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## Principal's Newsletter

4 May 2018

Dear Parents,

Today is Steve Doran Day, chosen because of its coincidence with Mr Doran's beloved international Star Wars day. We miss him terribly and are inspired by his *Guide to a Happy Life*:

- Embrace the geek in you. Who wants to be ordinary?
- Try not to take things too seriously. Life has a way of getting you to think that really stupid things are important. Always try to think of a joke to help keep things light and keep things in perspective. Think, in a hundred years who's going to care.
- Be loving, helpful and considerate of people, even to people you may not know. It's people in this world that count.
- Do what you feel passionate about. If you don't enjoy your job, you can't enjoy your life. If the path you're travelling down doesn't make you happy, change it!
- If people give you advice, listen to it – but listen to your own heart too.
- Watch Trading places at least once and Star Wars annually. They're awesome!
- Be respectful to people as much as you can, even when they're not making it easy.
- You have to work hard to be successful. Turn up on time, meet deadlines and care about the work you do – but don't let it take over your life.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Spend time with those you love because, ultimately, they are the best reasons for living.
- Make sure you end up with someone who will love you every day and respect you as you deserve.
- Back up your important files but never use a USB stick. They are the work of the devil!
- Never waste a day! Sometimes chores can just wait. Live life to the full and live life while you're young –you never know what life holds in store.
- Always try to look for the positive in any situation - Sometimes you'll need to look really, really hard– but if you find it, your world and the world of everyone around you becomes brighter. In the end, all you really want is to be happy and to know you made others happy.

The recent CBeebies workshop for Reception pupils was a great success. The facilitator of the workshop had some very nice things to say about our Pre Prep pupils:

*I just wanted to say what an absolute pleasure it was visiting Liverpool College last week and working with the reception classes. The children were incredibly well behaved, keen to get stuck in, really helpful and loads of fun to be around too. All my colleagues commented on what fantastic children they are.*

On Monday of this week, Mr Ridley presented an excellent assembly about the RAF and the role of Old Liverpoolians, including several highly decorated flying aces and air commodores, in feats of aerial combat and in developing the air force as a distinct service. Pupils were enthralled by the stories of bravery and service and inspired that pupils from their school had distinguished themselves in this way.

Careers has been a big theme this week, and our efforts in developing an outstanding programme of careers provision throughout the College called "Futureproof" have accelerated. Members of staff received a detailed briefing about trends in employment. Among the reams of data and the stuff that would surprise no one, came an interesting finding from employers.

Employers say that the three biggest problems they encounter when young people begin working for them are:

1. Many young people find it difficult to pay attention.
2. Many young people have a high opinion of themselves which does not match reality.
3. Many young people have little grit: they quit something immediately when they do not immediately succeed.

Reading this list, the educator blushes because to some extent the practices of modern education have developed these weaknesses in young people. For decades, we have believed that lessons should entertain and that simply teaching a child the necessity and the skill of paying attention is a form of child cruelty rather than central to preparation for life. For decades we are told we must tell children how wonderfully well they're doing because it will affect their self-esteem if we do not. However, released from the rarefied atmosphere of the school into the thick oxygen of the workplace, the young person discovers that they are not perfect yet, despite what they were told at school. Finally, the corollary emerges, when things do go wrong, pupils quit. This is probably because by statute schools are not allowed to fail and therefore by extension neither are pupils. The motivational phrase: failure is not an option, does not comport with real life where failure is the best teacher. Food for thought for parents, food for thought for schools.

Sport in my view does build some of the traits pupils need. Certainly watching the **U15 rugby team defeat Lancaster Royal Grammar School to win the Lancashire Plate** revealed the self-discipline, teamwork, and camaraderie and grit that sports can engender. Well done to the players and the coaches Mr Smith and Mr Heeley who took this talented team and blended them into a positive sporting force.

Mr Cook reports a successful running of the Year 9 House Run in Sefton Park. 125 14 year olds in a cross country run is not easy to organise and we must thank our heads of house and Mr Cook for bringing this off so successfully.



Mr Cook had also organised for a group of pupils from the senior school to travel to Prenton Park, Tranmere to watch the Women's Super League Merseyside Derby between Liverpool and Everton. The pupils were given free tickets from Liverpool Ladies footballers Martha Harris and Laura Coombs who recently visited the school to help promote girls football.

Congratulations also to the U14 Liverpool Collegiate rugby team who played in the final of the Lancashire Cup last weekend. The team which includes Year 9 pupil Joseph R narrowly lost to Warrington 15-14. The Collegiate club has a long and rather circuitous association with the College as the club was founded and is still supported by the old boys of the Liverpool Collegiate, the boys grammar school which formed part of our original foundation. It is delightful that the club's junior section is now back on our campus. It is a growing and vibrant club and we want to make sure our pupils engage with the club as much as possible.

Harry S in Sixth Form is engaged in a complicated project to build house trophies. Design is a process and Harry gives a careful description of how he intends to build the Butler's trophy:

*...for the base I was planning on using oak to make the pyramid border with green translucent acrylic inside, here we can attach little acrylic pieces with names/achievements on and each side will be for a different achievement eg sports then on another side house activities.*

*This will be attached to the top using 4 aluminium poles that go up to a smaller pyramid with the butler's logo etched on each side.*

*On top of that I intend to make metal wings that represent the wings from butler's. This will be made from a material called Pewter which will give the same aesthetics as a glossy metal like silver.*

Congratulations to Year 10 pupil Lucas N who has just passed his ARBSM Grade 8 piano examination with merit. His parents expressed their thanks to the school and our music teachers who invited him to play the instruments that he has learnt because of them and helped build up his confidence to perform and for him to grow to love music.



*The Bacchae* on Tuesday, was a well-acted, well produced performance of Euripides' play. It deals with themes of reverence, tolerance, sexuality, repression. Indeed it is miraculously relevant although it was written more than 2400 years ago. There were many strong performances and a new star in Alex W who played the part of Dionysus with aplomb.



To give you an idea of life on this campus, I received an email about Alex from a respected QC who visited the College and was directed to the Prep School by him:

*I visited your school today (and was overwhelmingly impressed by the whole setup).*

*Because I was not quite clear where the Preparatory Department was, a young man (one of your sixth formers) accompanied me to show me the way.*

*I asked him what he was doing for A-Level, and he volunteered (to the best of my recollection): History, English literature, and Classics.*

*I asked what period of history, and inter-alia he said Russia 1917 to 1953.*

*I mentioned what I had gleaned from the biography of Stalin by Simon Sebag Montefiore.*

*Alex was there before me, and in the short distance we walked together, he gave me a very succinct and accurate analysis of how the school was approaching that period of Russian history.*

*I was particularly impressed; he came over as somebody very much more mature than his years.*

*Well done for producing scholars like that*

The QC has invited Alex to consider an application for some work experience.

Following Tim Nichol's email yesterday with an update on the **PTA**, a reminder that there is a meeting on Wednesday 9 May at 18.45 in the Dining Hall to discuss setting up an ad hoc PTA committee in the short term and the planning of events over the next few months. If you have any questions, please contact [PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:PTA@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

May I wish you and yours a happy and dry Bank Holiday weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Hans van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**