
Principal's Newsletter

19 October 2018

Dear Parents,

It is almost time to take a well-deserved break. When we return on Wednesday 31 October it will be week B in the secondary phase.

Half term is for many a time for travel. Three major trips depart almost immediately. There is the Classics trip to the Bay of Naples and Pompeii. These intrepid classicists will actually climb Vesuvius, the eruption of which in AD 79 was a catastrophe for the inhabitants of this small Roman town but has proved a boon for classicists as the town and its neighbour Herculaneum were so well preserved.

A massive group of over 50 pupils are also on their way to Iceland. The trip is billed as a geography trip but attracts many pupils who are not currently studying geography because of the transformative experience of visiting this land of fire, ice, and utterly unique geological phenomena.

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition is being loaded into mini vans as I write. The number of our pupils completing this prestigious award continues to increase.

It has been a glorious week for House Runs. Hundreds of pupils, bathed in autumnal sunshine, are coursing like hares around Sefton Park. Competition has been keen, particularly in Year 11. In spirit, and in the almost total excellence of the behaviour on display, these runs have been a great aspect of the week. These runs have also raised a substantial amount of money for Cystic Fibrosis research. We will be announcing many a half term winner at our assemblies today, and in the next half term you will receive a House News update citing the accomplishments and points of various houses. My thanks to Mr Cook, and all the Heads of Houses and their assistants and administrators who have made the house system thrum with activities, competitions, and a sense of purpose. This has been, across the College, one of the best features of this half term.

It is this successful "re-launch" of a full College house system which is also inspiring the creation of a school council called the Parliament of Houses. Each form and phase of the school from Year 3 upwards will elect representatives to this large school council, convened and run by senior prefects. The Parliament of Houses will advise and consult with school leaders about ways to improve the school, and will serve as a forum for the discussion of

new ideas and suggestions from pupils. It will also consult about the House competitions and its various sets of rules.

We had an inspiring and sobering visit from representatives of the Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World. We were honoured the group visited and met with A Level history students. The presence of a Hiroshima survivor and her first hand harrowing account of her memories of the bomb and its aftermath, and the impact it had on her family, her life, and her country brought home the relevance and reality of history to our students.

My thanks also to the volunteers of the PTA who made our banding test possible. Hosting 1230 pupils for an exam is not an easy task. Our staff could not do it without the help of these dedicated parents.

The PTA are holding a **nearly new uniform sale** on Wednesday 14 November from 2.30 - 4pm in the Sutton Timmis Hall in the Prep School. If anyone is also able to volunteer to help at the event, please contact PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

At the end of a half term, things bubble up which have been brewing. One such thing is the Middle School magazine, put together by Mr Farnan and his 8 Butler's activities group. The paper is available on line [here](#) and provides a glimpse into the journalistic preoccupations of the Middle School. It is an excellent example of the things we believe every pupil should at some point experience in life. Putting together a newspaper, printing it, and reading it teaches so much more than basic writing and computer skills. There is an element of teamwork, creativity, and an understanding of what the press does inside this process.

Alice auditions have engulfed the Prep and Middle Schools this week. After 9 hours and a record 168 auditions we are nearly ready to join Alice in Wonderland.... Techno style! There were so many outstanding performances and this year's cast will be very difficult to choose. Look out for the cast list on the first day back! Crispin the Camel has been learning his lines already!

The half term has, unusually, also included smiles rather than frowns when reading headlines about Ofsted. We all pray that the utterances of Ms Spielman become the realities of tomorrow. Ofsted are realizing that their narrow focus on data and high stakes assessments created a number of perverse incentives for schools which have denuded English schools of the fauna of educational diversity; narrowing curricula, ignoring anything which does not contribute to a measure. We should thank Ms Spielman for having the courage to take on the politicians and hope that her vision prevails.

May I wish you and yours a very restful and sunny half term.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal