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## Principal's Newsletter

21 September 2018

Dear Parents,

The rains are here, and I spent Thursday afternoon with the Year 9 rugby team huddled in the pavilion discussing referee signals, playing charades, and discussing the tactics for the match against St Mary's on Saturday. All this while the heavens inundated every part of the campus.

As I stirred the sugar in the tea one of the Year 9s had politely brewed for me, I reflected on the concept of the new Amazon sponsored schools. Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon is now worth \$163 billion. He has been criticized by some for his lack of bold philanthropic effort. He has heeded this criticism and has decided to found schools where he will apply the Amazon philosophy in an educational setting. These pre-schools will be places, he asserts, where the child will be the customer. It may not be politically correct, but I am a great fan of Amazon. The arrival of an Amazon package always has the impact of a pleasant surprise, a sort of daily Christmas. Mr Bezos is a genius entrepreneur who foresaw the potential of online retail, which has returned many of us to pleasant Saturday afternoons during which we can entirely avoid the hassle of shopping. But despite his genius, I am struggling to understand the customer model in education. If I had asked the Year 9s what they would like to do on a rainy day in Games, they would not have chosen to go outside, play rugby in the rain, change, and then play charades. Indeed, one pupil asked immediately: It is raining, can I use my phone. It is surely a basic concept of education and of human development that when we only do or choose what we want to do or think would be pleasurable at the moment, our education stalls or indeed never takes off as we enclose ourselves entirely within our own horizons, our own experiences, our own interests and preferences. Making the pupil a customer is an abdication of the responsibility of the school and society generally to make decisions about what pupils should learn and what is important. It is this abdication of curricular responsibility which is laid at schools' doors by Amanda Spielman (Chief Inspector) and Ofsted. You can read her important observations about curricula in schools [here](#). For this reason, we have done a lot of work recently on planning and developing our curriculum, not as a smorgasbord of consumer choice but as a serious exercise of school and community responsibility. You can read more about that [here](#).

If you clicked through, you would have found yourself on our new website. May I invite you to also download our **new app**, available in all app stores for free (search for "Liverpool College"). Please delete our old app which may be on your phone. The new LC app is more flexible and we believe it represents a better user interface. Crucially, when you have downloaded the app, you will automatically receive all website calendar items and all news stories. But, there is more. If you go to Settings (listed under Menu) on the app and click on "Choose notification groups" you will be able to select from more than 30 categories all those areas of school life about which you would like to be kept informed. For example, if you have a Year 8 in Butler's who is in the choir, a Wilton scholar and a hockey player, you can choose those categories and you will receive all calendar items and updates about that category specifically. I urge you strongly to download the app as we will in the medium term develop it as our communication channel to you and you will be able to choose exactly what you want to be kept informed about. Do not delay, download today.

Some great news. Mr Wilson and his wife are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Iris Ellen. Mum and baby are both doing well.

Mr Fox, Assistant Principal: Senior Guidance has asked me to clarify to senior school parents the procedure to follow if you have a query over a sanction that your child may have been awarded:

*If, as a parent, you wish to clarify a sanction given to your child, could you please do this in writing, using the email system, to your child's House Administrator who will forward your concern to the relevant person to address.*

*The house administrator email contacts are:*

- Brook's House - [brooks@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:brooks@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)
- Butler's House - [butlers@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:butlers@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)
- Howard's House - [howards@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:howards@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)
- Howson's Hosue - [howsons@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:howsons@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)
- School House - [school@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:school@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)
- Selwyn's House - [selwyns@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:selwyns@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)

Our move into the new Pre Prep has been a triumph of adaptation and improvisation by the Prep and Pre Prep staff. My thanks to parents who have borne with the inconveniences and improvisations concomitant with the delivery of a new building. Traffic and parking remain an issue, and I receive regular telephone calls from irate members of the public denouncing us as bandits of the highways etc etc. We have also received reports about the damage being done to the grass verges on Queens Drive. Please drive and park carefully and legally. The entrance to the Pre Prep and Prep School in the morning will be the Pre Prep Gate rather than the improvised hole in the wall we needed to use until the builders were gone. This should also mean that you can leave your wellies at home when dropping a child off at school. Only about 30 pupils make use of the Ibbotson's Lane entrance which we staff daily.

This number will need to increase if we are to sustain that staffing model, so I hope people will use the Ibbotson's Lane entrance.

I am writing this on Thursday evening while waiting to attend the Expressive Arts Award Evening organised in the MV Hall. A glimpse of the talent we have in the College, and an evening when we all study in amazement the art which is produced in Mossley Vale.

Normally, I would give you all sorts of dates to save in your diary, for example, the performance of The Wedding Singer, the musical we are producing together, on 24 and 25 January 2019. But if you have the app, I don't need to fill my newsletter with these reminders anymore. You will be able to see it all at a glance. So please download the app.

You will find there as well that we are playing netball and rugby tomorrow in a seemingly endless train of fixtures.

One upcoming event that I will highlight though is the **PTA AGM on Wednesday 26 September at 7pm** in the school Dining Room. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome. The meeting will include information about the new look PTA, the election of new committee members, a review of the previous year and plans for this year's events and funding plans. Further information and apologies to [pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).

May I wish you and your family a dry and pleasant weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**