
Principal's Newsletter

16 November 2018

Dear Parents,

As ministerial resignations and Machiavellian rumours fly, and the focus turns briefly to Parliament, I am pleased to report that we have our very own pupils in the very seat of power at this very time.

Mr Barnicoat has taken some of his Year 10s to London to participate in a [House of Lords debate](#), to be televised. Our young peers will be in the chamber while next door "that other place" goes through its paroxysms of political bloodletting. The timing could not be better.

I was able to recognize Ms Lewis and Ms Foster, two of our LSAs in Pre Prep for their 25 years of service to the school. They joined the Pre Prep very shortly after it started and have served the College, their young charges, and their colleagues with quiet optimism, determination, care and devotion. I was able to tell the Pre Prep pupils that they had started in the school before they were born, before their parents met, and in a previous century and millennium. Meanwhile, many pupils only wanted to share that they themselves had turned 6. I wanted to say that I had not been excited about a birthday since I had turned 19, but thought this might be a depressing prospect to put before a child whose sole ambition is to become 7. Many of us felt quite old.

[Remembrance Sunday](#) was memorable, solemn, and a fundraising success. It seemed likely that the day would be marred by driving rain but the sun came out and added a gleam to our efforts. Walter Clarke, another person whose involvement with the College is counted in decades (5) took the salute and read the Act of Remembrance. A new feature was the reading of the roll of honour and the excellent trumpet playing of Gabby M (Y11 Brook's). This year, pupils baked cakes and raised almost £800 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. My thanks to all our staff who volunteer to serve in the CCF. We have taken a bold decision in remaining a "conscription" CCF. Many schools have tiny CCFs made up only of hardy volunteers who huddle together in small platoons. Our vision is that everyone benefits from participation in CCF, and by extension from participating in the Remembrance Day parade. This leads to educational and logistical challenges, but also far greater impact. I find it remarkable that an organisation which effectively meets for about an hour a week for

ten weeks can organise a service and parade such as the one we witnessed as well as delivering leadership and outdoor education lessons.

Our prospective sixth formers toured the campus on Wednesday. It is encouraging that more than 230 pupils registered with us. At our Sixth Form taster lessons in February we will be able to show prospective pupils our new Sixth Form Centre. Under our new roof, we are painting, tiling, decorating, flooring and furnishing a new centre which will include an oak panelled dining room, three private study areas, a seminar teaching room, a common room, a careers library and 4 classrooms. Mr Brady has packed his bags and intends to lead the team across in early January.

Next up: a tour of new facilities during Reception Open Morning on Saturday 24 November from 10am-12pm.

Should lessons be fun? I think pupils would answer with a resounding yes, but some perverse researcher who is extensively quoted in more right-leaning newspapers is seeking to prove that teachers are too busy making lessons fun, and that efforts to lighten lessons do not actually lead to better or more learning. It strikes me as obvious that enjoyment of lessons is a factor in pupil progress, but this view is now reviled as a sort of hippy – kumbaya relic mentality of another era. Apparently, teaching should focus on the learning of content. Fun, so the researchers claim, is an accidental and contingent by-product of learning like improved fitness when you walk barefoot across a continent, or increased cardiovascular strength when you swim in polar seas. I know my teaching improves when I am having fun, and I can't imagine a time when I did not learn better when learning was fun.

On Monday morning (19 November), I am looking forward to joining Reception pupils and parents on their first "walking bus". This initiative has been organised by our Reception parents as part of walk to school week but also in an attempt to help reduce traffic around the school entrance.

For those Reception pupils and parents who want to join the bus, passengers are meeting at 7.55am by the parking spaces on the right hand side of the road as you enter Sefton Park from the mini-roundabout at the end of Queen's Drive. Reception children and parents taking part will also be donating £1 each to Children in Need. The bus will be departing at 8am and high vis jackets will be available.

Congratulations to the U13 and U14 hockey teams (and their coach Ms Arnold) who demolished Blue Coat at yesterday's fixture – the U13 secured an 8-0 victory while the U14 triumphed 4-0.

A reminder to please keep supporting Mrs Styles' well-being library plans by voting at local Tesco stores for the project through the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme. To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will then receive one token per transaction (it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token) which

you can assign to the project of your choice. The public vote is open until the end of the year.

A few dates to warn you about, but you know these things already as you are likely to be among the 1217 downloaders of the app.

A reminder that Wednesday 5 December is a staff INSET afternoon. School will finish at 1pm that day with no afternoon lessons in any part of the school and no after school provision.

On Friday 14 December, we will be holding a Rugby Awards Evening in the MV Hall (7-9pm). In addition to the presentation of Rugby awards for each of the school teams, the evening's entertainment will also include a sports quiz and a guest speaker.

The tickets for the evening are priced at £9 each and the cost includes a glass of wine upon arrival (for adults) and a cheeseboard and light snacks per table. There will also be a licensed bar and a raffle to raise money for a nominated charity. For further details and to order your tickets please email Mr Cook (Sports Coordinator) jcook@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

May I wish you and yours a happy and healthy weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal