
Principal's Newsletter

21 January 2022

Dear Parents,

For various reasons, I needed to work in my office last weekend. A deserted school campus resting on the weekend makes a quite glorious impression on the soul. It is a place full of potential. It can feel like the very stones are awaiting the pulsating injection of full life on Monday morning.

But I quickly learned that school was not in fact empty. The CCF were conducting their NCO training on both days of the weekend. Uniformed sixth formers walked in front of my study, chatting to each other enthusiastically. A walk into the yard showed them engaged in various drills and activities. One of the best aspects of the CCF is the way it teaches pupils to teach other pupils. This entire term has been a rebirth for the CCF after the years of plague-imposed restrictions. Sadly, some year groups missed out on the usual CCF experiences, including the camps and adventure opportunities, and now the leadership and the cadets of the organisation are learning it all together. In addition, the CCF staff are helping to deliver leadership lessons for our Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 pupils. Pupil enthusiasm for all this makes clear what we have been missing.

My phone displayed Mr Cook's Saturday morning text. We had won both football games against Stockport and won one, drew one in the hockey against Birkenhead. On Monday Chapter 8's two football teams beat St Margaret's in their matches. Even today there is a Chapter 7 rugby fixture vs St Edwards, and Prep School sport against Birkenhead. Tomorrow sees a big block fixture against St Bede's.

On Monday, in glorious sunshine, I visited Mucky Monday in Reception. Pupils were learning to throw and catch a ball, a skill which we all rather take for granted but which, like every other skill, begins with tentative attempts. Pupils thrilled to the experience of successfully gathering a spherical object floating towards them into their arms. I was watching the slow development of gross and fine motor skills so necessary in every aspect of life, including academic life. It made me think of how much children learn, especially when they are young. 5 years later they will be playing netball, rugby, and football for the school. They will throw and kick and catch balls with ease. Without disrespecting the reception year group's innate athletic ability, I would like, in the interest of our future sporting success, to encourage

parents to provide many opportunities for their reception children to throw and catch balls! Long way to go.

The Forest School is an increasingly important part of what we provide. Reception in their wellies were lining up to disappear into the magical forest. On some afternoons, some secondary pupils attend. We are very lucky to have this grove and the wonderful Ms Shackell to create the activities and curriculum which inspire our pupils.

Ms Rogers has told me about the rude health of her scouting group. The volunteer scout leaders are driving the troop forward with their growing confidence and knowledge of scouting to ever greater heights and the waiting lists to join are long.

The school play, *Legally Blonde*, like the sixth form open evening, has suffered a postponement. It has not proved possible to stick to the rehearsal schedule during the latest restrictions. The date of the performance has been moved to 29 and 30 June. A performance of this play will signal a celebration of the dogged determination Ms Clark, Mr Bishop and Ms Poole have shown to keep the show on the road. It is unfortunate that we cannot have this fillip in our winter darkness.

On Wednesday, I met with the Liverpool College Foundation by zoom. The Foundation supports us financially by funding the Wilton Scholars programme and capital campus developments. They also appoint governors for the school. I was able to share the courageous way in which our staff have battled through and the way they had improvised ways to keep our pupils engaged and learning.

Today is Planter day in Prep School. Ms Robinson has in her typically excellent way organized a project to beautify the area in front of the Chavasse Pool House, a building gifted to us through donations from the Foundation among others. She has procured some picnic tables and now, through a dress down Planter day, we hope to have the funds to continue the landscaping and planting. She has asked me to request donations of paint, which the pupils will be able to use to paint the rather dreary planter boxes and convert them into a work of art. Please write her at crobinson@liverpoolcollege.org.uk if you can help.

The parking of parents on zig zag lines in front of the gates of the school is leading to public comment and anger. Fines for this activity include 6 points off one's licence. 40 cars were reported to be parked illegally there one afternoon. I can but warn that I have asked for assistance from the local authority in addressing the way some parents endanger our pupils and other road users. My thanks to all the parents who park carefully and who make thoughtful and legal arrangements for the collection of their children from school.

A reminder that we are currently consulting on changes to our admissions policy for September 2023 onwards. You can read the proposals on our website [here](#).

May I wish you a happy and dry weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Hans van Mourik Broekman
Principal