

## President of the Old Dovorian Club - Video Message April 2020

Hello and welcome

Firstly, I hope this video message finds you and yours, safe and in good health. I thought I would take this opportunity to talk to you all directly, as a follow up to the letter I sent last month.

Since then a lot has changed, in fact for some of us, our whole way of life has changed very quickly, in a very short period of time. This has meant that we have had to adapt to the new environment we find ourselves, which is even more important than ever, particularly now the government has extended its "lockdown" until mid-May here in the UK.

I have been really heartened by what I have seen at first-hand, and heard of, how ODs have selflessly stepped up to support and continue to do so, at both a national level all around the world, as well as within in their own communities, helping to support and keeping vital services going, as well as keeping us safe during these challenging times that we find ourselves in at the moment.

Be it behind the scenes, helping key workers to continue their vital work, or as a volunteer first responder for the NHS or in healthcare services internationally, or working in government departments, delivering vital support at a national level within your country of residence, or as a nurse or doctor on the front line.

Whatever your contribution is, be it large or small, it is equally vital and important in helping to bring this current pandemic to an end.

I wanted to recognise this vital and urgent work that these heroic ODs are doing, and continue to do, united in their work to protect us from COVID-19, and to also add my personal thanks for your service and dedication. Thank you.

It is also great to see, as posted recently on the OD Club Facebook page, that 8 ladies, who are ODs decided to hold a number of "virtual house parties", enabling them to have a chat, and a laugh together, like they used to do when they were at the College, a friendship that goes back 44 years, it is these friendships that were built when we were at the College that will support and enable us to come through this, and we will.

There is one real positive that I can take out of these extraordinary times, which is that the current situation has enabled us to take a step back, and slow down our busy lives. This has meant that we have an opportunity to re-establish old friendships.

Finally I would like to ask you to consider the following and leave you with this thought, which comes from a quotation in a letter that was written by a past President of the OD Club, which I believe is a good guide for all us Old Dovorians across the world, particularly at this time:

"Reflecting on the past may be a source of nostalgia and pride, but it should be the aim of every age to maintain a present, and build a future which is worthy of the past.

My invitation to you is to support the Old Dovorian Club and the College in every and any way you can, in order that our memorable heritage may continue to flourish. "

Thank you for your time, and please keep yourselves, your loved ones and all those that you might meet safe and well.