

### Principal's Newsletter

14 June 2024

Dear Parents,

We wish all our families who will be celebrating on Sunday a very happy Eid ul-Adha and Eid Mubarak.

One sad change in Liverpool schools is the paucity of cricket played. Summer term, in my nostalgic imagination, was a time of cricket whites and willow, in splendid sunshine. In some respects, the wet weather would have ended many a cricket season in the past in total frustration.

There was one match this week between the raindrops and our Chapter 10 led by Adam K and Azaan S won it. Azaan took three wickets and was 25 not out. His enthusiasm for this performance made me smile when he reported it to me the next morning in my study. On the 25<sup>th</sup> this Chapter will play Blue Coat in the city final.

It is crucial for every young person to find the thing they enjoy and which they can do. Often pupils themselves have no idea that rather simple things can be quite a lot of fun. Boarders enjoy taking walks together. Their latest project is to create a bee-friendly wild garden behind the boarding house. This weekend they are strawberry picking, having had to wait some time for these to become pickable. When I hear of their exploits, I am acutely aware how over reliance on technology and phones for diversion has prevented me and others from doing these types of things and enjoying them.

Welcome back to the Chapter 7 and 8 pupils who took part in our very successful Spanish exchange trip to Madrid. Mrs Gimeno reports:

*I am delighted to report back on our recent Exchange trip to Madrid, which took place from the 6 until the 11 of June. Mrs Jones and I took a fabulous group of eight Ch7s and two Ch8s who rose to the challenge of immersing themselves in the culture of Spain for a few days. They have come back exhausted but happy to have experienced another school (Newman College), another family and a different country and language. They have gained many skills but mainly they have grown in confidence, adaptability and resilience. The Spanish families have been amazing and have welcomed our students as if they were their own. Our pupils have been to lessons, attended a talent show, played quizzes, dodgeball, sport and have been sightseeing around the beautiful capital of Spain, Madrid.*



We look forward to continuing the Exchange Programme next year and we will keep you posted on the arrangements in the Michaelmas term. In the meantime, if you know the pupils who took part, congratulate them on their achievement at such a young age! Many solid friendships have been forged and we hope they build on their relationship in years to come!

Congratulations to Beau R who represented the school at the Merseyside Schools Championships last Saturday. She won gold in the 1200m and is now Merseyside schools champion!

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

A huge congratulations to Chapter 8 who have a Persistent Absence (PA) rate of 2.2 %, the absolute best of any year group and perhaps the best in the country. The average in England is near 20%, in Liverpool it is higher than 20%. Persistence absence is defined as a pupil who has, for any reason, an attendance below 91% meaning they are missing one day in 10, or about 18 days or three and half weeks of school a year. The percentage of pupils in our school who are persistently absent hovers around 9-10 percent, sometimes even higher and we are determined to drive that percentage down, with your help. Chapter 8 show how it is done!

The Chapter 13 A level artist exhibition has been installed so that the examiners can come and cast their critical eye. We are invited for a sneak preview before it is all taken down again. The quality and creativity of much of the work seems especially high this year, and Miss McWatt and Ms Hardisty are duly proud of the efforts of their charges. The etymology of art is from the Latin Ars, meaning skill, more as in artisan than in artist. What struck me this year is the skills required for our students to express themselves creatively and uniquely. In a school world of data and metrics, the art exhibition lifts the spirit.

Our musician of the week:



*This week's **musician of the week** is Kerem A (Ch 9). Since joining the school, Kerem has completely immersed himself into the musical life of the College, spending time practicing the drums, jamming with other musicians, getting to know them and their musical interests and has also joined BPM. A pupil truly engaging with the character of the College and its ethos.*

Miss Miller has shared news of the success of our Chapter 9 and 10 biologists in this year's national Biology Challenge competition. Well done to all the participants and particular congratulations to Jeffrey L and Ismail AH (Ch10) for gaining a gold award, Mikey F, Wilfred B, Zak B and Hamza G (Ch10) with silver awards, and also to the number of Chapter 9 pupils who gained bronze awards: Sam W, Ethan F and Uzair A.

Mrs Drew reports on the whereabouts of our Chapter 12 students today:

*Chapter 12 have spent the morning at the UCAS Discovery Event at the Exhibition Centre. This event is one of the biggest university events in the UK and is attended by the majority of institutions including Oxbridge and all Russell Group members. Our students had the opportunity to speak to the university admissions teams, get subject advice and attend personal statement and finance workshops delivered by the UCAS team. Attending this event really supports our students as they start to make their post 18 choices.*



It was an honour to attend the University of Liverpool's Faculty and Staff awards dinner. The university has a long and close association with our school. We predate its existence by about 40 years but it's fair to say that, whereas we have grown a lot, they have become a massive international research university in the top 20 universities in this country. Particularly pleasing were that of the 30 or so winners, 4 were parents at Liverpool College. The university helps us in countless ways, providing speakers, giving opportunities to sixth formers through the Liverpool Scholars programme, organising subject days on the university campus, and of course providing quality governors and members to our trust board.



### PTA Update – LC's Got Talent Tickets!

Tickets for the talent show are now on sale:

- Show 1 (finalists Ch3&4) Monday 1 July 7-9.30pm  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/liverpool-college-pta/t-eamjzlg>
- Show 2 (finalists Ch5-13) Tuesday 2 July 7-9:30pm  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/liverpool-college-pta/t-avmagpl>

Mrs Crook (SENCO) has asked me to highlight the Liverpool City Council's SEND Local Offer Live event for parents which is taking place on Wednesday 3 July. The event provides an opportunity for parents to explore what services are available in the Liverpool City Region – please [click here](#) to find out more.



May I wish you a dry, pleasant and sunny weekend.

**Yours sincerely,**

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