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## Principal's Newsletter

7 January 2022

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to Ms Achilleos and her husband and son on the arrival of Azrael Ajax Achilleos. This little champ weighed in at an extraordinary 10lbs just before Christmas and is an unadulterated source and symbol of joy for all of us in these pandemic times. Well done to Ms Achilleos who continued to teach in her energetic fashion while carrying Azrael to term. Great news.

For those of us working on January 4, 2022, (the day before the return of our 1550 pupils) in the hallowed halls of Liverpool College, one thought dominated. How clean a school can be when there is no one to litter in it. About 18 people spend hours every day cleaning up our school. They really do devote themselves to the task. On January 4, the place looked and smelled like a bouquet of roses, a veritable garden of Eden. It took little time for this reality to be reversed. Litter is the symptom of a serious problem on the streets of our city but also on our campus. It is a reflection of a certain disdain for the environment, for collective and individual responsibility, and a sign of the sort of thoughtless consumption which is slowly suffocating the planet. Our cleaners have made some sensible suggestions about how we can support them as they continue to strive with diligence to give us the environment and the kind of campus they think we deserve. We will be implementing some polices and rules about litter, littering, clean up, a responsibility for the environment this term which I hope will make a difference.

There is a further small change in our secondary detention policy, the return of the Saturday detention from 08.30-10.00. This time will be devoted to what the US Army on its bases refers to as the activity of "campus beautification", various litter picking and mild landscaping initiatives.

My thanks to the volunteers who made it possible for us to test all the pupils who had agreed to testing in the secondary phase. This enormous logistical operation took longer than usual because, happily in my view, more people are giving permission for their child to be tested, thus making the testing programme somewhat more effective. I tell you nothing you do not already know but the prevalence of omicron in the city of Liverpool means some minor restrictions have been resuscitated, especially in the secondary phase of the College. Mask wearing, hand sanitizing, no assemblies in person, staff common room protocols and other measures are in place. You can help of course by regularly testing your family at

home, by not sending your child into school when ill with the symptoms of covid. Our reception open day tomorrow has had to be cancelled and it is likely that our Sixth Form open evening will also have to be postponed until the current plague has blown over.

We also need some other parental volunteers if at all possible: here is a request from Mrs Doran who is seeking to put together a Year 11 mock interview day:

*If helping out your child's school was one of your New Year's Resolutions then I may have just the opportunity for you! We are looking for volunteers to help with our Y11 mock interview event, which will take place on Friday 11 February. This is a virtual event.*

*There will be 3 virtual sessions of mock interviews running throughout the day; (Session 1 8:30am-10:30am, Session 2 11am-1pm and Session 3 2pm-3pm). It is hoped that each Y11 form will be offered an hour of mock interview practice, comprising of numerous 5 minute interviews and time for feedback. All interviews will be virtual with pupils moving physically from computer to computer every 10 mins and volunteer interviewers joining via Teams only once using an emailed link. We will provide you with a list of suggested questions. If you are interested in helping out with this event, **please contact Mrs Doran sedoran@liverpoolcollege.org.uk**. If you are able to specify the session, or perhaps sessions, you are able to volunteer for, that would be most helpful.*

*Any support would be greatly appreciated.*

There are several new staff members joining us this term. Mr Flynn's retirement as Director of Finance has become a reality. As he plans his cruise, Ms Furnival has taken over his role. Ms Furnival has extensive school financial management experience. As a single academy trust, the governors and I are responsible for the management of a 10 million pound budget and various fundraising and compliance activities. Ms Furnival brings experience, enthusiasm and intelligence to this very important role. We also welcome Mr Jais in the Science faculty and Ms Knisz in PE who are providing maternity cover teaching and Ms Almond and Ms Harper who are providing cover supply teaching across the College.

A message from Mr Murphy in the LC Sports gym about their New Year's membership offer:

*Just £99 for 12 months Gym Membership*

*No joining fee*

*No contract*

*Classes included*

*Free exercise programme*

*Email on [LCSports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:LCSports@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) or call: 0151 724 4488 to take up this amazing offer*

*We hope to see you soon!*

It was great to see our new sports hall floor has been installed on time and in budget over the holiday. Walking across the new floor literally puts a spring in one's step and has made this space more functional and even safer. I am certain we will enjoy it this term.

Leaders in the school are poring over the assessment data from the assessments late last term and planning their strategies for the months ahead. We need to remain focused on addressing some of the challenges of the lingering effects of lockdown and school disruption on the progress of pupils. The picture keeps improving but we are not yet exactly where we had hoped our pupils to be. Your help is needed.

Reading at home especially in the primary years is key: key to writing well, key to comprehending swiftly, key to expressing oneself cogently. Please read yourself as research shows, even controlling for all other factors, that children of parents who read do better than children who read the same amount but whose parents are not seen reading. Read. Read. Read. Your children copy you. The weather is often perfect for it.

A reminder that we are currently consulting on making changes to our admissions policy for September 2023 entry. I sent you an email about this at the end of last term and you can access further information about the proposals on the school website [here](#).

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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