
Principal's Newsletter

12 November 2021

Dear Parents,

This has been a turbocharged week of events, initiatives, developments, and activity. It began with a large block fixture against Ripley St Thomas, our excellent friends from Lancaster, in both hockey and rugby. As they say, you win some and you lose some, and this was the case last Saturday. The night before, Nye Thomas, OL, a young man who played scrum half in sixth form less than a year ago, was making his debut in the Gallagher Premiership Rugby. I enjoyed [this picture](#) which shows Nye engaging in "handbags" with a Northampton and England player of substantial frame Dave Ribbons. Nye displayed some Purpose, Passion and Challenge there!

On the Saturday evening I was the guest of a group of OLs celebrating the 50th anniversary of the decade of their leaving the school. This group of OLs has stayed in touch through these events and I was delighted by their company and also struck at the number of OLs who still play an active role in our school, as volunteers, governors and trustees and employees thus ensuring that the constant "newness" of life at school rests on a living and tested tradition.

On Monday, I was introduced during my sojourns in the Prep and Pre Prep to the disappearance of the fencing around the tennis court. This is a great improvement, removing the experience of being kettled behind a fence and instead opening up the play area for pupils.

This marvel of the attractiveness of removing fencing reminded me of a section of Frost's poem *Mending Wall*

He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbours.'

Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder

If I could put a notion in his head:

'Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it

Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know

What I was walling in or walling out,

And to whom I was like to give offense.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

And Monday night, Ms Rogers and her scouts visited the fire station. The return of scouting is always the most welcomed development at school as far as OLs are concerned. It was also on Monday that I visited Prep School chapel briefly. Ms Clark is an extraordinarily inventive singing teacher as she managed to greatly improve the musicality of the hundreds of children belting out a hymn in a matter of minutes.

Tuesday's visit to the day boarders revealed that this programme seems to only grow. They have been very active in a science club run with the help of our science technician Ms Norrey. It is impressive to hear that a boarder, Evie, leads the boarders' book club in their collective reading of *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman and the boarders are also a fundraising team, raising money for the Poppy Appeal by taking a sponsored daily mile long walk around the local area. In general Sefton Park is being used for all sorts of curricular purposes. Nothing delights more than seeing our Head of Maths lead a group of sixth formers for a lung-expanding run through the park in the Thursday activity period.

On Wednesday, Mr Stamper's leadership of the Personal Development pilot in Year 4 led to a market in jewellery. He writes:

This week finally saw the conclusion of our maiden Make and Sell project as part of the Personal Development pilot program in Year 4. The children have followed a process not unlike the ordeal Lord Sugar puts his apprentices through. Tasked with making and selling jewellery, the children created initial ideas, carried out market research, completed order forms, physically manufactured the jewellery by hand, created some promotional materials in the form of posters and a video advert in the marketing task, and finally sold their wares to different year groups in the school. The amount of teamwork, concentration, ingenuity, and entrepreneurial skill on display has blown all of the Year 4 staff away. On sales day, we had children coming up with offers and deals on the spot, including a stroke of genius from Emmie & Mya T in 4Q, who offered an exclusive 'make your own bracelet' experience - in other words, grab some of our unused stock, assemble it yourself so we don't have to, and pay extra for the privilege!! Praise must also go to Toby R in 4Q who managed to convince one child to part with £5 just for one bracelet; he will make a terrific salesman one day I'm sure!! All in all, Year 4 made £174.98 for a local cancer charity, with 4Q coming in victorious with sales of £84.08! All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the entire process and picked up and developed some invaluable skills along the way!

This was also the day that several author talks were taking place. Former professional songwriter and musician, martial artist and general polymath Mr Chris Bradford could

suddenly be found in the Sutton Timmis with a Samurai sword, and an invitation to explore his fiction, and demonstrations of martial art. My own thought was only of how amazing it must be to go to a school where all this stuff happens as if by magic.



Thursday we held our Act of Remembrance and the official opening of the Noel Chavasse VC Poolhouse. The CCF which has had its training and progress so grievously disrupted by the covid pandemic, was back in action. The corps of drums and sounding of the Last Post by Solomon W was excellent and Bella L and Harriette C-K led the parade brilliantly. Much thanks and credit must go to Major Ridley, Lt Cdr Rigby and CSM Warrant Officer Newton and all our staff and NCOs who are revitalizing the contingent and who make these events so meaningful and inspiring. Unusually, the rest of the school watched the proceedings on the link provided live by Omar's video team. We were able to welcome a small numbers of OLs and visitors, including the great Walter Clarke, a man who led the CCF for more than 40 years at the College and is now its honorary colonel. It was a moving and solemn occasion, especially when Mr Hubbard, chair of the Liverpool College Foundation, was able to cut the much delayed proverbial and literal ribbon and formally open the Poolhouse, a home our Prep pupils have occupied for some time but which could never have been built without the generosity of donors, including parents, and the Foundation.



Thursday also saw the Y7 and Y8 hockey teams both win in the league versus Blue Coat. The Y7s won 3-0 and the Y8s 5-2.

More happy news to report. Congratulation to Ms Bygroves and her family on the birth of Seth. Mum and baby are thriving.

I finished my Thursday with a peek into the zoom room of Aspire where pupils were having a legal/moral discussion about whether it was always wrong to eat a human being! It was certainly a provocative discussion and I believe there was no real appetite for the promotion of cannibalism.

Tomorrow I will join some rugby players and coaches at 0740 for our trip to Newcastle Under Lyme school. We will go anywhere it seems for sport, comradery and victory.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal