

May 6th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Thursday we would have held our annual Founders Day service. As an alternative I am inviting all parents, pupils, students, staff and governors to participate as a community in their own way. Please watch the assembly that I have created on YouTube and then read the Founders Day service alongside the poster showing the 5 pledges.

YouTube assembly: <https://youtu.be/U2IMztA0Dc4>

I have read two articles this weekend that estimate between 90% to 95% of the world's children are currently not in school. The coronavirus pandemic has succeeded in joining parents and teachers around the world in the frustrating and challenging activity that is home learning. I have to admit that it will be impossible for us to find a format for remote teaching that will meet the needs of every child and deliver the curriculum to which we aspire, that we are able to deliver in normal circumstances. We are continually reaching out to the girls to measure their experiences and we are also receiving your feedback, then making the relevant adjustments. Undoubtedly there will be times when every girl feels overwhelmed and it is the same for us, but accepting that life is not easy at the moment, that none of us would have chosen the way we are living now and then finding what we can do, could be one way of creating a new perspective.

There are many areas of school life we can celebrate; for example the work of the Library with Ms Small and the Year 9 Library Prefects, recently publishing the "Off the (Lockdown) Shelf" which is full of quizzes, recommendations and an outline of how to write a novel - a timely reminder of our school's love of reading.

I am impressed by the 'I can do it and I will do it attitude' of Anna Boichat who is using Zoom to develop the leadership she demonstrated in the Spotlight musical theatre showcase and build upon the camaraderie of the cast. She has been teaching 40 minute dance classes once a week (twice a week over Easter) to some of the Spotlight team. Classes vary in size but she has reached about 20 people so far. She has also started setting up Music Live zoom calls! The brass section had its first call on Sunday and is hoping to hold a music live quiz sometime soon.

The PE Department daily posts of workouts and challenges are fantastic and I was so pleased to see Margaret (9C) leading her own 'Mindful Monday' session:

https://www.instagram.com/p/B_wlFoAljNe/?igshid=fcvqhdnezkyh

I hope you engage with the Founders Day on Thursday and then enjoy the bank holiday weekend.

Best wishes

Sylvia Tai