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## Principal's Newsletter

4 October 2018

Dear Parents,

My visit to Ms Jones and her Year 4 class this morning was enlightening. Pupils were tasked with advising Claudius about the pros and cons of invading Britain in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. In the front of the class, a girl, dressed in full armour, played the part of Claudius brilliantly. Claudius was a nervous wreck, a highly intelligent emperor, and suffered from a severe speech impediment. The other pupils adduced various convincing rationalizations for either invading or not invading. In the group we had a budding Nietzschean: he asserted that Claudius should just invade because he could and he would win. Another pupil worried about potential ambushes which would be laid for the Romans as they arrived in a strange land. Another pupil, using the arguments which acquisitive empires have used through the ages, proposed that the Romans were really doing the residents of Britannia a favour by smiting them and taking over their country. Finally each table formed a common position. Our pupils showed remarkable democratic dexterity in achieving this. Tables voted, but each pupil was also allowed to offer Claudius a personal opinion in the event they had not agreed with the majority opinion on the table.

My main thought was: this is how school should be. Pupils were working on a variety of levels within the curriculum. There were elements of critical thinking, literacy and presentation skills, as well as some of what the government has joylessly termed British Values. Good stuff.

And it has been good stuff as well from our rugby teams and senior netball team. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV played two brilliant matches, winning against King William's Isle of Man and losing narrowly after a herculean effort and much success against Merchant Taylors. We have had other wins against St Mary's, and Scarisbrick Hall. The senior netball team enjoyed a superb city tournament at Archbishop Blanch last night. You can read the match report on the College website [here](#). The amount of sport on offer is amazing. Indeed, some pupils are now complaining they cannot attend all the things they wish to. There are literally not enough minutes in the day.

The fundamental principle which underpins our [LCA+](#) curriculum is the education of the whole person in both academic knowledge and in personal skills. In order to help pupils, staff and parents, think about the curriculum and how it applies to them, we have created a "tube map" of the curriculum. The seven strands of academic and the seven strands of

personal development are represented here as tube lines with as yet unnamed stations. For our school, but also for each individual pupil, thinking about their engagement with the curriculum and what their particular stations might be allows for crucial reflection on the learning process. The Map can be found [here](#), it is a great way to reflect on what we are learning at school and why.

Today is CCF Field Day for Year 11. They are off in a field somewhere learning fieldcraft, learning marksmanship and practising leadership skills. Today is also Harvest Festival in the Prep School and Pre Prep, part of the College's liturgical calendar. That calendar is now approaching Founders' Day, October 12. Mr Bishop is a little nervous about preparing the 230 musicians who will be involved in the service. Tomorrow, I meet with the Oxbridge and Medicine group now anxiously putting the final touches on their UCAS applications. On Monday, I was able to briefly visit the presentation of our Year 13 pupils for the Extended Project Qualification. All sorts of strands of their education had come together in these projects. Some were about ancient civilizations, others about just war theory, others focussed on making the perfect bridal cake. In Year 13, pupils are ready to ride one of the tube lines off the map, off over the horizon. It is very exciting to see them prepare for that journey.

All of these things, and the various qualifications, performances, matches, tournaments, and other events they lead to, are a crucial part of our curriculum. All pupils have access to activities and opportunities in each of the strands of the curriculum, but not all pupils take those opportunities and maximise them to their fullest potential. My own view is that parents are the key to encouraging a pupil to engage with the full LCA+ curriculum.

We have sent you an email about the logistics of Founders' Day which I hope you will attend. As part of our preparations we conduct a risk assessment. It is in this context that I must advise you as parents that, in the event of a fire or evacuation of the premises, you can collect your child from our emergency muster area, the entranceway walkway outside the Cathedral.

A reminder also that on Founders' Day (12 October) the school is closed.

Continuing with my introduction of new staff:

**Ms Miller** joins us as the Assistant Librarian in the Secondary Phase. Mrs Miller joined us from The City of Liverpool College where she has worked as a Learning Resources Assistant since 2008.

**Ms Crute-Jain** is a very experienced administrator who worked in a variety of admin roles at the Greenbank Project and Greenbank College. She is the House Administrator for Butler's and Selwyn's.

**Ms Brown** will be familiar to many parents having joined the school in March 2016 as the

learning mentor in the primary phase. She completed her teaching training with us last year through School Direct and was appointed as a Year 4 teacher in the Prep School.

Please download the app. And if and when you have downloaded, make sure to go to Menu on the bottom right corner, click Settings, and then choose notification groups. There are more than 1500 users now. We are not sure whether they are all pupils or all staff or how it is possible in that context that when we send a message to let's say the Prep School it is only going to about 100 users. We really need you to engage with this useful tool for keeping up to speed with all we offer and to select those notification categories which apply to your child.

We have key Parents' Evenings for Year 13, Reception, Year 1, 2 and 6 coming up during the week commencing 15 October. I hope you will attend.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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