesson rather than a description of a liberal, open and democratic society.

Mrs Lines and Mr Evans are the brain trust of the school. They have a data factory which can tell anyone anything about how we are doing. Recently they produced an analysis with the impact of a meteor and the relevance of a headline. Attendance and GCSE results correlate perfectly.

Without wishing to sound like a data geek, when you attend school 100% of the time you do more than a grade better in each subject than expected at GCSE. When you attend less than 90% of the time which about 6% of pupils across our school do you do almost a full grade worse than you were supposed to. What is truly amazing is that progress literally declines with each percentage point. So 98% attendance, which is highly satisfactory, still correlates to lower progress than 100% and so on. It is a staggering example of the importance of good attendance which, believe you me, every pupil will soon know about.

It has been some time since two College teachers played competitive rugby against each other. Such things happened in the 1960s when most of the teachers at the College were male and many were inordinately fond of the organized aggression and violence which constitute a rugby game. But, now, we have two mathematicians who take to the field themselves. Mr Dodd played for Merseyside Police against Mr O'Connell's Wirral rugby club. Mr Dodd scored two tries to Mr O'Connell's one, but the police lost.

Having these coaches on staff has boosted rugby. We played some great games against St Mary's last weekend winning two of them away from home. For the second year running we drew with St Anselm's midweek. Our Year 11 are playing hockey in the county tournament today. Next Saturday there will be another full list of fixtures.

We continue with our new staff introductions:

- **Mrs Bilsborough** will be familiar to some pupils and parents having worked for part of last year at the College. She has joined us as a permanent member of staff in the inclusion team, working as a Learning Support Assistant in the Secondary Phase.

- **Mr Dodd** is a new member of the Maths Faculty in the secondary phase. Mr Dodd joins us from Deyes High School where he had worked since 2016.
- **Mr Travis** has also joined the Maths Faculty this year. Prior to working at the College, Mr Travis worked at Woodchurch CofE High School.

It is massively frustrating to report that our app calendar and news functions are once again in need of repair. The app development company claims to have an army of geniuses looking to find the gremlins affecting us and other schools. Fortunately, we are still able to send you reminders, updates and messages through the notification system. Please download the app and we will let you know when it returns to full functionality. In the meantime, the school website is the place to check calendar dates and news items.

I do want to remind everyone that on **Founders' Day (11 October)** the school is closed. Prep and Secondary Phase pupils should be at Liverpool Cathedral for the 12pm service. You will receive a separate email with specific instructions. If you have the app we will be able to prompt you further.

I have been asked to remind Pre Prep parents that on a Tuesday and Thursday (when the Prep School finishes at 4pm) if they have another child in Prep School they must collect their child from Pre Prep, leave the campus and come back to the Prep School for 4pm. Please do not wait outside Prep or on the playgrounds until 4pm on these days as Prep children are still having activities.

Next Thursday (3 October) we are holding a Parent Information Evening at 6pm in the MV Hall. We will be sharing information about the developments in the school from careers provision and programmes, to primary curriculum development, to metacognition strategies being introduced and to my rather inchoate plan to produce an annual presentation/collection/magazine/website exhibition of excellent work done throughout the College. As ever, these evenings are also a huge opportunity for us to find out what you think and what you believe we should be working on. Please do come along.

In order to incentivize you to come, I refer you to the [you said, we did](#) part of our website. Each parent suggestion led to an outcome. Your voice makes a huge difference.

Here is an invitation to something much better than watching parliamentarians insult each other. There is a new Zumba Dance fitness class with ZIN Anna Shoko taking place every Tuesday 6-6.45pm in the downstairs studio at LC Sports. First class is free! More information on [www.annashoko.zumba.com](http://www.annashoko.zumba.com). Contact [LCsports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:LCsports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) to find out more about all the health and fitness opportunities available through LCSports.

I am looking forward to going sailing next week. A very select group of invited pupils in Year 9 will have a chance, through the CCF, to learn to sail.

Dr Harrop from Liverpool Hope University gave a well-attended classics lecture last night on Greek Theatre organised by [Classics for All North](#). As a professor of theatre, she had a

unique perspective on the staging and social role of Greek Drama. It was great to see students from other schools attending the lecture. My main thought: we should do more of this!

May I wish you and yours a wonderful weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**