
Principal's Newsletter

7 December 2018

Dear Parents,

Our physicists will tell you that objects do not typically accelerate away, gathering speed infinitely. But terms do. More is happening now than at any other time.

Full Christmas spirit is descending on the campus. It is not only the musical and liturgical preparations for the Secondary Phase Carol Service on Monday in Liverpool Cathedral. It is also the now annual own clothes day, a day of unsettling and vertiginous sartorial relaxations, which serves as an argument for charity but also as proof of the need for school uniforms.



The College is full of discoveries, activities which appear to occur under the radar and reveal an organic engagement with learning across the campus. Yesterday, Faye H (Howson's) in Sixth Form explained her cardboard Christmas tree to me when I rather serendipitously bumped into her on the way out of school in the dark. She is part of Maths Ambassadors, a programme for Sixth Formers organised by Ms Stone during the Thursday activity programme. Our ambassadors help and support Y11 pupils in lessons, help teachers lead activities for Y7 and Y8 Mastery lessons and create their own activities for Prep pupils at the end of each half term. Faye's ideas about the use of the cardboard Christmas tree and post it notes to teach and encourage pupils in the Prep School were very ingenious. Even maths has succumbed to Christmas. Last Tuesday, we were overwhelmed by the sight of the entire

Prep School wearing antlers on a sponsored run. The effort of organisation and exertion was inspiring. Next week, there are various groups raising money, and singing carols. The boarders meanwhile engage in something they call "reverse Christmas" which involves an intricate sharing of gifts with those less fortunate.

The reports for secondary phase pupils are out or in or whatever the right word for it is. Please discuss these with your child, please make sure that you follow up any questions you may have with the relevant teacher.

The mocks for Year 11 begin on Monday. There are the Christingles, the Reception Nativity play and Year 1 and 2 carol service and the various celebrations and charitable activities still to come.

On campus, the work on our physical infrastructure seems only to increase, frenzied activity around Godwyn House as the roofers and the contractors share the site in preparation for the opening of the new Sixth Form centre in early January. Those of us who have had a peek, are very excited about the progress and the sort of space our sixth formers will finally have. The opening of Godwyn House will create opportunities for more classrooms, a proper drama room, and a Chaplaincy centre elsewhere on campus.

Soon we will be opening the tender bids for the replacement of the astroturf at some point before September 2019. This much needed improvement in the "carpet" will be much appreciated by the pupils who present me with a supervisory opportunity every lunch time. It will also give us a wonderful surface for hockey and other sports and bring our sports facilities into state of the art status.

Then there are trees. Planting, trimming them, and occasionally having to cut them down. There is a marvellous tree in the garden of the Middle School which has contracted a horrible illness and the tree surgeons have to take it down. This particular work is best undertaken when no one is on campus.

There is a small group of Year 7s who earn about 8 pounds every 20 minutes of lunch by collecting the discarded water bottles of other pupils. They recycle these and claim the small deposit on plastics which our caterer has introduced. As part of our management of waste, pests, and recycling, next term we will have, courtesy of our caterer, a dedicated technician who will improve our recycling and waste management efforts. This means new and different bins, again, more work on campus.

Pupils wander about with all sorts of items the day before the Christmas Market. We are set to go and we hope that you and your family will attend this Christmas kick off launch from 1-4pm tomorrow, Saturday 8 December, in our Sports Hall.

Our 1st XV rugby team powered into the Lancashire Plate Final by thoroughly defeating AKS Lytham, an independent school near Blackpool. We are now far along enough in the year to see the successes of the rugby programme and the 1st XV are leading the way with a very

impressive season. The Rugby dinner will take place next term when we have won our silverware.

Our Wilton Scholars programme never sleeps thanks to the irrepressible Mrs Doran. Scholars from Year 7 and 8 participated in a superb business enterprise workshop this week, exploring the psychology of shopping habits and using these to enhance their creativity when pitching to an audience. They then had the opportunity to work with a professional videographer to create a corporate video to promote the school library.

As part of our careers programme, Mrs Doran also arranged for Professor Atkinson, parent, governor, and Dean of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science at Liverpool University, to talk to our Year 12 students about 'Upcoming Future Trends in the World of Work' and careers involving Computing and emerging technologies.

Our A Level DT students have also been busy attending a Product Design in Action Conference at the University of Warwick and you can read about this day [here](#).

Oxford University hosted a debate workshop last Monday night. We discovered they had invited several other schools to attend so Mr Barnicoat's classroom was filled with pupils from all over the area. There was some instruction in parliamentary debating technique, Oxford Union style, but there was also substantial advertising for Oxford University generally. Debating is so popular that we are adding another debating activity for Year 9 and 10 girls. Our recent trip to the House of Lords and the evidence on television about our pupils' success there reveals how well Liverpool College pupils do on their feet, speaking in public, making a case. It is an important part of education.

One Year 7 pupil has written explaining that she has formed a group of friends who will meet in the library to discuss the rules of Liverpool College and how they should be changed. Hopefully, she will share her findings with the Parliament of Houses, with its elected representatives from Years 3-13 due to meet on Monday for the second time this term.

May I wish you and your family a festive and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal