
Principal's Newsletter

18 November 2022

Dear Parents,

This week has been an occasion to marvel once again at the infinite energy and variety of educational initiatives which take place in a seven-day period within our school.

Mrs Doran herself accounts for so many of these innovative things.

Here is a sample:

All Chapter 5 pupils had a superb day on Monday when they learnt about the Ancient Greeks through videography. Watching a series of carefully selected video clips, the pupils were able to explore multiple aspects of the Ancient Greeks, focusing upon Homer's Odyssey. The pupils used the clips to stimulate some wonderful writing, then created a fabulous video to retell the story, with every pupil taking an important role. The final film will hopefully be ready to view by the pupils next week.

Mrs Doran also organised a performance of the play *Macbeth*, and I mean the full production, apparently causing a silent attention which was a marvel to behold. [Click here](#) to read more.

The phrase pre-covid levels, as in "our economy will not return to pre-covid levels until 2027", is also useful in educational terms. The Book Fair in the Prep School has reached these pre-covid levels. More than £800 has been raised so far. Reading is being emphasized everywhere across the College. In the Prep School we will hold the "pre-covid" bedtime reading night again on Wednesday November 23. On rainy days, senior school pupils reach for their reading books. There can be few sights more beautiful than a class of Chapter 2 pupils all quietly reading their books in class or a Reception pupil eagerly turning the pages of a new book. The interiority of the reading experience is itself a kind of self-discipline which makes all learning flow, and grow. Research shows that pupils who watch their parents read, read more themselves. Do you discuss reading with your child?

Our visitors from the Netherlands were here earlier in the week. Mr Cartwright and Mr Jones provided them with an amazing programme of cultural exploration and joint design work. They were set a challenge, teamed up together internationally. My compatriots' mastery of the English language puts British monolingual bias to shame. These kids were correcting my

English! They all had a wonderful time and in May we shall be travelling to the Netherlands for a return visit to the Melanchthon School.



This is the first newsletter sent to you through the MCAS app. MCAS will give you updates on your child's attendance, behavioural and PPC progress as well as being the method we send out information from school. Hopefully, this increase in communication will enable you to support your child better in school and give you plenty of topics to talk about. If you have any issues with the app, please get in touch at MCAS@liverpoolcollege.org.uk stating your child's full name and year group.

In the near future, we are beginning a process of occasionally surveying our pupils, staff and parents. Various topics will be presented, and your opinion requested. The new app may be the best way to deliver these surveys to you, we can then inform you of what we have done in response to your suggestions. At our next parent information evening* on Thursday 1 December we want to discuss the way we can communicate better with you as well as give you insight into our behaviour curriculum across the College. Much work is undertaken to improve pupil behaviour which in 95% of cases is absolutely flawless. It is encouraging to read the endless lists of pupils who have never had a detention, or any kind of sanction, and who approach their participation in our community as an opportunity to contribute positively. Similarly, there are a number of success stories we are learning from. Pupils whose behaviour has improved dramatically, who have in a sense turned the corner toward maturity. Our behaviour curriculum seeks to ensure that all pupils attain to a level of self-regulation and self-discipline which enables them to succeed at school and in their lives. We will be discussing how you can support this curriculum as a parent.

[For parents new to the school, parent information evenings take place every term and are open to all parents. During the meeting, which is held on Microsoft Teams, updates are provided by school leadership on current issues and future plans and there is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions on areas they wish to discuss. Details on how to register for the event will be included in next week's newsletter.]*

We were honoured to host Ms Kim Johnson MP for Riverside at our school this morning. Ms Johnson sits on the Education Committee in the House of Commons. It is always

encouraging to meet a politician who is fully aware of all the challenges facing pupils, staff and schools and prepared to support initiatives which seek solutions.

Congrats to Ben S in Chapter 10. Ben is a football referee and he refereed the College's U12 match against Calday Grange Grammar. He does this with flair and real leadership. Impressive.

Miss Evans reports wins for the Ch7 and Ch10 hockey teams last Saturday against St Bede's and that all the teams showed huge progress. Teachers' players of the match were: Rowan T (Ch10), Zaneta H (Ch9), Malaya S (Ch8) and Rajna R (Ch7).

Wednesday evening's netball at King David produced wins for the U13s and U14s. Staff highlight excellent effort, attitude and desire from these improving year groups.

Why do we play sport? It is all about the character. This report from Mr Cook tells you why.

I would be most grateful if you could mention the Chapter 7 football team in the newsletter. They have had a difficult week being knocked out of both the Nationals and Merseyside Cup but their effort and application has been excellent. I'm convinced that if that squad sticks together then you will see a different team in terms of results in Chapter 8. I also need to mention our captain, Thomas B who I rate very highly. His honesty, effort and good character shines positively every time I see him, whether that's on or off the pitch.

These boys need to know they are good, keep their confidence and things will come good for them very soon.

This afternoon saw all Chapter 8 pupils make the short walk to Sefton Park during their games period where they participated in a House Run. Despite the showers the pupils participated brilliantly for their respective houses. The winner of the boys' division was Ethan B (Howson's) and the winner of the girls' division was Lexi W (Butler's).

The proliferation of pupil inspired and requested groups at Liverpool College continues. Through the voices of pupils themselves we have a life skills group, a social skills group, and a group which provides a safe place to discuss issues of identity including sexual and gender identity, an Alpha philosophy group, a Charity Action group, a medical society, a debating society. This is over and above the curriculum, the teams, fixtures, and personal development programme that every pupil engages in.

We had a visit from Dr Wiseman, author of *Metaphysical Animals* and lecturer in philosophy at the University of Liverpool and her colleague Professor Michael Hauskeller, author of a book with the promising title *the Meaning of Life*. For one hour they discussed philosophy, philosophers and asking the right questions with our Chapter 12s. They commented on the excellent questions asked of them by our student panel.

Our artist of the week for this week is Dylan L (Ch9). He completed these works at home and brought them in to share with the class. He's even created coasters! Dylan's Doodles are one to watch.



He writes: *"We have been researching the street artist and illustrator Vexx during our art lessons. I admire his doodle and playful style of drawing. I was so inspired I completed these additional art pieces at home. I find this doodle style and the creative process relaxing"*

Our maths challenge for the week has been set:

1. Let S be a finite set containing prime numbers. The sum of all elements in S is $10^{100000} - 9$. Assuming Goldbach's conjecture (that any even number >2 can be written as the sum of two primes), can you find the minimum possible value of $|S|$?

2. The sum of 6 consecutive integers is equal to 45. What is the smallest integer out of the 6?

The answers to last week's challenges are:

- Question 1: 420
- Question 2: 90

You can download the PTA's newsletter from the school website [here](#).

The boarders and day boarders are in the Christmas spirit. There are now 34 boarders and day boarders who enjoy a programme of study and enrichment after school. They have chosen their secret santas and this, uniquely this year, coincided with the world cup pool draw. It is all happening.

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to include information on a series of virtual group drop-in advisory sessions being run by the Liverpool ASD Training Team in December. They are for parents/carers who have any questions or concerns about their child, in regard to pre and post Autism diagnosis. It is also an opportunity to speak with an ASD trainer and other parents. To find out more information and to book a place, please [click here](#).

May I wish you and yours a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal