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The
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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of The Ladies' College,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are adjusting to home-living and working, which is now part of everyone's life. We appreciate this is not easy and we will contact you shortly with details about our plans for the coming weeks. Adapting to a sustained period of remote education provides challenges for all concerned. We are acutely aware of this and are determined to manage any anxiety that might arise for students, parents and teachers. Communication is key, so please encourage your daughter/s to stay in touch with their tutor and teachers, whilst remaining mindful that they too are having to keep work and family life going in unprecedented circumstances.

We are all spending more time than we would choose in front of a screen and, whilst we hope that the tasks and ideas that we send are valuable, we also understand that working at home and not being in College can add to anxiety. The bottom line for us is that we want your daughter/s to feel motivated to continue with some routine and focus to each school day. They need to pace themselves until we are able to meet again as a College community. Please be assured that we will do all that we can to help and encourage your daughter to talk to their teachers, who are keen to offer both academic and pastoral support.

I will write to you again after the Easter break, but in the meantime this letter aims to bring you up to speed with current news in our College community.

Staffing update

New colleagues

We welcome the following colleagues to College for the Trinity term:

Mrs Karen Best, Teacher of Science (part-time). Many of you will remember Mrs Best, who recently provided maternity cover for Mrs McGregor. We are delighted to welcome her back to our College community and we know she is looking forward to the time she can get back to teaching (in front of) the students.

Returning colleagues

Miss Elizabeth Dudin rejoins us for the Trinity term following a period of maternity leave and we welcome her back to the PE Department and in her role as UCAS and Post-16 Careers Co-ordinator. We thank both Mr José Martires for his support with PE and Dr Karen Marshall in her role as UCAS and Post-16 Careers Co-ordinator. Miss Dudin has returned to her role and Dr Marshall is also accessible to the Upper Sixth as part of their UCAS applications for 2019-2020.

Farewells

Mr José Martires completed his maternity cover contract with us at the end of the Lent term. Colleagues and students alike were disappointed that we were unable to say farewell to him as originally planned, but we were pleased to support his return to his wife and family in Portugal before the borders closed. We wish him the very best and thank him for everything he has done to support PE within the Senior School and Melrose – he will be very much missed by all.

Mrs Louise Cory, Teacher of English and Senior School Year Co-ordinator (Remove), will leave the College at the end of the academic year to return to the UK and her family. We wish her every success in her new appointment which allows her to support the Cory family being reunited.

Miss Alison Coubrough-Barnett, Head of Learning Support, will also leave College at the end of the academic year and, again we wish her well with her new role which is on-island.

Miss Katharina Walter, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, is currently teaching students remotely, and we hope circumstances will allow us to welcome her back to the island prior to her officially leaving us at the end of the academic year. She has taken up a new role in Switzerland which allows her to be closer to her family and we send her our very best.

Mrs Maxine Watts, Teacher of French at Melrose, also leaves at the end of academic year. She has been a presence at Melrose for almost 20 years and will be missed by the girls.

Whilst, like so many organisations, we are in a period of business disruption, you will be aware from local advertising and our Facebook posts that we continue with our recruitment for roles in preparation for the Michaelmas term 2020. I am delighted that we have already recruited colleagues to roles and I will be in a position to announce these in due course, through my usual newsletter home.

Colleagues currently off-island linked to COVID-19

Colleagues currently teaching remotely, but off-island, are Miss Kathi Walter and Dr Karen Marshall.

Developments at College

Junior Remove

Due to the demand for places at Melrose, we had planned to develop a second Junior Remove class for September 2020. Our Governors recently took the difficult decision to suspend this plan, linked to the uncertainty of getting resources and equipment from the UK at the present time. Linked to our Development Plan's focus on the support of growth and resources within Melrose, we have appointed a full-time KS 2 Teacher, Mr Rhys Wright, who will join us in September 2020.

Food Technology

The work to develop this space has started but linked to COVID 19 this is currently paused. The intention is to progress the building development which we are committed to, and to postpone the fit-out to a time when we are confident the materials will be available to order. The completion date for this project will therefore move beyond our original target of September 2020, yet I am still hopeful that we will be able to deliver Food Technology in 2020-2021.

Trousers/uniform

In line with my previous correspondence, trousers will appear as an option on our uniform lists for September. In the Senior School the navy tailored trousers must be bought from Fletchers and be the 'Navy Blue Trutex' girls' trousers. In the Sixth Form, our students are welcome to wear navy tailored trousers of their choice.

Should we be able to return to College after Easter, students are welcome to wear trousers from the start of the Trinity term.

Curriculum Review

We are currently in the final stages of an internal review of our curriculum and will explore this in more detail with you in the future. In the meantime, we have taken the decision to offer GCSE Physical Education to Lower Five from September 2020 and, at the time of writing, we hope to further refine our Modern Foreign Language provision for Lower Four, to better support our students' linguistic development. (Further details will be shared with current Remove students and their parents after Easter).

Well-being Award in Schools

Parents, students and colleagues in the Senior School and Sixth Form have all met this term and we have a good outline of areas on which to work in order to develop well-being for all. Thank you to everyone who has engaged and contributed. Further work and communication will follow in due course, and well-being will remain the bedrock upon which we build our College community.

Weekly Bulletin and online calendar

In addition to our weekly bulletin (currently suspended), we encourage you to visit: <http://www.ladiescollege.com/diary> for key dates, or access our calendar in full (from an iPad or iPhone) via these links:

How to (PDF): <http://www.ladiescollege.com/media/91650/How-to-add-new-calendar-The-LadiesCollege.pdf>

Direct link to view online:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/0a8cd829e7d1405291734842ae5ae648@ladiescollege.ac.gg/0addae2c087a489185523cf17790b26f6974755477370769068/calendar.html>

ICS file for devices:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/0a8cd829e7d1405291734842ae5ae648@ladiescollege.ac.gg/0addae2c087a489185523cf17790b26f6974755477370769068/calendar.ics>

Please note that dates for the PTA and The Ladies' College Guild can be found here and I extend our thanks to them for being such a key part of our College.

I am aware that many of you reading this will have spent the past two weeks with your children, and they with you. As I sign off for this term, what might I say to try to support and sustain you? The Guardian had an article in it on the 25 March 2020, "Let your kids get bored": emergency advice from teachers on schooling at home by Donna Ferguson. We have a wide range of ages at College, and some headlines from this article are more appropriate to some age groups than others, yet it is a good checklist and has relevance to being isolated in the home too. The holiday should be a break from schoolwork and I hope that some of the headlines may help, support, encourage, motivate and sustain you until we are next in touch, as we end a busy and eventful term:

- Prioritise your child's wellbeing
- Keep to a routine
- Give your child some autonomy
- Let your child get bored
- Limit tablets, phones and TV
- Emphasise literacy and numeracy
- Remember that learning should be fun
- Be attentive
- Consider the impact of social isolation and constant supervision
- Encourage reading every day
- Don't expect children to work non-stop
- Don't overdo it
- Support child-led learning
- Endorse regular movement breaks
- Make the most of any outdoor space
- Praise children's effort and behaviour and not their achievements

- Bond with you child
- Stick to your existing schedule
- Make the most of freebies
- Stay positive
- Look after yourself
- Challenge yourself

Tomorrow morning at 10.30. I will say something about love, health and education, encourage the girls to sing The College Hymn and announce our first weekly Creative College Challenge. This can be accessed by your daughter via Teams: Microsoft Teams page '**LC Virtual**'.

For as long as we are unable to meet together as a College community, we will meet (virtually) at 10:30 every Friday morning, including the Easter break. To take part tomorrow, all your daughter needs to do is log-on to Microsoft Teams and join the LC Virtual group. Your daughters are the experts in case you need help!

Stay well, stay safe and stay in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Clancy". The script is cursive and fluid.

Ashley Clancy
Principal