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## Principal's Newsletter

11 January 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had quite a week.

We returned to find that through the great efforts Councillor Robertson-Collins and also Councillor Murray and other authority officers, the path in front of Queens Drive had been swept and even paved. This makes the winter walk all the more inviting and enticing. It will also keep the hallways of the primary phase so much cleaner.

Not long after we settled into our back to term routine, we received what in educational circles is called "the call". It seemed incredible that we could be told we would be inspected across the entire College less than three hours after resuming lessons. About 30 hours later it was finished. The short inspection had been completed, an exhausting but also exhilarating and intense experience. Strict rules apply to the publication of Ofsted reports and their content so it is not possible for me to comment upon it until it is formally published. But I am sure that I can say that the pupils, students and staff were absolutely fantastic throughout the inspection. I look forward to sending the information to you and sharing more about the findings and the process with you.

We are grateful for the 192 parents who filled in the parent view survey. The comments therein were appreciated by the inspectors and also by me and my colleagues. As you will be aware, on Thursday January 17 at 18.00 in the MV Hall we are holding a parent information evening. The surveys we conduct at parents' evenings as well as the Ofsted survey revealed an interest in us improving our reporting of pupil progress to you, and this is and was the topic we planned and intend to discuss with you at the parent information evening. This occasion will also provide an opportunity for suggestions, questions, ideas and other discussions about the College.

Congrats to Ben S (School) for receiving his offer from Oxford to read Engineering. This is a massive achievement. Next week we hear from Cambridge. The offers from universities generally are pouring in and many of our sixth formers face stern academic tests to obtain the grades to study their chosen subject at their chosen universities. They will receive their mock results next week. This is an annual moment of dawning consciousness for many. Let's

keep our collective fingers crossed and encourage them at every opportunity. On the 17 of January, the Year 11 receive their mock results at a results afternoon.

Congratulations also to the girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey team who achieved an impressive 5-1 victory at Birkenhead School. It is great to see that the increased practices and fixtures in hockey are bearing fruit in a high standard of play for our 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

One of my favourite times of the week is my teaching of Year 9 games. In a new term, the football begins to roll but I have stayed with rugby and am taking the Year 9 girls for some rugby practice. The enthusiasm of pupils for sport, which is shared equally among all ages, all genders, all shapes and sizes, all ability levels is infectious and motivates pupils to compete, to learn from coaches and to collaborate.

We also welcomed double Taekwondo world champion Bianca Walkden to school this week to give a group of pupils an introduction to martial arts. This BBC video contains disturbing images of Mr Muscatelli being attacked by a GB Taekwondo specialist: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-merseyside-46801899/bianca-walkden-dreams-of-inspiring-100000-girls-to-take-up-martial-arts>.

We welcomed two new members of staff to the College at the start of term: Mrs Lam has joined us as an IT Technician while Mrs Hunter is our new House Administrator for Butler's and Selwyn's.

As you may have seen on our website, we are currently consulting on our Admissions Policy for September 2020. Further details about the proposed changes to admission arrangements can be found on the College website [here](#) but there are no planned changes to our oversubscription criteria. We are undertaking this consultation in the period 20 December 2018 to 31 January 2019. Comments can be emailed to [consultation@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:consultation@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) and must be received by 31 January 2019.

It has been exciting to walk with a small group of Year 13 pupils through the new Godwyn House, now almost finished for Sixth Form occupancy from the week beginning 21 January. One pupil who has been with us since Reception immediately recognized his old after school play room from 13 years ago, now to be the Sixth Form dining room. Many people refer to this as coming full circle. There is so much space that a certain disorientation sets in with the students, something which I am certain will disappear on the first day of them moving into their common rooms, study halls, study rooms, classrooms, careers library etc. The renovation works on the music school side of the building will continue for a while longer. We hope to formally open the Sixth Form Centre the day after Speech Night in late March.

An early plug for The Wedding Singer. This charming musical (do not watch the movie before coming to our production, it will deprive you of some of the pleasure) is being performed on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 January in the MV Theatre. Pupils should look out for posters appearing next week on the screens.

One Reception pupil told me yesterday when I was sharing in his class's carrot and pear break, that I was almost as tall and as old as his father who, he asserted, was 99 years old. I felt certain that after the week we have had, we have all aged, but had hoped to have some years before receiving a telegram from the Queen.

May I wish you and yours a dry and peaceful weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**