



by Margaret Morris

# 'Looking Forward'

## JUST A THOUGHT – 'We're back on a different track'

**W**ere back in school! Not back on the same track, on a different track and it is feeling good.

However the truth is that many of us are wondering how long for? In the UK some schools reopened and within days somebody tested positive and whole groups were sent home. Here in Spain this happened to Princess Leonor who is now in the middle of a fourteen-day quarantine.

It is simple to understand that youngsters being in school then out of school could go on for months. Continuity of learning will be replaced by constant and unpredictable disruption. Decisions to stay open or close will not be made by schools and at this time will probably not be based on data or research but on a 'one size fits all' model as it's just too soon to have enough information. But I sincerely hope that, before long, a more bespoke approach to an outbreak in schools will be agreed that has regard for a range of data.

Like all good schools Escola Global is driven by strong values. During this time a constant question for us is how do we as a school community maintain and deliver on our core values whilst also complying with existing and new regulations? I believe there is a way and it is about having positive and open relationships in our school communities, and an understanding that we all share responsibility for working out the way forward as a community. At this early stage the regulations are blunt and are not up for debate. Though this is where we are now,



● A big **welcome back** to all our amazing young people, you are our heroes!

this shouldn't stop us asking questions for clarification and making preparations for the next stage.

Within our communities we need to be more confident about asking questions, asking for help and also offering to help when we know we can make a difference. This is a new journey with no directions from Google Maps! There is a lot of learning to be done here and looking for opportunities to redefine how we work together seems pretty exciting to me. In our case we are very grateful to have the help and support from our friends at Cleanwave (riding the wave towards a plastic free world!) They are developing their understanding of the new challenges posed by the current regulations and also working with us to come up with both short-term and

longer term solutions which we hope to share more widely.

I hope I am not alone in recognising that we will not get everything right straight away. This is a voyage of discovery for us all. Though for some it might be tempting to say 'we can't', I think that working in partnership, we may well arrive at a place where we realise that with some things 'we can'. We are not there yet and I think we need to be patient. We should continue to define the right questions and then seek the answers.

We also need to understand that for now, and for the foreseeable future, changes will keep coming. Nobody will have all the answers and there is a good chance that we will not always get things right but there are some positives. With the right relationships we can help

each other. With the right attitudes and an open mind we can forge new alliances and develop creative solutions for the present and possibly for the future. We all know that this is not going to be easy but where there is a will there will always be a way.

So for us and I hope for all schools across our beautiful island, this has been a good start. A big welcome back to all our amazing young people, you are our heroes! The sun shone for us, we played jazz music at reception and quite a few of us marched into school with a jaunty step. You arrived smiling behind your fabulous masks and have given all the grown ups an amazing week. Thank you!

This really is a fresh start and a new beginning - *inspiring compassionate learners and change-makers*

This was written by a colleague in England:

**'Teaching is often a vocation of love and the most frequent trait in a teacher's profession is their commitment towards our children. Not a lot is within their control at the moment. Can you imagine the forever-changing guidelines they have to get their heads around, whilst also living through this pandemic themselves'**

A real school community is inclusive and based on respect and understanding. Now, more than ever before, we truly need each other.

Margaret Morris is Strategic Coordinator at Escola Global



**Baleares International College**  
Mallorca  
an Orbital Education School

# E-LEARNING

at Baleares International College

BELIEVE · INSPIRE · CHALLENGE



Find out how we moved seamlessly from the physical classroom to online learning, ensuring no gap in our students' education.

Visit [balearesint.net](http://balearesint.net) for more information.

