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## Headteachers Message

As I write, the school is preparing for our Christmas social event at Alma de Cuba. One of the nice things about being a small school is that it is still possible for us all to be together for a social event, and this one feels very special because our students' social opportunities have been so limited over the last two years and for some students this evening will be an opportunity to (finally!) wear the clothes they bought for their Year 11 prom nearly 2 years ago.

This term our school self evaluation focus has been on "what makes us different to other schools?" and the student feedback has been very clear: they appreciate the informal but highly structured approach of the school, they appreciate the small class sizes and the excellent teachers and they value being in a small school environment where social interaction and collaboration is an integral part of the experience. The last item in this list is particularly important to students who find social interaction more of a challenge, and we're delighted that many of these students are now helping with our outreach programme, engaging in extracurricular opportunities like the Philharmonic concerts and the Ironbridge visit, and coming to the Christmas social.

I'm also very grateful to the many outgoing and socially confident students in school who go out of their way to include quieter students in activities and to encourage them to step forward and play a full part in the life of the school. All our students have supported us wholeheartedly in establishing the inclusive and supportive ethos that makes this school such a wonderful place to belong to.

We won't be sending another newsletter now until January so I would like to take this opportunity to wish a merry Christmas and happy new year to all our students and their families, and all the friends of the school who have supported us over the last year.

Damian Haigh

## Important Dates

- Last day of term - Wednesday 22nd December: **1pm finish**
- Thursday 23rd of June 2022- Y12 Parents Evening

## Holiday Dates 2021 - 2023

- Christmas Break December 23rd 2021 - 4th January 2022
- Half Term Break: February 21st - 25th 2022
- Easter Break: April 11th - April 22nd 2022
- May day Holiday - May 2nd 2022
- Half Term Break: May 30th - June 3rd 2022
- Summer break up date: 1st July 2022
- Start of Autumn term: 5th September 2022
- Half term break: October 24th - 28th 2022
- Christmas break 2022: 22nd December - 3rd January 2023
- Spring term Starts: 4th January 2023
- February Half term: 13th - 17th February 2023
- Easter break: 3rd - 14th April 2023
- Summer term starts: 17th April 2023
- May Day: 1st May 2023
- Half Term: 29th May - 2nd June 2023
- Summer break up date: 30th June 2023

## School Trips

### Theatre Trip



Two years ago I wrote the Educational Plan that set out the education that students in the yet-to-open maths school would receive and in it I said that *"Our students will, amongst other things, be strongly encouraged to read broadly, and to develop their ability to appreciate music, theatre and art, and enjoy sport."* This is actually one of my most strongly held ambitions for the school and its students; although our primary educational focus is mathematical science, the arts are still a very important part of the education we seek to provide for our students. It was, therefore both memorable and emotional to take a group of students to a full orchestra concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall for the first time on Thursday 18th November. The Philharmonic Hall was vibrant with a very full audience, all clearly grateful to be hearing live music again, and musicians who were clearly relieved and excited to once again be able to per-

form large scale orchestral pieces and hear the reaction of the people of Liverpool. The thirteen students who attended the concert enjoyed a sociable late evening in school before the concert with Domino's pizza (thanks to Anna for coordinating this) and an impromptu performance on the piano by the wonderful Jakub Glusko. The students, as always, were a great credit to the school and really enjoyed the opportunity to explore classical music. I hope that this will be the first evening of many when we get the opportunity to share the beauty of music and the arts with our students. We're very grateful to Steve Garnett for providing the funds to take students to events like this. As well as ensuring that everyone has equal access, this funding also removes the challenge of collecting ticket money from students, which makes it so much easier for us to run the events.

### University Fair

On the 18th November we took Year 13 to Anfield University fair. There was a huge range of Universities and students were able to get an insight into life at that University, as well as scholarships and other funding opportunities which they may not have been aware of. Students came home with plenty of reading material.

Disappointedly not many apprenticeship opportunities were seen as workplaces are not too keen on attending events like this yet. There are plenty of places to find out more about apprenticeships, the best being to approach companies that interest you or look on their websites.

