
Principal's Newsletter

18 February 2022

Dear Parents,

This morning it was my honour to stand next to Mr Peter Lyons as he locked the Dyson Gate at 08.30. Mr Lyons will retire at the end of half term week. He has worked faithfully on our maintenance team for the last 24 years. He has built house spaces, installed drainage ditches, and endlessly reconfigured, redecorated and constructed indoor and outdoor spaces to meet the needs of a growing school. We thank him for all his hard work and wish him a pleasant, long and healthy retirement.

Year 1 found my keys. Ms Ridley had explained that I had lost my keys and could not open the senior school, the sports hall, my house, my car or any other locked part of my life. The search proceeded for a week. Finally, this week, a pupil brought me a large, clunky set of keys, which the class had found. I now await the letters they are writing me about the keys, all part of their increasing literacy.

Our thanks to Ms Robinson and particularly to Cliff Cato from Chestnut Building Supplies. This company has very generously donated garden and building supplies: wood to make benches, paving flags for the greenhouse base and top soil for the planter, enabling further development of the area around the Chavasse Poolhouse. Ms Robinson also reports that donated vouchers from Home Bargains has enabled essentials to be purchased for more of this hands-on work, the Garden Gang have already put the gardening gloves to good use; potting tomato plant seeds this week! Mr Baird has built some patios, reading sheds are popping up. I have high hopes that the impetus will carry us into a glorious summer term of outdoor learning spaces.

The last week of half term is always the week of house competitions. Thursday was a classroom-based quiz and art competition about women in sport, earlier in the week, there was a further edition of the ongoing dance competition which takes Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 by storm. The enthusiasm for dancing in front of one's peers is usually curtailed by teenage bashfulness, but not in our sports hall. Amazing moves, and some colourful costumes. A highlight for me was the vaulting gymnastic performance by Poppy W.

The Prep School play *Seussical* is in the final approaches of production. Performance dates are Thursday 24 March (2pm matinee and 7pm evening show) and Friday 25 March (7pm evening show). Tickets will go on sale from Mrs Herron in the Prep School Office from

Tuesday 1 March at £7.50 a ticket. Pupils should see Miss Clark or Mr Bishop for an order form. Take a look at the colourful set which has already been erected. This will be the first large scale play able to be performed since the Prep School play had to be videoed in early 2020 at the very beginning of the pandemic and a week or so before lockdown. Two years later the smell of the greasepaint wafts over again.



Careers fairs for Year 11 have also not taken place for a while. A feature of pandemics and lockdown is the way young and old alike have reflected on the question: what am I going to do when I can do everything again. Many pupils have very carefully worked out plans which were hatched when they were imprisoned in their homes for their own protection. The human soul dreams of the future and our Year 11 careers fair shows that our Year 11 are dreaming. I am especially delighted for Lewis and Malik that they keep advancing further in the application process for Jaguar Land Rover apprenticeships. Very impressive.

Ms Gimeno reports on new developments in our Key Stage 3 Spanish curriculum:

We have redesigned our Y8 Spanish curriculum around real life characters from Hispanic countries. Our Spanish friend 'Guille' has written a letter to help prepare learners in KS3 for the demands of GCSE Spanish, ensuring they cover key structures and vocabulary earlier on. Y8 pupils study his letter and learn new structures in a purposeful way. This style of teaching has proven successful as it gives pupils a more believable reason for communicating in a different language. It also fosters independence in their study skills as shown below - some pupils have been very original in their approach and have created lanterns with new Spanish vocabulary and structures, using transferable skills to aid their Spanish revision. 'Guille' would be proud of their achievement!



I enclose a portrait of the only living creature whose portrait is displayed in school. Elsie the School Dog, painted by Jessica B in Year 12. This dog has an angelic temperament and helps lots of people, myself included, smile during the day. She now hangs in state in the location where other schools hang a portrait of the Pope or the Queen.



The school shop have asked me to pass on an important message regarding delivery of uniform orders to the shop:

*Unfortunately, at the moment we are unable to provide the functionality for uniform to be ordered online and delivered for free to campus stores. We realise that this is an inconvenience, so whilst we're working to resolve the issue we're offering all parents free home delivery using code **CSFREESHIP** which can be entered in checkout. We're hoping to have our*

campus store delivery back up and running soon, at which point the code will no longer be active. Please note that free home delivery is limited to one use per customer.

Liverpool Council are undertaking a review of special school provision to address the shortfall in special school places. Please [click here](#) to read a letter from the Director of Education with more information about this review and how you can participate.

The mocks lie ahead, the PP2 exams are ever closer. Term restarts for pupils on **Tuesday 1 March** (Monday 28 February is a staff INSET day) and for pupils in the secondary phase it will be Week A. But first we must all rest, survive a few more storms, and regather our strength after a tough half-term.

I wish you and your family a restful week.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal