
Principal's Newsletter

29 June 2018

Dear Parents,

It is extremely hot. It is also extremely busy.

It is marvellous to think that our Prep School finished 1st (Girls) and 2nd (Boys) in the Liverpool district athletics competition this week. There were also a number of individual District Champions who won their event and final: Amelia B (60m Hurdles), Soumya G (135m), Anna R (800m), Elinor G (Long Jump), Natasha L (High Jump), the Y6 Girls Relay team (Millie M, Soumya G, Eirian T and Anna R) and the Y6 Boys Relay team (Adam S, Jake W, Jacob A and George W).



If you want to revive yourself after a languid and sapping day in the heat, attend a Pre Prep disco, such as the one held by the PTA. The combination of sweets, music and boundless energy is quite contagious.

The doors will also have to be opened in the theatre tonight (I am writing this on Thursday as Friday is so full of events and appointments that there is some fear the newsletter may not get written) for the performance of *Bye Bye Birdie*, a play which has been brought to production through the most unlucky set of circumstances. I wander into rehearsals and am always amazed at the ability of our pupils to imitate an American accent perfectly. They even seem to understand the regional variations of American English. I am looking forward to the play and when we emerge we will know whether England play Japan or Colombia.

(Postscript: I did want to write a quick scribble after a wonderful performance of Bye Bye Birdie. I do not want to throw any spoilers out there for the throng who are undoubtedly

heading to the theatre tonight, but must mention the resilience, character, joie de vivre and dynamism of the cast, crew and staff. It is always a highlight of the year, and this year is no exception despite the obvious problems the production faced. It is particularly pleasing to see Year 8 and Year 7 boys on the sound and light board, entering the spirit of the performance by wearing leather jackets! Great stuff. See it if you can.)

According to the Real Schools Guide, a fixture of Trinity Mirror newspapers, we are now a five star school, in every area of measurement, ranking even higher than last year, and hovering above a number of grammar schools in the rankings. The problem with these league tables is that you hate them when you are not highly positioned in them, and you still hate them when you are at or near the top. Nothing is worse than the idea that 18 month old data and an algorithm developed in an office should encourage comparison between schools.

Far better to attend a parent information evening, even in extreme heat. A small band of the truly committed attended the evening held on Wednesday. We discussed the school's plan for next year. We also appreciate the candid opinions and suggestions of those who attend, particularly in the area of communication with parents.

There is much leaving going on now. Friday is the last day in school for Year 12 who are going to work experience. The Year 13 hold their leavers' dinner in the Racquet Club on Friday evening. The Year 13 boarders have in many cases already left. We held an elegant and suitable summery garden party for them.

There have been some very popular and well received career days for Year 8 and Year 9 organized by Mrs Cassidy. It is amazing how some pupils who have never expressed a particular interest in any school activity have become animated and excited when given the opportunity to visit the new Pre Prep site under construction. Our presenters on these days give their time freely to provide a motivational glimpse of the world of work. The pupils are inspired.

The Year 12s had their last Activities session of Preparing Food For University this week. Many of the aspiring chefs have selected this option each time the Activities rota changed and anticipate continuing their culinary pursuits in Year 13. Dr Atkins and Mr Wilson are now looking to September and are hoping to enlist your help. If anyone is in the position to assist in the cost-efficient sourcing of around 20 small woks, please make direct contact at eatkins@liverpoolcollege.org.uk or gwilson@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

Advance notice from Miss Hannah that the **Sports Awards Evening** is on **9 July** in the Sports Hall (7-9pm). This evening allows us the opportunity to celebrate and reward our pupils' sporting commitment and success from this school year.

There will be snacks served throughout the evening and a bar will be available. Pupils will be able to get involved in some sporting competitions and we will also have a guest speaker to provide us with some inspiring stories from their own sporting success.

We hope Year 7-10 pupils and their parents will join us and support this annual event. Pupils can wear their own clothes and tickets are available to purchase on Parent Pay at the prices detailed below. Tickets will be on sale until Friday 6 July.

- Family Ticket x 4 people = £25
- Parent and Child = £15
- Individual Ticket = £8

On Monday afternoon, the Year 8 girls football team played their final game of the academic year at North Liverpool Academy. Mr Cook reports:

Whilst a hot afternoon was clearly effecting our players in the first half, this was not the case for their opponents who played some good flowing football and took a deserved lead on the stroke of half time. After a half time team talk and many changes in personnel, the College came out for the second half with a completely different attitude and after a mix up in the North Liverpool Academy defence, College Captain Libby H nearly got the away side back on level terms. Despite the home side hitting the post twice, it was the College who continued to dominate and were rewarded when a through ball from Alice D put Libby H through on goal, and she made no mistake by firing into the corner and putting the College back on level terms. The remaining five minutes were end to end with the College missing a good chance, before player of the match Abigail A made two superb challenges to deny North Liverpool Academy the winner. The final whistle blew and the College had played out a more than credible draw versus a tough opposition.

We held a CCF field day in this heat. The army section travelled to Altcar and crawled through what must be very dry and very hot grass, scaled obstacles and generally enjoyed various outdoor leadership opportunities. The Prep School went to the play. The Year 6s have returned from Lakeside, certainly one of the best weeks of weather for a lengthy camp in the lakes.

One of the reasons we are in such a rush is our preparation of buildings, moves, websites, communication apps, and even classroom spaces for next year.

The term now only has 8 days left and there is still so much to do. A reminder that term ends at **12pm** on **Wednesday 11 July**.

May I wish you and yours a happy and slightly cooler weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal