



Dear Parents and Guardians of Boarders,

I hope you are all well. It is a little while since I wrote, so I write with a short update for now. We are very much looking forward to welcoming boarders back to the school, some as early as August 17<sup>th</sup>, so that they can undergo their quarantine period here with us. We find ourselves going through times when logistics are difficult, so we will continue to try to make them as easy as possible for you.

From our overseas boarders, we now have return flight details of almost all of our boys. If you are one of the few families who have not yet replied to us with details of your return (regardless of whether or not you need quarantine), please could you let your son's Housemaster know as soon as possible, as this will help us with the organisation of transport from the airport (where needed) and with the allocation of beds on site (not least before term starts). We can then let you all know what the personal arrangements will be. It is worth reminding families from countries who require quarantine that, although August 17-19 is the best time to arrive, it is perfectly acceptable to arrive later too (and therefore to access lessons remotely whilst in quarantine for the first few days of term).

A newly recommissioned boarding house is ready now to welcome back boys who need quarantine. It will be run by our Senior Boarding Housemaster, Mr Chris Bury, so the boys will be looked after extremely well, both physically and mentally. He will be supported by a live-in Assistant Housemaster, a team of pastoral care supervisors and a strong cleaning team; and all boys will have a daily surgery from our Head Nurse to ensure that they are remaining healthy. The House itself will be called George Godber House, named after an Old Bedfordian who played a role in the setting up of the NHS, and was Chief Medical Officer for England from 1960-1973.

Please be aware that as part of the UK government regulations on travel, all travellers regardless of nationality coming in to the UK from overseas now need to complete an online locator form. The detail is here <https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk> and you will note that this can only be completed 48 hours prior to entering the country.

If your son is staying with us for quarantine then this address will be George Godber House, 67 De Parys Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TR. If exempt from quarantine, then the address to input will be their normal Boarding House; and if they are staying with a guardian or with yourselves, then you will need to input the appropriate address.

School-wide safety preparations have been ongoing throughout the school holidays. Governors and Harpur Trust Trustees will be meeting regularly over the next three weeks to review and scrutinise these preparations, and to ensure that they are as thorough as they can be. We are very conscious of the importance of maintaining a broad and balanced, as well as excellent, education, whilst also taking a highly responsible approach to the safety of our whole community; and we are confident that we can achieve that balance. Once the various governance processes have been completed, then we will make public the latest school Risk Assessment, as well as our boarding (and other) procedures.

I am personally excited about having the boys back. It has been too long, and we miss them! I know that the whole staff here at school feels the same way. If you have any questions of us, do please address them at first instance to your son's Housemaster – but, as ever, I am always available too.

With kind regards to you all

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hodgson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**James Hodgson**  
Head Master



George Godber House (today!)