

Principal's Newsletter

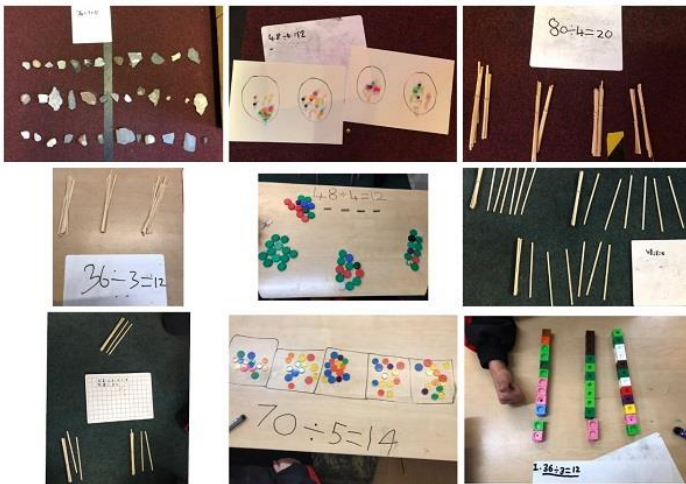
5 February 2021

Dear Parents,

Well done! If I could give everyone a PPC passion sticker, I would. Well done to all of you for supporting your child and in many cases children through this education. It really is amazing to see the way so many parents have very successfully juggled their own work and the school work of their child. Indeed, I suspect many of you are heroically grinning and bearing it. One more week, is the phrase I would urge you to hang on to if you are feeling this way. I would also urge you to continue to share your questions and concerns with teachers and leaders. Together, with patience and goodwill, we can do this! I am very grateful to one family where mum and son sent us a description of their experience of lockdown learning which we have published at LC Press [here](#).

Liverpool's Acting Mayor, Cllr Wendy Simon and Cllr Barbara Murray (Cabinet Member for Education) have also written to thank Liverpool parents for their work during lockdown – you can read the letter [here](#).

The parent survey had an extremely high rate of completion. Thank you if you participated in it. The results are a trove of suggestions and information. The headlines are very clear. Parents are overwhelmingly impressed by and grateful for the provision of education their child is receiving. An interesting phenomenon are the way different age groups are experiencing the lockdown and learning and the emergence of a general concern about the emotional and social needs of their child being met during this time.



I attach a photograph of Ms Brown's Year 3 maths lesson on division. It is inspiring to see how a very skilled teacher can make the concept of denominator fun! It is an example of the way, even in these circumstances, teachers are using their imaginations, sharing ideas, and on-line and in person delivering interesting and engaging lessons.

Career talks are also continuing in this period. I was greatly impressed by a Year 10 pupil Malak's thank you note to Ms Drew for a talk about nursing. It really revealed how well our pupils engage in these opportunities provided virtually outside the "walls" or in this case "firewalls" of our school:

It was very eye opening especially because of the experiences that the speakers have had during this COVID-19 pandemic. The stories that they shared were emotionally attaching and inspiring. They showed the reality of nursing, that it's not just the small, stereotypical job where you take blood samples. Instead, I learnt that nurses do pretty much everything in the medical world and they have doorways linking to criminology as well as psychology - as well as the diversity that there is in the fields. This meeting challenged the stereotypical aspect of the job and had proved that men can be nurses, black people can be nurses, people with disabilities can be nurses, and so many others. This has had a significant impact on me since I had been interested in medicine, but I wasn't sure about which field to go into, and (now) nursing seems to be one of the widely open doors that I can go through.

Our school is undertaking an ambitious challenge to become, eventually, a school designated as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School at Gold level. Ms Diamond and Ms Odita-Sani and the pupils and parents they have been working with feel this framework will be most beneficial in developing the inclusivity of our school at every level. Raising awareness, critically examining our curriculum, creating a culture of respect, tolerance and open-minded engagement with ideas. Research in other schools which have successfully undertaken the challenge has shown that the programme improves behaviour, and leads to an improvement in many aspects of the ethos of a school. Our first challenge is to create, with our intrepid video team, a whole school assembly, employing pupils and staff and parents from across the College, to launch the programme. Watch this space.

Mrs Cassidy's army of testing volunteers is large but may need to be even larger. A preliminary meeting has been held but we will continue to recruit so that we can be absolutely confident of being able to provide the frequency and number of tests required to open school. We need you if you can volunteer, so I hope you will email Ms Cassidy hcassidy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you can help.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to highlight a new online course available for parents: 'Understanding your child with additional needs'

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Understanding your child with additional needs

For everyone around the child:
Mums, Dads, Grandparents,
friends and relations

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Maia L in Year 9 is going to school in Finland during lockdown. Finland has the sort of educational system we can only dream of. Here is the very interesting description she sent us of her experience in her mother's native country.



Her mother explains:

There are a lot of differences to the UK system. Just to name a few- no fences/gates around the school, free school meals for all, teachers are called by their first names, length of school day varies.

In this particular school, there are also Steiner-related peculiarities. Teaching is in periods, focusing intensively on a specific topic. Maia entered a "history" period where they learn about Enlightenment, French revolution etc via the medium of arts. She will also have English (easy

peasy!), arts, PE (skiing and ice-skating), Finnish, maths, chemistry, physics, and RE/philosophy. It will be interesting for her to compare the two different systems.

Well, I shall be walking not in snow but in the rain this weekend. At least the Six Nations will provide sporting relief.

May I wish you and yours a peaceful and fruitful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal