

Marsh Mail

I returned from maternity leave at the start of April. Coming back to be in charge of a virtual school has been rather surreal.

Mr Darby did a fantastic job of leading LVC in my absence; neither of us anticipated his acting headship being quite so eventful. I would also like to thank Mr Brechin who wrote the Marsh Mail in my absence – he has now left the College to start a new role as Deputy Head teacher. It was strange not being able to say a proper goodbye to him and Mr Pitt after their 13 years of working at LVC. Or to Mrs Clayton, my PA, who retired last month after over 30 years of service to the College. They are all much appreciated and will be missed.

The last month has reminded us all in the power of relationships. While the College remains closed, the human connections that we can easily take for granted under normal circumstances are sustaining us, albeit remotely. When I have been into school on the key worker childcare rota, the school has felt eerily quiet without the hubbub of conversations between students and colleagues.

Our Year 11s are feeling a sense of loss most acutely, suddenly having their summer examinations and celebratory events cancelled. Whilst no teenager would ordinarily say that they were looking forward to exams, it's fair to say that no longer having to sit them, given the years of learning and preparation that has led to this point, has been an unwelcome shock to most. As is not being able to experience and enjoy the usual rites of passage as school leavers.

Students and their families are doing amazingly well adapting to remote learning. It is not easy, as many of you contending with the challenges of working from home will appreciate.

This extraordinary time highlights that LVC is so much more than a building. While we are all looking forward to a time when schools can safely reopen and some sense of normality can resume, our priority at the moment is the health and wellbeing of our College community.

Helena Marsh