

### Principal's Newsletter

24 May 2024

Dear Parents,

The effects of weather on schoolchildren is a subject which has received too little academic study. Someone could write their PhD thesis on this matter after surveys of staff and pupils and empirical observation and turn it into a bestselling book which could serve as a practical guide for teachers and headteachers. High wind seems especially to disturb the heart's inclination to smooth learning. Windless sunny days have a settling effect. Pupils become a little turbulent themselves as the wind whips around. We experienced this contrast this week. Today, we welcome windless greyness as we slip into half-term.

There are those getting ready for the DofE expedition. They can be spotted out of uniform. Like all British children, they have to prepare for every eventuality. It could one suppose snow in May, rain or storm, or becoming blisteringly sunny and hot. There is real excitement as the Chapter 10 begin the DofE journey which for some will culminate in the "palace trip" to receive the gold award. The enthusiasm for this programme is a silent rebuke to those who believe our young people only want to play video games and are not resilient. There is still plenty of appetite for outdoor tramping about.

We said goodbye to our Chapter 11 at a raucous transition service. There were poems and slide shows, readings and exhortations and best wishes. The Chapter got on with life, and we avoided the experience of many schools where other pupils have to endure pranks and damage before the study leave can take hold.

The Food Festival which I could not attend due to a previous commitment was by all accounts a great success. The PTA never ceases to amaze as Ms Javeed and Ms Cunningham and many other parents volunteer to bring the community together and bring the campus to life. One pupil in the Pre Prep is particularly proud of her mother's samosas and asks me on an almost daily basis whether I like them and would like one. She is rightly proud of her mother's contribution to the Food Festival!

The Ethics Cup national finals in St Andrews have just finished. This is a prestigious competition where teams are invited to prepare arguments for all sides of ethical questions from environmental to bio-medical. Our A team travelled up with Mr Barnicoat and Ms Jones. As a former St Andean I can assure you that this country is bigger than it looks on the map and that the journey to St Andrews, while well worth it, is exhaustingly long. In any event, the team gave a great account of themselves, and narrowly missed out on semi-final national places.

They are competing against all the so-called best schools and leaving many trembling with the agility of their moral reasoning and the forcefulness of their forensic skills. My gratitude to Mr Barnicoat who has turned us into a national force to be reckoned with and congratulations to the pupils and students who took part: Hannah S, Zaenab R, Freddie S, Omar K, Isabelle P, Ruby Jo D, Solomon W, Patrick S and Ismail A H.

Mr Stamper has news of more impressive sporting performances in the primary phase:

*On Monday, our Chapter 4 girls played another football match, this time against a very good Gilmour side. Our opponents gave us a real test, but we battled throughout the game. Sadly, we lost 2-0, but there were still plenty of positives and some stand out performances, particularly from Leah D who was really solid at the back and Isabelle R who was as energetic as ever in the midfield. It was also great to welcome Ella W back into the team after she missed a few games! Well done girls!*



*On Tuesday, our Chapter 5 & 6 Cricket team made the short journey to Sefton Park Cricket Club for the annual LSSP tournament. Picking the team was hard enough, such is the depth of cricket talent on offer in our school right now, so some very talented players had to unfortunately miss out. The squad we did take more than delivered on the day, they were absolutely outstanding.*

*They won every single league game, with winning margins of 92, 120, 14, and a whopping 122 runs across the 4 matches! This then placed us into the final against St Mary's, a repeat of last year's final. Thankfully, once again we were able to triumph, in a closely fought game, meaning we defended our crown as champions and brought home some silverware!*

*All of the players were exceptionally good: Ted D hit some remarkable shots and made key stops behind the stumps; Wolf B made an unreal contribution in the final with vital wickets and enormous sixes; Max D was outstanding, bowling unplayable deliveries, striking the ball cleanly, and taking one of the greatest catches I've ever seen; Victor B bowled the best over of the day, a quadruple-wicket maiden, and also made vital runs; Harriet G-W bowled supremely well all day, taking a crucial wicket in the final; Henry T defied his lack of cricket experience with some fantastic striking in bat; Ralph W took an amazing catch, bowled brilliantly and batted with class; Roxana T showed incredible technique when bowling, and hit some lovely cut shots when batting; Ehaan A bowled with searing pace and hit some fantastic shots when batting, and our captain*

*Albie F led by example with bat, ball and in the field to his usual high standards, while also managing bowling changes and field positions with a cool head. It was a pleasure to witness how well they played, as well as their wonderful team spirit. We have now qualified for the Lancashire finals, details TBC!*

The musicians of the week from Mr Bishop:



*This week's **musicians of the week** are Maro O, Amelia T H, Joseph D, Thomas H and Karl S in Ch 8 who have gone above and beyond with their compositions to a set brief, creating musical accompaniments to spy chases and the varying stages of a storm at sea. Their creativeness is extremely musical - we may have future film score composers within our midst!*

A reminder that Mrs Haynes (Vice Principal: Education) sent a letter to parents last Friday via MCAS notifications outlining proposed changes to the timings of the school day next academic year. If you have any comments about the proposal, please email them to [consultation@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:consultation@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) by Monday 3 June.

An update from the **PTA**:



***Primary tea towels** are nearly ready! We've seen amazing drawings of children, teachers and even Elsie! If you'd like to order your tea towels from Rec-Ch6, please use this link <https://liverpool-college-pta.sumupstore.com/>*

May I wish you and yours a pleasant, sunny and well deserved half term break.

**Yours sincerely,**

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