
Principal's Newsletter

1 April 2022

Dear Parents,

Much is made of the first of April, but not much of it is very funny.

There is the energy price cap of course, but more specifically relevant to school is the change in the covid protocols. Last week 6% of teachers in the city were off with covid and we are not unaffected. This week the situation across the city is a little better and we must all work together to prevent the spread of covid. It is therefore important to follow the covid guidance in terms of the identification of symptoms, testing, and allowing the appropriate length of time to make a recovery.

April will not, in contradiction to TS Eliot, be the cruellest month. With a final week to go, we are all excited about several building projects which our teams are coordinating during the holidays. The library refurbishment and upgrade in the secondary phase will be completed. The roofers intend to finish the Prep School roof allowing us to use our car park again. The outdoor classroom which is part funded by the PTA will be constructed next to the Prep School just in time for use in the summer term. The CCF hut named Ashanti will finally be disassembled and we will have a new storage facility for our contingent. It promises to be a busy two weeks.

Tomorrow will also be the first day of Ramadan and several pupils have told me how important this month is to them and how they are looking forward to this spiritual challenge and its spiritual rewards. We will offer our non-Muslim pupils a chance to experience a day of fasting so they can understand the practice of their Muslim classmates better, including the giving of alms to charitable causes. I wish all our Muslim families a blessed and successful Ramadan.

Our Speech Night was a success. The speaker Mr Mulville was particularly well received as he told a little of his life story and the way it entwined themes of Liverpool, persistence, and an openness to new experiences. Mr Mulville's passion for helping young people in Liverpool explore the possibilities of a full life through education is bearing fruit in his leadership of Classics for All. Ms Case recently took a group of young people, including Liverpool College pupils, to Cambridge where they were inspired to pursue their classical dreams. This weekend 72 pupils in the Aspire programme, a city-wide initiative, including Liverpool College pupils will travel to Oxford for a 4-day academic immersion experience

Motivating pupils, especially post-covid, is easy when we get them in front of the right speakers. Mrs Drew reports on some of the experiences we provided to pupils this past week in our careers and PHSE programme.

She writes:

This week, three of our year groups attended assemblies for their PSHE lessons. Year 10 had a mental health talk from the Lee Cooper Foundation who talked about support available to our pupils and tried some mindfulness techniques with the pupils. Year 11 had a sexual health talk from Brook Advisory who gave the pupils important advice and guidance. Chapter 7 were extremely lucky to have Jackie Bell who is head of the NHS 111 service in the North West. Jackie talked to the pupils about NHS careers, her current role and other jobs she had held such as being a paramedic and physiotherapist. Then three lucky Houses were invited to look around her ambulance and find out about the essential equipment on board.



My experience is that participation in a club sport as well as school sport: i.e. in maximum sport, helps pupils in every way. It promotes their physical, mental and academic wellbeing and enables their motivation for all parts of life to grow. It is in this context that I am strongly supportive of Mr Cook's efforts to build links with local sports clubs, especially Liverpool Collegiate rugby club, so that our pupils become aware of the sporting opportunities available not only here but in the community. Last night he organized an U13 B match of College pupils vs Liverpool Collegiate.

Congratulations to my two excellent colleagues Mrs Haynes and Mrs Cassidy, Vice Principals of the school, who gave a presentation to a Westminster Educational Conference on the unique Liverpool College curriculum. There were 500 policymakers and school leaders in attendance as they explained how we approach providing an education true to our motto: not only the intellect also the character: Purpose Passion and Challenge.

I was reminded of this when taking Chapel with Year 2. We were discussing Jesus' teaching about the old widow who gives one coin to the poor but by doing so has given more than

all the others because she gave all she had. I organized 4 pupils and gave them coins. My plan was to rely on their natural instinct to hold on to some of the money to illustrate that giving everything we have is a difficult thing to do. My teaching plan immediately fell to pieces when one young pupil said; I want to give it all!

Today, our Year 10 pupils are all over the region on a CCF field day. The weather is cooperating. Next week, we are planning a boarders' dinner, our musicians will be involved in rehearsals for the Liverpool Passion Plays at the Cathedral and at the Athenaeum dinner on Thursday. Next Friday we will hold our Lent Term services in Chapel for each year group. Looking forward to it.

An explosion of colour brought to you this week from artist of the week Madeleine E (Y11). The two pieces she has created were inspired by a fusion of influences from lyrics from hits by The Beatles, and art from Sir Peter Blake, Andy Warhol, and Roy Lichtenstein.



May I wish you and yours a glorious weekend.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal**