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## Principal's Newsletter

11 May 2018

Dear Parents,

Our campus is gloriously bathed in light, foliage and flowers. Pupils are enjoying sitting on the various benches throughout the campus, chatting, and encouraging each other. The famous game of football tennis, so perfected in the summer term, dominates the astroturf.

What a time to be in York, the annual destination of the Prep School trip. Visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre, the cavernous national railway museum, the appropriately named Shambles, and the ghost tour. This list of attractions are like a rite of passage for the College pupil.

The Art GCSE was in full swing this week. The examination undertaken by 50 pupils takes place over two days, a tremendous logistical achievement for Ms McWatt and Ms Hardisty. Pupils report the exhaustion associated with two days of full on technical and creative endeavour. This is a harbinger of the season of examinations to come. Our Year 6 pupils also begin their SATS tests next week. On Monday, we will hold our Transition Service for Year 11 and that morning the Latinists will already be examined. This is the business end of the season, as the football cliché goes, and pupils are beginning to put their game faces on, and setting their jaws at angles of determination.

We can look forward to at least two more evenings of pupil talent on display before we slip into summer oblivion. The first is the Springtime Soiree on Thursday, that evening of enchantment in the Palm House when pupils from every part of the College perform music of every kind. Tickets are sold out. You blinked and missed it.

The other is advance warning of the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, now to be performed on Wednesday 27 June (Matinee 1.30pm), Thursday 28 June (7.00pm) and Friday 29 June (7.00pm). This show was postponed to this unusual date because of Mr Bishop's absence through illness. He and Crispin the camel are now back in action, and the show must go on! I am told that our actors have simply kept their lines and routines, their songs and gesticulations in a sort of hibernation, and it is all being defrosted.

Our Prep School athletics teams travelled to Redcourt, St Anselm's last Friday to compete in their first fixture of the season. Mrs Bygroves reports:

85 children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 competed from Liverpool College so it was a great celebration of sporting ability at the Prep School. The races and field events were very competitive and there were some stand out performances from Ava S and Shrey H (Year 3), Molly M and Sean L (Year 4), Elinor G and James H (Year 5) and Anna R and George W (Year 6) amongst many others. The final score stood in favour of Liverpool College who won by a number of points!

The U14 played their first cricket match this week. We have had some unfortunate cancellations as it seems only to rain at 15.30 when we are about to start, but nothing will stop this Lancashire Cup match from proceeding.

The same can be said of the May Ball tonight, so ably organised by Mrs Lowe. I attended the meeting of the **PTA** on Wednesday and was excited to learn about their plans for the remainder of this year and for induction of new parents next year. The PTA is hugely successful in bringing parents together to build our school community and make a substantial financial contribution to all we are doing. They fund iPads, and D of E tents, maths mastery equipment, to library books. It only works because parents get involved and I hope you will respond to the various invitations you will receive to participate.



Miss Stone and Miss Snyder took our **Maths Leaders** on a trip last week to Breakout Liverpool to try and escape the rooms in 60 minutes. Three groups had to solve the puzzles in The Heist, Shipwrecked and Cursed Carnival rooms using their team work and logical reasoning skills. Two out of three groups escaped with the one group running out of time on the last puzzle. Our Maths Leaders are a group of Y9 and Y10 pupils who create and deliver fun maths activities to pupils in Prep. They are now in the process of designing their own 60 minute puzzle activities for Prep pupils to enjoy.

We are preparing to make several technological and facility changes this term and over the summer. Godwyn House will receive a new roof and will be substantially repaired. In the Michaelmas term we hope to complete a refurbishment of the building so that after Christmas the building will be able to serve as a Sixth Form centre.

In order for our pupils to gain as much information as possible about the world of work, future careers and possible pathways to achieve their ambitions, Mrs Cassidy has organised a programme of **Employer Master Classes**; interested pupils are given the opportunity to listen, take part in workshops and ask questions. So far pupils have experienced master classes from optometrists from SpecSavers and Kier Construction. Over the next few weeks we have employers coming to talk to our pupils from the Merseyside Fire Service, Jacobs Engineers and a representative from the aerospace sector, and the Radisson Blu hotels. We are looking for more organisations or individuals in different professions to participate in this programme. To find out more information, please contact Mrs Cassidy ([hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)).

Earlier in the year at our Parent Information Evening, and in my newsletter, we discussed the consultation about girls' trousers becoming part of the school uniform. In general, people supported the idea as a theory, but many raised substantial objections about the proposal in practice. These objections include the enforceability of the proposal and the appearance of the proposed trousers. We also discovered that there was very small demand or enthusiasm for the change. We received feedback from pupils, parents and staff and it was agreed by governors after a discussion about the consultation that it was not at this time desirable to make a uniform change of this kind.

Advance notice from the school uniform shop on their half term holiday opening times: the shop will be closed from Thursday 24 May – Friday 1 June. Normal hours will resume on Saturday 2 June (9.30am -12.30pm). Uniform may still be purchased online by visiting the [Monkhouse website](#).

Mr Lowes has provided some useful **E-safety** links for parents:

*I thought it would be useful to provide links to a few useful e-safety articles that I have come across over the last few weeks. As we are all at different stages of parenting I hope some of these links prove useful to you:*

- *Fortnite – all you need to know:* <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>
- *Building girls' body confidence:* <http://parentinfo.org/article/building-self-esteem>
- *Connected Toys:* <http://parentinfo.org/article/connected-toys-not-just-child-s-play>
- *Online peer pressure:* <https://parentzone.org.uk/peerpressure>

*Also...if your son or daughter didn't bring home your copy of Digital Parenting magazine you can order your free copy here:* <https://parentzone.org.uk/Digital-Parenting-Magazine-order-here>

*All of the links provided here are available on **@LCComputing** twitter feed.*

I wish you and yours a sunny weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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