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## Principal's Newsletter

19 November 2021

Dear Parents,

It is 08.15 on a crisp Autumn morning. A slight mist hangs in the trees. On the embankment of the lower field a group of Prep Schoolers is staring intently onto the field below, occasionally raising shouts of encouragement. Around the perimeter of the fields, a trail of volunteer cross country runners of all shapes and sizes trains, pushing themselves forward, marshalled by Mr Stamper. Some are in kit, and pupils point out the swift and professionally attired classmate who has won the last few city-wide cross country meets. But sartorially, this is a motley training session. Lucy P Y3 runs in her jumper and blazer!, others lift weary legs up and down in their school shoes displaying the sort of can-do spirit on which entire nations are built. The effort is tremendous, the spirit glorious. It makes you want to go to school all over again.

When I stumbled into Mr Atkinson's Year 2 class I found a group of children completely engrossed in the raw realities of the two world wars. There were so many excellent questions, including the very probing: Why did the wars have to happen at all? As well as discussion of family heroes, bombs that were dropped on the Prep School, Noel Chavasse, the horrors of anti-Semitism and fascism. The questioning only accelerated, the hunger to learn was palpable. They are planning to visit the dining room to see the bust of Chavasse. I promised to come back and show them the fragment of the bomb which fell on the school. This passion for history also shone through in the Year 5 Vikings workshop earlier in the week, organized through the Wilton Scholars programme.

It's no wonder that our Reception open evenings are so well attended. The people of Liverpool want their children to experience this sort of school. The young tyke climbing the play equipment during open evening presentations is the future UCAS candidate of the year 2035. Reception open evening reminds us of the variety and length of the College educational journey and the power of a school in infusing young lives with purpose and joy. The evening relies on our staff and the Year 6 prefects. They communicate in their very being and attitude the passion and dynamism of what happens here every day.

Mr Briggs tells me that Reception have begun their rehearsals for the nativity play. Even before the beginning of the advent season, intimations of the Christmas life of the school are beginning to appear. Advance notice of the Secondary Phase's Service of Lessons and Carols on Monday 6 December at 7.30pm at Liverpool Cathedral. Charitable activity is also

kicking into high gear. The chaplaincy charity group is focusing on collections for the Whitechapel Centre. The boarders already raised £172.00 with their daily mile walk fundraiser for the Royal British Legion. Last weekend they went rock and wall climbing, this weekend it is to be laser tag.



Ms McCartney is an example of the efforts of so many of our staff, someone who goes that extra mile. The Year 12 geography field trip required a reconnaissance mission on her Sunday off, which led to a very productive trip. It's a thrill after the covid years to move around together again and to relate learning to the reality of in this case the physical environment.



Nye Thomas OL took time out from his professional rugby career to lead a training session with our 1st XV and present the school with the first of many signed jerseys!

Our Personal Development pilot programme in Years 1 and 4 and Chapter 7 and 8 is seizing the imagination of pupils and staff alike. This week, our partners from the Youth Sport Trust returned to discuss how it can be further improved and how we can achieve the transformations in learning we are pursuing for all our pupils. They were amazed on their walkabouts to see staff and pupils outside, engaging in various activities, and using their time together to build relationships and strengthen their social and emotional skills as well. At the next parent information evening on the 2 December, we will give you more information about how the pilots are going, what our intentions are next term, and how we see the curriculum in personal development evolving further across the College.

The PTA have asked me to highlight their Christmas fundraiser:

*The PTA are delighted to have a large Christmas raffle this year, to jump start our fundraising. The last 18 months have been very difficult for all charities but with all your help, we've still managed to support the school with over £30,000. But in order to continue this support we need to raise money. The top prize in this year's raffle is a massive £5000 and there are many smaller prizes. To buy tickets please go to [www.bigptaraffle.co.uk](http://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk) and search for Liverpool College. Tickets are just £3 each and will provide much needed support to the PTA without you having to leave the house!*

It is kindness week. Every week in school is now someone or something's week, and it is a sad commentary that we apparently need a kindness week. Schools, being places of human habitation, give ample evidence of the almost endless human capacity for kindness but also for cruelty. For a number of societal reasons, kindness is no longer a default virtue, an unspoken consensus, although children seem to intuit much better that without it nothing in life is possible.

I think it is kind of Mr Turbitt to study the bicycles of pupils and staff parked around the school. He observes that less than 25% of them have illumination. As the days shorten, the parking and traffic situation becomes ever more dangerous. If your child bicycles to school, thank you. But do please make sure they have a helmet on and a light on their bikes.

Today, the Year 9 are beginning an informal discussion about their options, Oxbridge candidates are beginning to hear about interviews, teams are being selected and prepared for tomorrow morning's fixtures.

May I wish you and yours a peaceful weekend of kindness.

**Yours sincerely,**

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