

## Principal's Newsletter

26 November 2021

Dear Parents,

Chapter 7 pupils are proving exceptionally generous in their Christmas charity activities as Mrs Drew reports:

*Pupils have been collecting new and unwrapped toys to support the Radio City Mission Christmas Charity Appeal and today Radio City and Courage the Cat paid a visit to the school to collect the donations. We are so proud of our Chapter 7 pupils and grateful to all of our families who have donated to this special cause. The toys are now on their way to underprivileged families and those who have been affected by Covid 19.*



There is a new exhibition in the Halliday Jones virtual art gallery which you can access [here](#).

Last Saturday, we stormed to several victories in netball against St Mary's. Our Chapter 7 and 8 rugby teams remain undefeated but face a stiff test against Audenshaw this weekend.

It is the season of singing. Singing in general is an activity which has so many benefits and yet is too rarely practised. Nothing can raise the spirit more than a collectively belted out song, witness football terraces everywhere. Sadly, by the time most of our pupils reach Year 9, the full-throated singing of pupils has died down to a grumpy silent frown, in chapel and elsewhere. This is why it is so charming and inspiring to hear Ms Fee's reception class

sing happy birthday to their classmate Violet while she stands proudly in front of the class to be serenaded and why the preparation for several nativity performances has as its highlight the belting out of songs. It is one of the great sources of pride that our choirs now contain more than 200 pupils who love to sing and sing well.

Advance warning of several events. On December 2 at 5.30pm we will hold our termly parent information evening. We will be discussing curriculum development, especially the development of our middle school diploma, Years 7-9, and uniform and giving parents an opportunity to ask questions and make observations about how we can further improve the school.

Then there are the Christingle services on for Prep on 7 and 9 December and the secondary phase carol service on 6 December. Unfortunately parents will not be able to attend the secondary carol service at Liverpool Cathedral this year because of covid restrictions.

A decoration donation appeal from Miss Green (Chaplaincy Lead):

*As you start to prepare for Christmas, please consider donating any unwanted Christmas decorations to our Chapel.*

*It would be lovely if our Chapel could reflect the joy of this special time of year.*

*If you can help, please contact [lgreen@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:lgreen@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).*

Mr Barnicoat has told me of his frustrations that even debating competitions are online. Our excellence in debating is best grasped by judges through our physical presence, but now these arguments are digitized and disincarnated. Such a shame. But it is good that the debaters are competing again and gaining valuable experience.

The next few weeks contain the more or less summative assessments for the term, the so called PP1 and mocks in the secondary phase of the school. These are important, especially for Years 11 and Years 13. It requires little imagination to anticipate a scenario where external exams will once again have to be cancelled and we will be relying on these integral examinations for the awarding of grades. It is therefore imperative to study for these exams.

The Parliament of Houses, the pupil and student representative body, is meeting today. Mr Turbitt provides these representatives the opportunity to discuss issues in the school as well as asking for their feedback and insights into everything from timetable to curricular matters. This forms part of a learning strategy generally. So called metacognition is the final step of learning, and indeed of becoming more fully human, namely to reflect on things, to ask the why questions. Another visit to Mr Atkinson's history lesson this week and many pupils have been asking me about World War II, a topic for which pupils appear to have endless enthusiasm. Their questions are excellent and often profound. What did Hitler want? Is a war necessary? Some pupils knew about U-boat tactics and aryanism and fascism. Very impressive for 6 and 7 year olds.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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