



December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that your daughters have had a very positive first full term at The Ladies' College. I have been very impressed with how they have settled in and taken to their new classes and teachers. We recognize that moving into any secondary school is a big event in a young person's life and they have all done remarkably well at adapting to a new school environment.

I am delighted that so many have chosen to take part in House events this term, as well as clubs, sports teams, and music groups. Not only do these events and clubs offer a great opportunity to mix and make friends with other year groups, but it also helps your daughters to settle into being an active and valued member of our school community.

As part of our pastoral programme, each Remove has been assigned a 'Big Sister' in the Sixth Form – someone from the student body who will have experienced many of the uncertainties and challenges of starting a new school and who can offer support in terms of being a nurturing peer mentor; we hope that your daughter has found this to be helpful to them. The Lower Sixth have embraced this opportunity and have kept in contact with the Remove students but do please encourage your daughter to contact her 'big sister' at any point, as one more member of the college community who are there to support your daughter's well-being while at school.

In addition to being supported by specific members of our college community, we have also introduced the Removes to an initiative called 'Girls On Board'. Throughout College, we aim to work proactively with our girls, giving them the tools and strategies to deal with the almost inevitable challenges they may face as they progress through adolescence. Last year, we introduced 'Girls on Board' into the Senior School, and it has been successful in supporting friendship-related challenges.

The Girls on Board approach helps girls, their parents, and teachers to understand the complexities and dynamics of girl friendships. The language, methods and ideas within the approach empower girls to solve their own friendship problems and encourage them to recognise that they are usually the only ones who can help to heal these inter-personal relationships. Now introduced to this successful initiative, your daughters will continue using this approach. I have attached a parent guide for your information but please visit the Girls on Board website <https://www.girlsonboard.co.uk/> and watch the short introductory clip to gain a better understanding of the approach <https://youtu.be/s7yWXOt9H0s> In addition, Our Deputy Principal (Pastoral) has recently written a short piece about girl friendships and how we as an all-girls' environment are best placed to support girls navigate adolescent years including the use of the Girls on Board approach. You can find this here <https://www.ladiescollege.com/news/2022/the-mean-girl-myth>



REMOVE PARENTS' EVENING

Academically, you will have received your daughter's first set of interim reports and, looking ahead to the New Year, I would like to advise you that the **Remove parents' evening** is held in the college hall from **17:00-19:00 on 18th January**. This is an ideal opportunity to talk through any subject-specific concerns you may have regarding your daughter's work so far. To confirm, though we do invite older students to attend parents' meetings, it is not expected for Removes to attend. In addition to subject staff, your daughter's pastoral team – their tutors and myself – will also be there should you wish to discuss any pastoral matters. We ask that appointments are kept to 5 minutes for all staff and if you feel that you may need a longer appointment, please do make a separate appointment to come and see that member of staff at another time for a more detailed discussion.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to look to the festive season which is now upon us. I hope that, as well as your daughters re-charging their batteries from a busy term, there will be time for fun and family whether you intend to stay on island or go on holiday. Whatever you do and wherever you choose to spend Christmas, from everyone at The Ladies' College, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming your daughters back to college in the new year.

Best wishes,

Maggie King

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Remove Year Co-ordinator