
Principal's Newsletter

15 March 2019

Dear Parents,

What a week.

We have had the thrilling news of the birth of William Thomas Duffy, Mrs Duffy's son. Mother and baby are very well.

We hosted a delegation from Sri Lanka. Officials from the ministry of education came to have a look at our careers programme. They met our pupils, and learned a little about how we try to inspire and support our pupils to visualize and plan for a life beyond the gates of the College. It was an honour to be chosen to host the delegation and credit must go to Mrs Cassidy and Mrs Doran for creating an exemplary careers programme in the school.

On Monday, our 1st XV rugby team lost narrowly in a tense Lancashire Plate final. We were parked in their 22 but it did not happen in the end. The boys were gutted, as they say, but had no regrets. They had worked and played hard and are now looking forward to various sevens tournaments.

On Monday, our 17 Sixth Formers on an art and Spanish trip returned from Valencia after experiencing a weekend of Spanish culture, art and cuisine. They watched some La Liga football but did not confine their cultural engagement to that stadium, visiting the Old Town, the Arts and Science Museum, the Aquarium and the cinema as well as watching the midnight "masclatá" where a combination of fireworks and rockets were displayed in the skies of the city. Students also had the opportunity to vote for the best "ninot" to be saved from the fire during the famous Fallas Festival this week.

This newsletter has too frequently failed to mention the various House competitions which are energetically organized on an almost weekly basis. Literature quizzes, sports and general knowledge quizzes and other university challenge type of competitions are very popular. Mr Farnan seems to have an insatiable appetite for these showdowns of knowledge and pupils thoroughly enjoy them. Yesterday the houses gathered for a massive Red Nose Day bake sale in the sports hall. The decorations of the house market stalls as well as the quality of the patisserie on offer were sky high. The best part was the participation in the baking competition of several Year 10 and 11 boys, whose enthusiasm for baking had hitherto lain hidden under a blanket of machismo posturing. Baking it seems is one of the most popular activities in every House!

Alice, the Middle and Prep School play is heading to its final performance this evening. I am looking forward to it. Rehearsals provide a short glimpse or trailer for me and it remains impressive to see Prep School pupils in the orchestra, on the stage, behind the sound and light boards and in the

control rooms. The show is completely sold out both nights and Ms Clark, like our prime minister has lost her voice and almost her mind, in the frenzied and intense preparation for this show. We are so lucky that she, Mr Bishop and everyone involved in the show set the highest standards for themselves and for each other. These evenings are a celebration of the talent and vitality of our community.

Tomorrow morning, I will travel with the Head Boy and Head Girl to the London OL Dinner. This annual gathering of the southern tribe of the College community has lately become an extremely rewarding trip for all of us. Last year, one OL, Mr Peach, responded to our story about the next Sixth Form building by promptly funding a lot of the work of its renovation. A year later we are about to formally open the building. Perhaps we will meet with a sympathetic ear once again.

We have had a restoration of sorts of the app functions. Recent events added to the website calendar are now populating on the app also. I am wary of declaring the problem entirely solved because other app developers are still holding inquests and conference calls to understand what happened, but it is safe to say that our app is back up and running and is now a reliable record of the school calendar.

It has been a week of trips and cultural events. Year 9 saw *Macbeth* in weather which gave force to the pathetic fallacy. Our Year 9 Literacy Leaders saw *The Girl on the Train*, a group of Year 11 pupils interested in careers in Science attended a Sports Science workshop at Liverpool Hope University. A group of Year 8 pupils were busy preparing for a mock trial against another school as part of the 'Magistrates Court' national law competition, while GCSE and A Level students with an interest in careers in engineering heard a fascinating lecture from Dr Sandall from the University of Liverpool.

We are also busy recruiting staff for the expansion of classes in the primary phase of the school. It is heartening to be able to choose from fields of over 100 candidates and appoint teachers who we know will make our school even better.

Parents in the secondary phase will have received an email this week about arrangements for Speech Night and Prize Giving. A reminder that the event takes 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,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal