



Dear Boarding Parents and Guardians,

The following is directed mainly towards overseas families, whose sons are currently in the UK. I hope that this helps to give a very clear outline of the current situation here, as best we can.

- We currently have 41 boarders at school. All UK-based boarders are learning from home; some overseas boarders are also at their home; others have chosen to stay for a little longer with family or guardians in the UK; and those 41 are here with us, happy, safe and well!
- Currently, those 41 boarders are spread across six houses. There is plenty of room! (We normally have 250 boarders here.) If others wish to come back, then they can of course. We would love to have them! For reasons of safety, however, if a weekly boarder chooses to return, we will request that he full boards until half term (i.e. remaining in school over the weekends).
- All boarders at school will be looked after to the highest standard of care – exactly as you would expect during any term. Not only will the pastoral care be in place on site (Housemasters, matrons, extra cleaning, medical care etc), but the normal meal arrangements will apply, opportunities to take physical exercise will be provided and all online learning will be easily accessed from the boarding house.
- In the coming days, we hope to give a ('lateral flow') coronavirus test to all boarders and staff in boarding houses on site, with a view to allowing them to become a 'bubble' once they have received a negative test. No boarders will be allowed into town; we are hoping that this way they can at least be sociable (at a distance) and can play some sport, so that they remain both physically and mentally fit. We are extremely conscious that these boys are a long way from home – and we must ensure that they are really well looked after. We have a huge responsibility in that regard and we do not take that responsibility lightly.
- If you have not already given consent for your son to receive a lateral flow test at school, could you please do so immediately (if that is your wish), as we hope to start before the end of this week. The link for consent is [here](#).
- If any boy does test positive at any stage, please be assured that we have a properly staffed house available on site in which to isolate that boy, where he will continue to be looked after to the highest standard of care by a senior staff member, with ready access to medical care.
- At the moment, we have all six boarding houses open. We are likely to reduce that number in the coming days if the overall numbers of boarders remain around 40 or 50 for the first half of this term. We will let you know if this happens. At the moment, for instance, one house has two boys in it – clearly those boys would be better off combining with boys in another house, for their own mental wellbeing. There will still be a lot of space!

- I can also confirm that we will look after the boys in boarding houses during the coming Exeat and also during half-term in February.
- There are clearly some issues over which we have no control. As you know, the trial exams due to be taken next week have been cancelled, but currently we have no more information on what the arrangements will be for the summer assessments for our Fifth Form and Upper Sixth. As soon as that information is released, we will put together a plan to prepare them as well as possible. For now, we will continue to teach them their courses remotely to the highest standard, so that they are best placed when decisions are made by the Government.
- Unfortunately, this means that we cannot yet answer some of the questions which may help you to take the decision to bring your son home or not. Each family will need take into account their own individual circumstances. Please rest assured that they will be well looked after here. However, in order to help you, I plan to hold three online meetings in the next few days to try to answer some of your questions. There is no requirement to join, but if you would like to do so, please let my PA, Sarah Lapidge, know [by email](#) which of the following you would like to join (they are all UK times) and I will send you an invitation.
 - Thursday 7 January at 12 noon until 1.30pm (for families in Sanderson's and Redburn)
 - Friday 8 January at 12 noon until 1.30pm (for families in Phillpotts and Pemberley)
 - Friday 8 January at 1.30pm until 3.00pm (for families in Talbot's and Burnaby)

I do hope that this information is all useful. I wish you all safety, good health and happiness, wherever you are in this beautiful world of ours.

Yours sincerely,



James Hodgson
HEAD MASTER

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