

Dear Reader

## **LIPA ASSOCIATE SCHOOL**

It is with great pleasure that I can announce to you that we are now a LIPA Associate School. This will mean benefits to the whole school but particularly to some members of Year 8 and Year 9 who this year will begin the LIPA Progression Programme, a series of extra curricular sessions for pupils interested in the performing arts. Pupils who complete the programme will continue with it into Years 9 and 10 respectively. The present Year 7 will have a chance next year of auditioning for the programme.

All pupils will benefit from free activities at LIPA in the school holidays, access to free theatre tickets and workshops with celebrities such as Will Young. The Sixth Form will have workshops on how to successfully apply to drama schools and an audition workshop with a Hollywood casting director.

Teachers will benefit from access to the teaching space at LIPA, providing excellent cross-curricular links for all subjects with performing arts. There will also be a Headteachers' day and staff training for teachers to perfect their performing arts skills.

We look forward to our new collaboration with LIPA and thank them for this exciting opportunity. Our thanks also go to Aimhigher who recommended our school to LIPA.

## **HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES**

We have decided to hold a short service of Holy Communion at 8.00 am once every month on a Tuesday. The first one is next week (29th September) and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all our school community to attend. The services will be held in the Quiet Room and will finish at 8.30 am.

## **FABS AUTUMN RAFFLE**

Due to a lack of ticket sales the **Blind Wine Tasting Evening** scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> October has sadly been cancelled. Several companies have kindly donated prizes which were to be used at the event and, as some of the donations have a time limit on them, a decision has been made to hold a one-off fundraising raffle.

FABS has committed funds to several school projects this term and we do hope that you will feel able to support us by purchasing just two tickets. Please ask your daughter/son for the raffle flyer which has been distributed today.

## **SCHOOL POLICIES**

Last Thursday parents will have received a copy of the School's Attendance Policy. Attached to the policy was a reply slip, which was to be returned to school by today, to confirm that parents had received and read the Policy. I would like to thank all those parents who have returned the reply slip and ask any remaining to be sent into school by Monday of next week.

Another Policy which has recently been updated is our Safeguarding Policy (Child Protection) and this will soon be available on the web. Our designated Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Mrs McElhinney-Samson (Deputy Head).

Parents who have access to the internet, can find these and various other Policies on the School's website. We are in the process of updating our website so if you experience any problems, could I ask for your patience whilst our new site is being launched.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY**

Advance notice that our annual Harvest Festival will take place on Monday, 12 October in the Hall. Pupils can begin to bring in their donations of dried and tinned goods from this point onwards and any fresh fruit and vegetables can be brought in on the day. Any contributions you can make will be greatly appreciated. Pupils should bring their goods to Mrs McElhinney-Samson's office. The Salvation Army will distribute straight away what they can to the needy in the local area. They are always so grateful of our help and support, a large part of which helps towards providing a Christmas day lunch for the homeless.

## **SPONSORED SWIM**

We had a great response from our pupils and would like to thank all those who took part in the sponsored swim last night. Could we now encourage you to collect your sponsorship and send it into school at the earliest opportunity.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

I would like to congratulate one of our pupils in Year 7 who is to receive an award at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on 6 October. Charlotte Collins is being presented with a Celebration of Achievement award from her primary school. Well done Charlotte!

### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM:** Advance notice that the PA will be holding their AGM on Monday, 5 October at 7.00 pm in school. All parents are invited to attend and to vote for their Committee. The posts of Chair and Secretary are both vacant. If you would like to nominate anyone, or perhaps you would consider volunteering yourself for these posts, please contact Mrs McElhinney-Samson.

### **'JEANS FOR GENES DAY'**

On Friday, 2 October, the school will be supporting 'Jeans for Genes Day' and all students in Years 7 - 13 will be allowed to wear their own clothes, which must include jeans or an item of denim clothing, for a donation of £1.50. Normal school rules apply regarding the wearing of jewellery and make-up. This event has been organised by members of our Sixth Form and the proceeds will be donated to the 'Jeans for Genes' charity. Pupils are asked to bring their donations in on Friday, 2 October when members of the Sixth Form will be collecting in the money.

### **MERSEYSIDE POLICE EVENT**

Merseyside Police are holding a large free youth event on Sunday, 27 September 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm, at the Police Training Centre on Mather Avenue, Allerton, called '**JOIN A TEAM, NOT A GANG**'. There will be a large variety of demonstrations, music, activities, stalls, police horses and dogs etc.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

I would like to remind Year 10 Parents that there will be a GCSE Information Evening for Year 10 Parents only on Tuesday, 6 October at 7.00 pm in the School Hall.

Students in Year 12 are to take part in a residential at the Lakeside Activity Centre in

Cumbria on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week, where they will experience team building and problem solving exercises.

Similarly, Pupils in Year 7 will also be attending the Centre the following week (7, 8 and 9 October) and I would like to take this opportunity to wish both sets of students an enjoyable time and hope the weather is kind to them!

### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

As well as the reward badges for performing in the various ensembles in school and for the peripatetic lessons in school, we now have awards for:

#### Peer Mentor Badges

These are aimed at experienced players who agree to help younger pupils to develop their musical skills by teaching or accompanying them on a regular basis.

#### Helper Badges

These are for experienced players who are in the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Senior Orchestra and who help with Year 7 Choir or Training Orchestra.

Pupils who are interested in being considered for these should see Mr Moss by Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **MORRISONS LET'S GROW**

School is taking part in this campaign. Please send your vouchers into school - 1 voucher for every £10 spent. The campaign runs between 7 September and 1 November.

### **FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS**

We are again participating in the Nestlé Box Tops for Books scheme, which is running between 1 September 2009 and 31 March 2010. Tokens can be found on the top of Nestlé cereal boxes and can be deposited in the collection boxes placed in the Reception area and Library in school.