



Headteachers Message

Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

It has been a long and eventful term, and we're very relieved to have got this far without having to close the school. The sight of a vaccine on the near horizon is very encouraging indeed, and underlines for us the importance of our mission as a school. One day, we hope, many of our students will be creating solutions to similarly big problems: we hope that the research and problem solving activities we have already started with students will help to propel them towards playing that very significant role.



I do hope that their first term has been a very positive experience: it certainly has been for me and my colleagues, and we're absolutely delighted with the cheerful and determined attitude that students have shown even when confronted with very difficult ideas and a rapid pace of learning. I wish you and your family a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break, and a prosperous and healthy 2021. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or my colleagues if there's anything we can help you with or you have a concern, however small, about the welfare of any of our students.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!
Damian Haigh

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Holiday Dates

- Christmas Break December 21st - January 1st
- Half Term Break February 15th - 19th
- Easter Break March 29th - April 9th
- May Day - May 3rd
- Half Term Break May 31st - June 4th

Coronavirus Testing: Still Available

We understand that the mass testing programme being operated in the large sports hall at Sport Liverpool will continue to operate until the 18th December. This means that students can get tested on their last day at school before the Christmas break, and have at least some evidence to reassure themselves that they are unlikely to transmit the infection to vulnerable relatives they may spend time with over Christmas. More details are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-tested-for-coronavirus-if-you-live-or-work-in-liverpool>

How busy the sites are around Liverpool can be found here to ensure you do not wait for too long: <https://liverpool.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Please do your best to:

Stay as safe as you can and reduce your risk of exposure.

Self isolate (stay at home) as soon as symptoms appear for anyone in the household. The key symptoms are now very familiar to us all:

high temperature;
new continuous cough; and
loss of smell and taste.

Access to Coronavirus Testing

A reminder: we do have a stock of testing kits in school. We also intend to give students a COVID-19 test swab pack to keep at home over the Christmas holidays and use as necessary. Students may request them earlier if they wish.

Supporting Students through the Exams Process

In preparation for last weeks winter examinations we spoke to students in assembly about the stress that exams inevitably produce in all of us, and how we can attempt to focus and manage that sense of anxiety to make it work for us rather than against us. We tried to plan the whole process in order to make it as productive and positive as possible for students, including:

Using these examinations as a rehearsal for the real event by making them as similar as possible to the real experience, purposefully including some of the nerves that inevitably accompany significant assessments and support and advice to help students learn to manage them;

- Giving clear guidance about effective and ineffective approaches to preparation;
- Setting aside time for students to study alongside each other using both staff and peers as a resource when needed;
- Planning a process for students to receive their marked papers back on Wednesday 16th December followed by time and support to systematically address the gaps in learning that the papers have revealed;
- 30 minute one-one reviews in every subject with a teacher in the week after the exams to ensure students have understood the feedback from the examination and have an effective plan to respond and maximise their learning over the next few months.

While we hope that all of our students will feel that they are well equipped to address the gaps that the examinations reveal, we know that families will play their part by being sensitive to the frustrations and disappointments that students will experience when they get their papers back on the 16th. If the results do happen to be a bit of a disappointment this time round, the key thing to remember is that students still have 18 months to improve their approach to learning and fix the missing knowledge in place with help and support from us.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Vicky Carlin has agreed to be the Parent Trustee for Year 12. Vicky is Deputy Headteacher at All Saints Catholic Primary School in Bootle and we know that we will benefit greatly from her support, guidance and challenge as we develop our outreach work for younger students, as well as in many other areas of school development.

Chess with a Grandmaster

Last weeks chess club saw Year 12 student, Louis, take on Grandmaster, Stewart Haslinger. Louis put up a great fight but was forced to resign in the end. The match as it played out can be viewed on the link: buff.ly/3qRpbX3

Stewart commended Louis for being a fantastic opponent! Well done Louis!



Charity Support

Children in Need and Movember

Last month we supported both Movember and Children in Need. We are delighted to have reached our fundraising targets for both of these worthy causes, raising £100 for Children in Need and £230 for Movember! Thank you to everyone who donated!

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 11th December

On Friday students and staff wore Christmas jumpers to help raise vital funds for Save the Children. There were some fantastic jumpers on show! Students also enjoyed delicious Christmas Dinner sandwiches cooked by Headteacher, Damian. So far we have raised £50.

Information from Save the Children: Every pound we raise will give children in the UK and around the world the chance to grow up healthy and happy, and change the future for good. Just £2 could pay for a bottle of hand sanitiser to help fight coronavirus in a Save the Children medical clinic, whilst £20 could pay for a back-to-school kit for a child in Indonesia.



You can donate to our Save the Children fundraising here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/university-of-liverpool-maths-school2>



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Dodgeball

Due to an easing of the Covid 19 restrictions in Merseyside, we have been able to resume our Friday afternoon sport sessions. Students and staff enjoyed participating in a friendly dodgeball tournament at Sport Liverpool on campus.

“Always remember the five d’s of dodgeball: dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge!”

Social Media

We have been posting a lot of information on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to help get the message out that we are here to help students across the region in our Outreach, and some of these may join us in September. Please do share and pass on information to those who may be interested so we can be sure to help as many students we can in the North West.

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.



Youtube

We have been posting videos on our Youtube channel including Maths Challenges and weekly vlogs. The vlogs are so that you can get a feel for what we do here daily at the Maths School. Staff and students briefly share their thoughts on activities after a lesson or event. You can access all our youtube playlists on this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL890673A5C8E9D5F5)

