

Principal's Newsletter

6 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Not only the Character but also the Intellect' was evident in abundance at the GCSE and A Level music recital evening this week. Pupils performed their examination pieces in front of their peers, their parents and staff of the school and the quality of the performances was most impressive. This week's **musician of the week** has to be Joy L (Ch12) for her performance of Yellow After the Rain on the Marimba at the recital evening. Every pupil who performed did so admirably, however Joy really stood out as she displayed true, mature musicianship through her handling of the instrument. Playing with four mallets is a real technical fete. Congratulations to all who performed and well done Joy!

[You can listen to Joy's performance by following this link.](#)

I have enjoyed taking Reflection Assemblies in the secondary phase this week, encouraging all our pupils in Chapters 7 to 13 to not only think about customs and traditions around the world during the Christmas period, but also taking the time to reflect on those people, both within the College and beyond, for whom the forthcoming celebrations may not be quite so festive. Thank you to Ms Green for her continued support and hard work with the Reflection Assemblies across the College.

Thank you to those parents who were able to join our online Parent Information Evening yesterday. Parental engagement is something which the College is keen to work on this academic year and it was good to see more parents attending this year via Teams at this busy time of year. We will continue to look at ways in which parental engagement can be improved and I thank you for all your helpful comments and feedback. The PowerPoint presentation from the evening can be downloaded [here](#).

As mentioned at the Parent Information Evening, reading is very much a focus for the College this academic year as we look to increase the children's love of reading. I mentioned the bedtime readers in the primary phase last week and this week we have had delivered 42 boxes of books ready for Reading Aloud sessions in the secondary phase. Thank you to Ms Gillies for her organisation of this.

Not only is reading a focus for the College, we have similar high expectations for writing. An example of this was seen this week in the story written by Joshua C in Chapter 8 titled 'Cemetery Station'.

Cemetery Station

Inspired by Roald Dahl



It was a dark foggy London morning. The year was 1999 and 18 year old Tom was helping himself to toast on his first day at his new job.

He had three options originally. Firstly, he could have gone to the Liver Building, or the BBC headquarters, but instead he chose to work at Canary Wharf. He had a lot of pride in the capital and did not like to leave it, for in his opinion it was superior to all the surrounding cities.

He looked at his watch carefully, he had ten minutes until the train was leaving. In a frantic hurry he ran out to the station and arrived with five minutes to spare.

Tom leant on the wall when suddenly a door appeared out of nowhere. He stared at it. It read "No entry!" He asked a nearby Conductor about the sign.

The Conductor glared at him and said "*what door?! do you think my job is a joke! I have no time to investigate silly nonexisting doors!*"

So Tom walked towards the door and he heard a noise - his Train had arrived but he didn't care. He carried on and twisted the handle. A weird grey see-through person suddenly emerged from the floor and he dropped his briefcase in fright. Suddenly he saw an Underground sign, it turns out he was at the same station except underneath the sign he saw "Cemetery Station" in big, bold light green graffiti.

He turned around to see that the door was gone and then another strange man appeared - the man told him that 25 years ago in 1999 an 18-year-old man called Tom went missing and ever since the station has had misfortune after misfortune until recently they were forced to close the station. Tom bent down to pick up his briefcase, but his hand went through it and suddenly he realized what was going on.

Moral: don't let curiosity get the better of you.

Meanwhile in primary, the display boards are full of Chapter 3's writing about our new Opal play – it is a wonderful collection of quality writing.

Next week is very busy and seasonal with the secondary Carol Service on Tuesday 10th, Christingles on Wednesday and Thursday and the Boarders' Christmas dinner on

Thursday 12th December. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas events.

Our **artist of the week** is Zefali M (Ch11):



Floral coloured pencil sketchbook study.

Chapter 4 pupils have been working very hard over the past few weeks planning their Make & Sell enterprise project in LC+. Yesterday they held a successful cake sale with all funds raised donated to the charity, Shelter, who 'defend the right to a safe home. Because home is everything'. Mrs Bygroves reports that the number of cakes made and bought was amazing and the Chapter 4 pupils should be really proud of themselves as they were so organised and helped raise £426! Well done Chapter 4!



I was delighted when Mr Turbitt (Chapter 7 Dean) shared a report he had received from Miss Clark about the excellent efforts of one of her Chapter 7 classes with their musical

theatre assessment. Miss Clark described how the class had done a lot of work on building confidence and comfort in singing and performing together and that the results were amazing! Miss Clark writes: *I don't think in the 10 years I've been here I've ever had a better set of performances - from singing, to attitude, manners and all round effort and willingness to try.*" Congratulations class 7X3!

On the theme of musical performances, I enjoyed listening to Noah H's (Ch5) solo performance during this morning's Prep assembly. It was a remarkable display of musical talent and confidence. Well done Noah.

A request for support from the **Charity Action Group**:

1. Whitechapel Christmas Appeal



The Charity Action Group and the Mini Vinnies (primary) have teamed up to support The Whitechapel Centre (Liverpool's leading homeless charity) with their Christmas Appeal.

The Whitechapel Centre works with people experiencing homelessness every day of the year, but Christmas is a particularly difficult and emotional time. They try to make it a little better for anyone who is sleeping rough by offering a warm welcome, Christmas lunch and a gift. They will also be distributing gifts and Christmas treats to over 900 people around the city during the festive season. For many, this will be their first Christmas without their own home and these gifts can spread a little festive cheer and hope.

As a school we would like to help them give out as many gifts as possible which is why **over the next 2 weeks (Monday 2nd – 13th December) we are asking people to bring in items from the wish list above, which the centre can use to make up gift bags.**

Some classes are collecting donations in their form rooms, but they can also be dropped off at Student Services, the Sixth-form office and the Chaplaincy Room.

Please do donate if you are able to. Thank you.

For more information about The Whitechapel Centre please visit www.whitechapelcentre.co.uk

2. Christmas Raffle donation appeal

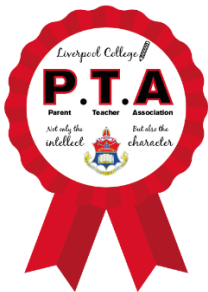
We are also running a Christmas raffle to raise money for Whitechapel and Bridge2 charities.

We would greatly appreciate any donations of Christmas food, toiletry items or even vouchers that we could add to our raffle and in turn help raise money for such great causes this Christmas.

Any donated items should be brought to reception in a box/bag marked Christmas Raffle by Friday 13 December.

*Thank you in advance for your support with this.
The Charity Action Group.*

A special message from the **PTA** below:



We were always told we worked hard - a little too hard! We recently were awarded the Sparkle Community Group Award for our PTA!! We were against 5 other groups and won the category!

You can see more details and see some lovely photos of the day in our newsletter!

Well done to the PTA team, and thank you to all the volunteers who give up so much of their time to support the school through the work of the PTA.

Mrs Duffy has asked me to share a link to the 'December Special' Liverpool Parenting Newsletter which focuses on festive activities you can get involved in, along with some updates on services that can help and support over the festive season, along with top tips for a calmer Christmas. Please follow the link below to access the newsletter:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/jDVaW0Y4tLPI8sv9?ref=Link>

Advance notice from Mrs Crook (SENCO) that we will be hosting a workshop led by the Liverpool ASD training team on Social Communication and Social Behaviour in February 2025. The workshop is for parents who have early concerns about social communication and interaction or their child is awaiting assessment from the ASD pathway. Please [click here](#) for more information.

May I wish you and yours a pleasant and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haynes." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**Mrs A Haynes
Principal**