



# Head's Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to a new school year! A particular welcome if your daughter or son started here for the first time last week; I trust that both you and they are settling well and happily into the Archbishop Blanch School community.

It is also my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff who have joined the school: Miss H Browne - P E Department, Niamh Callanan - Music Department, Mrs H Hurt - Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs S Holding - Cover Supervisor, Miss G Morris - Design Technology (Textiles), Mr D Pearson - History/Classics Departments, Miss K Walker - P E Department. We also welcome back on a part time basis Ms G Kenwright and Mrs S Sharples to the English Department.

This newsletter is produced fortnightly on a Friday, with the occasional "Special Edition" when we have some particular news to share. We have found that this is a great way of keeping parents and guardians in touch with what is going on in school. As we attach a high priority to communicating with parents, this newsletter is available by e-mail: if you would like to take advantage of this facility please contact Mrs Bryan in the office at [bryan@blanch.org.uk](mailto:bryan@blanch.org.uk). We are in the process of updating our database, therefore, this edition is only available on paper; the e-mail service will restart in a fortnight's time.

## **EXAMINATION RESULTS**

I have always enjoyed the excitement of Examination Results days each August. Celebrating the successful culmination of months and years of hard work with the pupils is one of the highlights of my year. This year was no exception! There were many excellent results at both AS and A2 level and we are delighted that the vast majority of

our Year 13 students secured places on courses at their chosen universities. We wish both them and those students who are entering the world of work every success.

The GCSE results were very good, with 76% of our Year 11 pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades C or more. This is significantly above the national average and the rapidly improving Liverpool average. We are delighted that a large number of our pupils have chosen to join our Sixth Form. Many of our Year 10 pupils received excellent GCSE results in Religious Studies (a record 94% A\*-C grades), Science and Music. Many thanks to the staff for their hard work and to the parents for their support; without you, and the hard work of all our pupils, such fantastic results would be impossible.

Parents of Year 10 pupils should have received their daughter's SATs results by post this week. Despite the problems and delays in the marking and distribution of the results this year, we were very pleased with the outcome. Congratulations to the pupils and their Teachers.

## **FABS SCHOOL REUNION - FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2008**

The Friends of Archbishop Blanch School are holding a reunion for ex pupils and staff of all three schools - ABS, Liverpool Girls' College and St Edmund's College. The event will be held at Archbishop Blanch School with an open afternoon (including afternoon tea) and an evening reception (to include a two course meal). *Miss Griffiths, Mr Brierley, Mrs Zimak, Mrs Goodacre (Clegg) and Mrs Bellis* are hoping to see as many of you as possible in the evening. If you are an old girl or ex-member of staff please go to our website ([www.abblanch.com](http://www.abblanch.com)) to find the booking form or contact Jeanette Coppell on 0151-709 1452 for more details. The final date for full payment is 26 September.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to send our congratulations to Mr Moss (Head of Music) and his wife on the birth of Eva, who was born on 31 July. Also to Mr M Jones (Science Department/Head of Year 9) and his wife on the birth of their second son, Wiliam on 4 September.



## HOMEWORK CLUB

We would like to inform new parents and remind existing parents that school operates a Homework Club, which is available at the following times:

Year 7	Monday lunchtime
Year 8	Tuesday lunchtime
All Years	Mon-Thurs 3.30-4.30 pm

The sessions, which are supervised by Miss Ellie Jones, will begin on Monday, 15 September. Miss Jones caters for all subjects and even has musical keyboards for students to practise on! Please encourage your daughter to make good use of this resource.

I would like to congratulate Form 8CO and the members of staff who were involved in the "Turn on the Tap" fundraising last term. Well done to those pupils who managed to collect £202.16 for the charity.

## SOMETHING FOR THIS EVENING

If you are free tonight, All Saints' Childwall are holding a Gospel Evening with Andy Flanagan at 7.30pm. All are very welcome. Andy is a musician of note and an evangelist with an international ministry. Refreshments will be provided during the interval. There is no charge, but donations will be appreciated.

## CATERING UPDATE

**ART COMPETITION** - Pupils will have noticed that during the summer holidays the first part of the planned improvements to Casa Blanca were carried out as they returned to find a new colour scheme in the restaurant. We would love to have some of our pupils' amazing artwork to decorate the walls and so we would like to encourage pupils to get drawing or painting. Please see the notices around the school giving details of our ART COMPETITION. Prizes will be awarded to the best entries, which should be taken to the Finance Office in Reception by **19 September**.

The Meal Deal on offer each day includes a main course and dessert and represents very good value for money. A small increase has been made from £1.60 to £1.65.

## FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS IN YEARS 9, 10 & 11

Later in the academic year, pupils will be receiving booklets produced by Connexions to help them with option choices in Year 9 and Year 11. These are also available in electronic format via the Virtual Student Office. Go to 'Careers' and select the corresponding year group folder for your daughter. There is also a parent's guide to help with option choices in Year 9 found in the 'Parents and Carers' folder.

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

**PA DISCO:** The next disco will be held on **Thursday, 2 October, 7.00 - 9.00 pm** in the School Hall. **THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE TO THAT ADVERTISED IN THE CALENDAR.** Tickets will be on sale week commencing 29 September at break times on Monday for Year 9, Tuesday for Year 8 and Wednesday for Year 7. Please note there will be no paying on the door.

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM:** Advance notice that the PA will be holding their AGM on Monday, 6 October at 7.00 pm in school.

## SPONSORED SWIM

A sponsored swim in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Archbishop Blanch School will take place on Thursday, 25 September 2008 at the University of Liverpool Swimming Pool, Abercromby Square, between 5.30 - 7.30 p.m. Years 7-11 have all been issued with letters. If anyone from Years 12 and 13 would like to take part, sponsorship forms are available from the school office.

## FIELD OF HOPE FLOWER BULB APPEAL

Brochures have been distributed to pupils. We would ask that you support this worthwhile venture; all proceeds will benefit our Special Resources Fund. You may also care to remember a loved one by ordering a bag of daffodil bulbs which will be planted in our MEMORIAL FIELD OF HOPE. If you wish to take this option, please complete the slip at the end of the letter that accompanied the order form and make a note on the form how many bulbs you are donating to the Field of Hope - your message will be recorded in the Memorial Book which is on permanent display in Reception. A reminder that the closing date for orders is **Monday, 15 September**.