

20 April 2020

Beyond The Classroom Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the Summer Term at Cardiff Steiner School. The College have been doing a lot of thinking about our online provision over the Easter Break. Although the circumstances are challenging, we want to ensure that our provision aligns with our educational ethos as much as possible.

To this end we have created a **NEW** whole school timetable for Classes 1 to 11 for remote learning (you can see them in the info boxes below). We have also given our online provision a new name... 'Beyond the Classroom'.

Our aims with the improvements are:

- To include as many **live sessions** as possible for Classes 1 to 11 in all subjects. We are thinking that live sessions will be most helpful in keeping the pupil-teacher relationships alive, which is one of the cornerstones of Steiner Education. Kindergarten will be developing age-appropriate live sessions over the coming weeks.
- We are asking teachers to provide a lot more **recorded video and audio material** so that our provision is as living as possible.
- We are asking teachers to include **creative and artistic activities**.
- We are asking teachers to structure tasks so that the need for **parental input is kept to a minimum** because we recognise that parents may well be working from home and / or looking after several children.
- We recognise that remote learning puts a strain on a household's digital equipment. Therefore we have carefully constructed the timetable to try to ensure **that live and online sessions clash as little as possible** to allow children to access their learning. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to ensure that clashes will not occur at all.

We recognise that this may be a stressful time for families for all kinds of different reasons. We do not want to add to this stress by insisting that learning assignments are completed. However, since it seems likely that school buildings will be closed until at least after half term, the reality is that remote learning is the only way that we have of continuing to enable the children to progress through our curriculum and to continue to develop their skills and capacities.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our pupils are receiving an ongoing education and participating in remote learning, unless exceptional circumstances prevent them from doing so. We also recognise that this situation forces us to use quite considerably more digital media than we would advocate under normal circumstances. We can weigh this, however, against the positive emotional effects, during this time of social isolation, of children staying connected with their teachers and classmates.

We feel confident that we are continuing to provide a quality Steiner Education, albeit in a different form, and urge parents to ensure that their child continues to benefit from this by participating.

I hope this finds you all well and safe.

Sarah Elliott

Class Teacher and Lower School Education Coordinator