
Principal's Newsletter

14 September 2018

Dear Parents,

The monsoon which engulfed our thousand visitors last Saturday appears to have passed. Pupils stride purposefully between lessons in beautiful autumn sunshine. Our recycling campaign is bearing fruit as there is a reduction in the detritus of school life-sweet wrappers, water bottles, and other remnants of ambulant dining.

The great event this week was of course the opening of the Pre Prep. It was an honour to welcome the Mayor, Mr Joe Anderson OBE, and the cabinet member for education, Cllr Barbara Murray, who have both assiduously supported the building of the new Pre Prep. Our guests were impressed equally with the building and the teaching. It was incredible to see the energy and focus of the pupils in their learning, just days after moving into the new facility.

As predicted, the new facility has also caused parking and traffic disruption. I would like to ask parents to refrain from some of the most clearly illegal manoeuvres they undertake to drop their charges close by the gate, such as parking at bus stops, double parking, parking on zig zags. All these traffic behaviours endanger young people, inflame the temper of other drivers and cause mayhem. The gates at Ibbotson's Lane remain underused in the morning and on the three afternoons they are open at 3.15pm: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I hope that together we can solve these issues by driving and parking safely and taking enough time to drop off and pick up.

Congratulations to our newly appointed **Prep School Head Boy and Girl**: Zaynadin C and Mary M, and **prefect team**: Athena K, Charlie Y, Zaynadin C, Lena A, Dennis P, Grace M, Sam C and Riya N.

I promised to introduce you to some of our new staff:

Mr Crossey has joined the Science Faculty as a Chemistry teacher. Mr Crossey has a MSc in Chemistry from Queens University Belfast and completed his PGCE at Liverpool Hope University.

Mr Stavrinou joins us as a DT Teacher from Edmonton County School in Enfield where he had worked since 2015.

Ms Cleary is our new part time MFL Teacher. Ms Cleary knows the College well having completed her teacher training here last year through the School Direct programme.

Advance warning of an invitation to Year 7 parents to gather informally with Mr Fox, Mr Griffith and their child's House Mentor or Head of House on Wednesday 3 October at 3.40pm in the MV Hall. This will be a chance to learn more about how life at the school is organized and give you an opportunity to ask any questions or express concerns which you may have.

On Thursday morning I spent some time with our Sixth Form Spanish pupils as part of the Talk for Teaching programme. They were discussing a play by Lorca in Spanish, and claimed, I am sure without exaggeration, that they could express anything and everything they wanted to say about this play in Spanish. This was a riveting example of education, in the sense that it is extraordinary to see the results of language teaching in action like this. It made my day.

The House cord, that badge of distinction, has been universally stitched onto blazers in the senior school and I would like to thank parents for their cooperation in achieving this. Prep School pupils have received their cord today as well. The house football competition rages at each lunchtime with pupils emerging from the sports hall in argumentative discussions about fouls, goals, and house points. So far, Butler's has a commanding lead.

I would like parents of pupils age 16 and over to be aware of a very [prestigious writing competition](#) with a substantial reward for the winner. Mr Wilson writes:

If you are a keen writer, and will be aged 16 or over on 23rd November 2018, can I strongly urge you to enter this very prestigious competition: <http://theathenaeum.org.uk/home/frank-moran-young-writers-competition/> Putting one's work out for public scrutiny is certainly daunting, but as the prize description shows the process can be rewarding materially as well as aesthetically. Please see Mr Wilson for more details.

We beat St Edwards 1st XV midweek and now proceed in the Natwest competition (you can read the match report on our website [here](#)). This Saturday, there is much sport planned, a D of E expedition heads to the hills, and lots of Sixth Formers have bundled their travel resources to attend various open days for university. The rugby teams are away or home to Bolton but we will also have a girls rugby practice for the first time, and later next week we can look forward to the introduction of some Gaelic football. Please see the [LC sport website](#) for more information.

A reminder of two upcoming **PTA events**: the Wine Tasting Evening (Friday 21 September, 7.30pm, Dining Room) and the AGM (Wednesday 26 September, 7pm, Dining Room).

Further details can be found on the College website [here](#) or by emailing PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

I have written previously about our attempts to improve communication with you, avoiding my epistolary style, and instead giving you the information and facts you need at the time you need it.

The [new website](#) is part of that strategy. We hope it is clearer, "cleaner", easier to use and more up to date. In next week's newsletter, I will introduce you to our new app and tell you a little bit about how we intend to use it to further the communication plans we have.

May I wish you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal