
Principal's Newsletter

29 April 2022

Dear Parents,

We are back with a spring in our step for summer term.

Our Iceland travellers thoroughly enjoyed their trip, delayed by 18 months because of the pandemic. Under the watchful eye of Ms McCartney and her colleagues, they visited the geographical and geological miracle that is the island of Iceland. They even managed to see the Northern lights. Their expedition is the first since such trips became possible again and now the footballers are readying themselves to go to Madrid. These sorts of experiences motivate our pupils and bring us closer together as a school.



Spare a thought for the Year 13 rugby players who went out for a final team dinner last night with their coaches. The disruption to their playing careers has been enormous. They missed the season which would have forged their team unity in Sixth Form. We are grateful for their excellent spirit in this academic year. Mr Cook has sent me a wonderful photograph of two of the stalwarts of the team working together at the Rotunda Inclusive Hub to coach boxing to adults with learning difficulties.



Some of our sixth formers are beginning examinations. GCSE and A level oral examinations in foreign languages are upon us. For some pupils this is a nervous time, as they come to terms with the first formal external exam they have ever done having, in the case of Year 13 students, missed the externally marked GCSE examinations in 2020. Soon, taking exams, including the punishing schedule of more than 25 external papers for a typical GCSE pupil, will become our and their habit again. This period of the school year is what football managers call the business end of the season, and all of us need to strike a balance for pupils and students about to undertake these diets of examinations: 1. There is no better way to feel better than to prepare properly; 2. A million pupils per year do these exams and have done them in the past, indeed every pupil at Liverpool College has managed to get through them, there is nothing to fear. Experience teaches that anticipation of the first exam produces the most dread and anxiety. Once pupils have done one, they realize they can and will do them and succeed.

One feature of our current support for pupils as they prepare for the exams is the unprecedented number of tutors involved. The government quickly expanded several tutoring schemes and about 15 of our Year 11 pupils whom we believe need this support are benefitting from additional tutoring. This is finally a government scheme I can get behind!

Some of our sixth formers have spent a day at the university and apprenticeship fair at the University of Liverpool. Apprenticeships are increasingly popular and desirable and fortunately we have, in Ms Drew, an expert on what is available for pupils.

Summer term means outside learning and Ms Pease has sent me some photographs of what the full outdoor life looked like this week in the primary phase which culminated in the Northwest Cancer Research fun run today.





In Chapters 7 and 8, the personal development programme can take place outside. Mr Ridley exhorts his Duke of Edinburgh candidates who will finally taste the great outdoors, to respect the environment and leave the wild places better than they found them.

The environmental impact and sustainability of our school is in the forefront of pupil and staff minds. We are currently preparing for the construction of another building on campus and evaluating and analysing how we can make our campus more environmentally friendly, more net zero and more biodiverse. Pupils will be playing a large part in this activity but the best thing we can all do is avoid driving to school. The idling engines, the stressed traffic, the endless chain of cars, all contribute to the degradation of our sustainability and to an increased negative environmental impact. We will be working with parents to resuscitate some of the pre-covid initiatives which had begun to bear fruit and were then more or less abandoned including encouraging walking, cycling, and using public transportation. Our school has already achieved bronze Eco School status, and we are well on our way to silver. Our destination is to make the campus a sustainable place which also inspires pupils to live sustainably.

In the secondary phase there will be a focus on pupils removing earbuds and putting their bags away more neatly. Both are needed for us to be safe and friendly.

This week's artist of the week is Anna P (Y13) with her Life Treasure boxes. Mrs Hardisty describes:

Although often overlooked, boxes play a role in our everyday lives from storage and organisation through to storytelling of house moves, jewellery and treasure boxes also encapsulating legends and myths such as Pandora's Box.

This concept led to a series of sculptural art boxes created by Anna. These narrative boxes, focus on the story of life. Anna has created all the items and each box incorporates her own poetry snippets, plaster casts of her hands and found objects describing the journey of the cycle of life presented as a complete collection.



We have been asked to distribute a letter to parents of pupils with SEND about how local children, young people, parents and carers can contribute to the re-visit of Liverpool City Council by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) taking place from Monday 9 May to Wednesday 11 May. This visit follows the previous inspection of the council that took place between 14 January and 18 January 2019. Please [click here](#) to download the letter.

A request from the PTA for volunteers to help with the Music Department's Springtime Soirée on Thursday 19 May from 6pm, selling drinks and refreshments. The event will be held at Mossley Hill Church. Please contact the PTA on pta@liverpoolcollege.org.uk. They would also like to make a request for raffle donations for the evening as well.

The excellent Liverpool Classical Association are hosting an interesting talk on Thursday, 5 May (7-8pm) in the MV Hall. In his first lecture as President of the Liverpool Classical Association, Professor Michael Wood OBE will revisit and update the story of Alexander the Great, whose amazing journey of conquest he retraced in 1998 from Macedonia to India. The event is free but you must have a ticket – please [click here](#) to register.

Next week we will also be preparing for Mental Health Awareness week from May 9-15. All sorts of activities which promote mental and physical well being are being planned. The research is quite clear. Spending more than 3 hours a day on social media is about as bad for your mental health as smoking 10 cigarettes is for your physical health. As a parent you would never let your child smoke 10 cigarettes in front of you. Why do we allow them to spend hours on social media?

May I wish you and yours a happy and healthy bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal