



Friday 3rd April 2020 - Community Assembly

Family



I have taken to sitting in my garden early in the morning to enjoy the sounds that were previously muffled by the roar of traffic. Now that the roads are very much quieter, the early morning birdcall rings through. This natural orchestra is a most welcome way to start a day. It strikes me that with social isolation, distancing and cocooning, the senses are thriving on every possible input and opportunity, no matter how small or previously mundane.

As we move into the Easter break, I recommend you to spend a little time browsing through the images on the School's Twitter feed. There you will find a feast for the senses, and the imagination, with beautiful pieces of artwork, number work, poetry extracts, music, and much more.

During the Easter break, hopefully you will have some time, in these differently busy times, to enjoy moments in your garden or a stroll in a local park to take in the sights and sounds of springtime – time to reflect on an extraordinary few weeks, to find some peace, and to give thought to the future.

For so many of you, there will be no break, of course. Our gratitude must remain with the inspiring frontline healthcare professionals, who are not just undertaking jobs - they are battling to save lives. Many of you, and us as School staff, are amongst the over 700,000 volunteers to support the Royal Voluntary Service drive to help the NHS. And some of you, like School staff, will be involved in the multitude of grassroots and mutual aid projects, which are doing so much to help and comfort people.

And so now, explicitly, to the key theme of this assembly - family. The Easter break will offer a chance for you, and School staff, to look closely to family. Skype, FaceTime, etc. will facilitate connection when the realities of social lockdown prohibit a

comforting embrace. To at least see loved ones on a screen, to share a smile, some laughter and a story or two – that is comfort not to be underestimated right now.

I will conclude and leave you with the uplifting words of our beloved School hymn, which we would traditionally sing during our end of term assemblies. The themes and sentiments that shape and animate these words are a call to and endorsement of family, in its many forms...*One family unbroken.*

Happy Easter, best wishes and take care.

Mr Lawlor

Chelmsford County High School for Girls

School Hymn

Verse 1:

Our Father, by whose servants
Our house was built of old,
Whose hand hath crowned her children
With blessings manifold,
For thine unfailing mercies
Far-strewn along our way,
With all who passed before us,
We praise thy name today.

Verse 2:

The changeful years unresting
Their silent course have sped,
New comrades ever bringing
In comrades' steps to tread;
And some are long forgotten,
Long spent their hopes and fears;
Safe rest they in thy keeping,
Who changest not with years.

Verse 3:

They reap not where they laboured,
We reap what they have sown;
Our harvest may be garnered
By ages yet unknown.
The days of old have dowered us
With gifts beyond all praise:
Our Father, make us faithful
To serve the coming days.

Verse 4:

Before us and beside us,
Still holden in thine hand,
A cloud unseen of witness,
Our elder comrades stand:
One family unbroken,
We join, with one acclaim,
One heart, one voice uplifting,
To glorify thy name.