Other sources:

<https://wwwucas.com/apprenticeships/how-find-apprenticeship>

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/planning-to-study/degree-apprenticeships-guide-for-apprentices/find-a-degree-apprenticeship/>



## Outreach

We are pleased to announce our next cohort for outreach course applicants will be available for sign ups within the next week. Courses will be starting in January 2022.

If anyone knows any family or friends that will be interested in KS3, KS4 & KS5 free online courses in Maths, Physics and Computer Science please help us spread the word and let them know.

To view available courses visit our [website](#).



# Student Achievements

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## Pathways to Engineering and Pathways to Banking and Finance

We're delighted that Bella, Chloe, James, Justin, Lauren, Lucy, Mark, Samuel, Tabitha, Robert and Michelle in Year 12 have all been accepted on to the University of Liverpool and Sutton Trust [Pathways Programme](#). The Pathways Programme supports young people to access leading universities and graduate careers and is a partnership programme run by the University of Liverpool and the Sutton Trust.

Each project will allow students to develop a better understanding of what it is like to study at university, gain an insight into their chosen subject, engage with staff and students on the University campus and take part in valuable work experience placements relevant to the chosen career.

Each project will:

- Equip students with essential knowledge of their chosen subject and the graduate career options
- Improve key skills to enable students to make a successful progression into university and onto their future careers
- Boost confidence in their academic work and with their plans for the future
- Provide opportunities to meet current undergraduates, staff from the University of Liverpool and visit other universities that are participating in the Pathways Programme



## November Examinations and University Applications

Year 13 students took external examinations in the week after the half term break, with students sitting the Oxford Maths and Physics Admissions Tests, and the Cambridge Assessment Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA), Engineering Admissions Assessment (ENGAA) and Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA). All of these assessments are extremely demanding in their nature and we're pleased and proud about the calm and purposeful way the students handled themselves in preparation for them. Students who are expecting university interviews are now preparing thoroughly for these and have already done some mock interviews. We held a mock interview day on Monday which put our students through their paces and also enabled 40 other students from Liverpool City Region to experience a demanding online interview and get feedback and advice about what to do next in preparation.

As Headteacher I'd like to take this opportunity to repeat the message to students that they should not take rejection in this demanding process as a judgement on their abilities or anything else. We're very proud of all the students who are applying for university and we feel confident that they will achieve great things in their lives through one route or another. The university selection process involves many inaccuracies and imperfections, and many wrong decisions will be made by universities and colleges along the way.

## November 2021

November draws to a close. Dave, James, Thomas and Pascal have kept going to the bitter end.

Please do donate for our pain/enjoyment (each participant will have their own feelings on this!) over the month.

We have a school donation page here:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/ulmas-university-of-liverpool-maths-school-november21>

Donations to Movember help to support men with male health issues like their mental health and cancer.

Click on Men's Health on their website to find out more: <https://uk.movember.com/>

If anyone has any concerns about their health and wellbeing, or someone else's, please do speak to a member of staff.





## Extra curricular activities

### D of E



Students have been progressing with their preparation for Duke of Edinburgh Gold on Monday lunchtimes. At this stage they have been through the basics of map reading, pacings and bearings, including following a rudimentary route around Abercromby Square.



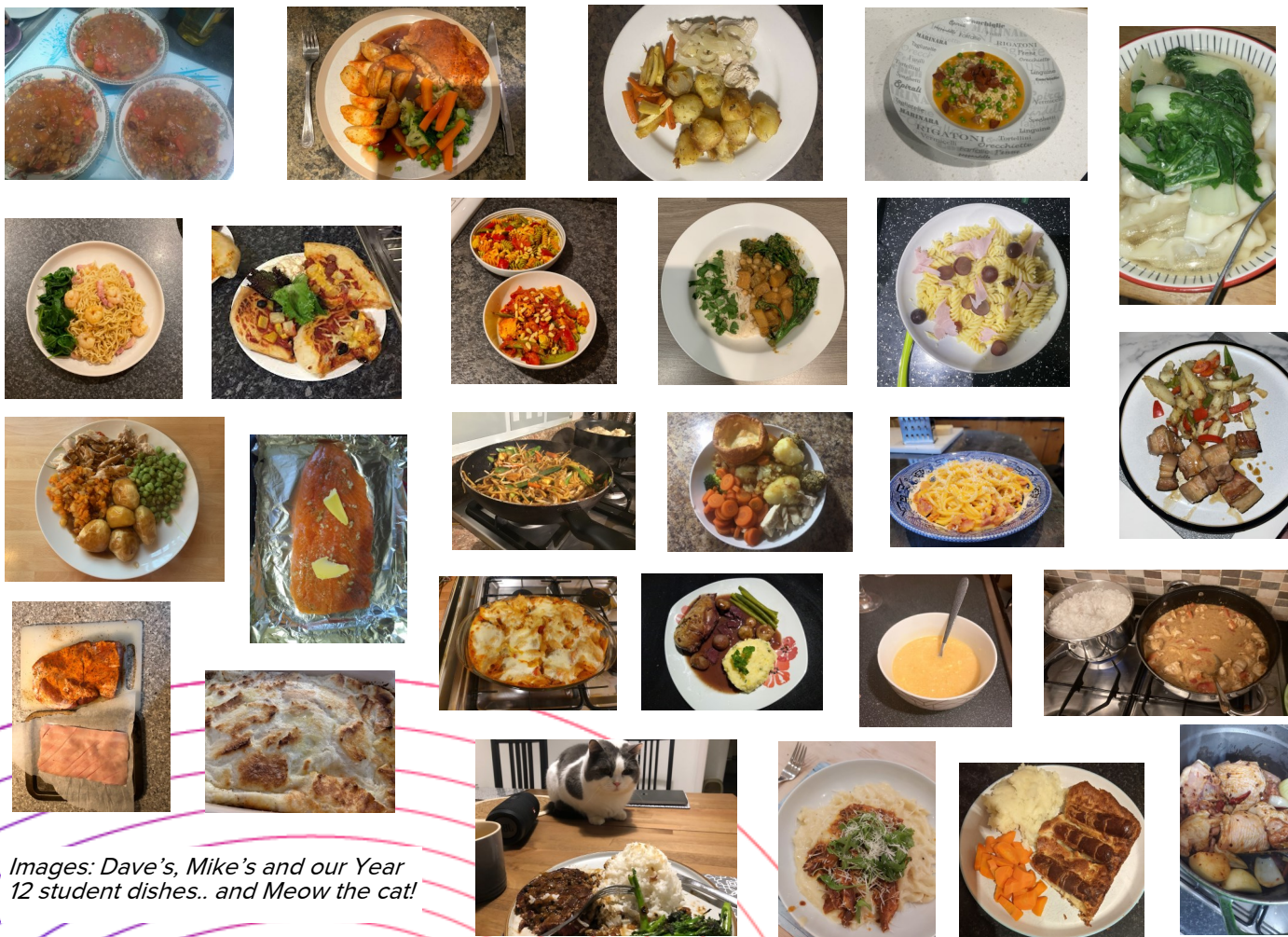
#### Upcoming DofE Events:

- **Friday 18th February:** Day Walk around Moel Famau (Reserve date **Saturday 26th March** in case weather conditions are problematic in February)
- **Thursday 21st - Saturday 23rd April:** Practice Expedition in the Lake District
- **Saturday 2nd - Wednesday 6th July:** Qualifying Expedition in Snowdonia

## PPEP - Food Challenge

Mike and Dave challenged the students to buy, prepare and cook a meal for the family. The family would then rate it and could consider the health, economic and sustainability issues of the meal. This was revisited in a PPEP lesson at the end of November and there were some excellent contributions from staff and students.

Hopefully students will be willing to cook and help out more around the house, feel free to encourage them!



Images: Dave's, Mike's and our Year 12 student dishes.. and Meow the cat!



## Unloved Clothes

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Sophie and the Environment Group organised a clothing bank in school this month, great work!

*"We have a clothing bank in school, to combat fast fashion and the amount of clothing that ends up in landfill every year. Students can bring in unloved clothes. All students are then free to choose items that they would wear and love as their own, free of charge. Second hand clothing is very important in combating the current climate emergency."*

Sophie Hall



## Remembrance Day



On the 11th November staff and students assembled by the Liverpool Heroes Memorial at 11am to observe a two minute silence. Many staff and students from the university also observed the silence. There are a few memorials within walking distance of the school. This memorial features a Sculpted figure of Captain Noel Chavasse and a stretcher-bearer from the Liverpool Scottish Battalion rescuing a wounded soldier. Captain Noel Chavasse is one of only three people to be awarded a Victoria Cross twice. The memorial also names fifteen further Victoria Cross recipients who were born in Liverpool.

There is the Centenary Victoria Cross Stone in Abercromby Square from 2017, marking 100 years since Captain Noel Chavasse's death (1884 – 1917).

Nearby in Falkner Square is The Black Merchant Seamen War Memorial. The stone is from the Liverpool Seamen's Hostel with a bronze plaque dedicated to all the Black Seamen who served during World War II. It was unveiled in 1993 on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*Extract from **For the Fallen**, by Robert Laurence Binyon*

## School visits

### Lady Mariame Jamme & Barbara Murray

It was great to have Lady Mariame Jamme and Councillor Barbara Murray visit on Friday. We also had students from Calday Grange join us for a talk from Mariame, about her work to help more people code with I am the code, especially women and girls.

We love computer science and coding, and it was great to see such passion to make this skill available to all. The goal is to have 1 million more women and girls coding by 2030.





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## Our Mission

We exist to enable children with a strong interest and high potential in the mathematical sciences to achieve global impact through careers in the mathematical sciences. By preparing them thoroughly and comprehensively for STEM degrees and significant roles both within local communities and the global community of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, our students will be equipped to become tomorrow's industrial and academic researchers, innovators who will address the world's greatest challenges, teachers who will inspire the next generation, wealth creators, entrepreneurs and problem solvers.

## Parent Trustee Election

Chair of Trustees, Professor Gavin Brown would like to inform you of the result of our recent election for parent governor.

### Elected: Catherine McClennan

We would like to thank those who put their name forward and took the time to complete candidate statements and for those of you who voted. We were delighted with the response. Details of the number of votes cast can be obtained on request from [reception@liverpoolmathsschool.org](mailto:reception@liverpoolmathsschool.org).

If you would like to be considered in another capacity as one of our governors at a later date, please express an interest via the form on the governance page of the school website: <https://liverpoolmathsschool.org/home/governance/>

Alternatively, do consider looking for vacancies in other schools in the area. For further support with this, register your interest with Governors for Schools. The service is free and they help to partner volunteers with local schools who are recruiting for new governors: [www.governorsforschools.org.uk](http://www.governorsforschools.org.uk)

## Opportunities for casual work in invigilation and administration

We are currently seeking to establish a list of people who might be available to assist us with invigilation and other occasional work. We are hoping that our students, their parents and other friends of the school might know people who would be interested in this.

During school and external examinations we sometimes need additional invigilators to help ensure that our examinations are conducted properly and candidates are well cared for. We also need occasional help with office work to cover for absent colleagues or add more support when the school is particularly busy.

Invigilation help is needed at various times of year including assessment weeks in November, December and January and several weeks during May and June for A-Level examinations. Office help might be needed at any time during the school term.

Full training is provided for invigilation via an online module and in-person briefing. Invigilators and office temps are employed on a casual contract and the demand for help will vary considerably across the year and from one year to the next.

If you would like to be on our list of people who are interested in occasional work, please complete [this form](#) and we'll get back to you to discuss it.

*Please note that as a school the safeguarding of our students is paramount. This means that we will operate safer recruitment practices to ensure that everyone we employ is suitable to work with children. This includes requiring two references, a self declaration form and a DBS check for everyone contracted to work at school including those on a casual contract. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and if the applicant is shortlisted all convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings, including those regarded as 'spent' must be declared prior to interview unless protected.*