

**31.03.20**

### **Message from Mr. Thompson**

More than a week has passed since the closure of schools took effect across the Province and I hope that you are beginning to get used to your new arrangements. During the normal course of each year, a great deal of attention is devoted by the School to highlighting the dangers of social media and communications technology. It is right and proper that we do this but, as the past nine days have gone by, I have been struck time and time again by the power of electronic communication tools to help us stay in touch and on course. I ask myself where we would be right now as a society if we did not have them. So, let's put them to some more good use:

#### **School Closure:**

As you know, School is now open only to children of essential workers and we have reduced our staff presence to a minimum.

#### **Easter:**

The Easter holiday was due to take place from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April inclusive and this break will still be observed. I have directed teachers not to set any work during this period and your daughters should regard this time as a school holiday and return to their learning and study via Google Classroom on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Please note however that minimal staffing levels will continue to be maintained in School during the Easter Holiday to receive any pupils of key workers who need to attend.**

#### **Continuing Study from home:**

Google Classroom appears to be working very well. I congratulate the girls on their eager engagement with home study and thank you for ensuring that they remain motivated and productive.

Teachers can see who has used Google Classroom, so if your daughter has had difficulty accessing it or joining one of her classes, please let us know either by emailing details to the School at [info@glenlola.collegiate.bangor.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@glenlola.collegiate.bangor.ni.sch.uk) marked 'Google Classroom Problem' or by calling us on 02891475340 and leaving a message.

## Questions, questions...

I know that there are still many unanswered questions and the advice I shared with you in last week's message still stands: **Do not rely on rumours as a source of information but use official websites in order to keep yourself up to date.**

## Examinations:

CCEA and the other Examination Bodies are due to issue more detail next week on how they intend to award grades for GCSE, AS and A2 levels. Please check for updates using the links below.

In the meantime, **pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 should continue to work as directed in previous guidance issued by the School.** Any pupil who decides at this stage to refrain from study is likely to be putting themselves at a future disadvantage.

*CCEA* [Examination update: https://ccea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ccea-statement-cancellation-summer-examinations-2020](https://ccea.org.uk/news/2020/march/ccea-statement-cancellation-summer-examinations-2020)

*AQA* <https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates?cldee=ZGZpdHpwYXRyaWNrMDQyQGdsZW5sb2xhY29sbGVnaWF0ZS5iYW5nb3Iubmkuc2NoLnVr&recipientid=contact-b70d4ecc96fbe3118d9b80c16e64fa08-5fe79436cf0145a08e01119cec1cf44f&esid=84fbaef9-d569-ea11-a811-000d3a49dadd>

## Timescales and lasting the course:

It looks as though the social restrictions under which we are all currently operating will be in place for some time to come. At times like these it is important for the sake of their wellbeing that your daughters do two things; one relating to the short-term and one to the longer-term.

Short-term goals keep us focussed and mentally engaged while longer term goals can act as guiding stars as we navigate our way through challenging phases of life's journey.

1. **Structure your day and take one day at a time.**
2. **Be prepared to come back to school ready to progress to the next year of your study.**

Accomplishing the short-term goal each day will drive your daughter towards achieving the longer-term goal.

Finally, my thanks go to all of our key workers, in particular those at the frontline in Health Care.

Take care.

WE Thompson  
Headmaster

**Other useful links:**

**Department of Education:**

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

**Education Authority:**

<https://www.eani.org.uk/>

**Public Health:**

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

**School website:**

<https://glenlola.collegiate.net/>