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**Coloma Convent Girls' School**
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Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another school week I want to take a moment to celebrate all of the students in Year 11. Today should have been a time for them to be in school with their parents and teachers for a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by breakfast and a final chance to be together before the beginning of the public examinations. We will organise a celebration when circumstances allow so that there is a greater sense of completeness. In the meantime, in the words of John Ruskin, the greatest reward for effort "is not what you get for it, but what you become by it". The reward for their effort, both in academic learning and also in commitment beyond the classroom, is that our students in Year 11 are curious, kind and courageous and ready to thrive in the next stage of life.

Their Head of Year, Miss Dulley has been busy compiling a virtual yearbook with their photos and memories along with messages from staff. This is being sent out to Year 11 today. I would like to thank Miss Dulley for all her work with the Year 11 students over the last two years and I know the students will be thrilled with the virtual yearbook.

Distance Learning

We are continuing to read all of your feedback regarding the difficulties, and the positives, of different styles of distance learning. What is very evident is that what works well for one family may not work well for another. If your daughter is coping well with the work then that is obviously very encouraging; if your daughter is finding it difficult, and there may be many reasons for that including illness or the lack of a quiet space to work, then please acknowledge with your daughter that this is not her fault and that she should not be anxious. If you are not sure whether or not your daughter has been completing her work, or what has been set, then please do ask to see the work and what has been set before contacting a Key Stage Coordinator.

New virtual cyber initiative

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced an online initiative that aims to inspire students to work in the cyber security sector. This provides the opportunity to learn and develop the important skills required for future jobs in areas like cyber security from home. There is a wide range of extracurricular activities at different levels and require different periods of time. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-virtual-cyber-school-gives-teens-chance-to-try-out-as-cyber-security-agents-from-home>

Anniversary of VE Day

Please be aware that you can find details about the celebration of the anniversary of VE day tomorrow at the British Legion [website](#). The two minute silence at 11am will be used to honour the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation and to reflect on the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on so many lives across the world.





Good News Stories

I know that it is very easy to be so aware of the difficulties and sadness in our lives at the moment that we forget the good news stories. I do want to share two items about our Year 13 students, one of which you may have already seen on our Twitter feed. Our Head Girl, Flora Dell'Accio has been volunteering in rheumatology at King's College Hospital (see the attached photo) while waiting to study medicine. The school received a lovely message from the hospital telling us what a 'fantastic addition' she has been to the department, clearing their backlog of administrative work: they described her as a credit to the school, 'efficient, diligent and personable'.

At a time when we perhaps feel that there are fewer opportunities available, it may also be encouraging to know that only this week one of our Year 13 students has received an offer of a Technology Apprenticeship with Sky with a full-time job on completion.

Media Speculation

This seems to have become a weekly reminder. The school is obviously aware that it is widely anticipated that on Sunday, the Prime Minister may release some information and dates about the gradual easing of lockdown, including possibly the re-opening of schools. Please be aware that Coloma will not be sending out an instant response to any statement. Whilst we have been planning carefully for many possibilities, we will want to make sure that our plans are safe, secure and viable before they are shared. The well-being of every member of the community is, as always, at the heart of our thinking.

We know that while some may be feeling encouraged by the anticipation of change, there are also families in our community who are going through illness or who are grieving at this time. The hope that may be present for some of us is harder to find for others. It is so important that we continue searching for that hope: in the words from Hebrews 6:18-19 we hear that 'God has given us great encouragement to grasp the hope that is held out to us. It is an anchor for all our souls'.

I hope that you are all able to grasp that anchor for your soul. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with you all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Collins
Headteacher

