
Principal's Newsletter

7 June 2019

Dear Parents,

There is a relentless quality to the examinations. They roll on, pupils trudge in and out of our cavernous sports hall. They are in remarkable fine fettle. We are very proud of their sensible and focused approach to the task at hand. A typical GCSE pupil will sit more than 40 hours of assessments, more than they will sit at any time of their lives, university included. Surely every one of these pupils deserves a sort of campaign medal for keeping their sanity.

One of the pupils who is undergoing this ordeal of exams is Mollie A (Y11 School) who can celebrate a major achievement before the exam results even come out. Mollie is one of only two girls who have been selected to play in a combined Everton team in a tournament at Tottenham.

Congratulations also to our national Physics award winners. As a person who struggled to pass a course Physics for Poets, I am very conscious of an inferiority in relation to our Year 10 pupils who are able to speak and calculate accurately about the workings of the universe. Particular congratulations to Yat Hong W who wins the coveted Gold medal. In total there were 12 medallists.

It seems appropriate when the invasion and liberation of Western Europe are much in the news that I had the opportunity to watch an excellent teaching video made by Isabella H (Selwyn's) in Year 9 on the Holocaust. She combined clever digital techniques with a thoughtful explanation of the importance of remembrance and vigilance. This video stood in sharp contrast because I made the mistake of reclining on the couch and watching Question Time, something which cannot be recommended for any person in any way inclined to pessimism or anyone with high hopes for the ability of either the political class or the general public to engage in fruitful dialogue. A dose of this stuff will tip even the most sanguine over the edge. Panellists were asked to speculate on whether any generation would ever be as great as the one now receding after their heroics in the mid twentieth century. Here flowed some of the opinions one associates with people who have never actually met a young person, a general version of the poet Virgil's assertion that everything is always getting worse. From where I sit every day and what we as teachers receive in work and discussion every day, we can all have total confidence in the moral purpose and vision

of young people, as well as their capacity to work and sacrifice for what they believe in. The video gave me some idea why this confidence is not misplaced.

Next Friday June 14, we will host another Careers Fair, involving many of our parents. Research shows that early ideation about future possibilities is an enormous spur to learning. The more a pupil knows what they want to do, the more they are likely to do well in school. Careers in that sense isn't just about careers, it is a process of discernment and intellectual focus. It is therefore very pleasing that under the leadership of Mrs Cassidy, our school is now recognized as a centre of best practice in the city and is a member of the Careers Hub.

We are planning a parent information evening on 20 June at 6pm. At this meeting we want to discuss a number of plans for improving the school in 2019-20 including a new leadership structure in the primary phase of the school, the Forest school and outdoor education programme for primary, expansion of the house system and what Houses do and get involved in, physical improvement and developments across the campus, plans for LC sports (our gym and sports facilities), a new approach to CCF in the secondary phase, plans for reporting and calendar issues. I hope you will be able to come. We are certain you will find it informative and we appreciate the feedback you provide and the issues you raise on these occasions.

Half term seems an age ago. Mr Cook reports a very successful tour of Madrid where we trained at the Galacticos ground and escaped just before the victorious legions from Liverpool arrived to occupy the city. This week, the Year 4s had a great trip to York, a place where the layers of history overwhelm the present, from the crowning of the Roman Emperor Constantine, to the renaming of the town by the Vikings: Jorvik, to creation of more Harry Potter shops than can be imagined.

Now we can see the backpacks being strapped on for a DofE expedition this weekend. The rounders fixture against Birkenhead School has been postponed due to the weather.

The PTA are in full swing this term. The last meeting of the year will be held on 12 June at 6.30pm. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and everyone is welcome to attend – please meet in the main school reception. The PTA's final big event of the year will be a car boot sale which will take place on Sunday 30 June on the main school car park and costs are £10 per car and £15 per van. The event is open to both parents and non-parents and any enquiries should be made to: pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. The afternoon of July 3rd will be the nearly new uniform sale.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal