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## Principal's Newsletter

14 January 2022

Dear Parents,

More good news from the holiday break. Congratulations to Ms Worrall, beloved form mentor and biology teacher who has delivered her baby daughter Ffion. Mother and baby are doing well.

A week of sunshine has opened up the possibilities of school life. We are no longer troglodytes waiting for a break in the gloom, but we are boldly outside, passing the rugby ball, playing games, performing the Y4 weekly run, heading back down the muddy slope to the Forest School. This weather coincides with the amazing uptake for bikeability in Y5 in the Prep School. My understanding is that every pupil in that year group signed up to do this bicycle safety course. One can only dream of an invasion of our campus by bicycles rather than the car congestion and dangers we all experience. Such a course will be much more fun in this weather.

Cast your mind back to last Saturday when Noah was floating away in his ark. Torrential rains could not stop Mr Cook and his coaches as well as an intrepid band of footballers from fulfilling their fixtures against Cheadle Hulme (won one, lost one). In Manchester it was snowing, but here we played on. I ran into a pupil returning home from this mud wrestle and marvelled at the spirit of our pupils and our staff. I wondered how we can maintain the amazing commitment to sport seen in the lower years of our school and how we can apply that spirit to all elements of school life. There is a national trend of chronologically increasing apathy up the school years when it comes to physical movement, sports, and even membership of clubs and activities. The answer to this trend would unlock the educational challenge that the country faces.

The boarders choose activities on the weekend. I had not been previously aware of the existence of a Cat Café in this city. The establishment provides its patrons the opportunity to stroke cats. This is the place the boarders are looking forward to visiting together this weekend. As a dog person, I am both mystified and bemused.

You may remember the invitation I extended to you as parent to join the Lerpoolians, a website sponsored by the Foundation of the College, a charity which supports our school. The Lerpoolians is an online community of friends, supporters, and Old Lerpoolians. Parents are invited to join. You can sign up on the website [here](#).

Various building projects are now underway. We have watched the roof of the Prep School take shape and that project is scheduled to be completed in the next few months, allowing at least some more cars onto our Prep car park. Other projects in the works include the refurbishment of our secondary phase library made possible by a donation from a Sixth Form parent. We will be able to improve the lighting, get some new library furniture and beautify the space. Our excellent librarian Ms Miller has been inspired by this gift to dream big. Another project in an early stage of development is a plan for the very dilapidated CCF huts. The presence of cadets, their teaching of younger pupils, their uniformed presence has been a most welcome symbol of a return to some normality.

We have scheduled our next Parent Information Evening for 10 March at 5.30pm. It is at this meeting annually that the development priorities for the school are shared with parents and we discuss plans for the improvement of what we provide for the next academic year. We will hold this on Microsoft Teams as our experience has been that attendance is greatly improved when we use this format. The Year 11 parents' evening took place this week, a timely reminder that we are now in what airline pilots call the final descent into landing for that year group. This is a much shorter term than the last, and examinations are, by all indications going full speed ahead. We have not experienced a public exam "season" for two years, so all of us have to prepare for this one. Year 12 parents' evening will be held on 26 January. For several reasons, including our hopes that Covid is in abeyance, we have postponed the Sixth Form Open Evening until Wednesday 2 February from 4.30 - 6.30pm.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to highlight the ADDvanced Solutions Community Network's timetable of support events this half term which you can download from the school website [here](#).

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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