



## Monmouth School for Girls

A Haberdashers' School

From the Headmistress **Jessica Miles** MA Oxon, (PGCE)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Re: Summer term 2020**

I do hope that you have all managed to find some time over the past weeks to enjoy some rest and restoration in the Easter sunshine. I appreciate that it has been a strange and indeed difficult time for many, and I can only repeat the thanks conveyed in the Principal's letter to those members of our community who are on the front line, to our staff who have worked through the holidays to support the children of key workers, and to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our online provision is ready for the start of term.

Over the last week I have been urging myself, and indeed the more resistant members of my household, to get back into some semblance of a routine. Apparently, when William Shakespeare was quarantined by the plague, he wrote a few things. Anthony and Cleopatra, King Lear, and Macbeth. I have written many shopping and 'to-do' lists over the past three weeks, but I am beginning to miss the motivation that comes from having to be at a certain place at a certain time. Having seen the novelty of a rather 'fluid' holiday timetable begin to wear off with my own children, I wanted to reassure and indeed request, that when the Summer term starts next Tuesday, that we will all be up, alert, appropriately dressed, fed and watered and ready to go by 8.45am when the first online assembly of the term will be delivered. Our online learning will then resume as follows:

### **Online Learning**

Remote learning will start on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Teachers will aim to send work by 9am each day. Work will be sent via email or Microsoft Teams. As before the Easter break, we would advise that your daughter follow her normal school timetable as this will provide structure to her day. Please do not worry if your daughter is unable to complete all the work set. We do understand that not all students have access to a device for the entire school day. Your daughter should contact her subject teacher if she has problems accessing the work set. Teachers are available on email and will respond as soon as they can. Please encourage your daughter to return work for marking and feedback when teachers request it. If we are concerned that your daughter is not engaging as fully as she should be in the remote learning provision, her tutor or Head of Year may contact you to offer help to resolve any issues that she may be facing.

If your daughter is in Y11 or Y13, she will continue to study in the way she did before Easter, completing work set by each of her subject teachers. From May 1<sup>st</sup> (Y11) and May 7<sup>th</sup> (Y13), your daughter will continue to study the subjects of her choice. A Microsoft Form will be sent by Mr Evans on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April so that your daughter can make her selection. This form is to be returned by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

If you have any questions please contact your daughter's form tutor in the first instance, and they will be able to help or point you in the right direction. If you have any questions of an IT/ Technical nature, please contact [mg.helpdesk@habsmonmouth.org](mailto:mg.helpdesk@habsmonmouth.org)

### **Pastoral Care**

The pastoral care of our students, your daughters, continues to be as important and indeed perhaps even more important than ever, and as a community we will do all we can to continue to provide a caring and nurturing environment, which will be remote only in the physical sense. Your daughter's Head of Year will maintain weekly contact with the year group, and her tutor will contact the tutor group twice a week. I would ask that you encourage your daughter to stay in touch with and reply to her tutor and Head of Year when he/she makes contact.

### **Boarding**

We look forward to reopening our boarding provision this weekend to support our key worker boarding families. I am sure it will feel slightly strange as we are currently, of course, a smaller boarding community than usual, but I know that the Boarding Team will make sure that the 'new' boarding experience will be as 'homely' as ever.

I will be writing to your daughters shortly to, I hope, give them encouragement and reassurance about the weeks ahead. I miss them passing by my study door and popping in for a chat, and I would very much like to think that they will continue to do this remotely. I believe that this experience will teach the girls even more about resilience and independence. More than ever I am made aware of the fact that the Haberdashers' Monmouth spirit doesn't come from the school buildings, but from the relationships between the teachers and the girls and from the friendships amongst the girls themselves – and these temporary conditions, far from weakening these bonds, will only make them stronger.

With my warm wishes to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Miles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.