

UPDATE ON DISTANCE LEARNING

by Tom Davidson, Head of Secondary

'May you live in interesting times!' is often cited as a traditional curse, but for the Secondary team it's been an opportunity for us all to embrace our Distance Learning programme. Many of our team already integrate Google Classroom into their teaching, but now it's the standard for the whole team. Not only classes, but faculty meetings, tutorials, practicals, drama, Art shows have all moved online.

A challenging time? Certainly, but also a time to embrace new avenues of learning through the whole of the Google Learning suite.

Google Classroom offers not only a store for all class notes and materials to be shared but also an interactive tool for 'live' learning. Teachers are using both 'live' learning sessions and structured tasks as we are aware that not all our students can access classes at the set times. We are currently working on our next steps including a move to more 'live' and 'pre-recorded' lessons.

All classes have now moved onto the Distance Learning platform which is accessed through the LES Student email. Teachers have invited students to all of their classes and are available to support both through the 'chat' function on Google Classroom but also to respond to emails. As ever with a move to a new system there are teething problems but please do flag up any IT issues immediately to lessupport@colegioslaude.com

We know that a number of our students have external examinations in the very near future and are undoubtedly concerned. This is a fluid situation and we are in touch daily with the examination boards as we plan our response alongside many other examination centres globally. Oral Examinations have already been postponed to the Summer Term and we are expecting there to be some changes to the schedule. We will of course be in touch with all candidates as soon as we have any information relevant to them. Any pressing questions or concerns can of course be addressed to our Examinations Officer Maria Thurston on exams@laudeladyelizabeth.com or to me.

We have signed up all our students to [GCSE Pod](#) which is a fantastic resource including Podcasts linked to our whole range of subjects. Students need to use the 'Sign in with Google' link and use their LES emails. Teachers will be beginning to use this resource too as we move forward with our Distance Learning Programme.

We are also aware that we have a responsibility to offer a balanced programme and our Sports Department has been sharing Activity Challenges and fitness programmes to encourage us to stay active. Mr Estrada has issued a [Football challenge](#) to all and entries are flooding in. (Parents welcome too of course). Mr Martín has shared his indoor/outdoor Circuit Training plan and Mrs Molyneux's Workout plan [HIT Workout](#) is trending. Our Pastoral Programme also continues with support from tutors, Year 10 Mock Interviews and of course our RSE training from Laura Alexander.

We appreciate the feedback we have received from you and welcome it as we get better at Distance Learning. I would also be very grateful if you could complete this very short [Secondary Distance Learning Feedback Survey](#) which should take just a minute to complete as it will help us plan effectively.

As before though, please email lessupport@colegioslaude.com if your son/daughter has any issues accessing the material that is available.

Please keep sharing your examples of Distance Learning in your families. We love to see our families embracing this new paradigm. If you post images yourselves on social media please remember to use #LESDistanceLearning.

All photos/videos can be sent to a.duplooy@laudeladyelizabeth.com or indeed to me.

Many thanks for your continued support during this transition period.

With very best wishes to you all,

Tom Davidson
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