
Principal's Newsletter

11 November 2022

Dear Parents,

I am writing this having just seen our marvellous pupils conduct a Remembrance Parade. Their attention to detail and earnestness of purpose were fitting and inspiring. They honoured those whom we remember and did their school proud. I was especially interested to see that in a meritocracy, girls thrive. The entire honour guard was made up of girls, and their drill was superior. The entire school was able to participate in the ceremony, watching it live in their classrooms.



Miss Fee reports that our Reception pupils had also been very busy finding out about Remembrance Day and had made some beautiful poppies.

Earlier, at assembly, I was providing our pupils and students in the secondary phase with one of my occasional updates on the reality of war in Europe, the horrors of it, the fate of the people caught up in it. It remains surreal that we can commemorate war while it is being waged, with 24000 artillery shells exploding near Kherson today.

One of my themes related to Remembrance is that we all have to take responsibility. Responsibility for building a society and civilization of love, respect, and consideration. Responsibility for our behaviour and how it effects the environment, other people, and the likelihood of the creation of such a civilization. Responsibility for responding to the gift of our talents and to the opportunities to use them which every day provides in abundance.

Much of this talk, whilst not exactly foreign to pupils, is experienced as quite new. It's a much commented upon social phenomenon that the recent covid period was not only the cause of a cancellation of events, it was in many ways also the beginning of a period where every responsibility and commitment itself could be cancelled. If you do not fancy doing something, or you made a commitment at the time but have now changed your mind, you can cancel it. This attitude is visible in some pupils and families in terms of their relationship to Saturday sport, or choir or orchestra, or other duties at school, including attending detention. Somehow, as educators we have been emphasizing the teaching and creation of knowledge without emphasizing the need to respond to it, to do something with it, to exercise our freedom in response to it, to commit to things.

This is why I am heartened by accounts of the boarders' trips to the Museum of Liverpool and Speke Hall. In both places, the boarders were gripped, excited, and wanted to stay even longer, engaging completely with this new reality, this interesting stuff. All learning is in that sense a response to some aspect of reality. And that response becomes an act of responsibility when we choose to care and give ourselves to it. Surely, this is the essence of education and becoming educated rather than trained.

That is what James K in Chapter 7 did as he performed on the tuba and the piano at the Chester Young Musician of the Year competition. Izzy H in Chapter 10 has been selected for England U16 football squads, is playing football for Everton U20 whilst only 14 years old, captaining Merseyside, and continuing excellent academic progress. We can see it on every "CCF" day and on the behaviour charts of Chapter 1 pupils, responding to challenges and new things to learn and taking responsibility.

Omar K in Chapter 11 has been involved in the civic life of the city for some time serving as a member of the Liverpool City Region Youth Combined Authority and a young advisor to the Child Friendly City team. Omar was the MC and host of the Young People's Question Time event at the Liverpool Town Hall this week, where young people had the opportunity to ask questions to city officials and other professionals about the city's progress in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative.



Our friends at Aspire, the charity that helps Liverpool sixth formers prepare for Oxbridge admission, is always looking for people who feel qualified to help provide pupils from across the city with mock interviews for certain subjects. Perhaps you can help? Please email harry@aspireliverpool.org.uk.

We are keen to introduce Impero on your child's school computer account. Impero is a small icon that appears when a pupil logs on to their school account. It enables a pupil or member of staff to report something anonymously. It has proven effective in promoting a culture of safeguarding, mutual responsibility, and prevention of child on child abuse, a scourge, according to multiple reports, in schools. For example, in 2019 the NSPCC reported a 29% increase in children seeking help from Childline due to peer-on-peer sexual abuse. In 2021 an Estyn report 'We Don't Tell Our Teachers' in which 35 secondary schools in Wales were surveyed, 61% of female pupils reported having personal experience of peer-on-peer harassment and 82% reported seeing others experience it. This compares with a lower proportion of male pupils (29% and 71% respectively). Research reveals that some pupils do not share these experiences and do not feel their peers will be supportive of them. Impero will help us open the dialogue, and hopefully, encourage everyone to look out for, report, and prevent child on child harm.

One covid habit we do need to keep is reading. Research shows that 2020 and 2021 were great years for reading. The only primary scores which improved in the Northwest of England during this period are reading scores. Why? The theory propounded by the gurus of Ofsted is that children read with their parents, took the time to do it and enjoyed it. That culture is worth hanging on to.

In last week's newsletter, I highlighted the PTA's Christmas Market taking place on Saturday 26 November in the MV Hall. The PTA need lots of volunteers to help them with this event. If you can volunteer, even if it is just for a short period of time, please email pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. Thank you for your support.

An important reminder message from Mrs Cassidy (Vice Principal) regarding the introduction and use of the My Child at School (MCAS) app:

Thank you to all parents who have downloaded and successfully registered the MCAS app, we have just over 900 registered users. If you have not done so already, please ensure that you download the App as soon as possible as next week this newsletter and other group correspondence will be sent via the App under 'Announcements'. All parents should have received an email with registration details. A reminder that the invitation code provided isn't a password. You must 'redeem invitation code' to set up your account. If you have not received the invite or have issues with registration, please get in touch at MCAS@liverpoolcollege.org.uk stating your child's full name and year group.

Joseph W (Ch11) has given us some new maths challenges. He is ridiculously good at mathematics so I have asked him to include a problem people like me have a chance to solve.

1. Let S be the set of the vertices of a regular icosahedron. How many four-element subsets of S are there such that the elements form a non-degenerate (and not necessarily regular) tetrahedron?
2. I have a box that measures 6.4cm by 3.2cm by 5cm. Can you find the maximum number of 1cm by 1cm by 1cm cubes that can fit in the box?

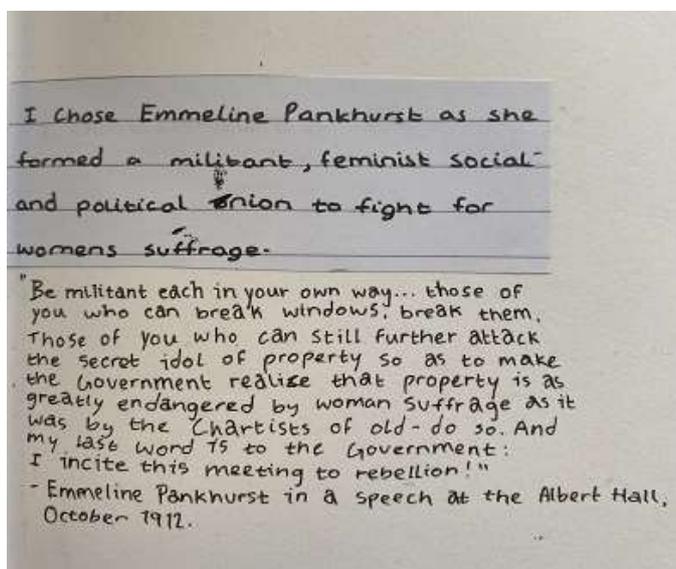
The answers to last week's question 1 is:

$$\frac{16 - 9\sqrt{3}}{12}\pi \approx 0.10774$$

Answer to question 2: 42°

Mr Stewart, who many of you will know from the Prep School, has announced the publication of his debut novel, *Flid*. Mr Stewart describes it as: *"a moving, sometimes comic, story of Kevin Donnellon, who was born without arms and legs following his mother's use of thalidomide (during pregnancy). Kevin was not expected to last the night - and was initially taken for a stillbirth - but, now a father of two, he would go on to live a rich and fulfilling life. It is only when Kevin enters University as a mature student, and finds love again, that he is forced to reassess a condition he had long come to accept."* The book can be ordered online or from any bookshop.

The artist of the week this week is Tilly A (Ch10):



Lots of sport tomorrow, with wonderful autumn weather to inspire us. Mr Cook reports that it will be a particularly busy few days for girls sport starting with the weekend hockey matches at St Bede's Manchester, followed next week by a cricket tournament hosted by the College, and netball league fixtures at King David and St Mary's Crosby.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal