

Principal's Newsletter

28 June 2024

Dear Parents,

It is an emotional and busy day at the College. Mr Phil Lyons who has worked at the College for 43 years and almost as many as head of our estates and maintenance team treated us to a farewell video played in front of the entire senior school.

Mr Lyons showed us the changes on campus during his lifetime, his own house on the campus where he lives, the old swimming pool, and other secrets of these 28 acres. It is astonishing to contemplate the changes this man has seen and which he helped bring about. In 1981 Liverpool College was a boys only private school. Its campus did not have a sports hall, or AstroTurf. There was as yet no building linking even Conybeare and Gladstone, no Glazebrook, no Mossley Vale, no Pre Prep. Mr Lyons and his team can point not only to an ever-ascending standard of maintenance but also showed time and time again that they could build and fix almost anything. On one occasion in 2009 they ever cheerfully agreed to build new house spaces and over the summer got the job done.

The video was also an example of the way an institution relies entirely on the commitment rather than merely the employment of individuals. Mr Lyons took great pride in his association with Liverpool College. He was therefore bitterly disappointed when he had to deal with acts of vandalism, or even destruction and theft. He was, as is every employee and volunteer, part of a team of educators pursuing a higher and greater purpose: inspiring young people to flourish.

It is perhaps appropriate that we are celebrating senior sports day today, albeit in cloudy and somewhat rainy conditions. Our campus is an enormous asset. Our ability to walk out onto enormous fields and into a forest school, to play and build and grow things is one of the best things about the College experience.

We all got a real sense of the glories of LC+ from the Chapter 4 Awards and Honours Assembly. We were delighted to welcome so many parents to this event, as the Chapter pupils displayed various skills from dancing to Taylor Swift, to magic, to roller skating and poetry recitation. The energy of the pupils, if it could be bottled on these occasions, would surely make us net zero in a month. Indeed, if anyone can ever figure out how to keep this learning momentum rolling forward into adulthood, they would have solved the educational mystery.

Liverpool College has historically had a broader view of education than perhaps other schools. It has sought to discover in its pupils their talent, so that they can, in their own freedom, develop that talent and enjoy the sheer act of living, as our educational philosophy states: to lead their life rather than merely live their life.

Our **artist of the week** this week is Nuoor A (Ch8) - art exam, pencil on paper:



A reminder from Mrs Harper about tickets for our **Expressive Arts Café/Arts Celebration Evening** on Wednesday 10 July at the Palm House:

We are delighted that our Arts Celebration Evening will be taking place at The Palm House this year on Wednesday 10th July, starting at 6pm. The evening will showcase the incredible talents of our pupils (not forgetting staff) in the fields of music, drama, dance, and visual arts. If you would like to support the event, tickets can be purchased through the following link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DPBG>



This week's **musicians of the week** are members of The Staggs: Ismail AH, Myles Mc M, Paolo C, Sarfaraz A, Max M, Joseph D, Ruaridh M, Valetin B, Seb W, Seb D and Oliver N who have been conscientiously practicing for events next week alongside sitting their internal exams. Dedication to music perfection is certainly evident and we look forward to hearing their performances at the PTA events next week and also at the Expressive Arts Cafe on Wednesday 10th July in the Palm House.



PTA Update

There are a few tickets left for both nights of our talent show. Everyone is welcome, so come and vote for your favourite!

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

To live through elections is part of every citizen's job in a democracy. We are all called to pay attention, make choices, and participate for the common good. It remains astonishing how little has been said by all the parties about their educational vision for the future. Every politician seems convinced that "children are our future" etc but few appear to have made a profound analysis of what is and has gone right and what is and has gone wrong in terms of education. In party political discourse, education seems to be a giant factory where one can change the assembly line or tweak some processes or perhaps open up a new addition to the plant. There is literally no discussion of what it should be like for a pupil to go to school, and what a well-educated person might be like. I would recommend Sunak and Starmer stop by an LC+ awards assembly to get a flavour of what is possible.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal