
Principal's Newsletter

11 October 2018

Dear Parents,

My letters consist increasingly of references to information and news you can find on our website and app. 1100 people are verified users of the app. There are about 2500 parents and about 1400 pupils and staff who are the intended target of this app. So we have a long way to go. Users are receiving updates and reminders on all manner of things, even the daily lunch menu. I would urge you to download the app without delay.

We are preparing to move our school to the Cathedral for the annual jamboree of all the College tribe. Our guests will include the High Sheriff of Merseyside and Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool and a number of OLs, Foundation members, governors, and other people who support and inspire the school. This annual reminder of our noble mission precedes an annual takeover of the hostelrys of the city centre. Please make sure that your child knows they are responsible for their behaviour while in school uniform and will be viewed as ambassadors of the College in town that day. Our musicians are in a particular state of frenzy, preparing to lead the performances of 230 choristers and orchestra members. Sixth Formers have been drafted as muscle to move bulky items into vans which are already on their way for the service. This afternoon is the first shot of the Founders' Day artillery, when the Pre Prep holds its Founders' Day Service in the Chapel. We have already written to you by email about the arrangements for Founders' Day. The day ends when the OLs hold their Founders' Day dinner.

But it would be false to describe this as a long weekend of recuperation and relaxation for pupils or staff. There is a full list of fixtures on Saturday (all on the app and the LC sports website). We will also be hosting during the meteorologically forecasted storm predicted for Saturday morning the 1230 pupils who have signed up for our banding test. It is therefore imperative that if your child is playing sport you drop them off at the Penny Lane gate and allow a little extra time and a little extra patience as we deal with the logistics of this event.

Next week, secondary phase games lessons will include a House Run in Sefton Park as part of the House competition schedule.

We have published our calendar and term dates of 2019-2020 on the website [here](#). There are minor changes, especially as it relates to half term Michaelmas Term 2019 which will be two weeks long. This calendar is designed to make maximum use of our school days and to

avoid those periods when exams are "over" and pupils feel that term time is becoming an early onset of holiday time. An important part of that is our plan to teach intensely until the end of every term and to assess through mock exams, tests, examinations, in the last three days of the Michaelmas Term. Reports for Michaelmas Term will therefore not come home to you until the start of Lent Term which we view is more likely to lead to dialogue and engagement between parent, school and pupil about progress. This calendar enables us to work up to the last day, rather than do examinations early and hear parental excuses for missing term and taking unauthorised holidays. To be clear, if you go on holiday or remove your child early from term, they will miss important exams, mock and trial tests and other assessments. In the case of these absences being unauthorised, your child would have essentially an empty report card and a "data" hole. We want to use the days we are in school to learn and believe that this pattern of term and holidays maximizes teacher and pupil energy and learning. Attendance, which has been strong so far this term, is the key to this. We say every day of term matters. We mean it.

I would like to give further advance notice of the term dates for 2020-2021 but this is not possible until the local authority has announced its term dates so we can ensure some compatibility with the half term dates.

Congratulations to Ms Hardisty and Ms McWatt. Their pupils' art work is being sent around the country as exam boards seek to teach other teachers how to do it!

I wish you and yours a dry, warm and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal