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## Principal's Newsletter

28 August 2020

Dear Parents,

We are all full of eager anticipation for the pupils' return to campus and the beginning of another school year.

Our long hibernation is nearing its end. The boarding house is receiving its finishing touches, the Prep School classrooms are having their furniture moved in, the final signage and Covid measures are being double checked. We will be [returning to school safely](#) and after every possible preparation.

Unsurprisingly, there have been some questions about mask wearing. Staff and pupils may wear a mask if they wish in communal areas and during movement around school. In classrooms neither teachers nor pupils will wear masks.

This week [Aspire](#), the Liverpool to Oxbridge programme hosted a conference for 50 students from across Liverpool in the MV Hall. We are publishing a podcast about this programme in our Imagination in Education podcast series. You can find that [here](#). [LC Press](#) has also continued to publish some stimulating observations about education during the lockdown. I was particularly moved by Isobel W, formerly of this Parish now in Cambridge, confessing that she had been advised not to tell her Oxbridge interviewers that she wanted to be a teacher. Hopefully, the dawning realisation across the country that we have inept educational national leadership and that schools are really quite important will have a long-term positive effect after an intense period of experienced chaos.

The programme is another example of the way Liverpool College collaborates with other schools and with other groups to expand educational opportunity and quality in the city. Another example is the Greek Academy, funded by Classics for All. This programme saw exceptional success in inspiring state school pupils to study ancient Greek. Our own Amelia R in Howard's House, who will be starting Year 11 in a week's time scored a remarkable 9 in her Greek GCSE exam.

Despite the incompetent handling of grades and results, our former students are readying themselves for the start of university terms. A record breaking 5 students will be taking up their offers at Oxbridge, a feat not achieved for over 25 years.

It is natural that amidst the excitement of a return to school there will also be some anxiety. We are completely convinced that the best and safest thing for all of us is to begin on campus learning. We have also built a substantial infrastructure to switch entire year groups, bubbles, or even the whole school to on-line learning if this proves necessary in the future. What we can't do is teach every student on campus while running a full online programme concurrently. I must urge you in the strongest terms to make sure your child attends school unless there are very specific family and medical reasons confirmed by a doctor which prevent this.

During lockdown, we have missed so many aspects of learning together and being a campus community. Now, like eager travellers awaiting the beginning of the journey of a lifetime, we can look forward to starting together again.

May I wish you a dry and warm bank holiday weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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