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## Principal's Newsletter

18 May 2018

Dear Parents,

The Springtime Soiree is always the glory of the term. Here we gathered with the Lord Mayor (invited by the Junior Lord Mayor, Omar in Year 6, in a manner which apparently did not permit refusal) to listen to the whole College make marvellous music. The scale, breadth, diversity of talent, the genres of music is breathtaking. We passed everything from Bach and *Panis Angelicus* to Coldplay and *Wicked* with Crispin the Camel thrown in. We bid a musical farewell to some Year 13 stalwarts: Isobel, Jessica, Rumbi, Eva, Louis and Sam.



These evenings in the Palm House remain magical and the perfect tonic for the approach of the end of a long half term. They perfectly encapsulate the nobility of education. Young people coming together to make something beautiful.

Advance notice that we will hold a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 27 June at 6pm.

During this evening we will report back to you on our facility and learning plans for next year and provide an opportunity for you to comment on ways the school can improve.

In the winter, indoor activities are very popular. Players and cadets huddle in the rain and wind. Those inside practise mindfulness, or cook a meal, or play some chess. That order is reversed in this weather. Glorious sunshine, pupils playing tennis, handball on the astro, and a Year 9 cricket team putting St Edwards to the sword. An excellent Thursday afternoon.

Last Friday's PTA May Ball was a great success. Parents and guests enjoyed an evening of eating, drinking and making merry in the Crowne Plaza, raising money for the good cause PTA in the process. Thanks again to Mrs Lowe for her organisation of this excellent event.

The next morning Mr Cook took the Year 7 and 8 girls to Cheadle Hulme where apparently the football season continues. Mr Cook reports:

*This block fixture usually provides tough opposition for the College with many pupils representing local football academies outside of school.*

*The sun was shining and the stage was set for four tough forty minute matches. In match one coached by Mr Harrison, the Year 8 girls quickly found themselves 4-1 down at half time. After a huge team talk and a few positional changes the tide quickly turned in favour of the College and, with the scores level at 4-4 with a minute remaining the College powered forward in numbers and scored the winner with the final kick of the game (5-4). The second match was a much one-sided affair with the College, captained by Evie H, running out 8-0 winners. The two remaining matches enabled the College to field many younger Year 7 pupils and whilst match three ended 0-0, match four provided much entertainment with the impressive Reese M leading the College to a superb 3-1 win. This was a fantastic weekend of girls football and one which ended with some excellent results for the College.*



Gabriel Chiu, a Cambridge law graduate and minister of St Philemon in Toxteth was last week's Chapel speaker. He definitely provoked interest and discussion with pupils with a talk about Daniel in the Lion's den and whether a person should ultimately trust in themselves or in God. I thought of this theological dilemma when I visit the exam hall, now in daily use, as the Year 11 and some AS level students sweat away over the hardest GCSEs ever produced. They are holding up, but as my headmaster used to say when he found me offering quick prayers outside the exam hall "Exams are a test of knowledge, not faith." Our praying for them had taken place in Chapel on Monday where parents and friends gathered with the Year 11 to celebrate the progress of this remarkable group, 22 of whom have been with us since the age of 5. Mr Turbitt delighted with his Hibernian oratory, peppering anecdotes with interesting facts and combining humour and wisdom. Top man.

There is much in the press about the new examinations. They are indeed endless, ruthless, and difficult. Last year this meant that on one maths paper 18% (adjusted) was the passing mark. I try to remind pupils of this when they emerge from the sports hall in a daze. They are certainly pupils who have faced the most rigorous challenge for at least three decades. I am not certain this is a bad thing. Rather than writing endless pieces about how difficult it all is, we should perhaps celebrate the subject knowledge of these pupils, the rigours of their education, their resilience and commitment. No one can say that England is the laughing stock of the developed world in terms of the level of school work its pupils are now required to engage in. On balance, this is probably good for the pupils and good for the country.

During the past couple of weeks, the pupils in the senior phase have spent their LC period involved in a house competition. Mr Cook explains:

*Pupils were asked to research what the City of Liverpool used to be like, with a particular focus on the City Centre shops that no longer exist. Once the research had been completed the pupils were asked to draw former shop fronts onto A4 paper, paying particular attention to the shop logos. There were many fantastic designs from the pupils and the heads of houses were left with the difficult task of selecting exceptional designs which were eventually going to be presented as gifts for the elderly people of Redholme Care Home in Mossley Hill.*

*On Monday, twenty selected pupils travelled on foot to the care home where they were able to present their designs to the residents. This brought great delight to the elderly who were also entertained with singing from Year 9 pupils Mercedes KB and Ben E.*



Our senior cricket team won its first match but faced a desperately accomplished Commonwealth team later in the week.

Congratulations to Logan M in Year 12 who completed the Born Survivor 10K military obstacle course in Manchester last weekend. In the process, he helped raise £5000 for local charity 'Tyred'.

As a follow up to the **Construction Master Class**, a number of our pupils enjoyed a detailed tour around our Pre Prep construction site this week. Not only did Mr George Harrison, from Kier Construction, kindly agree to give interested pupils a tour, he also gave them useful labour market information and discussed possible routes into the industry.



We are looking for more organisations or individuals in different professions to participate in the **Employer Master Class** programme. To find out more information, please contact Mrs Cassidy ([hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)).

I wish you and yours a sunny weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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