

Principal's Newsletter

17 May 2024

Dear Parents,

And breathe. SATs are finished. This annual ritual of locking up our Chapter 6 pupils and putting them through their paces, inducing anxiety among pupils, parents, teachers and school leaders while furnishing government ministers with snapshots of progress has come to an end. It is such a relief. These things are regularly survived and I am certain that our pupils gave a great account of themselves.

This morning in Ms Atkinson's reception class there was great excitement. Several pupils could not contain the flow of enthusiastic words. This happens occasionally when something so marvellous has happened that it simply overwhelms the very young.

On this occasion, the cause of the excitement was the presence of "the strawberry man" who had "given them all awards." Naturally I left the classroom somewhat perplexed as I had no idea who this strawberry man could be. But all was soon revealed when Ms Javeed showed me a picture of a parent, dressed as a strawberry, clutching flyers about tomorrow's **PTA Food Festival**. This had clearly been one of the PTA's most effective Pre Prep marketing ideas. I do hope to see many of you at the food festival tomorrow. It runs from 12pm to 5pm in the MV Hall. The programme is not only a delicious variety of food but also includes a special performance from the Preplings choir. The PTA are still looking for volunteers to help at the event – email PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you can help.

The PTA were also active last night at the Springtime Soiree. Ms Cunningham manages to recruit all her family to help out serving drinks and snacks.

On this occasion the soiree was held in Mossley Hill Church so that the demand for tickets which had always outstripped the supply in the Palm House could be satisfied. We were treated to a magical evening of music of every variety from every age group. Notable this year were the number of student bands, impromptu groups, who performed music that was on their heart so to speak. We heard avant-garde compositions as well as standard pop classics, large works for choir, upbeat tunes for orchestra. I was very touched and moved by a performance of Mozart's *Kyrie* which the excellent chamber choir had prepared, they said, because I liked it so much. There was in truth something for everyone. This morning one of the Preplings yawned while waiting to cross Queens Drive. It is a long and great gig for our younger singers but they performed brilliantly.

Many of us live in awe of the energy and dedication of Mr Bishop and Ms Clark. The orchestra and choir, the various chamber and small groups, the musicals, the tours. They are so totally dedicated to expanding the reach and quality of music in our school. Their own delight in the progress of their charges is itself inspirational. The soiree once again confirmed the gratitude we owe them.

We are now into the leaving season. Today we waved goodbye in Chapel to Chapter 13. These bittersweet occasions never fail to produce a slight choking of the throat and moistening of the eye. One student told me of the reality of strong feelings as he left after 14 years at the school. It had been his world, from rugby to plays, from friends to teachers, his youth and broadly speaking his education had all been associated with this small plot in south Liverpool. But every chrysalis is destined to become a butterfly. Every cocoon is meant to be exited. The spirit of our Chapter 13 students is going to take them to universities all over the country and abroad. They will remain united through various friendships and social media and through the Lerpoolians who insistently offer them opportunities to remain connected to their old school. Now after some celebrations, it is back to the books and the exams.



My congratulations to the Chapter 10 footballers who represented the city of Liverpool and won the U15 national schoolboys championship, following up on the U13 success. Well done to our representatives for giving such a good account of themselves: Harry Q, Ben McK, Layton N, Erdis R and Kingston A-G.

Continuing in this theme, many congratulations also to Jaida L and Elise K (Ch7) who also represented the city and were part of the victorious Liverpool Schoolgirls U12 team in the National Cup final versus Brighton.



Our musicians of the week from Mr Bishop:



This week's **Musicians of the Week** are three pupils from Ch13 who performed their Swan Songs at last night's Springtime Soiree. Amongst an eclectic programme of 25 individual items covering most musical genres, Matthew D-H was the first of the three to perform Jeff Buckley's Hallelujah, singing the song and accompanying himself on the electric guitar. A little later in the programme, Isabella C performed Etta James' At Last, a song she recently sang as part of her A Level recital. Owen W then followed, playing Henri Rabaud's Solo de Concours. Through Matt's mature musicality, Isabella's stylish singing and Owen's virtuosic playing, it is clear that we are losing three extremely talented musicians to pastures new!

The future is bright however, with the myriad of excellent performances last night. One delightful surprise was a message from Mani of the Stone Roses who heard The Staggs' performance of I Wanna Be Adored and sent a message of congratulation to the band. It just goes to show: in music performance, you never know who's listening!

This week's **artist of the week** is Freya G (Ch11) - Origami dress and headdress.



Exploration into anatomy, growth, life and death were the inspiration for this piece. Constructed entirely from paper. Research began by drawing and photography from the skeleton in the Biology lab in school, followed by artist research on anatomy. Each flower is hand dyed with paper marbling and constructed onto the paper frame work.

May I wish you a dry, pleasant and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal