



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of The Ladies' College

I write today following the States of Guernsey announcement yesterday afternoon that we will close to the majority of pupils and students from the end of today. We would usually issue our Weekly Bulletin on a Friday afternoon and, instead, share with you the latest information we can confirm with regards to arrangements for your daughter/s over the coming weeks.

How to talk with your children about COVID 19

I hope this article may be helpful to you over the weekend and next week. It comes from a British Psychological Society – how to talk with your children about corona virus:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus>

College will be open on Monday to key workers who will sustain the island's infrastructure.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. The advice is that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then please do.
2. If you are a critical worker, then educational provision is available for your child/children, if supervision is required.
 - Please bring / send your daughter(s) to College as normal **with a packed lunch**.
 - No uniform is required.
 - On Monday we will ensure that they are supervised with the work that is being set by teachers online.
 - Prep–Preparatory and Melrose pupils should arrive as usual and will be met by their teachers.
 - The Senior School will be met as they arrive at the Main Entrance.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Lockers and belongings

Many of the girls have been emptying their lockers, as advised last week and we hope that all other belongings will be brought home today. Please do contact us and arrange to collect any outstanding items and we will discuss how this might be best achieved.

Academic work

The latest guidance given to girls in the Senior School today is:

- For their routines, working the normal school day is very sound advice, yet as long as they complete the key work, with the key knowledge and skills that will help them to develop and teachers are able to review their work, then that is their choice between now and Easter. (We will review this over the next week or so).
- It is their responsibility to do the work.
- Teachers are aiming to strike a sensible balance between continuing to provide sensible work that is helpful for the girls and not just work for the sake of it. If it is set, then it is for a good reason, for now and for their future. This is a fine balance, we know.
- What they invest in the work now, will be a huge benefit to them going forwards.
- Teachers will stay in touch with them about the work that they need to do and how to get feedback on their work through Teams.
- If they are unclear about what they must do, they should ask, in their subject or tutor Teams (@teachers name) or an email to their teacher.
- They should balance their work and play, and be sure to exercise too...aiming for an hour a day.
- Reading is encouraged, as well as playing games and doing puzzles and some of the things that are just fun.
- We will also look to find time for them to ask questions and chat generally, linked to their well-being.
- It is important that students have some routine in their extended time away from College.

Coursework and public examinations

All IGCSE, GCSE and A-level examinations are suspended. Students should continue with their coursework and keep their work safe. We will update you further when we know more, yet strongly encourage Upper Five and Upper Sixth to complete the work set by their teachers and ensure that they have completed their courses, as would have been the case, before the announcement on Wednesday.

We will update these year groups when we know more over the coming days and weeks.

Why were all exams cancelled?

The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) have said:

“This was the bombshell in Wednesday’s announcement, and it will have left many disappointed, angry, demob-happy, or even more anxious.

Once it became clear that the epicentre of the virus was in the middle of the exam season, the prospect of running a full suite of exams became unfeasible. The decision therefore was whether to run a partial

season – say, just A levels and perhaps English and maths GCSE. However, the problem with this is that we would end up with three groups of students – some who had sat all of their exams; some who had sat some; and some who were too sick to sit any. Trying to regulate fairness across such diverse groups would be impossible for the awarding bodies and regulator. So – unpalatable as it may seem – it’s actually easier to treat all young people the same by having none of them sit exams”.

Message from the Guernsey Music Service

“In light of the most recent advice from the Director of Public Health that schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March for an extended Easter holiday period, I am writing to give advice to our pupils regarding their instrumental practice and continued musical learning during this period.

All pupils will have pieces that they are currently working on for graded examinations or from tutor books.

It is our advice that they continue to work on these pieces and where appropriate they should also work on scales and sight reading practice. It would also be beneficial to remind themselves regularly of any ensemble pieces from school or Music Centre.

During this period, if you or your child should have any specific queries about their instrument or pieces they are working on then I am attaching below email addresses of the Music Service team. They will be able to share online resources with you and tailor specific resources to your child's situation. I have also asked all schools to ensure that all pupils take their instruments home with them today.

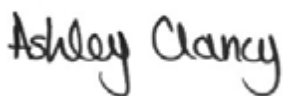
If you have any administrative queries please direct them to my email addresses – tim.wright@education.gg or tim.wright@gov.gg as the Music Service email (music_service@gov.gg) will only be accessed intermittently.”

We will stay in touch and we hope that our communications have been helpful. Thank you for taking the time to assimilate and react to them. Please encourage your child / children to maintain social distances and avoid meeting in groups and all unnecessary physical contact.

We will also post details on the website which encourage wellness, and will keep in touch with you to support your daughter/s over the coming weeks.

Stay well.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Clancy
Principal