
Principal's Newsletter

14 June 2019

Dear Parents,

Allow me if I may to vent about attendance. If you are reading this, you are likely to be a parent whose child attends well. There are however far too many pupils who take a day here or there, the reasons as varied as tummy upset, exhaustion, and generally not feeling up to it. The effect on a child's education of this not quite 100% attendance attitude is of course horrible. A pupil with 93% attendance seems on the face of it to be doing well. However in practice they have missed about two weeks of school in one year. I must ask you to default to a "we are going to school" position. Every school day matters.

The Greek philosopher Epicurus provided a four-fold cure, a so called tetrapharmakos, for the anxieties and existential angst which beset even the ancients. He enjoined his followers to dwell on the immutable laws of nature as a cause for studied indifference to the blows of fate and even mortality itself. Liverpool College has a different four-fold cure which I would propose to any visitor complaining of these same melancholic thoughts. [Science Week in the Prep School](#) would be my recommended medicine. Mr Ainscough, donning a mad professor lab coat, was leading his class in the rubbing of hair with balloons to demonstrate the effects of static electricity on hair styles. Even in the gloomiest of days, such a thing brings an immediate smile and sense of purpose. I would further recommend the ingestion of the Careers Fair taking place today for Years 9 and 10 and also Year 12 (who are also attending a UCAS convention at Liverpool University this afternoon). Purpose, that exhortation embedded in our PPC learner profile, is manifestly stalking the campus. Pupils earnestly discuss with our guests the pros and cons of particular career choices and how one might go about pursuing a profession or vocation, how in short they can connect what they are learning now to what they might contribute to society in the future. Our careers programme will be further strengthened next year when we apply a full time assistant to support careers work across the College, making sure that the excellent work undertaken even in the Pre Prep leads pupils to an enthusiastic embrace of their potential. My third medicine would be Mr Farnan's House Football Quiz. Our pupils' knowledge of the beautiful game, if it were instead applied to the conundrum of atomic fusion, would surely solve all the energy problems facing the planet. It is good to be able to at least expound on the trivia of football as there is no chance of actually playing any in the monsoon season we are experiencing. This quiz will prove that fun, sadly now the dirtiest word in English education,

has not yet been banned from the shores of our campus. Finally, I would encourage a visit to the exam hall. Our Year 11 have, as Mr Griffith described, had an exemplary attitude to the barrage of examinations. To stand in the gallery of the sports hall and look through the glass at the visible effort of the exam candidates below is to place oneself in a position to mock the detractors of this generation. No shortage of effort, discipline, focus and challenge on that sports hall floor.

Next week is rather busy. We are holding an **Open Evening** on Wednesday the 19th for Year 7 entry in 2020 starting at 4pm. Thousands of people are expected. This is not a Trumpian exaggeration. We are therefore very grateful to the hundreds of tour guides who will show prospective families around the campus and appreciative of parents who are allowing their children to do this. The Open Evening should end around 6pm.

The next day we are holding a **Parent Information Evening** in the MV Hall at 6pm, unveiling some of our improvements, strategic and other for next year.

Congratulations to Mr Coombs, our Catering Manager. Our caterer P & A which has over 400 employees has recognized Mr Coombs with a well-deserved accolade: employee of the year. Mr Coombs and his dedicated team innovatively cater to our seemingly ever-growing school. There are now 4 mealtimes a day, and 4 catering locations on campus. The last 10 years at the College have been extremely challenging in terms of managing change. An example of this process was the sustainability meeting held between several pupils in Prep and the Secondary Phase and the management of P & A, including Mr Coombs. The meeting was arranged after a campaign by pupils to press for improved recycling and the cessation of the use of plastics. We are now going to use potato based wrapping products!

Mr Bishop (Director of Music) has asked me to inform you that in line with the Musicians' Union and the Incorporated Society of Musicians rates, the cost of individual instrumental lessons will increase from £15.50 to £16.00 for a 30-minute lesson from September. Please send any queries to Mr Bishop (dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

May I wish you and yours a dry and sun-filled weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal