
Principal's Newsletter

21 June 2019

Dear Parents,

This has to by any standard be one of the great weeks of the school year.

It would have been legendary had we been able to defeat the MCC in our annual cricket match against them. Mr Heeley has written an excellent account of the match which you can read [here](#). From a historic position of strength, like Scotland's women footballers, we contrived to lose. But for the first time in many years, this was a proper tussle with the MCC and we had them on the ropes. There is, as the cliché goes, always next year.

My thanks to the volunteers, parents and pupils of Open Evening. 1700 people visited our school. The vast majority arrived in the time slot 3.45-4.45pm. It is not always possible to avoid congestion on campus in these situations. We do all we can to let visitors catch a glimpse of the energy and vitality of our school. They appreciate it. Next week we are holding taster lessons on Monday for our Sixth Form candidates.

The week has swirled by, but on a particularly sunny day I attended Hispanic Day in the Prep School. This was a scene of Iberian colour and vitality encapsulated by a girl making an excellent slide tackle in a football match while wearing a flamenco dress. We crawled into the Forest School, a sylvan delight, where the tortillas were being grilled on an open fire. When we emerged from this land of Oz, the Pre Prep were in full gardening mode with Mrs Lewis. Our thanks to the dads who are digging this garden up, improving it steadily, and creating a wonderful outdoor opportunity for our pupils.

On Monday, the Chapel was full of Prep School leavers, ready for their pilgrimage to Lakeside, the rite of passage since time immemorial for all Prep School pupils. It occurred to me that these pupils will end up buying three leavers hoodies before they actually leave: Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13, a visible example of how a pupil experiences the transitions of Liverpool College.

Monday also saw us ascend to the roof terrace of the Shankly hotel for a sun drenched reception at the Year 11 prom. There was excellent attendance from parents, praise for the group from Mr Griffith, and a general air of glamour and achievement. It was a very positive way to celebrate a very positive group.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, some Year 9 pupils had a chance to go sailing, as described [here](#). A particular thank you to Mrs Rigby for organising the experience and for cleverly obtaining a grant to make it possible. They returned to school exhilarated by their time on the water. This happened while our Year 10 and Year 8 hosted King William's Isle of Man for cricket matches.

The Gladstone Scholars made a pilgrimage of their own to the Gladstone Library, an oasis of civilization in the wilds of Hawarden. Here the Great Man gathered his books, annotated with his characteristic asperity, most of which can still be pulled down from the shelf. The Gladstone Scholars are our prefects in training and they undertook a day's course at the Library. Mr Brady believed it to be a near perfect day with excellent leadership potential on display. The training of the scholars, and their excursion, is funded by a generous donation from the Liverpool College Foundation.

Today, a group of Year 12 pupils are receiving formal mentoring training so that they can become peer mentors in the next academic year. Environment Day is an absolute highlight in the Prep School and includes varied activities. One group of boys were using natural objects such as sticks, shells and stones to make beautiful natural sculptures. Still others enjoyed walking from tree to tree, on a tightrope. My personal favourite scene were the groups from Greenbank Primary and St Ambrose enjoying our Forest School, roasting marshmallows, and participating fully in all our beautiful campus offers.

The College Column, the Middle School newspaper is published. A copy can be collected from the library or downloaded from our website [here](#). This journal of eclectic topics is the fruit of the newspaper activity Mr Farnan runs.

At the parent information evening last night, we discussed our strategic intent and planned changes for next year. Mrs Lines outlined our new reports in the secondary phase. Mrs Cassidy described how the house system would now run from Reception to Year 13 and would include more participation of pupils in preparing chapels and in taking responsibility for the improvement of various parts of school life. We also discussed our plans to further improve our secondary activity programme for Years 10-13. Mrs Haynes described our plans to improve writing across the curriculum and our focus on communicating our expectations to pupils and parents more clearly and forcibly.

All these plans occur in the context of our LCA+ curriculum, our unique balance between the academic curriculum and the curriculum for personal development. You can read more about that curriculum [here](#).

All these ideas, strategies, and improvements are developed within the structures of that curriculum and the structures of teaching and leadership across all the phases of the school. They are discussed with governors, with external experts and with inspectors. The strategic intent overall is clear: we want to develop the traits of purpose passion and challenge in all our learners by setting high expectations and making clear to our pupils what these

expectations are. Research suggests that making explicit those expectations which are normally implicit in a school, help all pupils do better. We want to develop further our + curriculum, the seven strands of personal development, showing our staff and pupils very clearly how these parts of our curriculum develop in them the traits and skills they need. We want to do all these things with particular focus on pupils who experience a barrier to their learning, identifying and eliminating obstacles to their rapid progress in the LCA+ curriculum.

There is a lot to do, but weeks like this one show how far we have already come in creating an effective School of Character.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal