
Principal's Newsletter

14 December 2018

Dear Parents,

There is a certain magic about a Year 9 boys Games lesson. I look forward to teaching it as much as the boys look forward to it. This week was House Rugby week. For about 45 minutes in brisk arctic conditions, the teams from the six houses went at it hammer and tongs with every boy involved, competing, and enjoying a proper competition. These are the moments that inspire headmasters.

And there were many such moments. We have been involved in a series of lesson observations in the secondary part of the school. The most important thing in any school is the magic learning that either does or does not happen for a pupil in the classroom. Visiting lessons is like watching the alchemy up close. We invite outside experts to come with us to make sure we are accurate in our assessment of the teaching and learning in a lesson. Is it challenging enough? Are the pupils and students inspired? Are they thinking and reasoning independently? Are they being creative and curious? The focus of great teaching is the impact it has on the pupil as a learner. What we can report is that these visits were hugely inspirational and that our visitors were struck by the improvements in teaching since their last visit. It is hugely encouraging to see the magic of learning rampant in our classrooms.

Year 11 and 13 are in the mocks.

This is also the season of the Christmas service. Monday in the Cathedral, the lessons and carols were enhanced by the choir and orchestra, despite one girl singeing her hair on a candle and other slight technical mishaps, the entire evening was filled with music and the hope of Christmas. As one Old Liverpoolian said of the choir: I could listen to a lot more of that!

The next day it was over to Mossley Hill Church, our "parish church", where the swelling numbers in the Prep School could be accommodated. Is there any primary school in the area which would do its nativity in Spanish? Not sure, but we were all extremely proud of the music, the readings, the performances, and the excellent parental support for this event in a new venue.

Mr Cook is even now bestriding the playing fields having organised a final Year 6-7 rugby match before we take on a full football fixture against King's Chester tomorrow. It has been an extraordinary term of boys and girls sports with the number of fixtures, rates of participation, number of coaching session and success on fields and courts, all up.

Early next term we will be opening the new sixth form centre as the new music centre continues to be refurbished. Both will be in Godwyn House. We will make a very minor alteration to our secondary timetable with a morning registration from 8.25-8.30 but without a change to the beginning and end times of school. We are also preparing changes to our reporting systems for September 2019. In order to consult with you on that and to share other plans and give parents a chance to raise concerns and ideas, we will be hosting another Parent Information Evening on Thursday 17 January at 6pm.

But you knew that already because you have downloaded the app.

Congratulations to Madeleine and Evie in Year 8 who performed with Sir Paul McCartney on Wednesday evening at the Echo Arena as members of the LIPA Choir. An amazing opportunity!

Pupils, staff and parents all need and deserve a break. I hope you and your family will be inspired by the story of Christmas and will enjoy a holy and peaceful season.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal