

## Principal's Newsletter

13 May 2022

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to Ms McCone who gave birth to Isla Daphne. Mother and baby are thriving.

Just as we celebrate this marvellous new life, we mourn the passing of John Robertson OL. John was one of the great supporters and volunteer servants of our College. He attended the school and remembered headmaster Howard reading the names of boys lost in WWII to a hushed student body in the Chapel. He served as a trustee and vice president of the foundation, governor and chair of governors. He loved to attend College events, especially sports fixtures, OL Dinners and Founders' Day. He rejoiced and delighted in the success of young people preferring to focus on the impact of the College today.



Spring is here and Mrs Boyle is busy in her garden. Rarely do I see the kind of concentration and engagement which is achieved by the reception classes as they tend to their tomato plants and other crops. Reception have also been very busy looking after and caring for their class caterpillars. They watched with amazement as they transformed into beautiful butterflies and really enjoyed using the magnifying glasses to closely observe all the detail on their delicate wings. Once all our caterpillars had transformed into butterflies the pupils released them in our school garden.

My assembly in Prep School was about the dangers of getting caught behind a screen all day. One child told me she watched 6 hours of TikTok a day. Use of social media for this length of time is correlated to increased difficulties for many young people in maintaining good mental health. The Charity Committee has been organising things which we know are good for pupils' mental health as part of mental health awareness week: anti-stress coffee breaks for sixth formers, giant games of capture the flag, and mindfulness origami workshops. It is not enough for us to tell young people not to do certain things, we must encourage them and show them the sorts of fun things which are actually good for you. All these activities were the ideas and projects of pupils themselves. This is particularly true in this period of examinations.



Our musicians are in final preparations for the Springtime Soiree to be held in Mossley Hill Church on Thursday 19 May. This is the first time since May 2019 that we have been able to present this concert and we look forward to seeing many supporters there. Tickets can be purchased from the upper and prep school receptions.

Advance notice that our termly Parent Information Evening will take place on Wednesday 25 May at 5.30pm. As usual this will be held on Microsoft Teams as we feel this encourages participation. Further details next week on how to register for the event.

Mr Jones reports on the success of our pupils in the Unilever Bright Future Inspire programme:

*Year 9 pupils Aurelie O, Avah O'K, Amelia B and Mary M have collaborated with me on a project with Unilever this academic year called the Bright Future Inspire Programme. I am so pleased to announce that the team of pupils have won the Sustainability Prize!*

*They competed against students across the north-west and delivered an excellent presentation that led to success in the competition.*

*This means the pupils will receive not only a participation certificate but also a CREST Bronze Award certificate plus a brilliant goodie bag from the team at Unilever.*

Today, I have seen several Year 10 pupils with enormous backpacks readying themselves for their expeditions. Mr Ridley reported live from the Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh expedition last week:

*Year 9 shook off the last of the COVID cobwebs and were able to undertake their first Duke of Edinburgh expedition as part of their personal development week. After a full day of training, packing, and preparation, the first six groups departed school and headed into the rainy North. As ever, the British weather was their greatest adversity, with continuous downpours attempting to dampen their resolve. However, their resilience, teamwork, and determination kicked in and despite the challenges, all groups completed their first day and made it into camp. Throughout the day, staff were feeding back stories of how impressive the boys were. Several groups brought bin bags with them to collect litter as they walked, making a positive impact on the environment. Other individuals, such as Will H, stood out as phenomenal leaders, encouraging and supporting their peers who were struggling, going as far as to carry his teammates' rucksacks in addition to his own. Collectively they personified the values of the Award.*



*The second day brought glorious sunshine and with it, much easier walking conditions. It also brought the next eight groups who began their expedition as the first six groups were on the home stretch of theirs. Spare a thought for the supervising staff who, having seen the first batch safely through had to reset and start again with a new group, with no respite. The afternoon saw the boys' groups completing their expeditions in good time, with increasingly remote supervision as their competence left staff confident they could drop back and allow them their independence. At the same time, the second batch of participants were well underway, better able to appreciate the scenery as the clouds lifted. By 18:30 with only a few tears along the way, the groups made it safely into their campsite; tired, sore, but positive. Their campcraft kicked in and they demonstrated their cooking skills, such as they were! Special mention to Group 5 who resourcefully sourced fresh eggs from a local farmer for a breakfast boost.*



*At the time of writing on Friday morning, the final groups were steadily progressing towards their endpoints and again, staff are increasingly allowing them to journey independently. It is one of the most rewarding elements of the award and participants recognise and respond to the level of trust being placed in them as they roam the countryside as a team. Along the way, bonds are formed and pupils show they are able to overcome challenges, resolve conflict, and push through physical barriers to achieve their well-earned award.*

Mrs Doran is looking for parents to help support our Careers Fair:

On Tuesday 28 June (10am-1pm) Liverpool College will be running a Careers Fair for all pupils in Y9, Y10 and Y12. We are looking for volunteers from a wide range of differing careers to participate in this event. Pupils will rotate around stands to find out more about different career opportunities. If you are interested in attending this event, or would like more details, please email Mrs Doran [sedoran@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:sedoran@liverpoolcollege.org.uk). Thank you.

Ms Whittell reported that the Eco-Committee took part in the "Clean Green" Youth Voice Employer Panel North West last week. Lily N (Y10) has more details:

*Last Thursday morning, eco-committee members gathered to join a green careers talk with environmentally conscious companies such as Bentley, Pilkington Glass Making, and Billington Food and Agriculture group. The careers talk gave time to the leading eco members of each company to successfully give our team great insight into the growth potential towards eco-development to better not only our world, but the people who live in it.*

*In recent years, Bentley has pushed the limits in the automotive industry, creating new job roles, such as Decarbonisation manager, to combat their ever-growing customer needs and continuously bettering the environment. Additionally, an innovative question asked by another school attending posed the idea to Pilkington about utilising windows in offices, skyscrapers and even houses into solar panels to increase accessibility to the technology. The speaker went on to explain how the mechanics of the situation were being ironed out, and materials were*

*being sourced to create the window solar panels, at an achievable rate for the public consumers. Lastly, we enjoyed listening to a family run company, Billington, and about how they are aiming to make their fleet of delivery vehicles more carbon neutral and generate more effective ways to transport goods across the country.*

Saturdays are by no means quiet times on our campus. LC Sports brims with teams, matches, visitors. The Greek Academy meets in the poolhouse. YULA Drama School takes place in the MV Hall. The South Liverpool orchestra fills the Sutton Timmis with beautiful sound. On Thursdays, a community choir takes over the MV. In this way, our campus serves the community and becomes a hub of civic and cultural life.

This week's artist of the week is Tilly A (Y9).



*In response to the work of Japanese artist Yuko Higuchi, we created our own paper illustrations as photographic selfie props for a photoshoot. These were inspired by the wonderful, surreal but whimsical world of the work of Higuchi. I enjoyed working with biro and pens, it was fun to repeat drawing marks, detail and patterns. (Tilly A)*

May I wish you a sunny and happy weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr H van Mourik Broekman  
Principal**