
Principal's Newsletter

1 February 2019

Dear Parents,

Whether it will in fact become part of the lexicon of Brexit or not, the Malthouse Compromise has a Liverpool College connection. Some claim his plan is similar to a hunt for unicorns, others see in it the seeds of eternal peace and happiness. We see an OL hard at work. Mr Malthouse MP, a housing minister, is in fact a former pupil of the College and a former resident of Aigburth. He and our other two OLs in Parliament are certainly staying up late to do their homework.

The Wedding Singer was all that it promised to be. The tunes were catchy and the rock chords resonated through the hall. The choreography seems to become ever more sophisticated in these shows. I watched from the booth because of a bad cold. Around me several Year 8 pupils were performing technical functions. It revealed very clearly how amazingly complicated and integrated a dramatic production of this quality is. You can imagine how impressive it was to hear a message over the walkie talkie to Mikkaal that it was time for him to get some water so that that the actors could be offered a glass during the intermission. What we rather casually enjoy on a winter evening is in fact the product of hours of discipline: teaching, coaching, rehearsing and learning. It is another example of why we stress the LC+ strands of our curriculum including the arts and why it was pleasing to read in our recent Ofsted letter that the inspector recognized that these activities should not be called extra-curricular as they go to the very core of our curriculum.

The technical and backstage crew of *The Wedding Singer* also enjoyed a visit to the new headquarters of Adlib this week, organised by Mr Bishop, to find out more about careers in technical theatre. You can read about the visit on the College website [here](#).

A reminder for Year 9 parents that the **Year 9 GCSE Preferences Evening**, postponed this week due to the weather, is taking place on **Wednesday 6 February at 5.30pm** in the MV Hall.

The [boarders travelled to London](#) last weekend, enjoying a day in the metropolis and returning with various shopped items and cultural memories.

The recent schedule of Wilton Scholars events provides a glimpse into this programme's unique contribution to the College experience:

Monday 28 January

- Y5/6 - Lunchtime philosophy writer club

Tuesday 29

- Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 - Medical Mavericks. More Able scientists and students who have indicated they are interested in a possible career in the medical field
- Y6 - Mathematics and Reasoning Trip at Gilmore Primary for More Able mathematicians

Wednesday 30

- All KS2- Inspiring Writing talk: careers in Journalism; William Gallagher
- Y5 and Y6 - Able Writers Day with BBC journalist. Liverpool College to host event for 8 other primary schools across Liverpool
- Y8 - Wilton Scholars lunchtime meeting: Magistrates court project.

Thursday 31

- All KS1 – Inspiring Young Scientists Workshops
- Y9 - Wilton Scholars workshop. Mental Health Awareness
- All KS2 – Silly Science workshop (Parents invited)
- After school meeting with Travis band members: Music signwriting workshop.

Saturday 2 February

- All Day Business Enterprise workshop: Liverpool College to host event for schools across the North West

Monday 4

- Y9 - Liverpool Skills show careers trip. Students interested in Apprenticeships

Tuesday 5

- Y8 - Digital Explorers Trip for More Able students in Computing: STEM careers event

Wednesday 6

- Y9 - Wilton Scholars – Skype with HADO gaming engineer: Using motion sensor, smartphone and AR (Augmented Reality) tech, to create a whole new gaming experience that's called Techno Sports
- Y12 Trip - Pathways to the legal profession: Liverpool Law Society – Pathways to careers in law
- Y10 - Digital Explorer Trip for More Able Students in Computing: STEM careers event

Thursday 7

- Y8 - Two professional Senior crown prosecutors to work with Y8 Law team
- Y7, Y8, Y10, Y11, Y12 - STEM careers talk: Molecular physiologist. The science behind cancer research
- Y3 and Y4 - Focused writing working lunch: Inspiring writing masterclass

The above list gives a glimpse of the opportunities which the Wilton Trust provides to groups of our pupils and the work that Mrs Doran does to facilitate and organise these events. It reads like a sort of Center Parcs of learning with endless variety and activity.

Goethe said we should try to say something sensible, or read a good poem, or look at something beautiful every day. I have included Heather C's (Howson's) final art piece in this newsletter so you do not have to go searching for that thing to look at. It really is of the highest quality.



Snow means most of our outdoor life at school has been cancelled. The rugby final for example could not take place. Tomorrow will be an oasis of time to be filled rather than the date for a series of exciting football and hockey fixtures.

The ice made the campus unsafe on Thursday and for the first time in about a decade we closed school for the day. We do not like closing school because it is a day of learning lost. The process showed that some people have not downloaded the app and that the app is a useful communication tool in these circumstances. Perhaps this will inspire more downloads.

When the playing fields do thaw, we will be in full Games mode again. Kit is often forgotten, deliberately. Indeed, "forgetting" kit is the number one source of sanctions in the higher

years of the school. Games lessons are every week so confusion about which week it is or timetable overload is hardly an excuse.

We are looking forward to the Prep Sports award evening tonight – Mr Cook will be sending out more information to those attending about access to the MV Hall and car parking - the paths are clear but please be careful. Focus is the Latin word for a hearth. It gives a sense of the etymology of the English use of the word focus. In these wintery days we have an opportunity to gather around the proverbial fire and reflect on our collective achievements, study and yes, focus.

More concerns about parking and driving. The rage in the cold seems to be to sit in one's car with the engine running. Whilst this keeps the occupants warm, it also pollutes the environment. Our pupils then breathe more filthy air, of which there is already plenty in Liverpool.

Despite the presence of the police, some parents continue to confound onlookers with a total lack of civility and prudence. Every school has a few thoughtless parents. It seems part of the cosmic distribution of virtue that this should be so, but I do feel our pupils are in danger when I observe some of the manoeuvres and whilst I am not in charge of the Queen's highways, we will continue to do all we can to exhort and encourage better standards of parking and driving around school.

May I wish you and yours a warmer and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal