
Principal's Newsletter

3 May 2019

Dear Parents,

An important reminder that **Wednesday 15 May** 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.

The app has been downloaded and continues to be used. We have had word from the developer that he is completely redesigning the integration of news and calendar from the website which has been sporadic. Please check the website for news and calendar until further notice.

This past Wednesday a significant event occurred which was barely noticeable. For more than a decade our gym, sports hall and sports facilities have been managed by a third party, most recently Nuffield Health. On May 1, the College took over the operation of the gym and the sports facilities under the banner LCSPORTS. There will soon be new signs and new branding to indicate this change. Adam Murphy, the manager of our gym and sports hall and his entire team will continue their work.

We have a lot of ideas about making the gym and the sports facilities accessible to school families and we will be writing to you soon about these. The new astroturf is looking exceptionally green, and the new lighting and fencing will all be completed by the end of half term. We have further plans to resurface the sports hall floor in the summer. In general terms, we intend to "sweat" this asset much more for the benefit of pupils, their families and the wider community.

We talk a lot about character at school and last weekend we had a chance to practice what we preach. The sports award evening was a wonderful success. The Oscar lighting of the stage revealed squinting coaches and players, photographed and recognized for their amazing efforts this year. Mr Cook was praised by all for his indefatigable energy in expanding our fixture lists and driving our sports forward. Representing your school in sport is often a test of character. We are very proud of the way our sportsmen and women have represented the school and the many successes they have had.

That night Storm Hannah struck the DofE silver practice expedition, stuck on some exposed hillside. The tents were battered, but the pupils dry. The next day they marched through the

horizontal rain and completed their task before being called down from the mountain by the powers that be. They showed a lot of grit in plodding along with their packs and wet gear and this experience showed each of the Year 10 pupils that they can actually do and withstand much more than they or other people think.

The weather was much better for [Barnstondale](#). I for one do not associate the Wirral with very much other than a certain suburban ennui, but it seems this is a place where young people go to camp. The Year 3 did just that, rolling their various suitcases and bags away for, what for many, was the first overnight school trip. Mr Ainscough has provided some wonderful photography of this outing. Fortunately, Storm Hannah had dissipated at this stage.

Last weekend we were in Cambridge where Jan and Lehtu waved the flag in the debating finals. They are only in Year 10 but took down teams from Oundle School, Dundee High School, Birkhamsted School and the rather incongruous national team of the Netherlands, my fellow citizens revealing an ability to advance in a debate competition in a foreign language!

Some congratulations are in order. Charles McG (Year 8) climbed into the technical box of our theatre and singlehandedly ran the technical side of the sports award evening. Not only was this a wonderful gesture of assistance to Mr Cook, it was also an act of service to the school and mature responsibility.

Sean W (Year 11) meanwhile seems to win every graphic design competition going. This newsletter has mentioned his amazing illustration skills, now he has won a city wide competition to design a logo for the Liverpool Cultural Educational Partnership's new Culturepool website. His liver bird based design is inspiring and make an awake and lively impression of enthusiasm rather more engaging than the statuesque and sphinx like objects attached with cables to the top of the Royal Liver Building. Sean also receives a cash prize for his efforts.

Some pupils in the Prep School have written me piercing letters of complaint and exhortation on the issue of sustainability. Now they are to meet with our caterers to review the way food is served and packaged with a view to improving sustainability and recycling. It was impressive to be struck by the tsunami of their deployed vocabulary and rhetorical devices. Their lobbying and advocacy was effective, respectful, and pointed.

Tonight we will step into the jarringly modern sensibility of Euripides' play *Iphigenia in Aulis* to be performed at 19.00 in the MV Hall. Aristotle explained that tragedy cleansed or provided catharsis for our emotions. This was certainly true in my experience for the citizens of Nashville who were never happier than when singing the saddest songs about abandoned trailers and long lost loves. Euripides thinking and "take" on issues of ethics and politics is so modern that it is easy to forget that he lived about 2500 years ago.

For many pupils the bank holiday will provide an uninterrupted opportunity to structure and advance their revision in preparation for examinations. We have had them in art, Spanish oral and soon in PE. They are the gathering cloud, the object fast approaching on the horizon. It is therefore not entirely to be lamented that the weather will be exceptionally cold and windy. The revision desk with a cup of tea is the place to be!

May I wish you and yours a pleasant long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal