
Principal's Newsletter

28 February 2020

Dear Parents,

The Fire of London is still raging in the Sutton Timmis Hall. The Pre Prep are enjoying this dramatic performance of the historical event. The weather somehow seems very fitting for theatre. Anything outside is not an inviting prospect at the moment.

Throughout this week we have hosted our guests from Ringe in Denmark, Mariann and Jakob, two school leaders. It has been a real pleasure for all of us to spend time with them, talking about our school, and engaging in a dialogue and reflection about what we do, why we do it, and how we might do it differently or better.

There are so many things in schools which are essentially cultural transmissions. Our routines, policies, expectations, behaviours, and activities in school come to us not on a tabula rasa, a blank slate, but through the mediated history of not only our school but English schools generally.

For this reason, it is so helpful and instructive to spend time with people who work with young people in a different country, in a different system, in a different way. The effect of these wise Danes on all of us will linger and I am sure we will remain in close touch with them and their school. They are particularly insightful about how to work with pupils who have emotional or social difficulties. Indeed, their clear thinking and careful approach in this area are wondrously rich in ideas and concepts we can develop and apply. It is heartening to know how impressed they were with so much of what they saw.

It is not everyday that we have a pupil chosen to train with an England Rugby squad. Well done to Nye T in Year 12. He has been invited a year "early" to participate in the England U18 rugby camp. It is a huge recognition of not only his talent but his hard work and dedication in developing himself as a rugby player.

Despite the apocalyptic rains, we won some rugby matches this week. Particular credit must go to our Y9 sevens team who made it all the way to the semi final of the cup at the Newport 7s, losing out to Old Swinford Hospital. Congratulations also to the Y7 netball team who are city champions.

The weather does mean that the U11 sevens tournament at Terra Nova is cancelled.

Unsurprisingly, there is much rumour, murmur and even a glimpse of pupil panic relating to the coronavirus. We obviously are given almost daily guidance by the Department for Education and Public Health England about the correct response of a school to certain situations as they may or may not arise. In addition, we err on the side of caution, regularly calling the public health officials to discuss any matter about which we have the slightest doubt. Epidemiologists say that warm and dry weather would help. Perhaps next week. You can access the latest public health information and advice [here](#) and [here](#).

Can you help?

Mrs Doran is currently arranging mock interviews for Year 11 pupils which will take place on Thursday 19 March, 9:40am-4pm. The event will be separated into 5 one hour sessions. The event will be arranged as speed interviews, with employers interviewing each assigned pupil for 5 minutes. The pupil will then have an opportunity to interview you for 2 minutes before they rotate to the next interviewer. Interview questions will be provided to pupils and employers. If you are able to help with the Year 11 interviews, for a full or even a half day, your support would be very much appreciated. Please email Mrs Doran, sedoran@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you can help.

Advance warning of *Popstars*, the cross-phase Prep School and Middle School musical now about to launch itself into our consciousness. The performance dates are Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March. These shows are exuberant mood lifting celebrations of frantic musical and kinetic energy. Don't miss it.

We have been granted planning permission for both the renovation of Beechlands and the construction of 4 classrooms for the Prep School. This is perhaps the best news of the week as it means it should be possible to have the 4 classrooms in operation for September 2020. Both projects are all the more amazing for their funding, with the Liverpool College Foundation and other donors providing the impetus and support to keep our school moving forward. It will be remarkable for our Prep pupils who are used to overcrowded classrooms which are quite frankly too small particularly for the Year 6 pupils to finally operate in a regularly sized classroom environment. In Beechlands, the renovation works mean that the old principal's house, up until the 1950s the villa of a prominent doctor, will become a thriving community house for our boarders. It is all very exciting.

The ablative absolutes are complete, the voice recordings are in the phones. The Latin Oration rehearsals are an early sign of Speech Night and Prize Giving. This year our guest will be Mr Jimmy Mulville, classicist, actor, comedian, producer, philanthropist. It will take place in the Cathedral on March 24 at 7.30pm. All pupils in secondary phase are expected to attend.

Within the gloom of the rain, Year 11 pupils are getting mock results back. Their second set of such results. They are also being supported through various revision and extra sessions. Almost all UCAS applications are in, the offers streaming back into the phones of our students. Now we must all put the game face on and work hard to bring these multi-year

efforts to a successful conclusion. One of the mysteries of school life are the various levels of commitment and dedication shown by pupils and students. It is difficult to speculate about all the factors that make some pupils who find learning difficult nevertheless work their socks off, while others can not be motivated by any reward.

Internal motivation, the ability to ideate one's future, the insight to see the connection between all the things we learn and do, this is a skill that we as a school, and you as parents must develop in the children. I suspect that constructive conversations about what your child is learning at school will help.

The Danes are famous for introducing the world to Hygge, a word impossible to translate but perhaps best captured by something like cosytogetherwarmwellbeingness.

After looking at the weekend weather forecast, I wish you and your family all the hygge you can create with your family.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal