

Headteacher**Mrs. S. Collins** BSc PGCE PGDip MA

Telephone 020 8654 6228

Fax (Confidential) 020 8656 6485

**Coloma Convent Girls' School**
Upper Shirley Road
CROYDON
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Dear Parents

This has been a week with both happy and very sad news within Coloma. There has also been much public response and speculation about government statements. This means that the items in this letter vary widely and I apologise for any awkward juxtaposition of different pieces of news and information.

Sad News

We are aware of the very recent death of a parent of two of our students. We are ensuring that support is provided and also respecting the privacy of the family at this difficult time. We know that some of the students are aware and are deeply concerned for their friends; we also know that hearing this news may cause some students to feel particularly anxious about their own family members. We will be posting some materials on our website this afternoon.

<https://www.coloma.croydon.sch.uk/family-well-being/>

I know that you will want to keep the family in your prayers and use the prayer for the faithful departed: *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

Government Framework

Whilst the government have put out much guidance and advice for schools, this has been piecemeal and there is still more due to follow. It will be carefully considered as it arrives. Please be aware that whatever plans are made, the school will not be open in the week beginning 1st of June for any additional students, beyond the children of key workers and the vulnerable students already in school, because of other activity that is scheduled to take place on site.

Happier news

It was announced on Wednesday that one of our old girls, Mwaka Mudenda, will be the 39th Blue Peter Presenter. We are delighted for Mwaksy, as she is usually known. She is bright, bubbly and always ready for a challenge: the perfect Blue Peter presenter! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52635764>

Letters from Croydon

The local authority has asked us to pass on letters to parents and students which you will find attached with this letter.

It seems very hard to reconcile such varied news, holding both sorrow for some and joy for others in our hearts at the same time. We feel both, however, because they are rooted in love. The seemingly simplistic command in today's Gospel (John: 17), can be the hardest because it forces us to engage with both of these strong emotions: 'This I command you: love one another'.

My best wishes and prayers are with you all,

Mrs S Collins
Headteacher

