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## Principal's Newsletter

29 November 2019

Dear Parents,

The debate team rolls on, a seemingly unstoppable forensic force. We hosted the first round of the ESU Schools' Mace on Wednesday evening and "made the cut". Sama I (Y11 Howson's) was awarded the joint highest individual speaker points of the evening, a sort of woman of the match award. We now progress, as we do in so many things.

Duracell employs the clever symbol of an energizer bunny to indicate that its batteries last longer. Our own energizer bunny, Mrs Doran, keeps organizing amazing events which are increasingly attended by other schools. This week she invited a former professional footballer and now an award winning author in to work with Year 8 and Year 6 pupils on a writing masterclass. She also invited 6 other schools to join us in a More Able Mathematicians event at the Prep. I stumbled upon a mummy laid out in the Sutton Timmis Hall with Prep School pupils asking excellent questions about the way Egyptians used the science of mummification. Ms Rogers and Mr Ainscough looked on approvingly as this cross-disciplinary exploration continued.

Here is a nice report about the Year 9 art careers trip last Friday from Leona S-P (Y9 School):

*A group of 35 Gifted and Talented artists from Year 9 were given the opportunity to attend an Arts Careers event at LJMU. We learnt that outside of London the North West is the biggest employer in the creative industries in the UK and experimented in the FabLab with future art technologies.*

*The art trip was such an inspiring experience and I felt very grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend. It opened my eyes to different concepts of art and the many ways in which people interpret their vision. It gave me a lot of encouragement to pursue a career in art.*

The PTA Gin night appears to have been a roaring success with scenes not seen since the gin craze which gripped Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Now this excellent organization which lubricates the social life of our parents and pupils is supporting the house charity efforts of some of our Year 9 pupils this Saturday. The PTA will be selling tea, coffee and hot chocolate from the pavilion during the rugby matches and the Year 9 pupils will be selling

homemade cakes. If you are attending the fixtures, please do visit the pavilion to support their fundraising efforts. We are playing our home fixtures but Rishworth, located as it is in the rainiest and snowiest part of our country, is apparently suffering waterlogged pitches. Make sure to follow the app for more details about these fixtures.

We have been advised by the City Council that there will be a temporary closure of Queens Drive to vehicle and pedestrians from its junction with Dovedale Road to its junction with North Mossley Hill Road. The prohibition is operative from 8pm on 30 November 2019 until 8am on 1st December 2019. This is to safely enable contractors to undertake the removal of a signal gantry.

When I arrived in the Prep School this morning, there was a spirit of festive cheer. Cash for kids, one of the charities we support, were collecting an extraordinary number of toys all given by our families. A wonderful way to end the week.

The secondary phase annual Service of Lessons & Carols is taking place on Monday 9 December at 7.30pm at **Mossley Hill Parish Church** (please note the change in venue). This service is open to all members of the College community but due to the size of the venue, it will not be a requirement for secondary phase pupils to attend (pupils will instead have their own service at the church during the last day of term).

My newsletter is slightly shorter this week as we have had to cancel events and other regularly scheduled programming because of the need to focus on our inspection.

The inspection was an exhausting but also exhilarating and intense experience. Strict rules apply to the publication of Ofsted reports and their content so it is not possible for me to comment upon it until it is formally published. But I am sure that I can say that the pupils, students and staff were absolutely fantastic throughout the inspection. I look forward to sending the information to you and sharing more about the findings and the process with you.

I feel that the purdah of the report's publication nevertheless allows me to share with you some of the lighter moments of the week.

As I anxiously scanned the results of the Ofsted pupil survey with Her Majesty's Inspector we arrived at the free responses to the question. In an all through school this is absolutely fascinating because the answers are from pupils ranging in age from 6 to 18.

To the question, do you feel safe in school, one anonymous Year 2 pupil had written:

*Yes but sometimes I have monsters in my dreams.*

We all know how that feels.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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