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## Principal's Newsletter

30 November 2018

Dear Parents,

The great **PTA Christmas Fair** is almost upon us. This is the school version of advent, a sign of the shortening days and the approach of Christmas. The pupils are engaged in a lottery and in various design and retail competitions for the event. The fair is a major fundraiser for the PTA whose support we desperately need in these straitened financial times for schools. I do hope you will respond to their calls for volunteers.

All pupils up to Year 11 have also been issued with raffle tickets by the PTA so please do ask your child for them. If any sixth formers would like tickets, they are available from the school office. Next Friday (7 December) will be an own clothes day in exchange for donations for the Christmas Fair. The PTA are asking pupils in Butler's and Selwyn's to bring toiletries, Brook's and Howson's to bring bottles, and School and Howard's to bring new, or complete and good condition, toys or games. Prep and Pre Prep have their own arrangements that will be in their newsletters.

Last Sunday, the Preplings choir performed in St George's Hall. Their performance was worthy of this august venue. It is unusual to see our choir dressed in Christmas jumpers of all kinds. Some pupils were like flashing lights on the stage, others had somehow procured a Liverpoolian Christmas jumper which had the message Merry Crimbo embroidered on it.

The repertoire was varied, lengthy, and the performance excellent. Congratulations to Ms Clark, Mr Bishop and the entire Prep School for participating in such a positive way in this event.

The next event for the Preplings is on Thursday 6 December at 7pm in the Action for Children Concert at Liverpool Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased on the door or from the Cathedral shop at [www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk).

The day previous to the St George's Hall concert, we conducted an Open Day for our Reception class and Pre Prep. As hundreds of parents accompanied by toddlers and babies strolled through the school, I ruminated on the series of decisions and chances which create a school. Some of these parents were likely to be involved in the College until well into 2033. Their children would form, shape and advance our school, participating in studies, projects, events and trips not yet conceived. An all through school provides a long term

perspective. I spoke to a parent at parents' evening last week who has had a child in the College for 24 years.

It is also impossible to know who will make up the school. What we do know is that 1400 plus applicants have expressed some level of preference for a place at Liverpool College in Year 7 in 2019.

Yesterday, as the twilight set in, a short perambulation of the campus inspired a strong feeling of educational excellence. The new timetable and its activity programmes are now truly embedded and our pupils and staff create an amazing sight for any person walking around the campus. I visited the Latin AS class who were studying the oratory of Cicero, in a voluntary activity period, and the cooking classes in the dining room where sixth formers and Year 7s learn to cook healthy food safely. The CCF were in several classrooms with senior cadets instructing younger cadets. The playing fields were full of hockey and rugby players. The gym had some sixth formers practising their boxing while hordes tramped away on various exercise machines, Mr Brady encouraging them on even there. Some pupils were striding purposefully towards maths ambassadors whilst others were watching a Pedro Almodóvar film in Spanish. The Year 7s are now on their third carousel of activities. The whole system, the entire culture of it, is distinctive, and deeply impressive. The programme reflects both our mission and our ambition. It is a real tribute to Mr Cartwright, Mrs Cassidy and all the staff and pupils that we can make a success of more than 800 pupils in the secondary phase all doing an activity at the same time in what amounts to the dark.

The Wedding Singer is in rehearsal as is Alice. The casts lists are long, the talent level in rehearsal high. Some pupils are in both productions. We are looking forward to the performances on 24 and 25 January and 14 and 15 March respectively.

Tuesday was rainy, and the Year 9s gathered in the Chapel late in the afternoon to discuss the next steps of the Archbishop of York award. We will now be engaging in our group service. I hope to lead our carollers, despite my poor singing voice. Our purpose will be to cheer the campus with songs of Christmas and perhaps slip out into the community to do the same. Other pupils are holding a sponsored run, and running an arts and crafts project.

The Pre Prep assemblies are now held in the Sutton Timmis Hall. Rows of our youngest pupils sit cross-legged and listen. Our topic this week was litter, and its effect on our environment. Our Pre Prep pupils understand this as a practical matter better than many of our older pupils who frankly litter to their hearts' content. Hopefully, the enthusiastic expressions of concern for various animals and plants effected by litter will translate into a generation that views littering as the selfish act it so clearly is.

Few people will know that Liverpool College hosts a [Liverpool Classics Hub](#), an initiative sponsored by a charity: Classics for All. The hub encourages the teaching of all the classics subjects. It trains teachers, hosts a Greek academy and organizes workshops. The activities of the hub are now part of the national magazine for classics teaching: the Journal of Classics Teaching.

Oxbridge, medicine, nursing and university interviews are upon us. A nervous time for some. We try to help pupils prepare by shooting some questions at them while we see them in the hallways. For example, how could I calculate the strength of the floor needed in this meeting room to support this table if it was made of the heaviest material in the world. The clever answer of one person who has booked their ticket to Oxford was, if it could be compacted enough, that material would create a black hole. There would be no table. Aspiring doctors have to be told not to tell everyone how much they care about people but to also make the case that they will have the analytical ability to diagnose. It is all very tense and exciting.

A final 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.

A reminder for Secondary Phase parents of our Service of Lessons and Carols on Monday 10 December at 7.30pm at Liverpool Cathedral. We have sent you an email about the logistics of this event which I hope you will attend. As part of our preparations we conduct a risk assessment. It is in this context that I must advise you as parents that, in the event of a fire or evacuation of the premises, you can collect your child from our emergency muster area, the entranceway walkway outside the Cathedral.

Congratulations to Maia L (Y7 Brook's) for her charitable fundraising efforts for Al Sabeen Children's Hospital in Yemen. A family friend, who works in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, knows the staff at the hospital and Maia has raised just short of £550. Think globally, act locally, as the activists' slogan goes. It is hugely impressive when young people visit my study to pitch their charitable enterprises.

Sad news about Alan Celine, a former head of maths, and a teacher remembered by parents and pupils at the College as an inspiration.

Mr Celine who left to be head of maths in a London school in 2010 is receiving palliative care after a diagnosis of terminal cancer. He is in our prayers and those of you who would like to support him and his family can go to the [just giving page](#) which has been set up for this purpose.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

**Hans van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**