

1st May 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you and your family are well.

It is troubling to think that we are now entering the Month of May and we are still in lock down. Who would have imagined that this would be the status quo? I am not writing to deliberate about the crisis but rather to remind you that the Sixth Form leadership and team are here for you if you need us.

I was delighted to see how many of our Year 12 students are engaged in all the on-line learning platforms available to your son or daughter. I have really enjoyed teaching my Year 12 on Teams and it is super to hear from our students. Unfortunately for them they have had to witness the growth of my facial hair!

Disappointingly some students have not engaged or accessed our remote school and as a result have received letters from me inquiring as to why this is the case. Failure to engage will have a detrimental impact on progress and predicted grades.

Please see attached the timetable that Mrs Hayes sent via Group Call highlighting teams lessons.

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 - 9:30	Media		Media		
9:30 - 10		Politics		Politics	Pol/ History
10 - 10:30	Classics		English Lang		
10:30 - 11		Classics			Physics
11- 11:30		DT	Biology	Biology	DT
11:30 - 12			PE		
12-12:30	Maths	History	Eng Lang	Maths	Spanish
12:30-1					Maths
1-1:30		Physics			
1:30-2	Music			Music	
2-2:30		Spanish			Classics
2:30-3			Spanish		

Show My Homework has all the details inputted regarding assignments, deadlines and work expectations.

Using Teams: A message from Mr Cartwright

Now that most of you will have started to use Teams, we thought you would appreciate a little help to use Teams through Outlook and how to use some of the basic and more advanced functions. Please use the following links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PasT3Q1ZR_I&feature=youtu.be
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxfukizkyCA&feature=youtu.be>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObieZcKBmVQ&feature=youtu.be>

My Year 12 Historians enjoyed a valuable precis highlighting the 'Do's and Don'ts' in A Level coursework from OL and Oxford Historian Sam Riley. In addition, we all appreciated the production of the Sixth Form Chronicle. Eve W and Amelia S edited this amazing and inspiring newspaper that lifted all our spirits. If you haven't seen it, please see the attached link. Well done and thank you to all those who made such massive contributions.

http://liverpoolcollege.org.uk/images/downloads/Principal/19-20Newsletter/College_Chronicle_-_Writing_From_Afar_1.pdf

I wrote to all Year 12 last week highlighting the changing deadlines and expectation.

Dear all,

I met with your House Mentors today to discuss Year 12. They highlighted some concerns that you have mentioned regarding the EPQ. So as not to add any more pressure on you during this tumultuous time we have reconsidered the deadlines. The presentation of the final work will be amended. I will contact you when we know what the timescale for school reopening is.

However, I would ask you to ensure that you have completed the following by the beginning of next week:

- 1) That you have contacted your House Mentor to discuss the status of your work.
- 2) Present the work that you have completed thus far. Complete as much of your EPQ that you can.
- 3) Do as much of the logbook as you can to date. You should have the logbook completed (at least) up to mid project review.

We will review in three weeks after this next stage of lock down when we have greater awareness of what the government's exit strategy is.

I hope this helps to rectify any concerns that you may have.

Engagement

I have asked my colleagues to let me know if you are not engaging in the work that you are set. I will write home at the end of the week if you have not undertaken the compulsory element of what is expected. Obviously if you are ill or there are issues in your family, or you have access problems please let your House Mentor know.

In addition, I sent the following email to Year 13 students following the Easter Holiday highlighting expectations.

Dear all,

I hope you are well and taking care of yourselves and your families

A number of students and parents have asked me what the expectations are now that we have returned from the Easter holidays. In essence the message remains the same as was stated before the lockdown. In line with the guidance that the government has presented the work set by my colleagues for Year 13 is not mandatory. However, if you do not achieve the grade you may have hoped for there will be an opportunity to resit in the Michaelmas term. I would therefore suggest that you maintain a study programme which will keep you focused and engaged. For those of you who feel secure you may also like to view reading lists associated with the courses that you have applied for.

I have great empathy and appreciation in understanding how it is difficult to be motivated with the cancellation of the summer examination series. However, the continuation of learning would be a worthy and fulfilling endeavour to undertake and would avoid a potential learning dip when you make the transition to the next stage in your lives when things finally return to normal.

May I also reiterate the fact that we are here for you all if you need to contact us.

No doubt you are saddened as I am at the prospect that we might not be able to celebrate our time together this term. I wish to assure you all that we will have our Leavers' Dinner whether it will be at the end of summer or in the Michaelmas term - I am not letting you leave without having to endure my leavers speech!

Gladstone Scholars

I was delighted to see so many applications for the post of Gladstone Scholars. The Heads of Faculty and I will meet next week to discuss who has applied. We then undertake a Sixth Form Ballot in which the student body will vote for those they would like to see occupy the key roles.

Communicating with Staff

I have received a request from colleagues that when contacting the staff at the College you do so in sociable hours. Colleagues are receiving emails from students and parents as late as midnight.

In the meantime, if you need anything from the Sixth Form team please do not hesitate to contact us during sociable hours. Contact details can be found below.

Mr S Brady: sbrady@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Mr C Leeder cleeder@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Dr J McNamara: jmcnamara@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Mrs C Hayes chayes@liverpoolcollege.org.uk

Neurolove

Mrs Duffy recommends a fantastic resource that we can recommend to students who may be feeling isolated and need someone to talk to.

The website has been designed for young people. It aims to spread love at a time when you may be feeling worried, lonely and in need of some additional support or someone to talk to. It's an interactive website full of resources designed to help you stay connected, active and well, at a time when that might feel difficult www.neurolove.org

Preparing for University

Mr Griffith has kindly provided a document which I have included at the foot of this Newsletter.

Magdalene College Cambridge

The University has updated the "Helping students prepare" page with additional resources for super-curricular suggestions

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/find-out-more/teachers-and-parents/helping-students-prepare>

Each morning before I commence work, I go for a brisk stomp in the fields behind my house and after work at 6pm I embark on a 40-minute cycle ride. The importance of applying an exercise regime is vital for both our physical and mental health. Please encourage your sons and daughters to do so.

Keep well and take of yourselves.

Kind regards,

Stephen Brady
Head of Sixth Form

CLASS OF 2020

Prepping for university!

Dear Year 13

I have made this document after consulting with some Russell Group universities and its aim is simple: *To help you prepare for your time at university.*

I asked the universities for (a) 5 things they wished all undergraduates came to their university knowing/able to do and (b) the top 3 pieces of advice for Year 13s during these uncertain times which will help them prepare for university.

And here's what they had to say!



- ✓ Dr Christina Malathouni: Time management would be my No. 1: there is a change of gear in University, one must make more own choices and juggle many diverse tasks.
- ✓ @LivUniLibrary: Presentations - the slides & the speaking; Time management for deadlines, learning by yourself etc; Note taking - from lectures or other sources; Reading - for assignments; Writing for the academic level.
- ✓ @LivUniKnowHow: Managing independent learning and planning ahead to meet deadlines and prioritising tasks is key! Also developing the ability to read critically and question what is being presented by a source of information.
- ✓ Student 1: How to reference!
- ✓ Student 2: I'd say life skills would be far more useful to them in that first year than getting ahead on the reading. Get them to be able to make three quick, simple meals (preferably from tinned/frozen ingredients) and learn to clean a toilet/bathroom properly.
- ✓ **Budgeting** - It is never too early to start conversations around how a student will pay their way at university. Students will receive their loans in three instalments through the academic year, so it is vitally important that they learn how to budget properly. Students should have conversations with their family/supporters now so that they understand what their income (loan, savings, part-time work, bursaries...) and outgoings will be (accommodation, travel, food, books...). Many students have part time jobs while they study so they could start looking for options before starting at university. Students can also start looking at

what student bank accounts are on offer as many have benefits such as interest free overdrafts, and free rail cards (check the small print for repayments though!) If students plan their budget right, they can focus on their studies and the fun side of university life instead!

- ✓ **Keeping up with academic work** - Students may wonder why their teachers are still setting them work to do at home. It is vital that students keep up with their studies, as universities will expect students to have a solid academic knowledge that they can build upon in the first year of their degree. If students slip behind academically now, they may struggle to cope once they start university.
- ✓ **Social media** - Most Universities will have social media accounts for students to follow so that they can get a sense of what is on offer, and where they can get advice before they arrive on campus. Academic departments and halls of residences will often have their own accounts to help students make friends, and to coordinate who is bringing the saucepans for the shared kitchen in their flat!



- ✓ @durham_uni: I would recommend students checking out our @thedurhamstudent Instagram channel - these are real Durham University students who post about what life is like at uni, what they wished they had known, etc.
- ✓ @durham_uni: Check out their YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCvssHjIEWKPYJ6tljnoEdQ/videos>
- ✓ Check out 'Day in life' blogs, cover many of the subjects and courses available at Durham and give a good insight into how student spend their days and balance their time, as well as lots of information on studying and academic work - <https://sites.durham.ac.uk/studentblog/>
- ✓ Carina Font, a second-year from St Mary's studying Marketing and Management: <https://sites.durham.ac.uk/studentblog/what-i-wish-id-known-before-coming-to-durham/>
- ✓ <https://sites.durham.ac.uk/studentblog/a-letter-to-my-sixth-form-self/>



- ✓ Newcastle University have made a fantastic document called "What I wish I had known": www.shorturl.at/dlvZ6
- ✓ <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/schools/resources/> - we are hosting online content for students too.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- ✓ The following link allows you to see all the department has to offer to students virtually so please do take a look:
https://s6.newzapp.co.uk/t/gtp/OSwxNDIzNjM1NjM5LDM=
- ✓ Following on from this, there will be live Q/A sessions on a variety of topics with current students, starting with student life in a few weeks.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

- ✓ University of Birmingham student blog: <https://life.bham.ac.uk/ug/> - content written by current students.
- ✓ Skills4uni platform helps prepare for the transition to University study and can be found at <https://www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk>
- ✓ The benefits of higher education - <https://youtu.be/zZAANV2l0AQ>
- ✓ Writing a personal statement, hints and tips from admission tutors - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLokG6bhPCw&t=3s>
- ✓ Student finance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbnqLZRjoAk>

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

- ✓ Manchester suggested you browse through this site:
<https://studentnews.manchester.ac.uk/>
- ✓ A particularly useful article -
<https://studentnews.manchester.ac.uk/2020/04/23/how-to-be-productive-while-working-from-home-during-lockdown/>

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

- ✓ There are also lots of articles online for things like 'top ten things to know before starting University'. This one on Prospects.ac.uk is particularly helpful:
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life/10-things-to-do-before-starting-university>
- ✓ There is a wealth of helpful content on our University website, Students Union website, and on our YouTube channel:
- ✓ <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate>
- ✓ <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/>
- ✓ <https://www.youtube.com/user/cardiffuni>

MOOCs you could sign up for:

MOOC stands for 'massive open online course'. The term originated in the US in 2008 to describe free, easily accessible, completely online courses. MOOCs give you the chance to study with top universities around the world. MOOCs don't always lead to formal qualifications, but they do mean you can gain knowledge in all sorts of areas. You might use a MOOC to develop skills, prepare for further education, or explore a new interest.

- <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- <https://www.edx.org/>
- <https://unccelearn.org/>
- <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>