
Principal's Newsletter

17 June 2022

Dear Parents,

The heat has struck and just as a certain languor descends on the campus, the internal examinations in the secondary phase require the greatest intellectual exertions. When I teach my Chapter 7 Latinists, I am struck by the differences between some pupils in their approach to these examinations. Some do not seem particularly inclined, despite my fulminations, exhortations, and even vituperations, to consider a plan of revision. For them, new as they are to secondary education, the concept that a person would take some time in the late afternoon and evening and look over the various revision guides, vocabulary sheets and other materials provided seems foreign, even alien. Still others, are laying a systematic siege to examination week, carefully planning their revision. This disparity is why some schools do not "believe" in homework as they say it disadvantages those who do not have parental support, while many schools, like ours, do believe in it precisely as a mechanism to bring school and parents together to support children.

Parents have an essential role to play in creating the conditions for exam success. It is not only about quizzing, encouraging, and supporting pupils in their organisation, it is also about providing the lessons for the right mental approach to examinations and tests. The stool of education has three legs of equal length and importance. There is no stability when there are only two legs involved: school, child, and parents and carers. We know from lots of research that the key factor in educational progress is not socio-economic background or even intelligence but parental support. Your child needs you to be involved, and, if that is not possible year around, it is certainly necessary this weekend and in the period of examinations.

As the public examinations wind down, we are all expressing our admiration for the way our Year 13 and Year 11 pupils have approached this examination season. This is a generation whose experiences of school were very disrupted. They did not see the year before them march into exam halls. In a sense, the experience for them was a new one. They have all conducted themselves brilliantly. Just a few more to go.

Mrs Drew (Careers Leader) reports on another great opportunity that Chapter 8 pupils enjoyed this week:

We were lucky to have nine members of the Allied Health Professions in school to speak to our Chapter 8 pupils about some of the fields they work in. They are all based at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital, and we had a range of professions including a dietician, neuro physiotherapist and exercise physiologist. After short demonstrations of their jobs, the pupils were then allowed to take part in activities such as CPR and strength tests and discuss protein shots and healthy eating. One pupil commented that he didn't know what it meant to be a physiotherapist, but now he does!



The Prep School is super busy. I arrived one morning to see pupils donning various tropical hats. They were off to Chester zoo with their teachers and Dean, Ms Whittaker. Mr Stamper reports on the tsunami of sport which has taken place this week:

Monday:

On Monday afternoon, our U10 football team travelled to Tiber for a crucial league game against tough opponents in St. Paul's. What a game it was! Physical, competitive and fast-paced, it made for a brilliant spectacle. Both teams had chances and plenty of the ball. Our debutant between the sticks, James P, was outstanding. He well and truly kept us in the game in the first half. We managed to take a lead through a nice finish from Joe C, just on the stroke of half time.

We talked at half time about ways in which we could improve our performance, and boy did the boys respond. The second half saw us more composed and make better use of the ball when we had it, as well as offering up more sustained pressure on our opponents when we didn't. After a long spell of pressure in the opponent's box, Niall O'C rifled home a brilliant strike to put us 2-0 ahead. The game continued to be a tight battle, and hearts were in mouths when a slightly dubious penalty was awarded against us. It was the only thing James was unable to save! We managed the rest of the game to win 2-1.

Tuesday:

Our Year 6 cricketers attended a Kwik cricket tournament at SFX. We were put in a tough-looking group, and our first game against Dovedale proved this. We scored plenty of runs and managed to bowl tight enough to win that game. We then had a game against Belvedere Prep where we truly showed our prowess, winning the game by over 100 runs! These two wins meant it was winner takes all in our final league match versus Rudston, who had won their two games comfortably. A few nerves kicked in when we batted, meaning we didn't quite post the total we had hoped for. Before we took to the field, we talked about the need to bowl tight and take wickets. This is exactly what the team proceeded to do. Special praise must go to Leo T who bowled a remarkable double-wicket maiden which turned the game on its head. We won this incredible game of cricket by just 3 runs!

Three from three in our league saw us through to the semi-finals against old rivals Childwall CE. In this game, we really stepped up our performance. We eradicated the silly errors when batting, playing a mixture of sensible shots and putting the boundaries away when we could. But once again it was the bowling that impressed me. An excellent catch from Leo T, and a remarkable run-out from Finn S, saw us complete a convincing victory, sending us to the final. This was to take place against the much-fancied Booker, another old rival, who had blown all of their opponents away throughout the day. We were asked to field first. The bowling was incessantly accurate and difficult to score from. Ben P was particularly impressive in this regard. The fielding was exceptional too, and we managed to restrict our opponents to just 21 runs. We talked about the need to bat sensibly given our opponents quality, and that's exactly what we did. Careful shot selection put us in a healthy position, meaning Seb had to just avoid getting out a few times in the final over. He put in another Test match performance, blocking and leaving expertly against a very good bowler. The game concluded and our brilliant team had won the entire tournament!



Every member of the squad played their part and did fantastically well on the day.

Wednesday:

Wednesday saw our Year 5 and 6 Athletics squad travel to Wavertree for their District 4 competition. Our athletes put in fantastic performances across the board, with many qualifying in their heats to enter the finals. Some notable performances:

- Joe C coming 2nd in the 75m finals
- Seb W coming 1st, and Charlie W 2nd, in the boys' 800m final
- Beau R coming 1st, and Elise K 3rd, in the girls' 800m final
- Evelyn R coming 1st, and Isabelle M 2nd, in the girls' high jump
- Isaac F coming 1st in the boys' high jump
- Grace I coming 2nd in the girls' long jump



It had gone past 7pm when the evening finally drew to a close and the presentations began. We were just hoping to qualify for the city finals, and were blown away to discover the girls' team had come 3rd, taking home certificates and medals. But, even more impressively, our boys' team came first!

Congratulations to our winner and achievers in athletics in the secondary phase as well. We had several medal winners among the boys at yesterday's City competition:

- Marcus F (Year 10) - City Champion in Shot Put.
- Kayde G (Year 10) - Overall 2nd Place in 200m
- Yusuf A (Year 9) - Overall 3rd Place in 200m
- Year 9 Relay Team – Maleek A, Yusuf A, Harry C and Berdan O - Overall 3rd Place in 4 x 100m Relay.

- Harry C (Year 9) - 3rd Place 300m and 3rd place triple jump.

Congratulations to all the pupils who have been recognized at the Engineering Leaders Award ceremony for Cheshire and Merseyside held at Edge Hill University this week. Mrs Doran reports:

Our incredible pupils won the top prizes in ever year group category from Year 3 to Year 10, with one of our Year 5 pupils, Leonardo T, selected as the overall competition winner out of an incredible 33,000 entries. Leo will now have his design, an eco and budget friendly invention called the 'Anti-Waster Fridge', physically made as a prototype by real engineers.



You can read the full list of winners and Highly Commended entries [here](#).

Recruitment has started for September's intake for the Liverpool Greek Academy – a long standing joint programme between Classics for All and Liverpool University which offers free tuition for local state school pupils in Year 9 or above to learn Ancient Greek from beginners to GCSE and onwards to A level. Lessons are held on Saturday mornings at Liverpool College and are free. All details can be found here: <https://classicsforallnorth.org.uk/schools> or on the information leaflet [here](#).

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal