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## Principal's Newsletter

4 March 2022

Dear Parents,

World Book Day is a glorious celebration in both the Prep and Pre Prep. I saw a hobbit, various wizards from Hogwarts, Wally, and every kind of superhero and princesses. Staff were animals, Dorothy and Men in Black. Entering Ms Shields' classroom, I was still wearing my black beanie and fleece, straight off my bicycle. A pupil approached me and told me: "I know who you are. You are the burglar from Home Alone. My family have since told me that I do bear a remarkable resemblance to this fictional criminal. I am considering a sartorial change.



The contrast between the colourful joy in school and the images coming from Ukraine could not be greater. Suddenly, peace, prosperity, and freedom seem more than abstract concepts of the PSHE lessons, they are instead endangered values requiring unity and sacrifice and placing before our jaded and cynical selves those things which transcend our self-interest and comfort. Our school must do all it can to support refugees, Russian and Ukrainian families affected by this horror, as well as using this moment in the history of the continent to teach. Ms Green and the charity group will be developing a campaign which we can support.

On Monday, we had an INSET Day. Your child may never ask you: What do staff do on INSET day? Indeed, a child who asks such a question could perhaps be described as preternaturally curious. We used the day to attend workshops of the Anthony Walker Foundation about race and racism. We also heard an inspirational presentation from the Youth Sport Trust, our partners in using physical activity to create a better curriculum and a healthier school. We also have an opportunity to meet in subject and year groups. We get to wear our "own clothes" before taking the ties and suits, skirts and dresses off the peg and saddling up for another half term.

We will be holding our termly Parent Information Evening on Thursday March 10 at 5.30pm. You can register for the event (which will be held on Microsoft Teams as we feel this encourages participation) by emailing Ms Bamber on [sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:sbamber@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). We would like to discuss and review a number of curricular and practical matters relating to the school, and our plans going forward now that we may tentatively say that Covid restrictions are going to be consigned to the rear-view mirror.

It is this lifting of restrictions which makes possible our first secondary whole school assembly in a long time. Mr McBride delivered some maths certificates as our pupils engaged in a national competition and will also be attending a maths competition on Saturday at the University of Liverpool.

Mrs Drew, our Careers Lead, has written about some of the careers activities which have been taking place:

*At the end of last term our Year 11 pupils took part in a virtual mock interview event in school. Supported by over 50 volunteers from all walks of life, our students completed up to 6 separate interviews in a speed networking format via TEAMS. The pupils, despite all being nervous at the beginning, grew into the event and you could see their confidence in their interview skills improve as the morning progressed. The feedback from the employers/parents/alumni was overwhelming positive and it was especially pleasing to hear comments about how polite and well-mannered the pupils were and how well prepared they were for the interviews. One employer told me it had been a pleasure working with the College for the morning and she would love to support us with future events. Thank you to all that supported the careers team and our wonderful Year 11 pupils.*



*This week we welcomed Be More Apprenticeships into school to perform their Step Into Your Future play for Chapter 7 and 8, and the Apprenticeship- A Pathway To Success play for Year 9. These 20-minute performances were really engaging and introduced the pupils to the world of apprenticeships through drama and song and gave the pupils the information they needed to consider all their career options in the future.*

Congratulations to Khan O in Y10. Khan's work in the community is being further recognized and he has now been put forward for national and international consideration as a young leader. Watch this space. He is a natural community leader.

Shrove Tuesday means the House Pancake Race in Prep. This is an excellent tradition which delights pupils and staff alike.



The Parliament of Houses met today. This student council is always consulted on matters relating to the pupil experience. They comment on all matters from catering to timetable, from sport activities to curriculum. We make sure their voices are heard and considered.

Mr Madonna and his teaching student are ingeniously developing a way to use juice cartons and other household materials to create a press for our art students. I stumbled upon them as they used their creativity to make something new happen. I find such serendipitous meetings which I am privileged to experience across the campus, inspirational. Here is a fine piece of work to carry you into the weekend – Woman in Green by Daisy S (Y10).



*"Woman in Green is a small original impasto painting I created inspired by textural brushwork*

*and palette knife techniques. It was one of my earliest oil paintings and I enjoyed the process of layering colour and creating marks. It taught me a great deal about the painting process and patience as it took three weeks to complete!" (Daisy S Y10).*

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

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman**  
**Principal**