
Principal's Newsletter

26 March 2021

Dear Parents,

Somehow it feels that we have been in school together on campus for much longer than three weeks. The intensity of the experience of returning to our routines, our friends and colleagues, and our full school life has made this period seem rather longer. And now we have arrived at the end of term.

I would like to thank all of you, and especially our volunteers, for the way you have worked with us to get school open, pupils tested, and kept school open by following faithfully the procedures and protocols in place. We have been especially impressed by our pupils. They have responded with immediate enthusiasm to everything that is happening in school. Their energy and the obvious joy they exhibit at being together and being at school is moving and inspirational. All of us, parents, teachers and pupils, are unlikely to take the simple pleasures of school life for granted ever again.

This week I found a place of inspiration to visit. After watching pupils being dropped off at the Pre Prep, I sneak upstairs to Ms Shields' Y2 class, who at that time are gathering for the start of the school day, and waiting for their friends to arrive for the start of lessons. The atmosphere and culture of this classroom is so transparently calm, safe, friendly, kind, and gentle and earnest, that it is balm for the soul to spend a minute or two there. Pupils show me their experiment in growing beans. They sometimes ask whether I will bring my horse to school. They help each other choose books and say good morning to each other. They carefully hang up their coats and sit down with serious intent to some reading, or maths or enthusiastic but hushed conversation with a friend. Indeed, if the whole College could be like Ms Shields' classroom at 08.47 in the morning, all manner of things would be well. It is a sober reminder to me that the magic of school starts with the magic of a teacher; the irreplaceable maker of the culture of the class, the guide who creates the place where children develop holistically and fully.

These short visits are especially good for my blood pressure after watching some of the parking. Staggered starts in Pre Prep have made a positive difference. We are now only blocking roads occasionally and almost always needlessly. There is space to park, but people cannot resist the convenience of parking opposite the gates. On Tuesday, I witnessed a mirror being struck by a passing car. I cannot help but think of the risks to

children in these situations. Please, park legally.



Safea A-R in Year 12 made this wonderful image for world Earth Day. Like the Sarah Everard memorial flowers still perched under the sculpture in front of my office, the imagination of our pupils responds to learning about the world, its challenges and possibilities.

A reminder to parents to ensure that pupils who are about to take important mock exams (this year they count!) use the next few weeks to prepare and revise. The Additional Study Programme for Year 11 and 13 which we have published is a remarkable document. Our teachers are providing a total of 131 additional face to face teaching hours plus 40 additional supervised study periods to support pupils. You can read about it [here](#). The shortened timetable for assessment, and the need for schools to assess pupils for their final grades means this Easter holiday should not and will not be like any other. For Year 11 and 13 especially, there is much work to be done.

Mrs Cassidy has asked me to remind parents that secondary school pupils are requested to continue taking Covid home tests twice per week during the Easter holidays. You should report the results to NHS Test and Trace [here](#) as well as to the school by using the following link <https://forms.gle/FDs2EqdBjyRW9WZh7>. Liverpool's Director of Public Health and Director of Children's Services have also written to parents with further advice and guidance for the holiday period – you can access a copy of the letter [here](#).

Liverpool city council have produced a newsletter for parents which Mrs Scott (Inclusion Mentor) has recommended. It has details of access to mental health and wellbeing support for children over the Easter holidays as well as parental training opportunities. You can download a copy [here](#).

We have been interviewing this week. An expanding school needs an expanding staff and our primary phase is still growing. It may be of interest to parents that a teaching job at Liverpool College currently attracts 172 applications. It is gratifying to hear shortlisted candidates explain what they like about our school and why they want to work here. Inevitably the candidates comment on the attitude of the learners they were teaching, on the holistic ambition of the education of a child represented in their experience of the day they spend with us, and on the endless possibilities provided by our campus.

Pupils have really enjoyed being able to play sports together, albeit in their respective bubbles. Over 400 pupils took part last Saturday in every possible kind of session. Everyone participates, everyone is included, everyone has a chance to develop their skills, to move, and enjoy the sport experience.

It is a sign of the commitment of Mr Cook and all the coaches and pupils that this programme continues this Saturday including on this occasion pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 who have been invited. Can I please ask parents to ensure that they take extra care when driving on to campus to drop off and collect pupils tomorrow as we will have so many groups of young pupils moving about the site.

For Christians, Easter is the crucial season where we are reminded that the sacrifice of love leads to the resurrection of new life. We have certainly been able to live this reality together over the past year. I wish you and yours a happy and glorious Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal