



17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of The Ladies' College

It is hard to believe we have completed the longest of the three terms for 2020-2021. Looking back to March, time seems to have flown by; with pupils and students at College taking everything in their stride, rising to challenges and exploring opportunities. We appreciate how incredibly fortunate we are to look back on a Michaelmas term that has been – for the most part – much like any other. How many other schools across the world can say that? Perhaps this time next year I will be able to add 'bon voyage' to my Christmas greetings for those who will be setting off to spend Christmas with loved ones off-island. Let us hope so.

Staffing update

Mrs Anthea Roue, Director of Music, begins maternity leave at the start of next term, to prepare to welcome her second child – we send her our very best wishes for their arrival.

We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Rosanna de la Fosse, Deputy Head Teacher of Melrose, as she returns from maternity leave in January.

New teaching colleagues

Miss Fiona Le Tissier, a familiar face in our College community, will join us in January as maternity cover for Mrs Roue.

New operational colleagues

We welcome colleagues who have joined us this term:

Mrs Diane Clark, Finance Officer.

Mr Yassine Madhar, Catering Assistant.

Mrs Rebecca Tallon, Learning Support Assistant in Lower Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory Department Practitioner (part-time).

Congratulations

Mrs Jessica Clements, Teacher of Science (part-time) is expecting her second child and will go on maternity leave in the Lent term.

New responsibilities

Mrs Melany Way has stepped down from her Learning Support Assistant role within Lower Preparatory to work full time as a Pre-Preparatory Department Practitioner within the Pre-Preparatory team.

Mrs Lian Donnelly, steps down from her maternity cover of Mrs de la Fosse's Deputy Head Teacher responsibilities and we thank her for her stewardship during the past year. Mrs Donnelly will continue as Well-being & PSHE Subject Leader in addition to her teaching role throughout Melrose.

Leaving colleagues

Mrs Sally Menhenitt, Pre-Preparatory Department Practitioner (part-time), leaves us at the end of this term.

Ms Ellen Jones, Year 3 (Junior Remove) Class Teacher at Melrose, leaves us at the end of this term, having provided maternity cover for Mrs de la Fosse for the past year. We thank her for her hard work and commitment during her time with us.

Governance

Dr Robert Hanna has stepped down from his role as Associate Governor. We thank him for his time and dedication, particularly in such a busy year for those working locally within our health service.

We are delighted to confirm the appointment of two new Associate Governors: Dr Joanne Le Noury and Sir Richard Collas. As parents of daughters educated with us, and as alumni themselves, both have a long-standing association with the College, and we look forward to the wealth of expertise they will bring.

For full details about Governance at College please see: <http://www.ladiescollege.com/about-us/board-of-governors>.

Food Technology and Photography

I am delighted to let you know that the renovation of the building beside The Guild Field is complete. It will be officially opened early next term, although the building will be in use from 11 January 2021, with Sixth Form students able to access the photography dark room and Key Stage 3 students (Remove, Lower Four and Upper Four) having an 8-week rotation with Food Technology, included as part of their Design Technology timetable. Our plan is to provide all ingredients in College and an additional charge will be made to cover costs for the food, which we hope will be enjoyed at home. If your daughter is in Key Stage 3, please look out for a separate information letter, which I understand you have already received. Once established, we will explore additional Enrichment and co-curricular opportunities.

Lunch charges from January 2021

We will be increasing our prices in The Core for the Senior School and Sixth Form with effect from 5 January 2021. Our prices have not changed for several years and an increase is now necessary due to the rising cost of food and supplies. The revised prices can be found on the website, together with menus for the Lent term. For those students who have a daily spend limit applied to their account, we will be increasing the daily limit from £7 to £7.50 to accommodate these changes. Some students have overdrawn balances on their Core accounts, and we request that sufficient funds are transferred to clear these before the beginning of the Lent term.

BYOD update

One of the impacts of the last year has been to catalyse the use of technology in all areas of school life. Our Digital Strategy is in the final year of roll-out, with the expectation that, by September 2021, all Remove to Upper Five students will have either a Microsoft Surface Go or Pro as their digital learning device.

Many universities and businesses have been using Microsoft Teams and some of our Sixth Formers have had their interviews over Teams. Future plans include students in Upper Four gaining professional Microsoft qualifications, consideration of Information Technology as a new option in Lower Five, the use of interactive textbooks in languages and provision of subject-specific software such as Sibelius (music composition) or Photoshop (digital photography) to enable students to work on their own devices.

Our website (<https://www.ladiescollege.com/information/bring-your-own-device>) will continue to be updated, including additional parent resources, in the coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact us. We plan to place two more bulk orders for computers next year (one each term), so please let us know if you wish to purchase your device through the College.

