

...s year and in the final few weeks of term we have our scheduled Christmas Concerts and nativity plays, which are always a good way to prepare ourselves for Christmas.

This term has seen a very successful period of Performing Arts: the Autumn Concert and piano recital ó both new ventures, were very well received; the PTA Passion for Fashion evening was a truly entertaining evening with boys and girls from age 4 to 18; the joint production of Grease highlighted some of our very talented students; the joint Christmas Concert at the Cathedral was truly inspirational and very professional; the participants in MerchantsøGot Talent were good enough to rival any TV show and the BBC Radio Merseyside recording of the Christmas Eve broadcast at 5pm, in which the Senior Chamber Choir took part, was outstanding.

In Sport, the girls have had an equally successful season. All 7 of our netball teams are at present undefeated in their league competitions. The U18 squad were a commendable third in the Sefton Netball Tournament and our U16 squad won through to the Finals just losing by one goal to finish as runners-up this year.

All 7 hockey squads are training hard and enjoying a good deal of early success in this first half of their season. The U13 squad were undefeated and are therefore Sefton Champions for 2008. The U14, U16 and 1<sup>st</sup> XI squads have had a very good run in the National Hockey Tournaments.

We are running 6 teams from Year 7 to 13 in the Sefton League for Cross Country. In the first League Race, in appalling conditions, the teams showed great grit and determination. Becky Plummer from Year 11 won the U16 race and our U18 squad won their race as a team. We also entered the National Biathlon Championships and enjoyed a good deal of success.

Swimming began late due to the problems with the pool and many galas had to be re-arranged, but the squads are now busy competing to a high standard.

In addition to the usual competitive sports, the PE Department also runs a number of lunchtime and after-school clubs and training sessions in gymnastics, badminton, table tennis, dance and fitness. The Golf Team are doing well in the inter-schools knock-out competition and our rowers are also having a successful season so far.

We have had some very exciting departmental field trips this term, including Geography, History and Art, and the Classics department had a series of opportune moments cruising in and around the Greek mainland.

As members of the GirlsøSchools Association we hosted a day conference for the Head Girls of the other GSA North-West schools, as well as participating in their Girls Go Green week in October. Later in the year, we are organising a day for Lower Sixth girls from a variety of schools to participate in an -Opening Doorsøconference for high-achieving girls interested in business, finance and commerce.

...n to Mrs Patsy Colvin, who has taught chemistry in  
...rovided exceptional support for girls applying to  
...een the organiser for all Harrison Group events. Mr  
Jayson Hood is also leaving us, moving on to be a Head of Department in a larger  
School. The teaching of ICT has continually developed under his leadership and I am  
sure the ICT department will miss him. Both members of staff have contributed  
beyond the classroom: Mrs Colvin will also be remembered for her cutting edge  
jewellery and tap-dancing skills, whilst who will forget Mr Hood as James Bond in a  
recent assembly?

We welcome into the school from January Mr Stephen Doyle and Mr Marc Tillotson.  
Mr Doyle is an experienced teacher of ICT, author of many ICT text books and  
examiner, whilst Mr Tillotson joins us most recently from Korea where he has been  
teaching Chemistry and Biology at an International School.

Next term, we start with mock examinations for Y11, external modules for some L6  
and most U6 students and most of our Parents' Evenings. If you cannot make one of  
the evenings, please let us know and we can usually fit you into another of the  
planned evenings. May I remind you that our Entrance Examination is on Monday  
26<sup>th</sup> January and therefore the School is closed that day for our pupils.

In January, the Vitreum, our grand new entrance will be completed. Many of us have  
had 'sneak previews' of the new area and it is most impressive. When the builders  
have left the site, we will be expecting all girls to use this new front entrance and we  
have asked the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead, to officially  
open the entrance at the beginning of February.

Tickets for the Joint Parental Ball in Southport Floral Hall on February 27<sup>th</sup> are selling  
fast. If you wish to attend, please contact the box office as soon as possible, as the  
allocated ticket numbers for each school will go on general release by 10<sup>th</sup> January.

The weekly bulletin is now published on the website for parents and I do hope you  
make use of this facility. The next full newsletter will be published late in the term  
when we hope to bring you more news about the planned Sports Hall.

With all best wishes for the Christmas season and 2009.

Mrs L A Robinson.