

Les Gravées, St Peter Port Guernsey, GYI IRW

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2 October 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of The Ladies' College

I hope you are well and that you and your daughter have had a wonderful start to term.

As you may have heard me mentioning over the last few months, at the start of 2024 we will be launching a new parallel curriculum for the Sixth Form and I'm writing today to give you a little more detail on this.

At College we recognise that the world is changing at immense speed and that the introduction of AI and technology is going to fundamentally reshape the skills our students need in the future. We have already shown a strong commitment in this area and indeed, this year, have again been named a Microsoft Showcase School, have a growing partnership with both Intel and with the University College London, are further deepening our Future Ready Skills programme and are beginning a review of the Melrose curriculum.

The next step in our journey has been to consider how to further shape our Sixth Form provision. After research and discussion with key stakeholders we have started to identify skills key to navigating the Fourth Industrial Revolution – skills like: intellectual and emotional flexibility, problem solving, comfort with technology and AI, influence and leadership. These qualities are already a part of The Ladies' College culture and ethos in everything from leading interhouse events through to taking part in digital and investment challenges. However, we recognise the need for these skills to become even more central.

It is with this in mind that we are adapting our Sixth Form provision starting in September 2024 with three key changes.

Firstly, whilst we recognise the importance and the value of A-levels, the College felt that there also was a wider body of skills and knowledge our girls needed for the changing world. We are excited therefore to be launching a new parallel curriculum in 2024 that will run alongside our traditional A-level offering – this curriculum is called Pathways.

There is no one route to the future nor is there one type of Ladies' College student and so Pathways offers students a choice on how best to explore their areas of interest whether they be 'Changemakers', 'Innovators and Creators', 'Business Leaders' or 'Science Pioneers'. Each pathway will go beyond the traditional curriculum and offer knowledge and projects that allow the girls to build their wider skills and delve deeper into areas of passion. Further information on this will be laid out at our Sixth Form Information Evening for our current Upper Fives and sent out to all parents in due course.

Secondly, we carried out significant research on how to build those wider skills of resilience, emotional and intellectual flexibility and risk taking, and found that often they were best developed by engaging in an authentic challenge and then having a mentor or coach to help you then learn from the experience. We thus thought carefully about how to embed that in our culture and so, as of September 2024, to augment Pathways we will be phasing in a replacement of the current model of Sixth Form Tutor Groups. Instead, we will have a much more individualised system, where each member of the Sixth Form will be paired with a member of staff who will meet them regularly and mentor them over their two years of Sixth Form study.

Finally, we recognise that given the challenges coming it is key that students develop a sense of individual voice and agency. Learning how to follow rules and expectations is vital, particularly in early and middle years. It creates not only a sense of accountability but also the calm environment that allows young people to learn and thrive. Indeed, as you may have heard from your daughters, we have had a real push on uniform this term and ensuring that girls understand the value of those guidelines. However, as our students move into Sixth Form, we feel the values of accountability and self-discipline are well embedded and developing their individual voice and sense of purpose becomes of increasing importance, particularly given the changing future landscape. After careful thought, we have thus decided that from September 2024 we will be altering the Sixth Form dress code. There will be a Sixth Form academic gown that will be worn in assemblies and other formal events, but outside of that we will be allowing the Sixth Form to, within sensible expectations, choose their own clothes. We recognise that in some ways this may be seen as the most radical change in our provision, but we think the heart of what we are trying to do is to help the girls develop their voice and sense of self and giving them more freedom to express themselves in these final two years feels in line with the values we wish to uphold.

We will be exploring the detail of what 'sensible expectations' looks like this year, and if you would like to be involved in a focus group discussion on that, then please do let Mrs Chilton know (principalspa@ladiescollege.ac.gg).

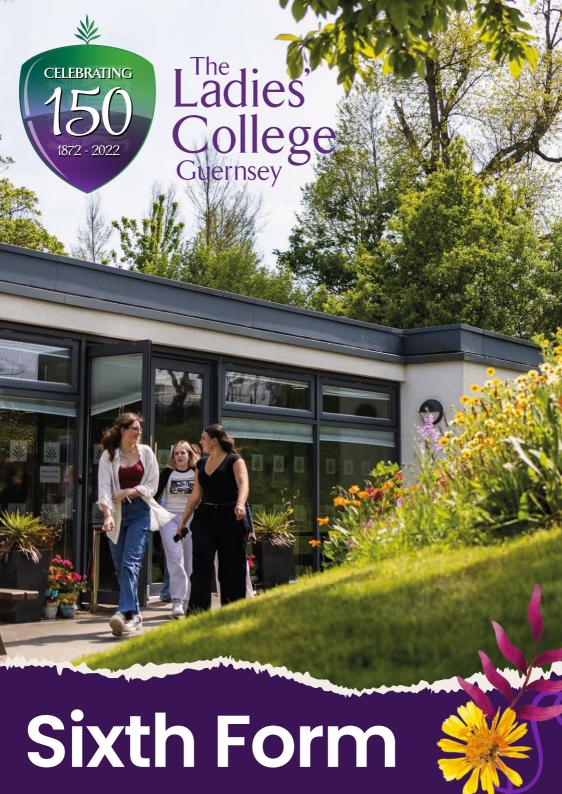
We are very excited about this new offering. The College has always been at the front of asking big questions and empowering young women with the skills they need. This moment is about being both rigorous and brave, ensuring we maintain the things that have always been successful in the College – our culture of independent learning and thought, our ambition for our students, our opportunities for the girls to authentically lead – whilst also starting to pivot our thinking towards the skills and knowledge they require for the future. We see Pathways as the next step on the College's journey.

Further information and detail are attached in our new Sixth Form Booklet and if you have any specific questions about our Sixth Form provision, please do contact either Miss Clements, our Head of Sixth Form (eclements@ladiescollege.ac.gg) or Miss McClean, our Registrar (registrar@ladiescollege.ac.gg).

With best wishes

Daniele Harford-Fox

Principal





Welcome! At The Ladies' College we are a 'chocolate box of flavours', full of joyful, diverse and thoughtful young people. Whether you are a scientist, a creator, an articulate debater or a thoughtful problem solver, we want to create space for you to truly find your voice and passion so that you can go out into the world and make an impact as generations of our young women have done before you.



The world is changing, are you prepared?

The Ladies' College is challenging the status quo and evolving education for the modern era. We recognise the value of real-world experiences in shaping students' educational journeys. We want to create meaningful connections and forge partnerships that provide our students with authentic learning opportunities. Together, we shape tomorrow's leaders, thinkers, and changemakers, ensuring that they are well-prepared and equipped to make a difference in the world beyond their educational journey.



Pathways

The Ladies' College has created Pathways, a parallel curriculum for Sixth Form students. This curriculum will equip students with the skills they will need for the fourth industrial revolution.

Students will learn key skills to: Understand themselves, their future and the world around them; adapt to be able to create, critique and innovate; and influence in order to collaborate and lead.



Changemakers

The pathway for students who want to shape and change the world. From exploring protest and the mechanisms of influence to putting together actual campaigns, you will sharpen your communication and leadership skills so that you can begin to strategically and effectively enact real and powerful change.



The pathway designed for students who want to harness the power of creativity and problem-solving to make a meaningful impact. Whether it's working with computer scientists to design a new app or putting together a creative performance or artwork, you will engage with real-life design and creation challenges to gain a deep appreciation of the power of creativity to shape the future.

We are dedicated to empowering students with the resources and support necessary to achieve their goals and confidently embark on their journey as young adults.



Business Leaders

The pathway designed for students who aspire to thrive in the rapidly changing world of business. You will have the opportunity to explore innovative business models, work with key partner organisations and undertake practical projects to deepen your understanding of leadership, communication and the drive and thinking needed for successful entrepreneurship.

Science Pioneers

The pathway for students who aspire to become pioneers of discovery, using scientific knowledge to find the solutions we need for our world. You will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments, conduct research and explore scientific advancements that address pressing global challenges.



Learn more about pathways here:





Sophie Upper Sixth

"Finding my voice has been an immensely powerful part of my journey through the College. Taking on new challenges, leadership roles, and learning opportunities with openness, I've found strengths and discovered passions I'd never previously explored. It's a daunting thing for any young person to do, but the best way to do it is by throwing yourself into every opportunity the Sixth Form has to offer. In such a whirlwind environment of adolescence, everything else can seem convoluted, but your voice is the only thing that's truly yours."



