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## Principal's Newsletter

6 July 2018

Dear Parents,

Good afternoon from the desert.

The fields are brown, the grass singed. Our pupils are energized by the dress code for sports day. At last, they are in shorts and do not have to fan themselves in the yard.

Sports day today includes several CCF house competitions as well as the usual field events, races, relays and tug of wars.

On Monday, the celebration of sports continues with the Senior School Sports Awards Evening at 7pm in the Sports Hall. We are to be joined by Mr Peter McGrail, Commonwealth gold medal boxing champion. This evening is informal, fun, and tickets (available from Parent Pay) cost: Family Ticket (4 people) £25, Parent and Child - £15 and Individual Ticket - £8.

A reminder that term ends on **Wednesday 11 July at 12pm.**

Our short week next week is nevertheless packed with action. There is the Prep School Speech Day and Awards Ceremony, on Tuesday at 2pm in the Sports Hall. On Wednesday itself we will be saying goodbye to some of the staff leaving this year.

Ms Shani Thompson has shepherded the secondary library, a busy and important place on campus for 7 years. Ms Thompson is an Old Huytonian, former parent and she now joins our former director of operations in what I am sure will be a wonderful retirement. Del Roberts, driver, factotum and erstwhile RSM of the CCF, known for his distinctive expression of the phrase "get that beret on your head", is also handing in his keys. Del has been involved in days and days of adventure and is the last man I see when the school is empty and the midnight oil is burning. He then clutches a massive bunch of keys, which must weigh several pounds, as he locks the place up for the night. Mr David Henderson is also handing in his drivers' keys. He has safely and effectively delivered hundreds of pupils from far flung places like Warrington. Mr Leroi Walwyn is retiring from teaching after a long

career which concluded with two years in our DT department. He really is the consummate professional and gentleman. Ms Witter, after her nuptials this summer, will be taking up a post at the outstanding County High School in Cheshire. She has made an excellent contribution to the development of our Key Stage 3 science curriculum and to the CCF Navy Section. Ms Hannah is leaving to become director of sport of the Royal High School for Girls in Bath. Ms Hannah arrived to introduce girls hockey. It would be impossible to count all the fixtures and events she has organized and supported. We are also saying goodbye to Ms Helen Finch who is making a career change after 13 years of wonderful service as a French and Spanish teacher. I have had the privilege on several occasions to observe her exceptional mastery of the craft of teaching and her meticulous preparation of her lessons. We wish them all the very best and hope they will know that they will always be part of our community.

I shall be writing in September about their replacements and the new staff who will be joining us. They are visiting today, getting a very unreal picture of a typical day at Liverpool College.

Last Friday night, the Leavers of 2018 gathered for their dinner in the Racquet Club. The atmosphere was great because they are a group who genuinely like each other and get on well together. Mr Brady left this island for Ireland briefly after the event, visiting Queen's University Belfast and dragging home the booty of several freebie tickets for potential law students and an impressive list of visitors for next year.

Immediately after the leavers' dinner some were off on their Gold DofE expedition. It cannot be easy to hike the 50 miles in the conditions but Mr Ridley says they are all back safely off the hills.

I am looking forward to attending another graduation of sorts, the Year 2 transition service on Monday. There appears to be an avalanche of momentum and enthusiasm building towards this event among its young participants. The transition used to involve "going over the bridge".

This is the last year that will be the case. In the future, one will move to the other side of the Sutton Timmis Hall. We wish them all the best.

Well done to the Prep School for raising the marvellous amount of £1153.15 for Barnardo's through their Charity Week efforts.

Last Friday morning, some of our parents were at York Minster to attend the consecration of Reverend Dr Jill Duff as Bishop of Lancaster by the Archbishop of York. Many parents and pupils will remember Jill and her husband Jeremy from their time as Chaplains at Liverpool College as well as their children who were pupils here.



We celebrated the achievement of the Inclusion Charter Mark last week. Inclusion relates to all those practices in a school which ensure that every pupil can participate effectively in the mission of the school including but not limited to SEN practice, support for pupils in crisis, and coaching and mentoring of pupils. Fundamentally of course it is about the skills and commitment of teachers and leaders in making sure that all pupils are engaged and able to learn well. The team visiting us was very impressed with the progress we are making and awarded us silver. Next year we will be allowed to invite further scrutiny and we intend to achieve the gold award at that time.

A very select group of Year 7 -10 pupils visited the World Museum's Terracotta Warriors exhibition. Paradoxically, museums offer refuge from the heat and the stultifying ubiquity of "football is coming home" renditions.

The new Year 7 arrived for their first full day with us on Wednesday. This is the day of pure potential, as Aquinas might have said. Sitting before us are all the achievements, challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. They seemed a great group, truly enthused about all that we offer, and we look forward to their arrival.

This summer there is a remarkable amount of construction taking place on campus. Godwyn House will see major works on the roof and masonry commence on July 12. The maintenance team are redecorating classrooms across the College. We are obviously preparing for the logistics of our move to the new Pre Prep. In September, works inside Godwyn House will commence.

The final **e-safety** guidance for the year from Mr Lowes:

*Online gambling is fast becoming a popular hobby for many 13-18 year olds. One particular gambling route is through 'skin gambling'. Skin gambling has only been around for the last three years but it is already estimated that over £10 billion will be gambled during 2018, a rise of £6 billion on the previous year.*

*So what is it? A skin is a virtual item that developers create and sell to people to enhance their online gaming experience, e.g. turning an ordinary pistol into a golden gun. Skins can sell for as little as a few pence to tens of thousands of pounds.*

*Sometimes skins can be won in a game, or they can also be bought. Some games also let players trade and sell their skins with rarer ones attracting higher prices. A good number of websites also let players gamble with their skins for the chance to win more valuable ones. Skins won on these types of websites can be turned back into a real currency. Many critics say this is a form of unlicensed gambling and is a real concern as these websites are unregulated and don't have the necessary safeguards in place to protect our young people.*

*Sarah Harrison, chief executive of the Gambling Commission said: "At one level they are running up bills perhaps on their parents' Paypal account or credit card, but the wider effect is the introduction and normalisation of this kind of gambling among children and young people."*

*If you would like to find out more check out the report written by Parent Zone:*

*[https://parentzone.org.uk/system/files/attachments/Skin\\_Gambling\\_Report\\_June\\_2018.pdf](https://parentzone.org.uk/system/files/attachments/Skin_Gambling_Report_June_2018.pdf)*

I shall not be writing a newsletter on Wednesday, but do want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy, healthy and sunny summer.

We will see you next year. A reminder that term begins for the new Year 7 and Year 12s on the afternoon of Friday 31 August and for all other year groups (apart from Pre Prep) on Monday 3 September. As previously advised by Mrs Gannon, term begins for Year 1 and Year 2 on Thursday 6 September. Parents of pupils joining Reception have been informed separately of arrangements for their start of term.

**Yours sincerely,**

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