
Principal's Newsletter

15 October 2021

Dear Parents,

On this occasion, the newsletter is written on Thursday evening, so that the decks can be cleared for Founders' Day. For the first time in 18 months we will gather the clan to celebrate the 181st birthday of the College, to remember our founders, benefactors, and all the people who have contributed to moving the school forward from its beginning in 1840. Perhaps because of our enforced postponement of this event, several pupils have told me that this time they are looking forward to going, enjoying lunch with their family and friends, and even planning to go to the cinema in the late afternoon. It is all part of Michaelmas term as it should be, just like Amelia in Year 1 who went conker gathering and handed out conkers to all her classmates. I am proud to say she gave me one also, now sitting as a reminder of the season on my desk.

For some, Founders' Day has begun already. The boarders hosted a Founders' Day dinner on Thursday night. They each invited day pupils and day boarders for this special occasion.

I sometimes wonder what the founders would make of the school now. Its current location was farmland in 1840. Our campus was something they could only dream of on Shaw Street in Everton. The fantastic array of subjects and curricular experiences would have surprised them. For example, today I stumbled upon Ms Webb taking an entire Year 8 class through an elaborate dance routine in the middle of the day. The curtains were drawn so the pupils would not be embarrassed about dancing and being seen by their peers. And, boy, did they dance. This sort of thing would have sent William Conybeare, the young clergyman and first principal of the College into apoplexy. His main innovation was the written school report, which he introduced as a novelty in this country and which has blighted the lives of lazy pupils ever since by informing their parents of their idleness. No dancing there, I think.

But there are other aspects of the current school of which they would definitely approve. Chapel was an essential part of school life from Day 1, and it is still important today. Last Thursday with 2P taking a lead, our Chapel hosted a harvest festival. Covid still meant that parents could not share in this experience. Next half term our pupils will be able, if they are interested, to do the Alpha Course. I like to think they would also approve of our aggressive pursuit of the motto a 25-year old stone mason had been allowed to carve on the lintel on the original school building in Shaw Street: *non solum ingenii verum etiam virtutis*; not only intellect also character. I thought of this when I received a photograph of our CCF and Duke

of Edinburgh pupils practising on Helsby Hill and Woodhouse Hillfort. I was reminded of it again when Omar in Year 10 shared his opportunity to be part of the interview panel for the appointment of a new Executive Director of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. But I was especially struck by it today when we had our first "full uniform" CCF day. For a long time, the CCF has been unable to do the things it needs and wants to do, but here were fresh cadets, looking sharp, and ready to enjoy learning leadership skills. I feel certain that the variety in our curriculum, from yoga in Year 4 to Sefton Park walks in Year 13, would meet with the founders' approval even if they could only conceive of classics and some rudiments of science as having much value.

What would please them most is the way the College has pupils from every background, ethnicity, religion and with every possible academic ability and potential. The Founders had foresight. They wanted a school that would transform the lives of the people of Liverpool. In pursuit of this mission they ran night schools, and made sure that all (at the time boys) could come to the school, an enlightened policy and vision at the beginning of the Victorian era. They understood that having representation from all parts of Liverpool makes that project they started more rewarding, more relevant, and more important.

In about 10 years, we will win a lot of football matches. The Year 2 won their football tournament and were sent on to the finals. Cross country in Prep School is so victorious that it hardly even gets mentioned anymore. Our Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 rugby teams remain undefeated. I always mention victories against Merchant Taylors', and will make no exception here. The Chapter 8 team won their mid-week rugby clash with our friends in Crosby by 9 tries to 2. The hockey players also won all the matches last Saturday against Cowley and remain undefeated.

A reminder that we are holding our uniform review and discussion meeting with parents on Thursday 21 October at 5.30pm in the MV Hall.

I would like to invite you to a Sean Webster art show. Sean is a young OL whose artistic career is going from strength to strength. You can get free tickets [here](#). Sean is donating some of the proceeds of the show to our art department. His talent is well known to us, but I hope it will become known to you

I hope you enjoy Founders' Day and wish you and your family a dry and pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal