

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very strange week for everyone in our community as the UK Government continues to take measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus COVID-19. This week and in the forthcoming weeks ahead, staff in the Lewis Cluster, including Lewis Girls' School are working in the Hub, caring for children of those people working in key services to keep us all safe. They are also engaged in providing lessons on Google Classroom and sending feedback to students. I am, of course, in daily contact with staff remotely so we are able to share information. We are also using Zoom for conference calls -- I had never even heard of Zoom until this week, so I am learning a lot!

All staff are in contact with students through Google Classroom, and I am attached to each year group so I can post messages and information to the year groups at least once a week. It is so important that children continue to work at home and send their work to their teachers for marking and feedback. We have a very simple way of allowing you, as parents, to see what your child is working on. Just go on to the website and click on Distant Learning Resources or follow the link: <https://sites.google.com/lewisgirlsschoolcaerphilly.org/distancelearning/> I would be really grateful if you could do this each week. I believe all students who did not have IT provision at home now have a laptop or Chromebook from school, but I have asked Mr James to check.

During the Easter holidays, it is likely that staff will be in the Hub with children so that key worker parents can continue to work. I know that most children will have a holiday, but I would suggest that they maintain the good habits they have started to develop in terms of continuing with some work. This will help when it comes to starting work post- Easter.

In relation to examinations, you will already be aware that year 11 and 13 will not sit exams this summer. I will continue to keep you updated once I have any further information, but can I reiterate the information I gave to year 10 and 11 through my Google message this week, there is no point in anyone worrying about things that are out of our control. What is important, is that people engage with the work their teachers set so that they continue to learn and develop skills.

On another note, I have, as expected, many questions from year 11 about their prom. I have promised them that they will have a party/prom, even if it is not on the date we set. We will organise this as soon as we can.

Finally, I wish you all well and hope you keep yourselves safe. The students have an emergency contact 'phone number, should they ever feel unsafe. They can also email any member of the wellbeing team at any time in an emergency.

I will be in touch again in a week or so.

Very kind regards

Mrs Harding.