
Principal's Newsletter

31 January 2020

Dear Parents,

Last weekend, the city council painted a yellow line on the far side of Queens Drive and put up signs prohibiting loading and unloading during school drop off and pick up times. We can assume they did so because of the many complaints they continue to receive from motorists and others about the parking of our parents. During this week, parking enforcement officers have enriched the city coffers by attending during these hours and capturing on camera numerous parents parking illegally. The penalty for parking illegally is a £70 fine. It is somewhat surprising that parents continue to park illegally and appear prepared to risk the safety of their own children and others as well as a £70 fine in order to have the convenience of parking closer to the school. Our hope is that the new road markings will improve safety and will be heeded by all drivers.

Next week, we hold our second Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 6 February from 4.30 to 6.00pm. We always recruit excellent external candidates to supplement our own crop. We hope you will attend with your child if you have not already done so to learn about all the Sixth Form offers.

Last night's Parent Information Evening included several excellent parental suggestions and questions. For example, parents asked about what the school is doing to make sure people without digital access to the app and to SIMS parent app were kept informed. Another parent expressed concern about the accessibility of homework documents that are produced using the Publisher programme. Another question concerned a request for more specificity about how Pre Prep parents can support the learning of their child.

We were also keen to get some parental input on uniform and mobile phone policies. The policies regarding coats, scarves and hats are commonly transgressed against, seemingly with impunity. We will be reviewing our uniform policy in this area and spelling out our expectations and sanctions more clearly.

Mobile phones are a human right, so one sixth former told me. Parents at the meeting last night feel that it may be educationally sound and emotionally healthy to have a way of ensuring that pupils do not use their phones at all between registration and the end of the school day. One parent correctly pointed out that some pupils and students bring smartwatches to school. Again, a clearer policy is forthcoming.

It appears necessary to remind parents that staff responses by email can not be expected to be instantaneous. Our staff are sometimes upbraided for not answering an email on the same day or even in the same hour as it was received. Depending on the content, a non-emergency email to school will receive a reply as soon as practically possible. Parents should allow 48 hours before beginning to wonder whether their email has been "lost".

On Tuesday February 11 from 4.30 to 6pm, a representative of Magdalene College Cambridge will present a workshop for all interested Year 11 and Year 12 pupils in the Sefton Room. Parents are also invited. We will be encouraging pupils to go. Experience teaches these events are very useful to pupils and parents.

Our 1st XV narrowly lost their Lancashire plate final to St Edwards. This game was marked by the courage and bravery and total commitment of the players of both of these teams. Hundreds of tackles, runs, scrums, lineouts, kicks and mauls left our team depleted by injury, cramp, exhaustion but unbowed in pride. Of particular note must be Sahil S (Brook's) and Michael C (Selwyn's) for whom this was their last 15 a side game for the College after exemplary careers. In Michael's case, since Prep School. We believe strongly that the game of rugby has something to teach our players. It is a sport which requires enormous self-discipline, team cohesion and commitment. We are proud of the season the boys have had.

My termly meeting with Prep School prefects never fails to inspire me. The prefects make good suggestions, asking for example for fewer worksheets, more fixtures, and ever more interesting activities. Their views do not coincide with the older pupils and students in the Parliament of Houses. In summary, Prep Schoolers are keener. It is particularly touching when they wax lyrical about how great they think their school is and how grateful they are to all the staff for their wonderful experience.

The number and variety of visitors to the College continues to astound. This week KPMG ran a [ready for work skills workshop](#). Yesterday, I attended a talk for the Archbishop of York Award delivered by recovering drug addicts who participate in a ministry that supports other addicts to fight their addiction. We hosted teams from the Grange School and Holmes Chapel in a debating competition. These forensic battles are something to behold. Pupils prepare with great diligence and argue effectively before their peers and judges. The result was that our team progressed to the Regional Finals of the English-Speaking Union Schools' Mace competition. Mr Barnicoat and Ms Diamond have rapidly built a strong debating tradition, taking our teams to Oxford, Durham, entering them with success in national and regional competitions and identifying the next generation of top debaters to take the torch from our current team of Sama I (Howson's), Jan M (Howard's) and Lehtu M (School).

The Maynard Society, a Christian group on campus, is very much alive and kicking. Once a week they gather in Mr Hammersley's office. Several year groups are represented and they discuss faith, life questions and read some parts of the bible. The society is named after an OL who in the 19th Century established the first Christian Union at Cambridge. The Maynard Society room is also used by Sixth Form Chapel wardens as a common room and by a small

group of staff members from across the College who gather occasionally before school in a programme called Transforming Work.

Selwyn's charitable efforts are to be commended. Next week I will be bringing my bicycle to the Selwyn's Prep School bike and car wash, all in aid of the Whitechapel Centre. In the secondary phase, Selwyn's have begun a talent show competition in aid of this charity. Acts have already been rehearsing and heats are taking place over the next two Mondays, with the finals being held on Friday 14 February. In addition, there is now a large recycling charity project under way led by 7 Selwyn's and the Eco-Committee – you can find out how you can take part and support this initiative on the school website [here](#). This week also saw us complete the House Run with Year 7 and 8, again in aid of charity. Each house has chosen its own charity this year, and I urge you to interrogate your child about what that charity does and why it deserves our support.

Another Saturday of sport awaits. Hopefully our boggy pitches will be somewhat playable when we take on Oldham Hulme but we have been informed this afternoon that all the away matches at Oldham tomorrow have been cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. Our netballers face St Mary's but happily this is not weather dependent.

[LC Sports](#) have asked me to draw your attention to a new cricket class that is starting for 2 ½ to 5 year olds, run by Cricket Tots. Sessions are held in the Sports Hall and more information is available on the Cricket Tots website - www.crickettots.co.uk/Liverpool.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal