
Principal's Newsletter

28 September 2018

Dear Parents,

As of the time of writing, 467 people have downloaded our new app. Our aim is for this number to include all pupils old enough to have a phone, all parents, all staff, all volunteers, all those interested in the daily life of the College. The aim is therefore more than 4000 downloads. Those who have downloaded the app are able to customize it to their interests and interactions, obviating the need to read any newsletter for its factual content, and reading newsletters instead as mild diversions and follies. You will also have received today an email invitation from myschoolapp inviting you to download the app. Do not delay, download today, is the motto of the week. Get your app, and know everything you need to know when you need to know it. You can also access a parents' guide from the app company [here](#).

I am bracing myself for Jeans for Genes day. This worthy event seems to prove annually that school uniforms are an essential part of school cohesion and focus. Pupils seem not only to put on their denims on this day but they clothe themselves in a new and slightly more exuberant mentality. But this day too shall pass.

And next week, we can look forward to the EPQ evening, the Prep Harvest Festival, a meeting for new Year 7 parents and many other events, all of which can be found on your app after you have downloaded it.

I do want to remind everyone that on **Founders' Day (12 October) the school is closed**. It seems that every year, despite all efforts, some pupil turns up here at school and discovers it's Founders' Day. Prep and Secondary Phase pupils should be at Liverpool Cathedral for the 12pm service. We will write to you next week with specific instructions. If you have the app we will be able to prompt you further.

The beginning of term, particularly in a new building poses challenges for our caterer. Parents told us that their children were reporting various dining issues. Our caterer, as usual, has responded and is responding to each and every concern. In the Prep School, there has seen the institution of "free seconds" so the growing Year 5 or 6 pupil can, in a very non Dickensian way, ask for more if they still feel peckish. There have also been expansions and changes to other menus, and more changes at pupil request are to come. In the future, you will be able to see daily what is on offer in the dining rooms of the College through the app.

For those who have not or will not download the app, the weekly menus are already posted on the website [here](#). We hope this communication of what is on offer will inject a certain spirit of accuracy into family discussions about catering. One parent told me to my amazement that no child could eat at Liverpool College before 1.20pm, whereas in reality almost 80% of pupils in Years 8-11 and 100% of pupils in Years R-7 and Y12-13 have eaten by that time. Apart from my own disappointment at seeing wasted food and my personal crusade against litter, I am struck by the variety of options presented to pupils, certainly more than any I would present to my own family. This verdict was confirmed by the independent school lunch specialist who made an unannounced inspection and report of our provision last year. I am also struck by the pride our catering staff take in making the service better and responding to pupil requests. From pasta bars, salads, baked potatoes, vegetarian mains, the other mains, soup, sandwiches, paninis. There is a great variety. I do want to beg your indulgence however. It is not possible to cook a personalized meal for 1389 pupils and 150 staff and volunteers every day. Nor is it possible for all children to eat simultaneously. There have to be rotas and queues. Some pupils will eat before others. We will continue to work with pupils on ways the service can be improved. Any parent who would like to see lunch in operation should contact me as I enjoy taking people to lunch.

The Year 11 Drama trip to the Everyman provoked thought. 'The Lovely Bones' is an intense read and one pupil made clear to me that this production was similarly intense. You can read more on our website [here](#).

On Wednesday evening, the PTA held a well-attended AGM. The team of officers and co-trustees is a vibrant mix of stalwarts and enthusiastic newcomers. I am filled with hope about the year for the PTA. During the meeting, in rather typical fashion, the PTA granted substantial sums to the College for various essential projects. I do not know what we would do without their support.

Year 10 enjoyed their first CCF Field Day on Tuesday. Attendance was excellent and the cadets participated enthusiastically.

We are looking forward to a fiesta della sport on Saturday. In the morning there will be much hockey and rugby. In the afternoon, our friends from King William's Isle of Man visit for more rugby. Hopefully the glorious weather will continue.

Girls football has had a great start to the year. Year 8 and 9 were in action on Tuesday at North Liverpool Academy (you can read the match report [here](#)) and the Year 7 team claimed a superb 4-2 win against St Barlow's last night after being 2-0 behind.

Some fantastic rugby was played on Wednesday. Our 1st XV drew with St Anselm's and our U13 scored an emphatic victory over St Augustine of Canterbury school.

The Wine and Wisdom Evening will allow us to support our music department as well as glide smoothly into an autumn weekend.

The Chaplain has decided to preach on the fruits of the Holy Spirit this term. We have had love, and this week we are onto joy. Our screens across the school carry thoughts for the day, glimpses of inspiration which are themselves fruits of the Holy Spirit. One exhortation encourages us to decide to pursue joy every day. In my perambulations, I see that joy in our pupils as they undertake their challenges, activities and lessons through our [LCA+ curriculum](#). A specific example was finding Mr Griffith up on a chair in the Howson's Lego activity competition. Pupils were challenged to build an object using 33 Lego pieces which could be dropped from a great height and would not break. The atmosphere was electrically joyful.

Mr Lowes has provided some **e-safety** guidance for parents below on Snapchat and the 'Snap Map' feature:

Snapchat is one of the top five social media apps used by children. It has a recommended minimum age rating of 13 years old. As you will know it has risen in popularity as it allows images or videos to be sent to other users to be then deleted after 10 seconds. This feature has become very popular amongst its 150 million daily users. However, possibly one of the most concerning aspect of Snapchat is the Snap Map feature.

Snap map is a GPS-based feature that allows you to share, search and view publicly submitted videos or photos, based on their location. With Snap Map your child's location in the world is also pinned to the map. Every time they move, their location is updated in real time. Sharing this kind of information is extremely unwise, as if someone were to monitor the activity of your child they could quickly work out their school and home addresses, the route they take and the times they do so.

Protecting your child on this app is straightforward. You can select who you'd like to share your location with. You can choose from the following three options:

- **My friends:** Your location is shared with only your friends. **Please bear in mind that anyone can send a request to be your child's friend.**
- **A select group of friends:** Pick specific people you want to share your images, videos and location with.
- **Ghost mode:** The safest option. It stops your location being shared with anyone. I highly recommend any younger children should have their account set to this mode at all times.

If you'd like to know more about Snapchat and its features check out the link [here](#).

May I wish you and yours a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal