
Principal's Newsletter

17 September 2021

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed the Indian summer and our campus has been the scene of an incongruous variety of learning.

My travels across the campus give me a privileged glimpse of what is on offer. In one Prep School classroom I stumble upon philosophical questions, discussed by young people in a manner which would not be out of place in a university or the Stoa of ancient Athens. In another, I look on amazed as teachers combine the geography of the Indian subcontinent with careful exploration of ancient Sanskrit religious texts, while encouraging the use of words like “mesmerizing”, in another a sixth former speaks confidently about matters of chemistry which are so far beyond my knowledge that I literally do not understand what they are talking about.

All of these intense learning classroom experiences, the core of our challenge to our pupils, are leavened by the experience of our campus and the relationships which are being built as school reopens. Sixth formers play hockey games or, run or just take a walk together with their teachers through Sefton Park. Particularly wonderful to me is the personal development pilot programme in Pre Prep, Prep and Middle School. In these pilot programmes which we announced at the end of last term, pupils are doing everything from learning to cook and prepare food (Year 1), to mindfulness and yoga in Year 4, to various games and activities in Year 7 and 8. It is very inspiring to see a class enjoy each other’s company, exercise daily, and learn new physical skills. Teachers play tag, ultimate frisbee, jump rope with their charges before preparing a ukulele lesson, a leadership activity, a discussion about cyberbullying. My ambulations reveal a school living out its motto: not only the intellect also character. Our pupils are riveted, “onside” as Mr Fox likes to call it, rising to the various challenges, intellectual, and personal which they are set. It has been a great week in which our ambition and vision have been able to take on curricular form.

Some advance warning of a talk by Dr Stephe Harrop sponsored by the Liverpool Classical Association. On September 30 at 7pm in our MV Hall she will give a talk on the Homeric Orality and Contemporary Performance. As she is a professional storyteller herself, this promises to be a truly interesting evening. The event is free but tickets must be reserved –

please [click here](#) to book. All of the talks in the series are designed to be accessible to older pupils and the general public.

It is wonderful to hear how the Debating Society is resuming its arguments on Mondays after 4, and to hear Mr Stamper has team trials for the first cross country race of the season and the Eco Committee is recruiting its new members. So much of school is "reopening". Especially in music. We have gone from a long winter to bright sunshine. I met with our music scholars briefly and was able to explain to them the very important role they play as having been offered places on the basis of their musical aptitude, in building the excellence of our musical programmes. We are singing and playing again, partly in anticipation of Founders' Day, an event which has already slipped into the memory, but which will become an annual reality.

We are also expanding the activities of the chaplaincy. Plans include a prayer room for our Muslim students, a charity group, and several visitors who bring a unique perspective. One of these visitor volunteers is Mr Paul Hart, OL, who I met 14 years ago and who expressed even then an interest in helping out when his planned retirement to Liverpool had been realized. He now leads ethical, philosophical and comparative religion discussions with our non-chapel pupils. His experience of living in many countries with many different religious traditions makes him a very good guide in these discussions. The pupils really appreciate his approach.

We increasingly rely on parent volunteers to support our massive sports programme. Last Saturday I travelled to Bolton with the 1st XV, 2nd XV and the U12s. Our guys acquitted themselves excellently and we enjoyed the sport, winning one of three, and competing with conviction. At home, we fared better with the U13 team showing signs of explosive winning ability. This week there is hockey, netball and rugby vs St Bede's College, QEGS and St Mary's.

Some more new staff introductions:

- **Mrs Lowe** is a new member of the Prep School teaching staff. Mrs Lowe knows the College well having completed her teacher training last year through our School Direct programme and she also worked at the Prep School as a volunteer and a learning support assistant.
- **Miss Frees** joins the Inclusion Team as a learning support assistant in the primary phase. Miss Frees spent time last year in the Prep School on a training placement.
- **Miss Humes** has joined us as an English teacher in the secondary phase. Prior to working at the College, she worked at a school in Thornton and undertook her teacher training in Liverpool.

Our day boarding cohort continues to grow and it is little wonder. The pupils I meet around dinner time enjoy the activities and the friendship and are keen on the games, activities and sports also. They also enjoy the food, piling high the delicacies chef prepares for them. If

you would like to know more about the programme, please email Mrs Latham (Head of Boarding) dayboarding@liverpoolcollege.org.uk.

The company who run the school uniform shop have informed us that it will be closed this Saturday (18th).

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal