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## Principal's Newsletter

9 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy Founders' Day.

There is something both achingly poetic and deeply sad about Founders' Day in what I will loosely call Covid 2020. The distribution of a video, the work of many hands and minds, is our only way to be together and to celebrate our collective existence. We are atomized by a disease, cut off from each other physically but not emotionally. As we try to support families who have been affected by the virus and pupils and staff who are finding the new normal particularly taxing physically and emotionally, we are able to boldly and defiantly assert our existence as a school - something which is bigger than what we are currently experiencing with all its limitations and restrictions.

I hope you will have time to watch the video, edited for safeguarding and other purposes. You can watch it [here](#). A particular thank you to Omar K (Y9) and Luke P (Y8) for their video editing efforts.

In the middle of the lockdown last term, we began a process with our pupils and students to address our desire to be a truly inclusive school. Work on this has continued apace, despite our inability to gather frequently. We would like to update interested parents on our progress:

*Ms Odita-Sani and Ms Diamond would like to invite any parents or carers who would like to be updated on the school's progress with tackling racism, and promoting equality, inclusion and diversity to attend a meeting on Zoom on Tuesday 13 October at 5.30-6.30pm. During the meeting we will share with you the aims of the focus group, the actions that pupils and staff have been working on so far, and what we are hoping to achieve this academic year. If you wish to attend, please email [ndiamond@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:ndiamond@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) before the meeting and you will receive the zoom link.*

One of the unintended consequences of our current situation is the intense focus on form time and lessons as the primary and complete experience of school. In a normal school day, when all the bubbles mix and everyone is literally roaming the campus, the variety of activity on campus serves as a distraction from time to time away from that core exchange of learning in the classroom. Teachers and pupils report an increased awareness of the

essential component of school life: engagement in lessons, interaction between pupils and teachers about the matters at hand. This is school focused on its essentials.

Schools across the entire city are dealing with the consequences of the Covid outbreak. At any given time about 8000 pupils in Liverpool are self-isolating. The Director of Children's Services and Director of Public Health have asked us to distribute a joint letter about the current situation in Liverpool and the city's schools' approach to this challenge. Please read this [here](#).

On an autumnal Friday evening why not visit the web page [www.lcpres.org.uk](http://www.lcpres.org.uk) for some stimulating discussion in the Imagination in Education podcast or one of the blog posts. Our editor Joe Freeman, an OL currently studying Philosophy at university would love to publish blog posts from parents about how their experience of school in lockdown and self-isolation has changed them and what they have learned. You can write to him at [editor@lcpres.org.uk](mailto:editor@lcpres.org.uk).

Nationally, more parents have expressed an interest in becoming a teacher. Yes, a teacher. One assumes that the experience of seeing what teachers do over the shoulders of their children has persuaded some parents and other adults that they should have a go. You may or may not know that we train teachers at Liverpool College and that at least one parent is currently enrolled in our School Direct teacher training programme. More information can be found [here](#).

One can only admire the innovative way Ms Doran has kept her Wilton Scholars programme going. The words Zoom and Teams will never leave our daily vocabulary again, one suspects, and it is amazing what she is able to offer our pupils virtually. You can read about one of these sessions [here](#).

The spirit of the College is a spirit of resilience and adaptation. Each pupil, parent and member of staff is rising magnificently to the occasion to keep our school moving forward. We can in this sense not only celebrate our Founding but also our continued vitality and strength. It is not necessary to say we WILL get through this, it is important to emphasize that our collective spirit HAS got us through this. We stand facing the future with confidence.

May I wish you and yours a dry, calm and peaceful weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Hans van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**