Uniform

Please follow the below links to access uniform lists for all parts of the College.

<https://www.ladiescollege.com/our-school/pre-preparatory-department/uniform>

<https://www.ladiescollege.com/our-school/junior-school/uniform>

<https://www.ladiescollege.com/our-school/senior-school/uniform>

<https://www.ladiescollege.com/our-school/sixth-form/uniform>

We fully agree with the view sometimes expressed that there are more important things to be talking to the girls about than uniform, yet it is a key expectation. If older girls come to school wearing the correct uniform, time is saved and the conversation about the standard of uniform need not take place.

Specifically, we would like to remind you of our expectations about jewellery.

In Melrose, the handbook states:

***Watches,** Girls are allowed to wear **inexpensive** watches or fitbits which should be marked with their name. The School accepts no responsibility in the case of loss. These should be unobtrusive and in white or a dark colour.*

***Earrings** only plain gold or silver studs are allowed and these must be removed by the child for P.E lessons. Alternatively, they may be covered in tape or left out on P.E days.*

***Hair** which touches the shoulder must be tied back. Hairbands/ scrunchies should be plain green, brown, black or navy or striped to match the summer dress. Sunglasses are permitted.*

In Senior School, the handbook states:

For health and safety reasons the wearing of jewellery is not permitted. If ears have been pierced only the simple, small gold or silver ring or stud type of sleeper (one per ear lobe) is permitted.

Cartilage piercings may not be worn to school.

In Sixth Form, the handbook states:

Jewellery may be worn in moderation (one small ring, one plain bracelet, one small plain necklace). If ears have been pierced only the simple, small gold or silver ring or stud type of sleeper (one per ear lobe) is permitted. Cartilage earrings and facial piercings are not permitted.

We believe this guidance is simple, clear and reasonable, yet increasing numbers of girls are choosing to ignore it, despite repeated reminders. From January 2021, girls will be asked to take out earrings which we feel are not appropriate. I am sure that you will appreciate that it is impossible to produce a comprehensive list of what is and is not acceptable. We will make judgement calls when necessary and we welcome your cooperation in helping us meet our uniform expectations.

Lost Property

Please ensure items are named. We encourage the girls to take home their belongings and look after them. This starts with the 'Peas' and 'Beans' at Melrose and applies all the way through the College.

We understand that items can end up in the wrong bags, can be picked up by mistake, or that it can feel embarrassing to return something overdue. We are therefore holding an AMNESTY, with no questions asked for the return of items such as books, folders containing artwork, uniform, or anything else we can reunite with its owner, until 8 January 2021.

We have already received a purse containing a considerable amount of money but with no way of finding the rightful owner. Please contact principalspa@ladiescollege.ac.gg if you believe the item might be yours.

Summer 2021 Exam Arrangements

The UK Government has announced a package of 'exceptional measures' aimed at improving fairness and preventing disruption. These are:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels to focus revision;
- Exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

More details will follow, as the Ofqual consultation is ongoing; however, our main IGCSE examination board has already stated they intend to apply similar arrangements to their IGCSE examinations. We will keep the situation under review, yet the fact that we have had uninterrupted provision this term (and that feedback about work completed during lockdown was very positive), should encourage our students to feel reassured and confident about their future.

Car Park, drop off and pick up

You will be aware from my previous Principal's newsletters that cars on site present us with challenges in terms of maintaining the safety of our students and visitors.

Please find below a polite reminder of the guidance:

- Parents/Guardians with Senior and Sixth Form students should not drive onto the College site from **Monday to Thursday** between the hours of **08:00 - 09:00 and 14:30 – 16:15** and on **Friday 08:00 - 09:00 and 14:30 – 15.45**. (Please note that these have been amended to make things easier, with a clear request that the times are adhered to).
- Exceptions are made for students who have a large musical instrument such as double bass, harp, tuba etc., those who are on crutches, who are carrying large amounts of sports equipment i.e., goalkeeper at hockey or those who have an illness which impacts on their mobility or levels of energy and for which we have a Doctor's letter. In these instances, we ask parents/guardians to **drop off before 08:00 and collect after 16:15 (15.45 on a Friday)**. Should your daughter need adding to the list of students who require special dispensation, please provide a written request to this effect.
- Students are expected to enter or leave the College grounds via Brock Road, Perchards Lane and Rocquettes Lane.
- Please avoid obstructing the drive on **Rocquettes Lane**, which forms the entrance for students to College. This will allow students exiting by bicycle or moped to pull out while you are dropping off and will make pedestrian access safer for all. Our neighbours appreciate your consideration of their need to access their properties.

Weekly Bulletin and online calendar

In addition to our weekly bulletin, 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-Ladies-College.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>

PTA

The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is an excellent way of bringing staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school. Many friendships develop from being part of the PTA and volunteering your time is appreciated in both Melrose and the Senior School.

Principal
Mrs A Clancy BA (Combined Hons)
Email: principal@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Registrar
Miss R McClean
Email: registrar@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Vice Principal, Bursar & Clerk to the Governors
Miss E Bridge MA Oxon, ACA
Email: bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Our PTAs host fantastic events where children and adults can get together. Recent events include the Halloween Disco, the Sparkles & Bubbles Event at St Pierre Park and the Melrose Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 12 December 2020.

Upcoming Senior PTA events include:

- **Senior School Christmas Fayre** – Thursday, 17 December 2020 – details have been circulated via the Parent Hub but please come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun.
- **Student Drama Workshop** – Saturday, 30 January 2021 – details will be sent out after Christmas. This event is normally hosted by travelling Theatre company, Oddsocks. They are unable to come to Guernsey, so Mr Dave King will be running this fun acting workshop aimed at students in Remove to Upper Four.
- **Quiz Night** – provisional date Thursday, 25 March 2021.
- **Beach Clean** – May – date to be advised
- **Second-Hand Uniform Sales** - If you have uniform which no longer fit your daughter, they would be gratefully received. Please hand items into reception for the PTA to collect. The PTA will use any profit made from the sale of second-hand uniform to provide additional items, such as the curtains in the hall.

The full calendar of events is on our website - <http://www.ladiescollege.com/support-us/pta>

Yellows

The school has registered with YELLOWS, so girls can buy blue light-blocking glasses with a significant discount. For each pair purchased, £5 will go to the PTA. The glasses are great to wear when using screens, under harsh lighting and in the hours before bedtime. More information can be found at www.loveyellows.com. Click on <https://www.loveyellows.com/schools/> to take advantage of the College's discount. They make a great Christmas present; the discount and PTA donation apply to any number of pairs you wish to buy!

The Giving Machine

We continue to use this on-line platform for donations to our developmental work, linked to A Gift for Learning. Thank you to those who continue to support us when shopping on-line, eBay, John Lewis, Amazon and many other retailers via TheGivingMachine. If you shop online, you can raise a free cash donation with every purchase, via TheGivingMachine for The Ladies' College and to benefit your daughter. For information on how to donate via TheGivingMachine, please visit: <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/the-ladies-college-guernsey> or go via our website.

Phone Free Friday

One area of development linked to the Well-being Award for Schools has been offering opportunities for 'stress relief' in College as well as encouraging the girls to socialize and engage with each other without the need for devices. In January we will be launching 'Phone Free Friday' in the Senior School. We have purchased board games which are available to use in Form rooms (kept in the Year Co-ordinators office).

Principal
Mrs A Clancy BA (Combined Hons)
Email: principal@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Registrar
Miss R McClean
Email: registrar@ladiescollege.ac.gg

Vice Principal, Bursar & Clerk to the Governors
Miss E Bridge MA Oxon, ACA
Email: bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg

We hope your daughter will enjoy these games with her friends and maybe join one of the many co-curricular clubs at lunchtime to relax, meet new people, or learn a new skill.

For updates on the Well-being Award for Schools please visit:

<https://www.ladiescollege.com/information/wellbeing-award-for-schools>.

The Ladies' College Guild

Our alumnae association has had a busy term with a well-attended AGM in October and the annual quiz in November proving to be as popular as ever. The next event is the 'Jigsaw January' evening on Thursday, January 14th at 7pm in The Core. To book a place please email guild@ladiescollege.ac.gg

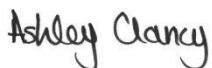
Festive events

Thank you for joining us at so many fabulous Christmas events. Unlike other jurisdictions, we have been able to enjoy rehearsing, participating and being audiences together. The Midwife Crisis performed by Melrose Preparatory Department on 1 December 2020 kicked-off advent with joy. Since then, we have had Christmas fayres, Carol Services, parties, Secret Santas, reverse Advent Calendars, and so much more to help make this a time of goodwill.

I imagine that many of you reading this letter will be looking forward to the Christmas break. For many of us it will be a very different Christmas to the norm; I hope that it is peaceful and calm, happy and healthy. A suggestion for your Christmas film list is Nativity, starring Martin Freeman. I stumbled upon this recently and could not imagine why it had passed me by. It is dedicated "to teachers everywhere." and I suggest it is a good watch whether you are a teacher or not. I am on the lookout for a film dedicated "to parents everywhere." If you have any recommendations, please let me know and thank you for all that you do to support your children and our College. It is appreciated.

Stay safe, stay well, stay in touch. Happy Christmas 2020.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Clancy
Principal