



29 April 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of The Ladies' College,

At the end of my first intense and wonderful week, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for the incredibly kind welcome I have received. I had heard how warm and caring Guernsey was, but I have been bowled over by how embraced I have felt by our whole College community. It has been a real pleasure to start to get to know some of the girls and see how proactive, grounded, and authentic they are. This truly is a community of wonderful individuals and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead it.

Mrs Clancy will be a hard act to follow, and I want to take a moment to recognise her immense commitment and passion. She has left an enormous legacy, not least in the work that she and Dr Mitchell have done to embed wellbeing, care and emotional groundedness at the heart of what we do as a school.

As we move forward, I think the first thing to know is that I am passionate about empowering young women. As someone who has come from two co-educational schools, I feel strongly about the power and importance of all girls' spaces. Too many times, I have seen girls enter a school and start to pull back, to smile more and say less, to become an audience for boys or worse to be seen as responsible for 'civilising boys' (an insult to both groups). I have seen them start to reduce themselves, to start to edit their behaviour in an attempt to squeeze themselves into what they feel society is telling them is appropriate female behaviour.

I believe that girls' schools are one powerful solution to that. That in all girls' spaces there is no comparative, the girls can take up all the space. They can be dynamic and outspoken leaders or thoughtful and reflective thinkers, they can be scientists and artists, powerful athletes and incisive debaters. Research shows that pupils and students that go to all-girls' schools are not only more resilient and confident but are also much more likely to pursue a wider range of subjects that wouldn't be traditionally seen as feminine, such as Maths, the sciences and Design and Technology. The Ladies' College is already a powerful example of this and the young people I have met are diverse, assured, proactive and passionate.

In addition, I believe very strongly in the importance of values. One of the first things I loved about The Ladies' College was its motto '*Do what is right, come what may*' – what a beautiful, brave, and honourable commitment. Indeed, I spoke to the Senior School and Sixth Form about values on Monday, in particular bravery, integrity and kindness, characteristics that are most certainly worth fighting for.

Finally, I care about preparing our young people for the Twenty First Century. Research indicates that we are at the start of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and that the world of work, communication and technology is going to change rapidly and profoundly. It is important that our girls are prepared not just to meet the current academic hurdles that ensure they have the qualifications they need, but also to develop the skills and flexibility that will allow them to thrive in this changing environment. I am excited therefore about the work the College has already done, not only to ensure that pupils and students throughout the whole College are independent, curious and critical thinkers but also in the ongoing development of the Future Ready Skills Programme. We have a responsibility to this generation to take these challenges seriously.

On a final note, can I say that I look forward to meeting many of you as the days and weeks move on. To that end, this term, on Tuesday mornings from 08:30 – 09:30 (commencing Tuesday, 3 May – but excluding 24 May) I will be available in The Core for any parents or guardians from Pre-Preparatory through to the Sixth Form who would like to pop in and see me. We will also be sending out a brief survey later this term so that we can get a sense of the things you really value in College as well as any ‘even better ifs’.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this wonderful sunshine as I certainly am!

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Daniele Harford-Fox
Principal