
Principal's Newsletter

3 September 2021

Dear Parents,

Even in the last two days, we have learned what we have missed for the many months of covid-restrictions. The playground in the Prep before school now resembles the invasion staging area of old. Pupils chat to whomever they want. They play. They speak excitedly about the day ahead. They use the Spanish signs attached to trees to play games of tag in Spanish while they divert themselves. When the whistle goes, the hushed silence falls with that immediate effect. Lines are formed. The parade into the classroom begins.

Minutes later Ms Clark is leading a singing practice for 350 people in her own irrepressibly energetic way. Singing is a simple pleasure, a straight path to the lifting of our souls, of which we have been deprived. There is talk of Founders' Day and Harvest festival. In Ms Taylor's class, I am regaled with stories of holidays to Anglesey and Scotland. One pupil finds the letters USA in a starter word search. When I inform him that I was born in one of the states which make up the United States, he asks me why I ever left that state. In a state of Socratic aporia, I realize this is a question it will take me another 15 years to answer.

School is back and we are poring over the residue and imprints of what was achieved this summer. Khan O (Y10 Howson's) may have made the greatest impression on his community as [this video](#) shows. He formed a CIC, and is leading a project to convert a piece of derelict land into a community garden in his L8 neighbourhood. A hugely impressive and inspiring summer and a display of the kind of leadership and maturity which represents our motto.

Then there are the accounts of our first ever Y7 summer school led by Mr Cartwright and Mrs Hall:

It was Monday 16 August, the school was empty, there was an eerie silence, the preparation for the Summer School team was over.....until 9.15, when 70 new Y7 starters landed in the Dining Hall for what was to be a fun-filled learning experience and an opportunity to forge new friendships.

The Summer School ran from 9.30-2.30 from 16 to 20 August. In their three teams of Oak, Ash and Elm, they followed an action-packed programme with a core theme of GROW. Coloured T-shirts identified their respective teams as they kicked off the day with a rousing sing-off before progressing to one of their activities and learning areas. These included Microbit, How it works (Science), Fitness and Football, Create it! (Drama and English), Art and Music, Design it, make it!

(DT), Find it! (Geography), STEM it! (Science and Maths) and Sport. Each team were taken to Wild Shore water park in the Albert Dock for an afternoon of team building and bonding, overcoming fears and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. Over lunch they had an opportunity to reflect on their experiences during the previous day and completed a brief Personal Learning Journey.

On the middle Wednesday they were introduced to LC outside of the classroom in an Adventure Grow Camp Day. Having had their safety brief, they actively participated in four activities of camp cooking, camp songs, erecting a tent and PLTs, before gathering around a camp fire, eating smores and singing the camp songs they had practised earlier.

The week culminated with team competitions, sing-off and a celebration of what they had achieved throughout the week. All pupils were given certificates, and individuals and teams were awarded prizes.

We would like to thank all the staff that helped make the week run smoothly and for making it an enjoyable experience for everyone. Until next year's Summer School.....

Our boarders have arrived from their homes as close as 200 meters away and as far away as Mexico and Hong Kong. In the sunshine they are discovering that they live together in a house with a 28 acre back garden providing endless opportunities for play. Here they are having discovered the Prep school playground.



Next week they will be joined in the day boarding programme, a programme of study skills and activities open to all pupils from Year 7 upward which takes place after school each day except Friday. For more information email elatham@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The play that never was may now be. *The Frogs*, Aristophanes' biting satire on war, on politics, and on his society, relevant to Athenians 2500 years ago, and relevant today is due to have a tentative performance on Tuesday 7 September at 7.00pm (tickets £5 on the door).

Earlier in the week the Year 7 came for a sports assessment and music afternoon. For 19 months we have been essentially unable to compete against other schools, unable to sing together in a choir or rehearse with the orchestra. We are on the verge of a return to the full richness of school life. It is therefore a very appropriate time to hold our sports awards evening. Mr Cook has organized, together with volunteers and boarders, an evening of celebration in the MV Hall. We must all work together diligently to recover at the earliest opportunity the habits of competition, sports, and music and drama, now that these activities are allowed once again. This includes the scheduled running of the House Run this Saturday in Sefton Park for Year 7 and Year 8. A great occasion.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers had their respective prom and leavers' dinner on the last day of August, an unusual time of year but perhaps symbolically appropriate. For them, the opening of school and of society is a new beginning after an enforced hibernation of their social life. If education is an adventure which touches upon every aspect of our lives and derives its impetus from all our experiences, the end of restrictions is a new springtime for young people. Travel, social life, and every kind of activity becomes possible once again.

One thing which has not changed is the insufferable incorrigibility of our traffic offenders. Our phones began ringing at 08.15 on Thursday morning as members of the public poured forth their concerns about dangerous driving and parking. This morning I goggled in wonder at cars parked next to "Absolutely no parking" signs. It seems that for some small but significantly dangerous minority, their own convenience will always trump the safety of others. We will continue to develop signage, cones, bollards, pupil signs and letters. Perhaps we will see marginal improvements. I am afraid we may need to add prayers in Chapel for the conversion of these hearts.

Tomorrow we actually play a match against a visiting school at 1pm in rugby. A very great number of pupils will have further sports assessments and house competitions. The boarders will take the open top bus tour of Liverpool, their new home. It is all happening with the energy and brio which are the hallmarks of the Liverpool College experience.

May I wish you and yours a dry, warm, and glorious weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal