

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your family are all well and coping under the strains of the pandemic that has spread to our shores.

I gathered the Year 13 and the Year 12 separately to discuss the pronouncements of our leaders on Wednesday afternoon.

Year 13

It was with great regret that we had to reaffirm that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has had to cancel all examinations for Year 13. This is devastating to all our young men and women who have worked with such ardour to enhance their grades and to achieve the sought-after University places or Apprenticeship programmes. The government will clarify the grading process that will help assure progression. We will follow their procedures and protocols.

Coursework

Those who are completing coursework must ensure that it is completed to the best of their ability as it appears that evidence-based work will influence the grading of the A Levels this summer. Greater clarification from Government is required and if and when we receive it I will communicate to you how they will judge certification.

Aside from the understandable anxiety that all Year 13 feel there does need to be a degree of context. As a teacher of history, we are truly facing a threat that impacts our everyday life that we haven't encountered since World War II. Nevertheless, as we no longer have to face the advent of critical examinations it is time for our young men and women to help those in the community under threat. Whether it is our aged relatives or older neighbours they may need your assistance. Offer to shop, communicate by telephone, WhatsApp, or drop a note through the door stating that we can help. Become an army of volunteers and remember our profound motto which asserts the character element of our education as well as the intellect.

'Your Country Needs You.'

From Mr Leeder, Assistant Head of Sixth Form and UCAS Co-ordinator:

Below is some advice from Cambridge University about what anyone holding an offer from them should be doing now. **It is advice that everyone should follow.**

For all Offer Holders

To enable us to treat all applicants equitably, we would be grateful if you could keep a summary log of any disruption (which might include, but is not limited to, periods of self-isolation, disruptive teacher absences, dates of school closures and what alternatives (if any) are provided). We do not need this information now, but you may be asked to send it to us in the summer, and it will be more accurate if you start to record it systematically.

In these strange times we all need something to look forward to. In my diary I still have the Year 13 leavers dinner which is due to take place on the 19th June at the Racquet Club. Whether or not we can still undertake this event I solemnly promise to you and your son or daughter that we will celebrate their time in the College at this date or another time in the future.

I feel that I have the best job in the College as the leader of the Sixth Form. This is based upon the fact that this year I have taught and lead some of the most fantastic young men and women which has been my privilege to encounter in the 25 years that I have been in the profession. They have been exemplary role models and undertaken so many roles and responsibilities that I feel incredibly proud and indebted to their devotion to duty.

When I spoke to your young men and women on Thursday I stated that whether they have been at the College since the age of four or they travelled from another Liverpool school or joined us as a member of the boarding community I often struggle to ascertain who is a legacy student or a new arrival. That is how integrated and special they all are.

It has been a difficult 10 days for the Boarding students. The borders to their home countries are closed and flights are unavailable and they can't get home. The stress they have had to endure has been quite phenomenal yet they behaved with great stoicism continuing with their learning. Fortunately for many they will be repatriated. I hope that all will be with their families by the end of next week. They will be cared for whether or not they can get home. Our thanks to Mrs Nolan, Head of Boarding, who has worked tirelessly to provide them with sanctuary and succour in this tumultuous period.

I wish all Year 13 all the very best for the future. I am available at all times as your concerns arise. Unfortunately, I don't always have the answers and in these uncertain times my response may prove to be vague. I assure you that the leadership of the school and the Sixth Form will always furnish you with the most up to date and accurate information we can access.

I will miss you all and I am so sorry that we cannot celebrate our time together in the traditional fashion.

Year 12

I was delighted to see so many Year 12 in school today. Lessons occurred as normal. Without doubt they will have examinations under the regular procedures and protocols next summer. As a result, they will be prioritised in our teaching and learning support.

Year 12: please follow your timetable at home.

Show My Homework

This has been filled with valuable tasks and exercises. Staff will set deadlines and requirements. For example, the historians have to complete an essay on Stalin by Tuesday.

UCAS preparation.

EPQ completion.

Subject work - see Show My Homework.

Application letters for Gladstone Scholars to be forwarded to the Heads of House by Easter.

Work Experience: From Dr McNamara:

Due to these unforeseen circumstances, the scheduled work experience week (6th-10th July) is unfortunately cancelled. If, as we hope, we have returned to school by then, we will need that week to catch up with your learning. Of course, students who have booked places on courses or work placements which cannot be re-arranged will still be allowed to go to these. But the vast majority of students who have not yet sorted their placements, should look to find themselves something over the summer break. **It will be important for your UCAS applications to have some experience, even if it is of volunteering (safely) for the community during this crisis.**

Our Sixth Form have been remarkable throughout this period. They have shown great resilience and strength through character. Having witnessed the way in which our students have embraced this event I am sure those in Year 12 will be able to recover lost ground once normality returns.

My sincerest thanks goes to all my colleagues at Liverpool College, whether it be catering, administrative, grounds staff, teaching and the bursary who have worked tirelessly to educate, protect and care for your children despite the health threats they face.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady
Head of Sixth Form