
Principal's Newsletter

8 June 2018

Dear Parents,

On Monday, June 11, we will hold one of our bi-annual **Year 7 admissions Open Days** from 4-6pm. Pupils serve as tour guides on these occasions. They are the best possible ambassadors and we hope you will allow your child to serve their school by being a tour guide.

Advance warning of the sale of **Bye Bye Birdie** tickets. This play, so long delayed because of the most unfortunate illnesses of staff is back on and will be performed on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 June at 7pm in the Mossley Vale Theatre. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £4 for children - tickets move quickly so please get yours from the Upper School office at the earliest opportunity.

I mentioned in my previous newsletter that over the next few weeks I will tell you a little about some changes which we have discussed and developed during the course of this year and which we are hoping to implement next year. These changes will also be presented and discussed in more detail during our next Parent Information Evening which we will hold on Wednesday 27 June at 6pm in the Dining Hall.

Next year, we will take a further step to being an all through 4-19 school by aligning the house system across the College. Pupils will join one of six houses in every phase of the College. We will retain the "animal" theme in Pre Prep. The intention is that this "verticality" throughout the school will lead to stronger house identity and to more opportunities for pupil leadership and activities.

The houses do not determine which teaching class you are in, but they are the basis for house competitions and in the senior phase for LC form time and PSHE and careers lessons and activities and for house spaces.

In the senior part of the school we will adopt a house based pastoral system such as the one which operated in the school from 2009-2013 with each pupil supported not only by a house mentor as now but also by a Head of House and Assistant Head of House. The Head of Year position will disappear.

We are always studying and surveying and measuring and discussing every aspect of your child's experience of the College and how we can improve the way we pursue our mission. For example, we are currently conducting lesson observations across the College. In Year 2 yesterday, we saw an amazing lesson which ended with the pupils not wishing to go to break, and begging instead to continue spelling!

We want to make sure that leadership at every level of the College drives pupil progress in every facet of our curriculum, in and out of the classroom. We have worked together to plan changes to our roles as leaders and the way we lead the College. It is perhaps rather technical or boring to go into all of these in great detail. Suffice it to say, we are all excited about these plans. Some of the changes will affect you as parents.

Mr Griffith, currently Assistant Principal for Upper School will become Assistant Principal for Progress and Intervention across Year 7-11. Mr Fox will head up the house system and become Assistant Principal for Guidance for Years 7-11. Mr Brady remains Head of Sixth Form. In a future newsletter I will announce all the Heads of Houses and their assistants to you.

There is a very minor change to the uniform which is driven by this commitment to strengthening our house system. Every pupil will be asked to wear a small house ribbon across their top lapel pocket. This will help identify their membership of a house. They can be ironed on, but I have already been informed by someone that the truly prudent thing to do is to stitch the ribbon on. More on this to follow.

Whilst we plan ahead, emotions on campus are cruelly divided.

Earlier in the week our IT staff improvised and scrambled to combat a hardware failure which left us without email or internet briefly. It is sobering to realise how much our school relies on these technologies to work within and outside these walls.

Meanwhile, in front of the sports hall, orderly queues form twice daily. The door swings open and with final words of encouragement from teachers and each other they enter this dome of intellectual strife, this testing place. So far they have emerged smiling, except for one A level maths paper which induced mild grumbles.

Everywhere else pupils and staff enjoy very fine weather and a great variety of activities. Einstein is said to have discovered his great insights about the nature of the universe through thought experiments. Similarly, this weather leads to thought experiments about what learning might look like in this country if we could count on these conditions.

Many of our pupils returned from half term having had some school adventures. There were the shooters, who returned with the CCF from Altcar after Captain McCartney had put them on some long ranges.



There were the footballers who played, behaved and toured Portugal brilliantly, all under the watchful eyes of our staff. Mr Cook reports:

During the half term holidays, forty pupils from Years 8-10 travelled to Lisbon, Portugal, spending four days and five nights with the Benfica Academy. The pupils participated in four intense training sessions, which included specific goalkeeper training and a mini champions league tournament. The pupils also participated in eight matches which was levelled superbly. The highlights of those matches was a superb 2-1 win for our combined U14-15 side versus a talented Benfica Academy side and on the last day, the girls produced a brilliant performance to beat Pescadores, Lisbon 3-1 on a hot afternoon. There was also two creditable draws for the Year 8 boys and girls team earlier on the tour.

The pupils also had the opportunity to visit the stadium and museum of European giants Benfica, enjoyed a meal in the lounges overlooking the Benfica stadium, as well as making a visit to the stadium of their rivals Sporting Lisbon. This was a fantastic experience for the pupils whose behaviour was very good throughout the tour.



There were the Gold and Silver D of E expeditions. Again, Major Ridley reports they were fantastic despite that one day of almost impenetrable fog.

Just yesterday, the Year 10 geographers have returned from their field work and we had many athletes at the city athletics competition. Congratulations to the following pupils and teams:

- Jaden R (Y7) - Silver (200m)
- Ethan F (Y8) - Gold (300m)
- Willem H (Y8) - Bronze (Hurdles)
- Edward G (Y8) - Bronze (100m)
- Ethan F (Y8) - Silver (Triple Jump)
- Gus H (Y8) - Silver (Javelin)
- Idris S (Y9) - Silver (Hurdles)
- Leo B (Y10) - Silver (Triple Jump)
- Year 7 Boys - Gold (4x100m Relay)
- Year 8 Boys - Bronze (4x100m Relay)



Congratulations also to our Year 7 girls who finished 1st overall in the Liverpool Cross Country competition this year!

On Wednesday, we welcomed our guests from Mayo College in India to play a combined U14-15 twenty-five over cricket match. Mr Heeley reports:

Liverpool College captain Adam P won the toss and decided to bat first. A combination of excellent bowling, poor shot selection and some lacklustre running, meant the College were reduced to 15-4 with only Adam P putting up some initial resistance. Umar K and Year 8 Sam T were able to offer Adam some good support but when Adam was dismissed for a majestic 23, wickets fell regularly and the College were eventually dismissed for 71 in 23 overs.

Liverpool College's opening bowling attack of Jaden C and Adam P started well and kept it nice and tight early on, and when Jaden C dismissed the dangerous Mayo captain, and Umar K bowled Mayo's number 3, Liverpool College gained momentum and an upset was possible. A strong partnership between opening batsman Naman and number 5 Harash, took the sting

out of the Liverpool side and Mayo reached the target, three wickets down and with seven overs left to bowl.



The Prep School RE trip this week is beautifully described by Mr Stamper:

Our Year 5 and 6 children visited an excellent workshop this week to learn about Judaism and Islam. We entered a 'Jewish living room' and a 'Muslim living room' which were decorated in wonderful artefacts from these religions. The speakers spoke with clarity and passion about the different faiths, and the children were fascinated to learn of the different rules and rituals involved with each religion. Our children were a credit to the school, showing genuine enthusiasm and engaging brilliantly with their questions.



The workshop was run by a charity called Liverpool Community Spirit, based near the Anglican Cathedral, who (amongst other things) focus on educating young people across Merseyside about world religions. The charity was set up and is run by Dr Matthew Thompson, an Old Liverpoolian, as was his own father, Alfred Thompson.



Mr Cook arranged a visit from Margaret Aspinall and Sue Roberts from the Hillsborough Family Support Group this week to discuss with our Year 9s what happened at the Hillsborough disaster and in the aftermath. Mr Cook reports that our pupils were very engaged with this informative assembly and that there will be a number of follow up discussions during form time throughout the week.



If you have a garden or have access to soil I need your help! I have received the following message from Liz Shaw, our gardening club coordinator, as well as these 'before and after' pictures:

Gardening club has put in an amazing effort over this year with our secret garden project. We have cleared brambles and trees, chopped back the dominant laurel hedge and are now clearing hundreds of rocks and stones from the space. Once this phase is complete we would love to be able to give this space a chance to grow and therefore we are making a plea for topsoil. We think 10 tonnes of top soil would give us a great start. If you are able to donate any amount then please get in touch with eshaw@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.



Congratulations finally to Holly B and Jack R who have both qualified for the Swim England summer nationals in August.

Early notification from the uniform shop on their summer holiday opening times:

Friday 13/7/18 – Sunday 29/7/18

CLOSED

Monday 30/7/18 – Sunday 2/9/18

Monday - CLOSED

Tuesday - 11.00am -3.00pm

Wednesday -11.00am -3.00pm

Thursday – 11.00am -3.00pm

Friday - 11.00am -3.00pm

Saturday - 9.30am -12.30pm

Sunday - CLOSED

Normal hours resume on Monday 3 September.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal