



30 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of The Ladies' College

When I wrote my last newsletter in January 2021, the new term was stretching before us, with the Senior School production of Grease and other events to look forward to. It is hard to believe that we have, instead, completed 8 weeks of lockdown. I am grateful we are back in College and finishing this term in BAU+ (Business-As-Usual-Plus), allowing us to maintain key traditions such as Mark Reading, the Easter Service and House events.

Please continue to be alert to Covid-19 symptoms and act quickly if you spot them; by not attending College and seeking advice immediately from Public Health.

Staffing Update

Farewells

We have three leaving colleagues:

Ms Hilary Richardson, who has been College Librarian since March 2008. Miss Richardson oversaw the packing up of the old library and the movement into the Wessex Wing. She runs a successful Book Club, has joined College MFL visits, and has invited guest speakers to address the students. During the first lockdown she ran a library delivery service on her bike, and recently, during Phase 2, she organised book deliveries to form rooms. We thank her for all she has done to make the library such a vibrant and welcoming space and we send best wishes for her retirement.

Mrs Rachael Woodridge has been our Multi-Media Technician since February 2017 and our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator since November 2019. Technically gifted and a terrific organiser, with a love of the outdoors, we are grateful for her efficiency and all that she has done to develop these key roles within College. We send her our very best wishes as she develops her career with a view to teaching and thank her for all that she has brought to her roles within College.

Mrs Catherine Ogier, our College Counsellor will leave us at the start of the Trinity term. We are most grateful for the way she has developed our Listening Room service within College and will be sorry to see her leave. It is over a year since I first wrote to advise you that Mrs Ogier would leave College; the fact that she has been prepared to stay on until a successor could be appointed reflects her love of her work and her support of our pupils and students.

Trinity term: new colleagues and responsibilities

Miss Louise Vivian joins as Librarian.

Miss Grace Lindsay joins as College Counsellor.

Miss Elena Johnson has been appointed as Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator. This responsibility is in addition to her roles as Teacher of Physical Education and Head of Careers, PSHCE and Citizenship in the Senior School.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Anthea Roue who welcomed baby Elliott, a brother for Evie, in early January.

Colleagues currently off-island linked to Covid-19

We have three colleagues who are currently off-island, linked to Covid restrictions. Mrs Donna Lloyd-Dodd, Mrs Karen Ashford and Mr Steven Ashford. We hope to welcome them back to College after the Easter break.

Covid-19

Thank you to parents and guardians who responded to the remote learning questionnaire. This will help refine our provision. Overall, the feedback clearly supported our decision to make Lockdown 2 as normal as possible by following the timetable and having live interaction with teachers for a proportion of lessons. The (slight) shortening of the lessons was also considered helpful and there was also a suggestion that a general reduction in screen time would be supported. The over-riding message was that pupils and students were well supported and parents and guardians were appreciative.

Well-being Award in Schools

Placing well-being at the heart of all we do has helped us navigate a path through recent times. The Well-being Award in Schools (WAS) has been a timely and beneficial vehicle for us to explore and develop what we do. Mrs Lian Donnelly and colleagues in Melrose achieved this award almost two years ago and, in Senior School and Sixth Form, Dr Vanessa Mitchell has been the key driver. Dr Mitchell would be the first to say it is not about gaining an award, but about keeping our focus on well-being. The recent lockdown challenged us all in different ways, which makes me even more delighted to announce that the accreditation for this award has been achieved. Thank you to parents, students and colleagues who contributed to the process.

Public Examinations

In the current landscape, things can literally change overnight, and our GCSE and A-level students have, at different times, found themselves in both the best and the worst of places. They have covered most, if not all, of the syllabus content and were ready to sit mock examinations when Lockdown 2 was announced. Since then there has been uncertainty across the UK about finishing courses and assessing performance. There is still work to be done, but students now have much of the information they need to complete final assessments after half term. Some of these will be in class, some in a formal examination-style setting. They will all form part of a portfolio of evidence and, as such, each assessment on its own is 'low stakes'. That said, we appreciate that any form of assessment creates anxieties and these need to be explored so support is in place. In terms of quality assurance, a degree of formality ensures that the work is the student's own, and it also prevents a single 'bad day' from affecting the overall grade.

Internal Examinations & Assessments

These are scheduled after Easter for the College. The format of these varies within each year group and for our Senior School year groups who are not taking their public examinations, we have taken the conscious decision to provide the detail about these *after* the Easter break. These internal examinations provide another piece of the evidence about learning and skills and they also help gain experience of both the preparation and the understandable anxieties linked to assessments and examinations, so that when they count, these events are taken in one's stride. Our hope is that each student develops confidence and resilience, seeing any success or disappointment as an opportunity for positive dialogue with teachers and at home. We are keen for our students to understand that results do not define them.

Development Plan 2020-2021

Our half-year review reflects progress with key work linked to teaching and learning, well-being, our co-curricular programme, the use of devices and the digital development of the College and the readjustments linked to Covid-19. Linked to this, I am delighted that the cancelled half term netball camp will now take place at Easter, and that we were able to offer entrance assessments to Remove in the form of a virtual interview (which may have been a daunting thought for the children, but we know they enjoyed them, although perhaps not as much as Dr Mitchell and I!).

Weekly Bulletin and online calendar

In addition to our weekly bulletin, we encourage you to visit: <https://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>

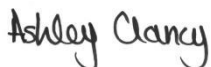
ICS file for devices:

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

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 great support of our College.

I will write again after Easter and in the meantime, I send you and your families my very best wishes for Easter.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Clancy
Principal