
Principal's Newsletter

23 November 2018

Dear Parents,

Mr Trump condemns the flow of migrants by naming it a human caravan. Somehow the prospect of impoverished Hondurans on a pilgrimage for economic improvement excited and terrified the President of the United States.

I am also excited by a human caravan, but in this case, I want to praise not condemn it. In fact, the more human caravans the better, and I hope we can all join a human caravan.

I am referring of course to the initiative of Mrs McNeill who along with other volunteers organised the "Walking Bus" for Reception pupils this week and is working on creating more routes to get to school.

What started as a startled assembly of Reception parents and pupils dressed in high vis jackets is becoming a movement which could radically improve the lives of our pupils, namely walking to school with a parent or friend from a safe location. I hope you will consider getting involved as the walking routes are opened to Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. It is a marvellous way for a pupil to begin and end the day. Rather than the stress of parking on zig zags, double yellow lines, and across the school entrance on the busiest roads, "caravaners" or "bus walkers" enjoy some quality time together while observing the small miracles of nature. Whilst not exactly encouraging schadenfreude, there is something remarkably pleasant about walking slowly past the madness that is parking in front of school. Everything about this initiative deserves our total support.

Local councillors and city officials have invited me to a meeting on November 28 to explore changes to parking and traffic regulations around our school. I shall keep you posted on their suggestions and developments.

As I write, the brush and bush choppers and chipper machines are ripping through various College landscapes, depriving our unwanted furry visitors of habitat. This is the first part of a comprehensive plan to manage our campus for maximum pest control. Other measures

relate to waste management, recycling, and further improvements in facilities and landscape.

At our next Parents' Information Evening on January 17, 2019, we will be giving you further updates on these development, including our plans for a new musical school and our consultation regarding changes to reporting at the College.

It is pleasing to see positive [reports](#) about restorative thinking, an approach to resolving discipline and behavioural conflict in school. Some parents responded to the invitation to learn more about the programme, and our entire staff will receive training in it during the next term. The concept of restorative thinking in school is to simultaneously raise expectations and standards of behaviour for every pupil and support for each pupil to achieve these higher standards. We look forward to working with the professionals in this organisation to make an impact in our school.

Frustration abounds now that St Margaret's have cancelled their fixture with us in rugby this afternoon. The Year 10s however did get a game in yesterday, advancing in the Lancashire Plate competition against Birkdale High 47-12. Tomorrow morning we will play netball fixtures against QEGS. The irrepressible Mr Cook has also begun a hunt for opponents for a Prep School Saturday fixture.

The 'Preplings' Choir start their festive duties this weekend at the North West Cancer Research Christmas Concert at St George's Hall on Sunday afternoon. They will also be in action at Liverpool Cathedral over the coming weeks at the Action for Children Christmas Concert (6 December) and the Hurry to Bethlehem Nativity (16 December). You will also have an opportunity to see them in action at the Christmas Market and the Christingle Service. A particular thank you to our music team of Miss Clark and Mr Bishop for organising all these opportunities for our pupils.

Congratulations to Holly B (Y8 Howard's) for her swimming successes. Last weekend, she participated in the Wigan BEST gala, at which swimming clubs from across the North West compete. Holly took three championship records over the weekend: 800 free, 50 free (previous holder was Commonwealth silver medalist Holly Hibbott) and 100 free. She also took gold in the 200 free, silver in the 400 and bronze in the 100 Individual Medley. Her club, City of Liverpool, took the trophy for best team. Holly also broke the championship record for the 50 free at the Co-Op cup (formerly Echo Cup) the week before.

The **PTA Christmas market** is taking place on 8 December and this can only happen with the support of our school community and families. Anyone who could volunteer to help on the day would be most welcome, even if it's just for an hour. Would any willing volunteers please contact the PTA on their email address: pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

We all smiled when the education secretary Damian Hinds suggested that every primary school pupil should climb a tree. His suggested bucket list contains many excellent ideas all of which are difficult to implement because of various pieces of guidance produced in his

own and other educational departments. Coherence, a big word in curriculum development cartels, never applies to the gyrations and undulations of government ministerial initiatives and pet projects. Nevertheless we must be grateful that we are moving away from our more recent experiences in schools where even conker competitions were deemed to pose too great a health and safety risk.

In my position I must maintain a studied neutrality in the matter of House competitions. I would like to mention the amazing efforts of Brook's House on this occasion. Brook's have begun their fundraising efforts with a staggering £900+ haul for Children in Need. Middle School pupils were especially effective in delivering for this charity. The house organised a staff v Y13 netball game where Mr Ridley sought to introduce the rules of basketball, a 'recognize the teacher from the baby picture' quiz, sponsored days of silence which were appreciated by many teachers, and various other initiatives which were both creative and effective. They have set a high standard for all other houses to follow.

News from national CCF HQ. We are the third largest CCF in the country behind Harrow and Royal Hospital School. This is certainly something to be proud of although it also indicates the challenges we face operating a contingent that size without the almost limitless financial resources some of the other contingents have available to them.

The boarders' [weekend reports](#) seem full of fun. How many people can say that they went bowling and ice skating last weekend?

On a daily basis, the College experiences the fruits of teachers and staff working above and beyond the call of duty. A recent instance is the work of Ms Oditia-Sani, our Primary learning mentor, who has established a transformation in a small room in the Prep School, creating a reflection room which, well, allows for reflection. Creativity and initiative of this kind means the school keeps getting better.

A reminder that we are holding our **Reception Open Morning** this Saturday from 10am-12pm (final presentation at 11.15am).

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Bolton for their donation of the wonderful Christmas trees that now adorn the main Reception as well as Pre Prep, Prep and in our Chapel.

Advance Notice of our annual **Service of Lessons and Carols** for Secondary Phase pupils on Monday 10 December at 7.30pm at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. We will be sending an email with details of all the arrangements next week.

A reminder that **Wednesday 5 December** is a **Staff INSET afternoon** for all College staff and school will finish at 1pm that day (12.45pm in Pre Prep). There are no afternoon lessons in any part of the school that day and no after school provision.

Pre Prep and Prep School pupils will have their lunchtime as normal. Pupils in the Secondary Phase will be dismissed immediately after period 4 at 1pm so will not have a school lunch that day.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal