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## Principal's Newsletter

21 April 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy Eid. I hope all the families celebrating the festival have a great weekend.

Our Muslim students have shared with their peers and their teachers their commitment to Ramadan and the festivities they will now enjoy with their families. Next year, we are planning on organising a day of Ramadan for non-Muslim pupils and staff. Pupils and staff will be able to volunteer to fast, making a contribution to a charity with the money saved, so we can experience what Muslim pupils experience.

On Monday I shared with all teachers and staff that the governors have asked Mrs Pease to become the Head of Primary upon the retirement of Mrs Gannon in September. I am delighted that Mrs Pease has accepted this offer. She is absolutely the right person to lead a further integration of the primary phase of the College and to build on the great work Mrs Gannon and the Pre Prep team are doing. I shall be writing to you anon to explain the structure of leadership in the primary phase.

Our congratulations to Ms McCartney who has been selected to deliver her research paper at a prestigious international conference in Paris, organised by the Academic Network of Global Education and Learning (ANGEL) in partnership with UNESCO and co-funded by the EU. Her research is about the teaching of climate change in secondary schools. Rather than listening to experts far removed from the "coalface", this event lets a researcher with actual experience educating young people about man-made climate change have the floor. It is a great honour for Ms McCartney to be recognized in this way.

Over the holidays, I was privileged to attend the official opening of UrbanScape, a new community garden in Toxteth, by Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram. This project which has completely transformed a derelict area on Mulgrave Street was led by one of our pupils, Khan O (Ch11). Khan had set up the Mulgrave Street Action Group in 2021 to drive change and transform his local area. After successfully applying for a £30,000 grant from the Metro Mayor's Community Environment Fund, the group have created an urban garden filled with plants, paving and seating areas which will be used by the group to deliver a range of free activities for the local community.

Such community leadership and action inspires us all. I was delighted to receive an email from a member of the public who had heard about the project:

*I am currently recovering from illness, and this news item has really lifted my spirits today. What an inspirational young man, and what an asset to our local community and city he is. As a retired teacher myself, I am always so encouraged by the achievements of the young people in our schools. In the current climate of so much bad news and reports of crime and anti social behaviour, it is SO refreshing to hear a story such as this. Not only will Khan do well in life because of his high level of respect, effort and determination, but hopefully he will encourage other young people to do likewise. I send him, and your school, my warmest congratulations and best wishes.*

Student leadership is also an important feature within the school community. Our medical society is a 6<sup>th</sup> form student initiative and Malak A (Ch12) has shared an update on their activities over the last half term:

*24<sup>th</sup> February was an introductory session to the UCAT test which we, as medics, have to take as part of the admissions process. We looked at the exam style, layout, timings and what the difficulties of this test are. Future sessions on the UCAT exam will be centred around exam practice and tips and tricks that past students have recommended.*

*10<sup>th</sup> March was the first step in the MedSoc's plan to reach out to the younger years. We, with the help of the biology teachers and the deans, invited 20 pupils from Chapter 10 and 11 interested in Medical Sciences and presented who we are, what we do, what we have planned for the future and where they will come into our plans. The biggest aim in the next C10 & 11 sessions would be to give the best advice on how they could approach upcoming two/three years, but to also inspire them scientifically by inviting them to future talks led by external medical scientists/students.*



*24<sup>th</sup> March was potentially the last meeting led by Chapter 13s as they head off to A-Level revision. We invited them in for the last meeting of the term for general guidance for UCAS applications, which universities to select, BMAT/UCAT revision, work experience, interviews, PP3 preparation and managing the increasing workload.*

LC Reads the programme of reading across the College continues to bear fruit. Our hallways are adorned with book suggestions, Chapter 11 have produced some great videos and presentations about why and how to read for pleasure, and our curriculum increasingly focuses on reading. A gentle reminder, the more you read, visibly with and in front of your child, the more likely they are to read more and with more pleasure. Your example is the best example.

This week of returning to school has seen the return of various trips which took place over the Easter holidays. Our Gold DofE expedition was a success, and all the skiers returned from Italy without broken bones, exhausted and exhilarated. My gratitude to all the staff who make these trips possible by volunteering their precious holiday time to take children off for amazing adventures.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, the irrepressibly active maintenance team were preparing the Prep School. We are now into the building and the new classrooms look great. In about a month from now, we will be inviting Prep School parents for tours of the newly renovated facility. Before we do this, we want to "move in" properly, filling hallways and classrooms with the signs of our learning and activities.

Congratulations to the excellent Daniel C (Ch11) who has secured a week-long work experience in June with Mercedes Petronis F1 in Brackley, an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity.

Our artist of the week this week is Sophia C (Ch10) with her sketchbook illustration "Extraordinary".



*My work is inspired by Alice in Wonderland, this is my response to the theme extraordinary. I like the colourful crazy, imaginary world that Lewis Carroll creates. I took aspects described in the book to use within illustration.*

Despite strong Blue sympathies, Mrs Drew has managed to get places for some of our pupils in the Liverpool Football Club Inspires programme and she writes:



*The pupils involved in the LFC Inspires Programme spent Thursday morning at Anfield as part of the Inspires Earth Day Event with 4 other local schools. After talks from premier League Kicks, the Community Shop and a local mental health group, the pupils split into two groups and took part in a task focusing on ways of protecting the environment. The pupils worked really well together and presented their ideas in front of the room, with one of the groups coming second overall. The pupils have been invited to a private tour of Anfield in the near future as a reward for their work over the past 10 weeks.*

A reminder that next Tuesday (25 April), Mr Harvey and Mr Bishop are putting on a concert in the College Chapel to raise money for the Organ Restoration Fund. Further details below from Mr Harvey:

*The concert begins at 7pm with refreshments available in the MV Café at 6pm. There are top-class organists coming into perform a variety of music which will also include some of our pupils who form the College brass and percussion ensemble. So, to reserve your space, please click / tap the link: <https://theliverpoolians.org.uk/event/evening-of-organ-music>*

*For more information, please contact: [lharvey@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:lharvey@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) or [dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:dbishop@liverpoolcollege.org.uk).*

Under separate cover you will receive today a letter outlining our plans for the two planned strike days: Thursday April 27 and Tuesday May 2. On behalf of all of us, I want to reiterate our regret that these strikes are occurring. I know that you know that no person working here would decide to strike lightly or without heavy heart.

Our transition to cashless break-time catering in the secondary phase seems to be proceeding well. Thank you for your cooperation as we make this change.

The PTA are holding their next meeting via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 25 April at 7pm. You can access the link for the meeting as well important news and updates from the PTA from their weekly newsletter which has been sent to parents via MCAS.

The maths challenges for the week:

Q1.  $f$  is a function with a domain and codomain of positive integers. For all  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $f(a) > a$ , and  $a > b$  implies  $f(a) > f(b)$ . Given  $f(f(x)) = 3x$  for all  $x$ , can you find  $f(99)$ ?

Q2. What number is both prime and even?

Answers to last challenges:

Q1. 15	Q2. Tetrahedron, Cube, Octahedron, Dodecahedron, Icosahedron
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We are looking forward to an energetic and sunny term. May I wish you a dry and pleasant weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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