
Principal's Newsletter

15 June 2018

Dear Parents,

The examination season in the senior phase of the school shifts from GCSE to internal examinations next week. If your child is in Year 7-10 or in Year 12 and is not revising as you read this, you may wish to ask what their learning strategy for the weekend is.

The crowds at Open Day on Monday were larger than ever. We estimate more than 1500 people visited our campus. It is a credit to our pupils that so many stay to guide ever larger groups around the campus and tell the story of what "being a Lerpoolian" is really like. We receive so many compliments about our pupils and our staff on these occasions.

This week has been a week of university visits. Our Year 12 visited the Merseyside university fair and travelled to Birmingham for an open day visit to universities there.

Our current Year 13 are sweating their examinations, emerging in mostly happy fashion and wondering whether they have done enough to meet their offers. Mr Leeder believes this may be the best year in terms of university offers, and our sixth formers seem determined to do everything possible to achieve what is required.

Bye Bye Birdie still has a ticket or two available at the Upper School office, but I am not sure how long these will last. A team of Year 7 impresarios have urged me to attach their flyer to my window and promote the show, so long delayed, and now almost upon on June 28 and June 29.

Advance warning of the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 27 June at 6pm in the Dining Hall.

More and more evidence of the pernicious effect of social media and video addiction on young people. The latest research shows a sort of arrested development in those over exposed to various video games with the hospitalized 9 year old who attacked her father after a 24 hour Fortnite binge grabbing the headlines. A physicist speaking on a radio programme late at night attributed his entire career and all his intellectual curiosity, indeed his happiness, to his parents' decision not to have a television in the family home in the 1980s, despite his vituperations and curses against them at the time. I wonder what our

children will make of our attitude of mild indifference and total tolerance to their unbridled use of these diversions. I suspect they will not thank us for our libertarian approaches.

Last week's newsletter was read by at least one person, as the horticultural plans of Ms Shaw were immediately advanced in response to a short written request for topsoil. One parent is bringing it all and having a look at the garden besides.

The next 6 months will see much movement, refurbishment and building on campus. Most of you are aware of the Pre Prep arising and being clad with brick on Queens Drive as I write.

You may not know that we are also going to be doing a fair amount of work on Godwyn House in order to make it a Sixth Form Centre which we aim to open initially in January 2019. This centre will mark a rather unique moment in our history as we have not had a separate building devoted to Sixth Form study and student life for quite some time.

The first phase of the works on Godwyn House will be done on the roof and masonry, with contractors undertaking a complete overhaul of both.

In September we hope, if we can raise some more money, to begin to refurbish, redecorate, refurnish and reorganize the space to welcome sixth formers and sixth form staff. We have been hugely cheered by some matching gifts from old pupils and others for this project and we are now within a manageable financial target to make this centre a truly amazing experience for our students and pupils. I will be writing to you to ask for your participation in a campaign during this period which will be focused on completing the Sixth Form Centre and ensuring that the new Pre Prep and the Prep School is surrounded by the right play equipment.

Congratulations to the girls' athletics team who also participated in the city competition last week:

- 1st Place Year 7 Hurdles - Reese M
- 2nd Place Year 7 Shot - Holly B
- 3rd Place Year 9 300m - Gabby E
- 3rd Place Year 9 Hurdles - Evie F
- 3rd Place Year 9 Shot - Jennifer G
- 5th Place Year 7 Discus - Aimee S
- 5th Place Year 7 Relay



The Year 9 rounders team became Liverpool Schools Champions last night as they won their final match convincingly against Bellerive making them unbeaten throughout the whole competition. They scored 31 rounders and conceded only 15.5.

Congratulations to all girls involved.

Miss Hannah also reports that the Year 10s have also performed strongly and won all but one of their matches. We are waiting to hear their overall position. Congratulations to all of those who competed.

Well done to Year 8 football captain Libby H who recently completed three trial sessions with Liverpool Football Club. There was a high standard of competition, with over sixty girls from the North West displaying their technical abilities to the coaches of LFC. Mr Cook who attended the final trial sessions on Wednesday was delighted with Libby's application to the session, reporting that her effort and determination impressed the coaches.

I become very depressed at times when I read the attendance lists. I know headaches are painful but are they really reasons for missing a whole day of school. We spend a lot of time preparing for a school day, planning and marking, and often the pupils we most want to see are not there. It frustrates enormously and in the end we rely on parents, particularly if their child attends regularly, to avoid these occasional days off and to show Churchillian determination in getting their child to school, even when the whining and whinging are loud and invasive.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal