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## Principal's Newsletter

25 January 2019

Dear Parents,

Tonight the MV Hall will rock. We have all been softened up by the school bell playing the hit song from the musical. Even at 08.25 when the song rings out, members of the public waiting for the 68 bus outside our gate sometimes break into dance and appreciation of this "catchy tune". Having attended part of the performance of *The Wedding Singer* for the Prep School, I can guarantee that you will be bopping and hopping in your seat.

The production is an opera of sorts, requiring technicians, musicians, dancers, choreographers, marketers. By many measures it is one of the larger team performances at school and my thanks go to Ms Poole, Mr Bishop and Ms Clark and the many helpers and parent volunteers for bringing people together so brilliantly to create something fun and inspiring year after year after year.

The timing of the musical performances with the acceptance of the College's application for the Artsmark is symbolic. Ms McWatt has completed the paperwork, the planning, the descriptions, the intent, and the endless requirements to recognize the exceptional vitality and importance of the arts across the College. This is a major achievement and the Artsmark accreditation process will provide governors and leaders with a tested framework to expand our provision in the arts. You can read more about Artsmark [here](#). Thank you Ms McWatt!

Our Year 9 parents' evening took place on Wednesday, and was extremely well attended. Year 9 pupils will now return on 30 January for their GCSE preferences evening at 18.00. By then it will be possible to use the MV Hall. On that same evening, the Liverpool College Foundation held its annual general meeting. The Foundation is a charity which supports the academy. Its membership is distinguished for their contributions to society in a number of fields and their commitment to Liverpool College. The Foundation funds the Gladstone Scholars leadership training programme in the Sixth Form. They also manage all endowed prizes and provide major charitable support to our campus development.

The move into Godwyn House, made possible by generous donations from Mr Roger Peach and other donors who wish to remain anonymous, seems to have occurred months ago

rather than last week. Mr Brady and his colleagues finally have the empire they deserve and are busy creating an inspirational environment which combines respect for the traditions and history of the school with a culture of serious intellectual buzz. It is always interesting to see where people go in a new building. The private study rooms have already been termed the Gulag Rooms. Of course, like Hell, no one has to go there. They serve more as a place of splendid silent isolation rather than a furnace of punishment. There is also a very small study room on the top floor which is absolutely packed with sixth formers. When we point out the superior facilities of yet other study rooms, the students say they like the small room. Perhaps it is winter which drives them all together to stare out of the windows at the gathering gloom. While the palatial study hall sits empty.

What is certain is that the pace of revision and study must pick up. This is the term when grades are made.

The PTA supports entirely the idea of including a code of conduct for Liverpool College parents on social media. During our parent information evening we had discussed the increasing incidence of parents discussing pupils who are not their children on various whatsapp platforms and in other social media settings. The consensus was that this code of conduct should make clear expectations of parental interactions and discussions on social media and on campus. It is as President Trump would say: sad.

A reminder that we are currently consulting on our admissions policy for 2020. You can read further details on the College website [here](#).

Sports are in full swing. The 1st XV have their big Lancashire final on Wednesday 30 January at 14.00 at Preston Grasshoppers against the giants from St Mary's College, a formidable opponent. Earlier in the year we lost heavily to them, but our players are confident they can make a match of it this time.

Then there is the Prep School Sports Award evening on 1 February at 18.00. A limited number of tickets are still available for this event - please contact Mr Cook ([jcook@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:jcook@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)).

Tomorrow we travel to Oswestry. Mr Cook has done such a good job finding fixtures for teams that some pupils are now surprised that they are asked to play for the school on Saturday. It is an expectation that every pupil or student makes themselves available for fixtures when they are in the squad.

The app informs me that we are involved in a cricket tournament today with our Year 8. Wonders never cease. It seems reasonable to presuppose that this is happening indoors but nothing would surprise me.

The highlight of the week has been Will R's (Y13 School) chapel talks. Will recounts his emotional, spiritual and political and intellectual response to a visit to Auschwitz, the symbolic headquarters of hate. His talk was a mediation of imagination and empathy. It is

one thing to learn something, it is another thing to let what you learn move you, touch you, shape you.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**