
Principal's Newsletter

8 March 2019

Dear Parents,

30 employers were at the Year 11 mock interviews yesterday. Simultaneously our Year 7 pupils were visiting the Philharmonic Hall for an introduction to the orchestra. Another group of pupils are through to the third round of the mysteriously titled HM Cybersecurity competition, which may be an attempt to recruit spycatchers. The Year 9 preference forms are due back in, the 300 external applicants for the Sixth Form are beginning their course selection meetings, *Alice* the Prep-Middle School musical is only a week away and our 1st XV are finally playing their delayed Lancashire Plate final at Southport Rugby Club at 7pm on Monday, March 11, which is the date and time of the next governors' meeting. In the Pre Prep, the birds of prey were being revealed to an audience dressed in the most extraordinary costumes representing literary characters. All in honour of World Book Day. The U15s were playing rugby sevens and there was a 3P class assembly and, yesterday evening, there was a KS3 Music Masters concert. If ever a person wanted to see our mission in motion, this is the week to show it and see.

In this maelstrom of activity, last Saturday's Prep School rugby sevens tournament at Terra Nova seems a long time ago, and is also an allusion to a quieter place. Here we arrived as the city slickers in the corn fields, amazed at the beautiful little school surrounded by Cheshire farms inhabited by footballers and other people who can only be described as not from Liverpool. We were of course the only state school present and we received wonderful hospitality from the school and the excellent organizers of this jamboree of relatively small people running into each other at extremely high speeds.

My privilege was to coach the B team, an assembly of earnest boys who never ever gave up for one second despite being on the receiving end of some serious beatings. As the day progressed we were inspired by Coach Heeley and the A team scoring tries and winning games. We then scored a try ourselves in a losing effort, celebrated by players wheeling away in celebration not seen since Ray Wilkins wheeled after scoring for United in the Cup final in the early 80s.

At this point we were having a marvellous time and the final match between B and A teams showed why historians have often observed that nothing is more vicious than a civil war.

Our players literally hammered each other in a gutsy display of total rugby. Back on the coach, stuck on the M6, we could reflect on a great morning out and the inferiority of motorway infrastructure.

Roads are still very much on our minds, because people park on them so badly. The verge at Queens Drive has disappeared, ripped up by the wheels of cars. Indeed the banks of Queens Drive look like a scene from the last great tank battles of the 20th Century. Politicians, residents, bus drivers, other parents, and of course pupils ask me regularly what I am going to do to punish the inconsiderate and dangerous. In truth my powers to do so are somewhat confined. The only way forward may be prayer for the conversion of hearts, as parking at Liverpool College would provide ample evidence itself for Calvin's doctrine of the depravity of mankind. But I digress.

Whilst the Prep School rugby players were exerting themselves in a bucolic location, the Year 7 hockey girls were advancing inexorably to the finals of Jean Torrance Memorial Hockey Tournament at AKS Lytham. They made it to that final and ended up runners up and therefore winners of the Plate. The presence of schools from as far away as Kent had not halted their success. It is clear that in the sportswomen of Year 7 we have one of our most talented groups of athletes for some time.

It is hugely exciting and gratifying to see the popularity of all things classical at the College at the moment. The Rome trip is oversubscribed. An unprecedented number of pupils are choosing Latin and Classical Civilization and a small group of sixth formers are using activity periods to do AS Latin. The credit for this must go to the dynamism and energy of Dr McNamara, Mr Bartlett and Ms Knoop.

Make sure you get your tickets for *Alice*, performed on Thursday 14 March at 2pm and 7pm and Friday 15 March at 7pm, as the MV Theatre only seats about 250.

Advance notice that the Secondary Phase's **Speech Night and Prize Giving** is taking place on Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm at Liverpool Cathedral. Our guest speaker this year is Ms Lucy Pearson, Head of Education at The Football Association.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal