Marsh Mail

While still officially closed, the College is increasingly busy as we accommodate growing numbers of students on site. We continue to provide childcare for key workers and vulnerable children. We have also welcomed back groups of Year 10 students to benefit from face to face time in school before the summer holidays.

The site feels rather different with partitioned zones, floor markings and signage to support with social distancing and hygiene measures. However, the human connection with our students and being able to see them engage with their learning in person has been brilliant.

There is still a great deal of uncertainty about what schooling will look like in September. We are awaiting guidance from the government but are anticipating that we may not be able to fully reopen for all students next term.

In the meantime, our staff, students and their families are doing a great job at adjusting to online learning. We are increasingly making use of technology such as the video tool, Loom, and Microsoft Teams platform to enable our students to benefit from dynamic, engaging and interactive teaching content.

The Cambs Youth Panel has been amazing with supporting our families with access to IT. The group, which originally began as a means for Cambridge Constabulary to build a stronger relationship with young communities in the County, has reinvented itself to loan laptops and Chromebooks to students without technology devices at home. They have also constructed low-cost Raspberry Pi devices for families to purchase (www.cambsyouthpanel.co.uk).

Phil Priestley, Ex-Police Sergeant, who works at LVC as an Inclusion Officer, leads the initiative. In total, Cambs Youth Panel have issued 420 devices across the County. More than 20 LVC students have benefited from this scheme so far. We have also been able to provide other families with refurbished devices that have been kindly donated by members of the LVC community.

If you have a laptop or other personal device that you no longer need but is still in working order that you would like to donate, please contact Mr Darby, Deputy Principal at LVC (tim.darby@lvc.org). This will be gratefully received by students who could make use of this technology to support with their remote learning over the coming weeks.

Helena Marsh