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## Principal's Newsletter

2 November 2018

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a vigorous and short week. Attendance has been stellar. Minds are focused. The whole machinery of the school has sprung to life after a deserved break.

It is never easy to make one's way back to the routines of school life after a break, but for the 22 top achieving PPC point pupils in the senior school, the walk through the school gates was a stroll towards their award lunch, catered by Domino's Pizza. Evelyn Waugh believed that gluttony was the only true sin of the school boy, and the attack of these ravenous superstars on the blue cardboard boxes was miraculous to behold. The same energy was on display at the Prep School Halloween Disco, an event which combines the consumption of sweets, the wearing of costumes and the injection of youthful energy.

Today is Ms Lavelle's last day as our receptionist at main reception. Ms Lavelle has brilliantly juggled and spun all the plates which our receptionist must control and conjure, administering everything from admissions procedure advice to emergency first aid with grace and aplomb. We wish her all the best in her new job.

We are preparing our House News newsletter to update you on all the runners and riders, winners and losers, heroes and heroines of the first half term of house competitions across the College. Our new emphasis on the house structure is certainly providing a focal point of competition and pupil leadership.

During our break, pupils and staff enjoyed three highly successful trips to Pompeii, Iceland and a windswept Peak District. My thanks to staff who organize and conduct these trips and sacrifice their holiday to enrich the curriculum in this way. When I teach my Year 7 Latin class I regularly refer to the trip I hope the pupils will be able to take to Pompeii during their middle school years. Seeing the houses of Pompeii where the stories in their Latin textbook are set must be counted as a true deepening of their understanding.

The 1184 app users do not need to read the next paragraph as they are informed constantly and efficiently about various events. November 7 is the Year 11 Parents' Evening. November 8 there will be a music recital by GCSE and A Level pupils in the MV Hall at 6.30pm. Sunday, 11 November will be the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service followed by a cup of

tea and bake sale (in aid of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal) in the Hall. The parade will commence at 10.20am with the service beginning at 10.40am.

Work on the conversion of Godwyn House into a Sixth Form and Music Centre has accelerated. The brave men on the roof are making good progress and now we have opened a front internally. Paint, carpets, furniture; it is all being purchased or applied with a view to the Sixth Form moving in January and the music department in September 2019.

When the Sixth Form do move, there will be a common room for those who have been selected as Gladstone Scholars. The individual students who form this Sixth Form leadership group are pursuing a Level 3 Qualification of the Institute of Leadership and Management while serving as ambassadors, house captains and in other leadership roles around the school. Their training began this week also.

This Saturday, I shall be attending the Festival of Remembrance at Mossley Hill Church which is also being filmed by BBC television. A number of our pupils, staff and parents will participate in the event. Our Art Department under the vision of Mrs Hardisty and Miss McWatt have created a vast bed of over 600 poppies which will adorn the lawns of the church; Drama is represented by a play, written and performed by Mrs Hall, alongside both Eleanor H and Yazmin H; and one of the musical items of the evening will be provided by a choir of Mums performing Mr Bishop's new arrangement of one of Florrie Forde's famous numbers, 'When the fields are white with daisies'. The Expressive Arts Faculty was involved in this event four years ago when the church commemorated the start of the First World War, and we are delighted to be involved again in the more uplifting remembrance of the end of this conflict.

Hopefully, I shall be in the Church with the self-satisfied look of the victorious. Our block fixture against St Edward's is upon us in a sporting event that rivals a major international tournament in size. Our rugby, hockey and netball teams will do well. As Spartan mothers used to tell their children, come back victorious or be carried back on your shield!

May I wish you and yours a glorious weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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