



La Retraite

Roman Catholic 11-19 Girls' School

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www.laretraite.lambeth.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr. D. Malins

31st March 2020

RE: Update to Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week Pope Francis delivered an extraordinary prayer for hope for these difficult times. In his prayers, he compares our turbulent time to that when Jesus and the Disciples were struck by a sudden storm whilst at sea and says *"We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other"*. It has been with a sense of pride and awe that we have witnessed the whole school community, parents, staff and students working together and supporting each other in good humour to make the best of a challenging period. Please keep up your amazing work.

We understand that it can be quite a stressful time and we are happy to help as much as possible. Please do contact us if you need any help or just someone to talk to. There are also a number of websites that can provide some support at this time:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/ways-relieve-stress/>. This website has some good suggestions on reducing stress, particularly when talking to young people about the virus.
- <https://www.salesians.org.uk/news-articles/featured-news/when-i-cant-get-to-church.html>. The Salesians (Order of John Bosco) have created a wonderful liturgy resource which can be used by families or individuals who are unable to celebrate Mass.
- <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/>. The website also contains all Pastoral Letters, updates and links for parishes which are livestreaming Mass and liturgies.

This time can be particularly stressful for students in the exam years. Please rest assured that the staff will be working hard to assure that your child gets the grade that reflects their potential and progress throughout their course. You can help by ensuring that your child completes all coursework to the highest possible standard. We expect to hear from Ofqual and the Exam boards by the end of this week about the final arrangements for calculating the grades to be awarded to students. We will update you as soon as possible on any developments.



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Thank you very much for your excellent support with regards to your child's online work. We have been really impressed with how everyone has engaged with this new way of working. Over the Easter holidays, staff will not be setting work – that will give students the opportunity to finish any incomplete work. Online work will restart on Monday 20th April. Your regular feedback is invaluable so that we can tweak how it works and make it a better learning experience for the students.

Whilst the school has been shut for most students, we have been open for the children of keyworkers. I would like to thank the staff for enabling this to happen and the parents who are key workers for the great work they do for our communities. As none of our key worker families require the use of the facilities, the school **will be closed to all students from Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April**. The school will **re-open for the students of key workers only on Monday 20th April**.

Finally, I wish you well over the Easter period and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Take care,

Dominic Malins

Headteacher