



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

You may have seen an article in last night's Liverpool Echo regarding the future of the three Church of England High Schools. This article contained several inaccuracies.

There have never been any plans to merge Archbishop Blanch and St Margaret's into one school. It has been publicly known for some time that we hope to co-locate with St Margaret's on their current site on Aigburth Road, whilst remaining two distinct and separate schools. The Governors of the school recognise the potential of the Liverpool Innovation Park and they will give consideration to this proposal should more detailed information be made available.

You can rest assured that, as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, Archbishop Blanch School is dedicated to delivering the outstanding 21st Century building and facilities our pupils and staff deserve.

CASABLANCHA NEWS

It was good to meet up with our pupils and parents who braved the bad weather on Wednesday night to join us for our CASA BLANCHA evening in the Bistro. With representatives present from the Local Authority, the Primary Care Trust, Cunningham's (the company selected to install our Cashless Catering System) and our own Catering Consultant, it proved a good opportunity for parents to ask their own individual questions to any of the visiting representatives. A special thanks to Mrs Timson, our Catering Manager who provided a wonderful selection of food from our regular daily menu and to Mrs Donnison, Business Manager, for organising the event.

I can now advise that the Cashless Catering System will be commencing early in March. A letter will be issued at the beginning of February advising parents of the exact dates and giving guidance on the new procedures.

We learned this morning, that we have been selected as 'School of the Month' by the School Food Trust for our efforts in improving school food. We will be receiving a prize of £5,000 which can be spent on improvements to the Dining or Kitchen area. Thanks go to all the Catering and Supervisory Staff for their hard work. Congratulations to all involved and especially to Mrs Donnison who wrote the successful bid.

PROSPECTIVE SIXTH FORM EVENING - 4 FEBRUARY

We will be holding our open evening for pupils who are interesting in coming to our Sixth Form on Wednesday, 4 February at 6.30 pm. Year 11 students, make sure you don't miss out on learning more about the exciting opportunities on offer. We firmly believe that our facilities, highly trained staff and courses make ABS the perfect choice for boys and girls to continue their post-16 studies. Remember the majority of our students stay here and go on to gain their first choice of university. They flourish in an environment of continuing excellent pastoral care and with staff who know them well.

PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS - LIVERPOOL LAW SOCIETY

Congratulations to Year 11 students, Elizabeth O'Connell and Emily Parry, who have won their heat of the Liverpool Law Society's Public Speaking Competition. The girls worked as a team to prepare and deliver a 10 minute speech opposing the position: 'War Tribunals are seriously undermined by the fact that only the vanquished are usually indicted.' The two students defeated three other Liverpool schools to reach the final, which will be held in the Town Hall on 2nd March. We wish them the best of luck.

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE

Tuesday, 27 January 2009:

School will close at 3.00 pm to accommodate the Year 9 Parents' and Key Stage 4 Curriculum Meeting. Could you please make arrangements for your daughter to leave school at this earlier finish time. The 600 bus will be available at 3.00 pm but not the 646. The 646 bus will arrive at its usual time (3.45 pm) and any pupil wishing to catch this bus can stay in Homework Club (held in the Careers Room) until the bus arrives.

THEATRE TRIP

Many thanks to Mrs Stone for arranging a Year 7 and Year 8 trip to see 'Great Expectations' last week, after two postponements that were out of our control. Mrs Stone reports that it was a very successful trip and that the pupils were a credit to the school; in fact as a result of their enthusiastic response to the play, the cast applauded them. Thank you to all the members of staff who accompanied the trip.

PLACES FOR PLAYERS

After a successful term's work in the Music Department with almost 200 girls receiving instrumental lessons we still have vacancies for students who wish to commence lessons after February half term. Lessons are available on most instruments - flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, piano, guitar, drums, violin, viola, 'cello, double bass and singing.

Girls who are interested should collect an application form from Mrs F Coppell in the Music Department and return it as soon as possible so that lessons can be arranged for the start of next half term. The fees are £48.75 per half term (£97.50 for a term of 12 lessons). Girls or boys who are studying for GCSE or A-Level music will receive a reduction for their first instrument. If you are unsure which instrument is the one for you, any of the music staff would be pleased to advise.

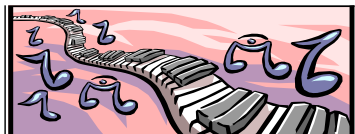
GALA CONCERT TO CELEBRATE MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Music Department are holding their main school concert on Wednesday, 11 February at 7.00 pm in the School Hall. This promises to be another superb opportunity to hear the many talents of students and staff. Tickets are on sale from the school office priced £4 Adult, £3 Child/OAP or £12 for a family ticket (2 adults/2 children). Please complete the reply slip below to order your tickets.

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REPLY SLIP

I would like the following tickets for the Gala Concert on 11 February:



Adult: ____ Child/OAP ____ Family ____

I enclose £_____ (Cheques should be made payable to Archbishop Blanch School)

JOB VACANCIES

We are currently advertising two vacancies for General Assistants to work in our newly refurbished dining room and I thought it would be good to mention these to you in this newsletter in case any parents would be interested. Both posts, which are term time only, are temporary for 12 months with the possibility of being made permanent.

Post 1: 12.30-2.00 p.m. (Mon-Thurs)
12.30-2.30 p.m. (Friday)

PASS Scale 1, £2,460 p.a., 0.2FTE
To supervise pupils during their lunch time, plus general cleaning duties.

Post 2: 12.30-4.30 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

PASS Scale 1, £6,150 p.a., 0.5FTE
To supervise pupils during their lunch time with general cleaning duties in the designated lunch areas, followed by cleaning and maintenance routines in the Art Dept.

For further details either call into the school or we can send an application pack via your daughter/son. Closing date for completed applications is 5 February at 12 noon.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Advance notice that the Parents' Association are holding an Easter Bingo on Thursday, 19 March with lots of lovely prizes. Eyes down 7.30pm. Look out for more details in a later Newsletter.

BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

A reminder for you to collect the 'Books for Schools' tokens which you will find every day in The Times and Sunday Times. We can exchange the tokens for free books of our choice. There will be 12 tokens printed every week. Please collect as many tokens as you can and give them to your daughter/son to bring into school. Tokens can be deposited in our special collection box in Reception. It would be great if you could encourage any family or friends to collect on our behalf.

STAMPS FOR GUIDE DOGS

Please continue to collect used postage stamps for this worthy cause instead of throwing them away. It would be good if you could ask your family members to save theirs as well. Collection boxes are found by Reception and in the Music corridor.