
Principal's Newsletter

1 October 2021

Dear Parents,

The fuel crisis has hit us, albeit indirectly. The coach drivers and vehicles of the MOD which were due to support our CCF Field Day were withdrawn at the last minute, presumably to address the much discussed "chaos on the forecourts". But despite this setback, and lashings of rain, our Year 10 did get out on Thursday to prepare for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They exercised some land navigation locally, and ended up with a cooking lesson in Beechlands' new kitchen.

Rain appears to affect the nervous energy of pupils in school, especially the first rainy day of the year. There are some screeches and screams. Ms McCone must be credited for rapid adaptation of a personal development activity. I opened the door to her classroom to find her form dancing vigorously, boys and girls. The kinetic energy expended in this vigorous dancing had raised the temperature in the classroom about 15 degrees. The pupils were completely on board with this form of exercise. She did not need a field to get her pupils moving in the middle of the day.

I feel obliged to report a great act of kindness which moved us all. Thomas in Reception discovered that some girls in his class were sad because their favourite doll had been lost somehow. Thomas therefore drew by his own hand and on his own initiative 10 pictures of the doll on separate sheets of paper which he then plastered all over the classroom in the manner that people do when they have lost a cat. This young man will go far and has already absorbed, 4 weeks into his formal schooling, the most important lesson. Kindness can always be turned into action.

Take for example this letter received from a stranger observing our pupils walking to school:

I was walking my dog the other morning in the pouring rain.

In the distance I saw one of your younger lads in uniform in the pouring rain with what appeared to be his sister behind him. He was walking to school and on his way he was picking up litter!!! Not only was he picking it up but he then went in to a kids playground picked up some more and put it in the bin.

As he walked past me he smiled!

He just made my day and is a credit to his parents and to your school.

Today the maths Rockstar events will indeed rock our Prep School It is hoped that many pupils will engage in this activity which is a certainly a challenge. Miss Robinson reports:

Well done Prep you never fail to impress! A huge thank you to all the children for making such an effort to be rockstars today. We have had some fantastic 'Rock Star' outfits today. I think that counted 5 Freddie Mercury's, a few Axle Roses and 1 Debbie Harry.

Don't forget to download the app and get playing your timetables rockstars!!!



Our uniform supplier is struggling. I will not bore you with all the details but they are suffering especially from supply and labour shortages as well as from various shipping and distribution disruptions nationally and locally. It is immensely frustrating. I have asked Ms Cassidy and Mrs Young (PTA Chair) to organize an open meeting to discuss uniform more generally with parents. We have been told that the shop will continue to be open on a Monday only but have received a commitment that the shop will return to its normal opening days from Monday October 11.

Just a reminder. Covid is still among us and the need to test is as great as ever. Please make sure you follow up on the guidance which suggests that you use lateral flow tests to test your child twice a week if they are in the secondary phase.

The Wilton scholars, our whole College programme of activities to stretch and challenge our pupils, are underway. Mrs Doran is meeting with each scholar individually. Her programme of activities and plans is an amazing feature of our school and is no doubt due to her tireless energy and innovation. Part of this programme was a presentation from Magdalene College Cambridge through the Aspire programme about personal statement writing for UCAS. Many of our Year 13 students are knee-deep into their personal statements which are then sent around to friends, teachers and anyone else who can have a look over them. How

does one capture one's intellectual ambitions and enthusiasms in a few paragraphs? It is a difficult task but I have read some amazing efforts which are delightful testimony to the effects of a true education: curiosity about the world, passion about its future, confidence that one can make a contribution and that there is always more to learn.

A parent sent me some suggestions to improve the parking situation. These are always gratefully received. He also shared that he has spent some time fixing the signs which our parents had crushed as they parked illegally. I include an example of the more "outstanding" feats of dangerous parking.



I drove to school this week, and, unusually for me left my bicycle in a dry shed. It's remarkable to see how many people park brilliantly and are prepared to walk a way to keep us all safe. Thank you for doing this.

The Chaplaincy held its first charity meeting. Several pupils were enlisted to spread the word and planning for the pupils' chosen charitable activity will begin soon. One request: if anyone has a functioning and relatively clean sofa and/or bookcase and would be prepared to donate it for the Chaplaincy room, please email lgreen@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The auditions for *Legally Blonde* took place. Ms Clark was delighted with the quality, diversity in age groups, and sheer numbers of those who want to be involved. She and Mr Bishop are at the same time preparing about 230 choristers and 50 orchestra musicians for Founders' Day, an event which creeps ever closer. As I reminded you last week, school will be closed on Founders' Day (Friday 15 October) with no lessons in any part of the school. A service takes place at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral at 12pm for pupils in the Prep School and secondary phase (Years 7-13). Parents will be emailed further information about arrangements next week.

The boarders and day boarders are enjoying their activities. Our boarders kayaked and boated around the docks at the aquapark. This weekend they are traveling to some

museums and being introduced to the city library. Their weekends seem much more interesting than mine.

As we make provisional plans for a whole school photograph in the summer term (the last one was taken in 2015), the sheer size of the College is humbling even for professional school photographers. The photograph of a school with about 1600 pupils and 200 staff is apparently no longer a one-shot exercise. Instead we will be fused and photoshopped together after different sections of the school are carefully placed and captured for eternity.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to highlight some upcoming virtual events organised by Liverpool city council's inclusion team– please [click here](#) for more information.

We won in mid-week. Our senior girls defeated St Mary's in netball and the Year 8s won their first football fixture. Our [1st XV defeated Rydal](#). Their reward is to play perennial powerhouse Manchester Grammar.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal