



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you have all had a happy two weeks and that the boys are refreshed and eager to get going again. Unusually, but happily, we stayed open at half term for 18 boarders who needed our support and our staff put on some great activities for them (archery tag, climbing and drone racing seem to have been favourites!), so there has been some fun here, even at a difficult time.

The latest government news is both welcome and unwelcome. It is undoubtedly a huge blow that we all, as a country, have to go through this again and it will be a very unsettling time for many; but I am pleased that schools are allowed to continue and we will do all we can to ensure that experience is safe, productive and enjoyable. We feel especially privileged to be looking after the education of the next generation, and are determined to do it well.

The management team has met for some time this morning. It is worth, I hope, reminding all families that there are 23 pages of small print in our Coronavirus Risk Assessment for this term, which outline an extraordinary number of measures to keep people safe at school, and which can be accessed [here](#).

This has led to only one case detected in the first half of term (there are now three in total – but none, in fact, were contracted at school). Much of the next few days will be spent ensuring that our defences continue to be as tight as possible. Staff are being re-trained in all the basics as well as some extra measures, including greater use of Perspex screens, wider availability of visors for teachers, immediate onsite testing for staff and boarders with symptoms, and extra monitoring of hand sanitation and classroom ventilation.

And you can please help us in this, too, as you have already been doing (thank you). We have about 1,500 people on site at any given time, so it is especially important that boys stay at home if they are not feeling well. Please could you err on the safe side in this regard, frustrating though it undoubtedly is. Please also let us know if your son, or anybody in your family home, has either had a positive test or come into contact with somebody who has had a positive test. Likewise, and as ever, do let us know if there is any medical record that needs updating, no matter what that might be. And finally, we are as conscious of mental health as physical health – if you are worried about your son's mental health, do please let us know; and we will obviously do so as well, if we detect things at school which do not feel right. As always, your son's Tutor is your first port of call.

We move now into Movember, which the boys (and staff) always love and which will provide some lightness to the next month, I hope, as well as some genuine support for charity work. This year we have a 60km challenge. All Upper School boys are invited (via assembly tomorrow and the efforts of Ms Spyropoulos and the Upper Sixth Movember team) to join the Strava Movember Club to record their attempts to cover 60km. Movember works to raise awareness of mental and physical health issues and the 60km challenge is to raise awareness of the issue of male suicide – sadly, 60 men each hour are lost to suicide, globally. Boys have been emailed a link to the Strava Club. So far, the boys have another 15 events lined up for the month – they are having to be creative this year!

In a separate venture, another group is collecting devices for refugees, many of whom have no way to stay in touch with their friends and relatives. Please could boys bring any devices and chargers (unlocked) to the Bell Room or to A24 (Ms Spyropoulos' office) by Friday this week.

I will write more in the coming days and weeks, no doubt; but in the meantime, we are very much looking forward to seeing your boys and getting term back underway.

With kind regards indeed,

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

James Hodgson  
HEAD MASTER