



Claremont

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24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Events continue to move swiftly with the Prime Minister's announcement of more stringent social distancing measures last night. It would seem clear that we are facing a prolonged period where families will be unable to leave their homes except in exceptional circumstances. What extraordinary times we are living in.

It is in the context of these latest announcements that our students and parents are starting to get to grips with the realities of distance learning. This is, in many ways, a completely different approach to learning and it will take a little time for everyone to get used to it. This week, we are focused on ensuring that there is sufficient material on Google Classroom for all to be getting on with whilst teachers undergo some intensive training in the main Google applications used by the School (Classroom, Meet, Chat). We appreciate that managing the various pressures in your lives will be very, very hard as you may juggle work commitments, child care and other difficulties. Do continue to be in touch with staff if you have particular questions. We will be sending out a feedback form to all parents at the end of the week. The information we gather from this will be very valuable in helping us refine and develop what we are providing in terms of online learning.

This feedback and our findings from this week, will also be useful as we plan a comprehensive academic, pastoral and co curricular offering for next term, a 'school without buildings' if you like. This will be introduced to you, in detail, later in the Easter Holiday. While none of us would have wished the current situation, we are determined to make sure that we make it an opportunity in terms of developing students' independent learning skills. There will be a full academic programme for all students, as well as pastoral support and online co curricular courses, that we hope will provide plenty to occupy and motivate your children.

The Senior School has also written today, to outline the support we will be giving to Year 11 and 13 students, including a full revision programme, some internal assessments (subject to decisions by government) and the chance to pursue an Extended Project Qualification for Year 11.

We are acutely aware of the financial impact this crisis will have and are very actively looking at the support we may be able to put in place, to help families at the School. I will write to you further regarding fees and financial matters next week.

To reassure you, it is at times like these that we really feel the benefit, support and security of being a part of a large successful group of schools. As part of The International Schools Partnership (ISP), we are not alone, we are part of a large family and I have to say that the support we have received and will continue to receive from them, is multi-faceted and has been amazing. ISP are totally committed and well prepared to work through this period of time and overcome 'bumps in the road'. They will support the School throughout this period and this will enable us to support you, so that we can work together as a community, until we are out the other side.

We continue to provide a daily service for the children of Key Workers, held at the Prep School. This will continue throughout the holiday and until the crisis is over. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with the School should you need our support, or if your status as a parent has changed and you now find yourself in a 'key worker' position.

As ever, best wishes to you all and take care.

Giles Perrin  
Principal